Sept. 3, 1968 M. P. JOHNSON 3,399,823

MULTIPLE POCKET ENVELOPE

Filed July 3, 1967

FIG. 1

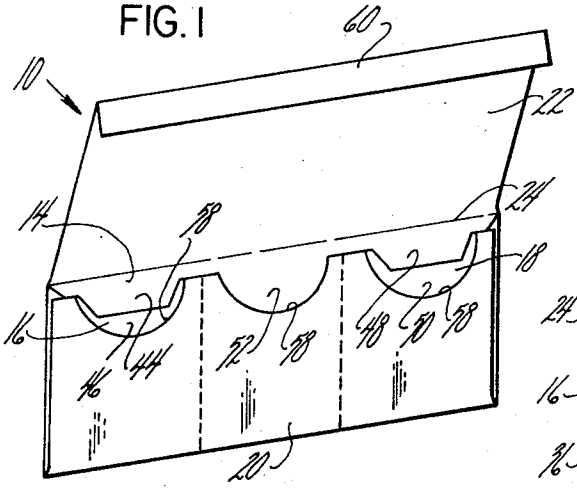


FIG. 3

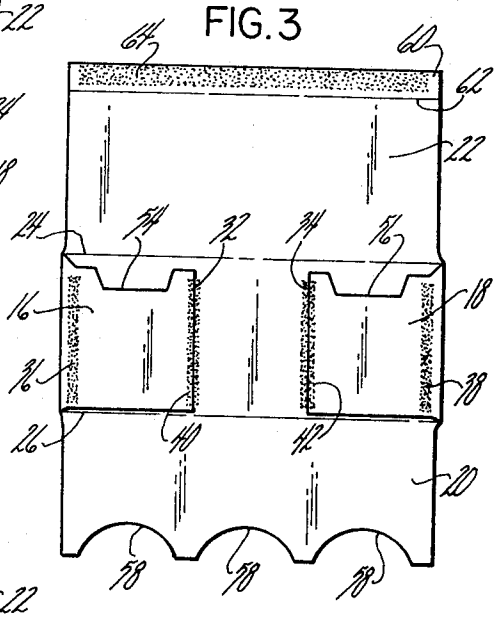


FIG. 2

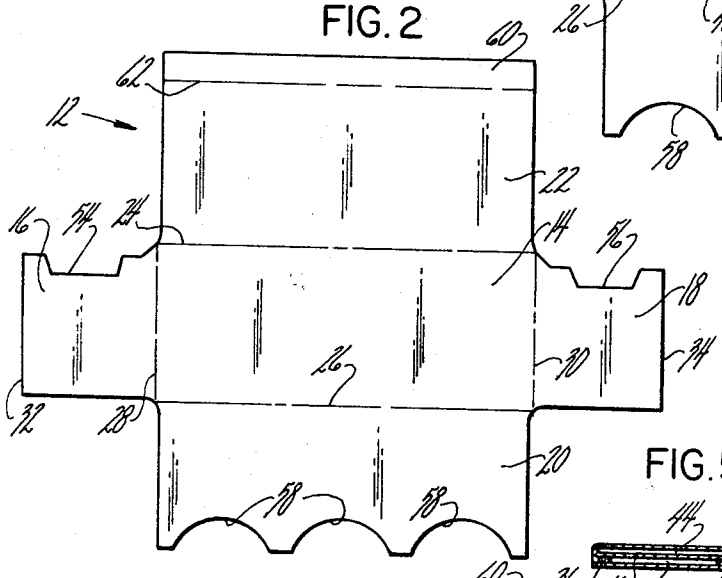


FIG. 5

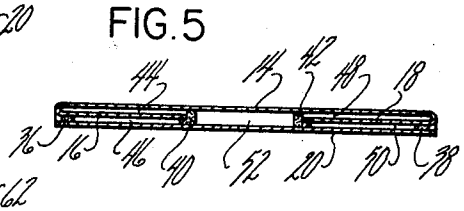
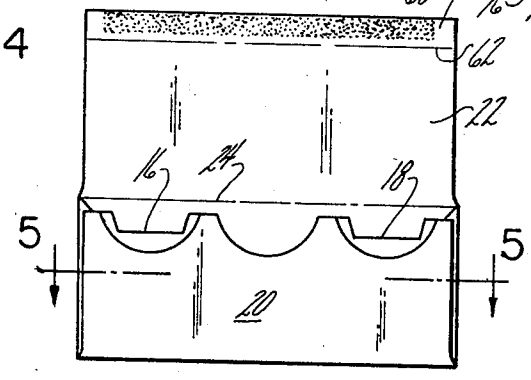


