

1,061,077.

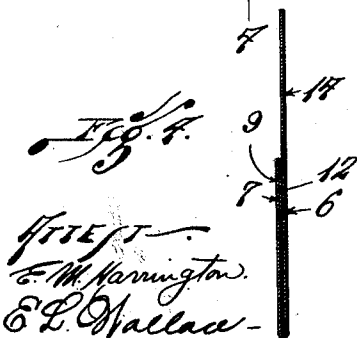
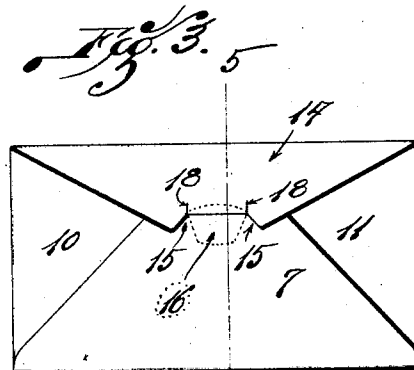
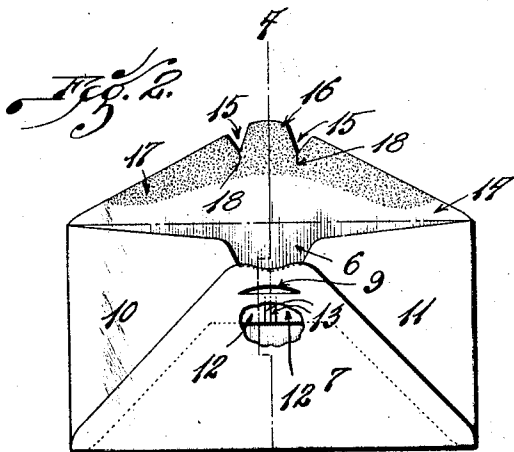
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Fig. 5.

INVENTOR

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1875.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FERDINAND HOFFMANN, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

SAFETY-ENVELOP.

1,061,077.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 6, 1913.

Application filed August 5, 1912. Serial No. 713,402.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FERDINAND HOFFMANN, a citizen of the United States, and resident of St. Louis, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety-Envelops, of which the following is a specification, containing a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention relates to improvements in safety envelops, and the object of my invention is to construct an improved safety envelop which cannot be opened, after having been sealed, without detection.

With the above purposes in view my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, pointed out in the claim and illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which—
Figure 1 shows in plan a blank from which my improved envelop is formed; Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of one of my improved envelops in an unsealed condition, a portion of the bottom flap being broken away; Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of one of my improved envelops in a sealed condition; Fig. 4 is a transverse, sectional elevation taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 5 is a transverse, sectional elevation taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings: 6 designates the body portion or front of the envelop and, as shown, this body portion is substantially rectangular.

7 designates the bottom flap which is substantially triangular-shaped with one of its margins integral with the front 6 and its two free margins provided with gummed lines 8. Adjacent the apex of the bottom flap 7 there is a slot 9 one edge of which is straight so that it parallels the major axis of the front 6, the surface of the flap 7, between said slot and the apex of the flap, being gummed.

10 and 11 designate the side flaps which are substantially triangular-shaped and have their one margin formed integral with the front 6. Formed integral with each of the side flaps is an extension 12, each of which extensions carries a detector-strip 13.

14 designates a sealing flap which is substantially triangular-shaped and has one of its margins formed integral with the front

6. Adjacent the apex of the sealing flap 14 there are tearing notches 15 between which is located a tongue 16, the width of which is substantially the same as the length of the slot 9 in the bottom flap.

17 designates a gummed line adjacent the entire free margin of the flap 14 and including the tongue 16.

Formed in the sealing flap 14 parallel with the minor axis of the envelop and extended into the flap from the notches 15 are the tearing cuts 18.

In forming an envelop from one of the blanks, as shown in Fig. 1, it is necessary only to fold the side flaps 10 and 11 parallel with the front 6, the gummed lines 8 of the bottom flap are then moistened and the bottom flap folded parallel with the front 6, so that the gummed lines 8 will adhere to the margins of the said side flaps 10 and 11. In this manner the detector strips 13 occupy a position paralleling the minor axis of the envelop and aline with the slot 9 in the bottom flap. To seal the envelop, it is necessary only to moisten the gummed surface 17 of the sealing flap. The tongue, after being moistened, is then inserted through the slot 9 and will be adhered to the extension 12 and the detector strips 13, the remainder of the gummed surface of the sealing flap will adhere to the bottom flap surrounding the slot 9 and to the side flaps 10 and 11.

For the reason that a portion of the sealing flap is located beneath the bottom flap it is impossible to open the envelop, without detection, by means of a blade which would be placed between the sealing flap and the envelop proper. Any attempts toward inserting an instrument between the sealing flap and the body would tend to separate the flap from the body portion, and thus tear the cuts 18 which would be readily noticed. If steaming were resorted to to render the gum non-adhesive it is obvious, for the reason that a portion of the flap, namely the tongue, is unexposed, the gum on the tongue would not be rendered non-adhesive by the steam, hence the gum upon the tongue would adhere to the detector strips 13 and, when moved, would tear said detector strips.

By reason of the fact that the said slot 9 has an exposed straight edge, the material thereof will in use lie perfectly flat and will act to more securely hold the tongue 16 in

position in said slot, the straight edge of said slot holding the tongue securely in position; the ends of said slot also act as guides to limit the lateral movement of the tongue.

The envelop of my improved construction contains no more paper than the ordinary envelop, and the gumming of my improved envelop is substantially the same as the ordinary gumming, hence no increased expense in the gumming operation.

I claim:

The improved envelop, comprising a body portion, an integral bottom flap, gummed lines on said bottom flap extending to points near the apex of the flap, there being a single straight-edged longitudinal slot in said bottom flap adjacent the apex thereof, a pair of side flaps, two integral detector-strips

carried by said side flaps which, when the envelop is formed, aline with said slot, a sealing flap having two parallel tearing-notches formed in the margin of the sealing-flap adjacent its apex and two tearing-cuts extending from the bottoms of said notches, and a gummed sealing tongue between said notches and adapted to be inserted in said slot to seal the abutting ends of said side flaps to the said parallel detector-strips, the ends of said slot acting as guides to limit the lateral movement of said tongue.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FERDINAND HOFFMANN.

Witnesses:

E. L. WALLACE,
E. M. HARRINGTON.