A. J. DOWNEY.

STAMP APPLYING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 20, 1913.

1,121,554. Patented Dec. 15, 1914.

Fig. 1.

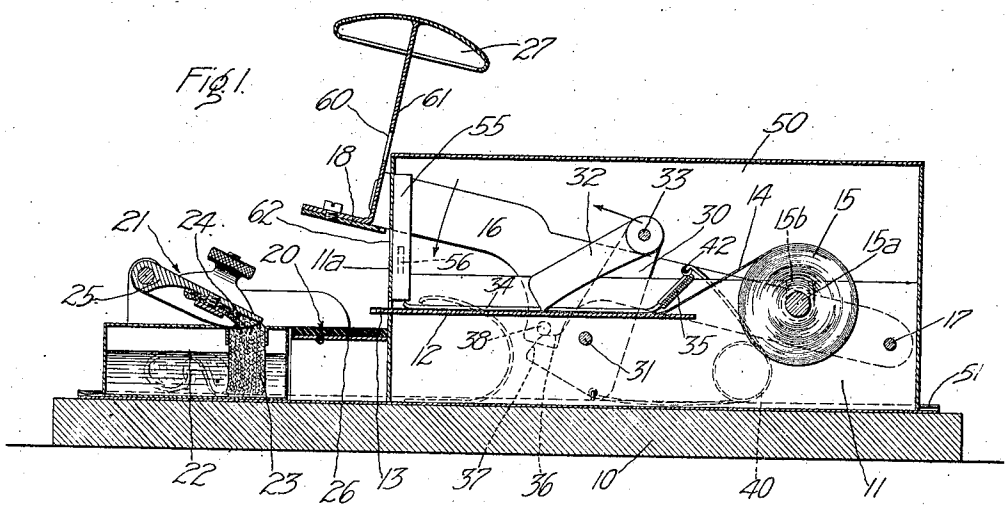


Fig. 2.

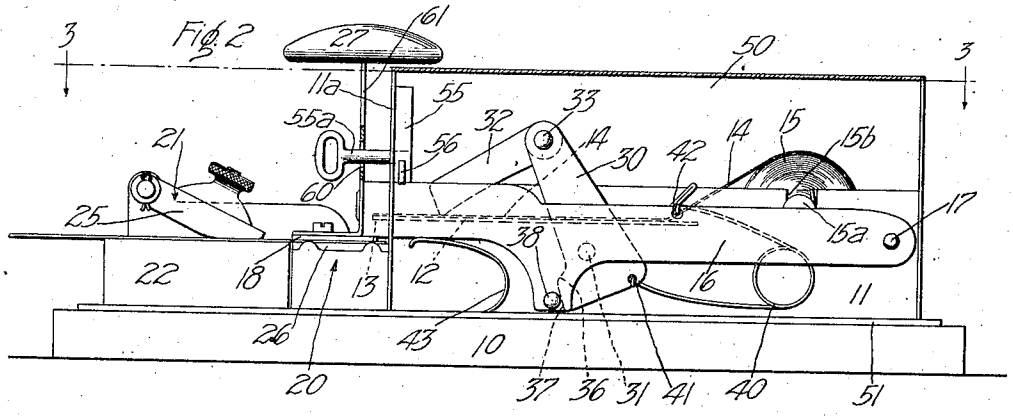
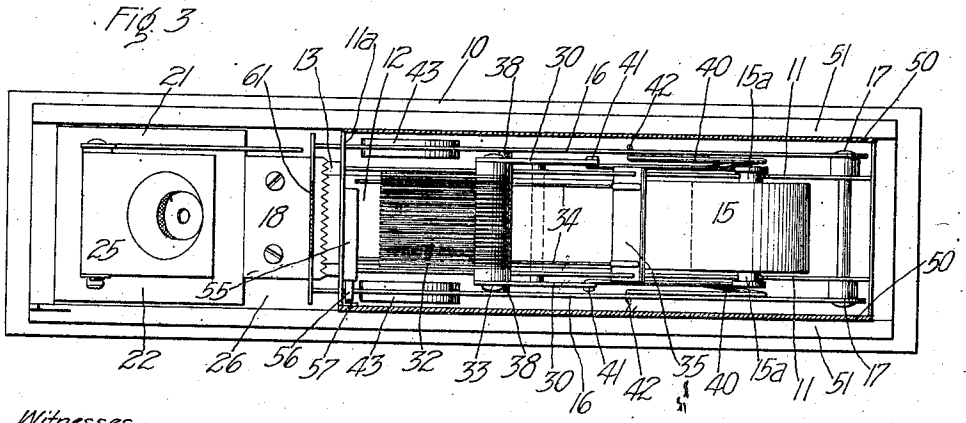


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STAMP-APPLYING MACHINE.