FIG. 4



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MULTIPLE POCKET ENVELOPE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 229—72)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This disclosure is of a multiple pocket envelope made from a unitary blank having a front panel, side panels folded against the rear surface of the front panel and leaving a portion of the latter surface exposed therebetween, and a back panel covering both the side panels and the exposed rear surface portion. The front, back and side panels are adhesively joined together in assembly and cooperate to form a plurality of pockets therebetween. A sealing flap or closure panel integrally joined to the blank provides a closure for the pockets.

Background of invention

This invention relates in general to envelopes and deals more particularly with a multiple pocket envelope formed from a unitary blank.

The general aim of the present invention is to provide an improved multiple pocket envelope particularly adapted to carry merchandise redemption coupons, stamps, coins, or the like. The envelope may, for example, serve as both a receptacle in which coupons are accumulated and as a mailing container for the coupons after a requisite number have been saved for redemption purposes.

A further aim of the present invention is to provide an envelope of the aforedescribed type adapted to economical automatic machine production.

Summary of invention

In accordance with the present invention a multiple pocket envelope is provided having a front panel and a set of opposed side panels folded into overlying relation with the front panel and of such a size and so arranged that the free side edges thereof are spaced apart to expose a portion of the front panel rear surface therebetween. A rear panel integrally joined to the front panel and folded into overlying relation with the side panels and the exposed rear surface portion of the front panel is joined in assembly to at least one of the side panels and to the front panel by adhesive lines. The front panel, said one side panel and the rear panel cooperate in assembly to form pockets therebetween. Additional adhesive strips may be optionally provided to further divide the pockets so formed and thereby increase the number of pockets in the envelope.

Brief description of the drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an envelope embodying the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a blank from which the envelope of FIG. 1 is formed, the blank being shown before folding.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the envelope blank of FIG. 2 but shows the side panels folded over against the front panel thereof.

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 3 but shows the rear panel folded over against the side panels to complete the envelope.

FIG. 5 is a longitudinal section taken on line 5—5 in FIG. 4.

Detailed description of the preferred embodiment

In the drawing, a multiple pocket envelope embodying the present invention is indicated generally at **10** in FIG. 1. The envelope **10** is formed from a unitary blank, indicated generally at **12** in FIG. 2, which may be cut by a die or other suitable means from any suitable paper stock. A plurality of fold or score lines divide the blank into a series of panels including a front panel **14**, side panels **16** and **18**, a rear panel **20**, and a closure or sealing panel **22**. The front panel **14** is generally rectangular, being defined by two side fold lines **28** and **30**, a bottom fold line **26** and a top fold line **24**. The remaining panels may be made in various shapes but preferably and as shown each of these panels is also generally rectangular.

The sequence in which the panels are folded to form the envelope **10** is shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. Referring to FIG. 3 it will be seen that the side panels **16** and **18**, which are preferably substantially identical, are first folded along the side fold lines **28** and **30** respectively into overlying relation with the rear surface of the front panel **14**. The side panels **16** and **18** have a combined width, or horizontal diameter as viewed in FIG. 2, such that the free side edges thereof, respectively indicated at **32** and **34**, are spaced a substantial distance from each other. Thus, the side panels only partially cover the front panel rear surface leaving a portion of the latter surface exposed therebetween.

The rear panel is thereafter folded along the bottom fold line **26** into overlying relation with the side panels **16** and **18** and the front panel **14**, but before this folding takes place at least two sets of adhesive strips are applied to the side panels and to the exposed rear surface portion of the front panel. One set consists of two generally rectangular adhesive strips **36** and **38** which are applied to the side panels **16** and **18**, respectively, and each of which extends for some distance along its panel close to the associated score line **28** or **30**. These two adhesive strips serve to bond the side edges of the rear panel **20** to the side panels **16** and **18**.