1,121,554. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 15, 1914.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEEN J. DOWNEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Applying Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a machine for applying stamps to parcels; particularly for applying postage stamps to mail articles; and the chief object of this invention is the provision of a simple, easily manufactured, and inexpensive form of apparatus for the purposes set forth.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a stamp applying machine which is convenient in form and is easily operated; and to apply means for locking the machine against unauthorized removal of the stamps.

I explain my now preferred form of machine in the following specification, the device being illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which, Figure 1 is a central longitudinal section of my improved device, Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, with the case in section, Fig. 3 is a plan section taken as indicated by line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In the drawings the numeral 10 designates a suitable base upon which I mount my machine. A frame 11 is mounted on the base, said frame being preferably made of sheet metal stamped to the required form. The frame 11 supports a stamp strip supporting plate 12, the plate and the sides of the frame 11 forming a horizontal chute along which the stamp strip is fed. At the outer end of the chute there is a stationary shearing member 13 having a preferably serrated shearing edge; and the stamp strip is fed along the chute and over the shearing member, one or more stamps being separated from the strip at the edge of the shearing member. The stamp strip 14 is held in the machine preferably in the form of a roll 15 supported on a removable axis 15^a which is held in notches 15^b in the frame 11.

On each side of the frame 11 I mount an operating lever 16, pivoted near the rear end of the frame at 17. These operating levers normally stand in a slightly inclined position, extending forwardly and slightly upwardly to the front end of the machine where they carry the stamp applying foot 18. The stamp applying foot 18 has a serrated edge adapted to coöperate with the serrated edge of the shearing member to shear a stamp from the strip. The stamp applying foot 18 normally stands above the shearing member in about the position shown, being supported in that position by means hereinafter described. The feeding mechanism feeds stamps over the shearing member 13 under the foot 18 during the movement of the foot down to the shearing member; during the engagement of the foot with the shearing member and during the subsequent movement of the foot downwardly to apply the severed stamp, the stamp feeding means is held inoperative. The stamp is applied to an envelop or other article placed upon the anvil 20. The envelop is slid under the moistening device 21 and is thereby moistened on its upper face; and the stamp is then applied to the moistened surface of the envelop. The moistener 21 comprises essentially a small water container 22 having a wick 23 dipping into the water therein. A piece of wicking 24 is carried on a pivoted member 25. The wicking 24 absorbs moisture from the wick 23 and applies moisture to the surface of the envelop when it is slid under the pivoted member 25. The anvil 20 preferably has a rubber or other resilient surface member 26 so that the stamp may be effectively placed upon the envelop. A handle or knob 27 serves to operate the device.

The feeding mechanism includes two approximately vertical arms 30 pivoted at 31 one on each side of the frame 11; and a number of stamp engaging fingers 32 are pivoted on an axis or pin 33 carried by the arms 30. The fingers 32 normally rest with their ends upon the stamp strip 14; and their ends are so shaped as to engage the perforations in the stamp strip. A pair of small spring pressers 34 serve to hold the stamp strip down on the plate 12 and to create sufficient friction to prevent the fingers 32 from moving the stamp strip when they drag rearwardly over it. These spring pressers 34 are mounted on a small holder 35 removably held in the frame 11; so that the spring pressers may be removed when a fresh stamp strip is placed in the machine. Each of the pivoted arms 30 has a cam surface formed in two parts 36 and 37; and each of the operating levers 16 carries a pin 38 cooperating with the cam surfaces of the arms 30. When the parts are in their normal positions the pins engage the portions 36 of

the cam surfaces; and downward movement of the operating levers 16 will cause movement of the arms 30 and of the feeding device in the directions indicated in Fig. 1, to feed the stamp strip forwardly along the stamping chute. By the time the foot 18 has reached the shearing member 13, the pins 38 have moved onto the cam portions 37. The cam portions 37 are then in such position that they are practically circumferential to the pivot 17 of the levers 16. Further movement of the foot 18 does not cause further movement of the stamp feeding mechanism but holds it inoperative in the position shown in Fig. 2. This further movement of the foot 18 severs the stamp which has been fed over the shearing member 13 and applies it to the envelop.

I provide a pair of springs 40 secured to the feeder arms 30 at 41 and to the operating levers 16 at 42. These springs 40 have a tendency to return the members to their normal positions shown in Fig. 1. To aid in returning the members to their normal positions, I provide a heavier spring 43 which bears upwardly against one of the operating levers 16 when in its lowermost position; but this spring 43 does not follow the lever throughout all its movement, only following it through the lower part of its movement. It is seen that during the upper part of the lever movement the action of the cam surface 36 with pins 38 tends to raise the levers 16; while during the lower part of the lever movement, the engagement of the cam surfaces 37 with the pins 38 has no such effect. The spring 43 supplies the necessary force to start the members back toward their initial positions.

I provide a case or cover 50 adapted to inclose the roll of stamps and the feeding mechanism. This case is mounted to slide in ways 51; the mechanism may be reached by sliding the case rearwardly to the right in Fig. 1. The frame 11 has a front extension 11^a, forming the front wall of the case 50 and inclosing the operating mechanism in the front. On the inside of this wall 11^a I mount a small lock 55 having a bolt 56 adapted to move out over one of the levers 16 when in its lowermost position. This bolt at the same time engages behind lug 57 on the forward end of the case 50 and locks the case from removal. When the bolt is shot it is impossible to remove the case or to operate the machine to feed stamps from it. Key 55^a for the lock 55 is inserted through an aperture 60 in standard 61 which carries the knob 27 and through an aperture 62 in the wall 11^a.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a device which is capable of manufacture cheaply from sheet stampings, and I have shown my device as so manufactured. It is inexpensive and at the same time is convenient and efficient in its operation.

I claim—

1. A stamp applying machine or the like, comprising a base, a stamp strip supporting chute, a stationary shearing member at the end of the chute, a feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip over the chute and the stationary shearing member, said feeding means involving pivoted arms one on each side of the chute and stamp engaging fingers mounted on said arms, a pair of levers pivoted at one end and lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute, a stamp applying foot mounted on the free ends of the levers and coöperating with the shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, cam surfaces on the pivoted arms of the stamp feeder, and pins on the levers to engage said cam surfaces.

2. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip supporting means thereon, a stamp feeder thereon, an operating lever for the feeder, a removable case surrounding the stamp supporting and feeding means, and a lock adapted to engage both the operating lever and the case to prevent removal of the case and movement of the lever.

3. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip and means cooperating the operating levers and the stamp feeding means so that downward movement of the levers and applying foot causes operation of the feeding means to feed a stamp under the foot.

4. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on

the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, a cam surface on each of the pivoted arms of the stamp feeding means, and a pin on each of the operating levers engaging said cam surfaces.

5. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, and means coöperating the operating levers and the stamp feeding means so that downward movement of the levers and applying foot causes operation, a removable case covering the stamp strip roll supporting means and the stamp feeding means, and a lock adapted to engage both the case and the one of the operating levers to hold them immovable on the base.

6. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, a cam surface on each of the pivoted arms of the stamp feeding means, and a pin on each of the operating levers engaging said cam surfaces, a removable case covering the stamp strip roll supporting means and the stamp feeding means, and a lock adapted to engage both the case and the one of the operating levers to hold them immovable on the base.

7. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, and means coöperating the operating levers and the stamp feeding means so that downward movement of the levers and applying foot causes operation of the feeding means to feed a stamp under the foot, and spring means to move the stamp feeding means in the direction opposite to its movement caused by movement of the operating levers.

8. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, a cam surface on each of the pivoted arms of the stamp feeding means, and a pin on each of the operating levers engaging said cam surfaces, and spring means to move the stamp feeding means in the direction opposite to its movement caused by movement of the operating levers.

9. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, and means coöperating the operating levers and the stamp feeding means so that downward movement of the levers and applying foot causes operating of

the feeding means to feed a stamp under the foot, and spring means to move the stamp feeding means in the direction opposite to its movement caused by movement of the operating levers, a removable case covering the stamp strip roll supporting means and the stamp feeding means, and a lock adapted to engage both the case and the one of the operating levers to hold them immovable on the base.

10. In a stamp applying machine, a base, a stamp strip roll supporting means, a stamp chute and a stationary shearing member at its end, a stamp strip feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip along the chute over the shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of upright pivoted arms one on each side of the stamp chute and stamp engaging fingers pivoted between said arms over the chute, a pair of horizontal operating levers lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute pivoted at one end and free at the other end above the shearing member, a stamp applying foot on the free ends of said operating levers, said foot adapted to coöperate with the stationary shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, a cam surface on each of the pivoted arms of the stamp feeding means, a pin on each of the operating levers engaging said cam surfaces, and spring means to move the stamp feeding means in the direction opposite to its movement caused by movement of the operating levers, a removable case covering the stamp strip roll supporting means and the stamp feeding means, and a lock adapted to engage both the case and the one of the operating levers to hold them immovable on the base.

11. A stamp applying machine or the like, comprising a base, a stamp strip supporting chute, a stationary shearing member at the end of the chute, a feeding means adapted to feed a stamp strip over the chute and over the stationary shearing member, said feeding means involving a pair of pivoted arms one on each side of the chute and stamp engaging fingers mounted on both of said arms, a pair of levers pivoted at one end and lying longitudinally one on each side of the stamp chute, a stamp applying foot mounted on the free ends of the levers and coöperating with the shearing member to sever a stamp from the stamp strip, and means for causing the coöperation of said levers and said arms, said means including cam surfaces and members adapted to engage said cam surfaces on the levers and arms.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."