The second set of generally rectangular adhesive strips consists of two strips **40** and **42** which respectively extend for some distance along the free side edges **32** and **34** of the side panels **16** and **18**. The strips **40** and **42** are generally centered relative to the free edges **32** and **34** so that as viewed in FIG. 3, the left-hand half of the strip **40** is located on the side panel **16** and its right-hand half on the front panel **14** and the left-hand half of the strip **42** is located on the front panel **14** and its right-hand half on the side panel **18**. The adhesive strips **40** and **42** therefore serve to bond the rear panel **20** to the side panels **16** and **18** and to the front panel **14**. The four adhesive strips are or may be applied simultaneously and may be applied either to the parts as shown in FIG. 3 or to the rear panel **20**.

When the envelope **10** is assembled in the aforedescribed manner the front panel **14**, the side panels **16** and **18**, and the rear panel **20** cooperate to form a plurality of pockets designated by the numerals **44**, **46**, **48**, **50** and **52** and shown in FIGS. 1 and 5. Each pocket is preferably provided with a finger gripping area formed by cutting recesses in the panels **16**, **18** and **20** when the blank is cut so that each pocket may be more easily opened to allow coupons or other articles to be inserted therein. More particularly, shallow generally rectangular recesses **54** and **56** are formed in the side panels **16** and **18** respectively, whereas three somewhat deeper semicircular recesses **58**, **58** are formed in the rear panel **20**. The two outer recesses **58**, **58** are positioned adjacent the recesses **54** and **56**, respectively, and their deeper shape makes it possible to readily separate or distinguish the pockets **44** and **48** from the pockets **46** and **50**.

As previously noted the closure panel or sealing flap **22** may vary in shape but preferably it is generally rectangular and joined to the front panel along the fold line **24**. As illustrated the panel **22** is somewhat larger in its vertical dimension (as viewed in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4) than the rear panel **20** so that when folded along the fold line **24** to its closed position its free edge **60** is located some distance beyond the fold line **26**. A fold line **62** is spaced a short distance from the free edge **60** and arranged generally parallel thereto to define a flap **63** which may be folded over and sealed to the front face of the front panel **14** to provide a complete closure for the envelope **10**. A strip **64** of adhesive is provided on the flap **63** to facilitate sealing. The strip **64** is preferably of a remoistenable adhesive and the fold line **62** may be perforated to facilitate opening of the envelope after it is sealed.

I claim:

1. A multiple pocket envelope made from a unitary blank and comprising a generally rectangular front panel at least partially defined by two side fold lines and a bottom fold line, a set of opposed side panels, each of said side panels being integrally joined to said front panel along one of said side fold lines and being folded therealong into overlying relation with the rear surface of said front panel, said side panels being of such a size and shape as to partially cover said front panel rear surface and to have their free side edges spaced a substantial distance from each other so that a portion of the latter rear surface is exposed therebetween, a rear panel integrally joined to said front panel along said bottom fold line and folded therealong into overlying relation with said side panels and said exposed rear surface portion, means connecting said rear panel to said side panels adjacent said side fold lines, and means connecting said rear panel to at least one of said side panels along a line generally parallel to and intermediate said side fold lines and to said exposed rear surface portion of said front panel adjacent said free side edges of said side panels.

2. A multiple pocket envelope as defined in claim **1** further characterized by said means connecting said rear panel to at least one of said side panels comprising means bonding said rear panel to said side panels and to said exposed rear surface portion of said front panel adjacent said free side edges of said side panels.

3. A multiple pocket envelope as set forth in claim **2** further characterized by said means for bonding said rear panel to said side panels adjacent said side fold lines comprising two strips of adhesive each extending along a respective one of said fold lines between the associated one of said side panels and said rear panel, and said means for bonding said rear panel to said side panels and to said exposed rear surface portion of said front panel adjacent said free side edges of said side panels comprising two strips of adhesive each extending along a respective one of said free side edges.

4. A multiple pocket envelope as set forth in claim **3** further characterized by each of said two strips of adhesive extending along a respective one of said free side edges being arranged so that the associated free side edge is located between the side edges of the strip so that part of the strip is located on the associated side panel and part of said strip is located on said exposed rear surface portion of said front panel.

5. A multiple pocket envelope as set forth in claim **1** further characterized by a closure panel integrally joined to said front panel along a fold line defining a top edge of said front panel and folded therealong into a closed position at which it overlies said rear panel.

6. A multiple pocket envelope as set forth in claim **5** further characterized by a portion of said closure panel extending beyond said bottom fold line when said closure panel is in said closed position and having a quantity of adhesive thereon.

7. A multiple pocket envelope as set forth in claim **1** further characterized by said side panels being substantially identical.

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