M. TANAKA.

ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 16, 1916.

1,227,215. Patented May 22, 1917.

Fig. 1.

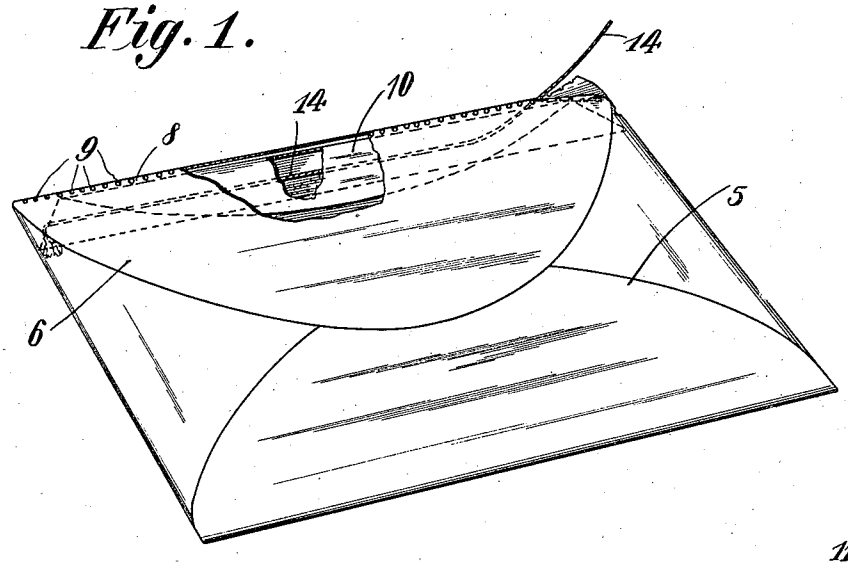
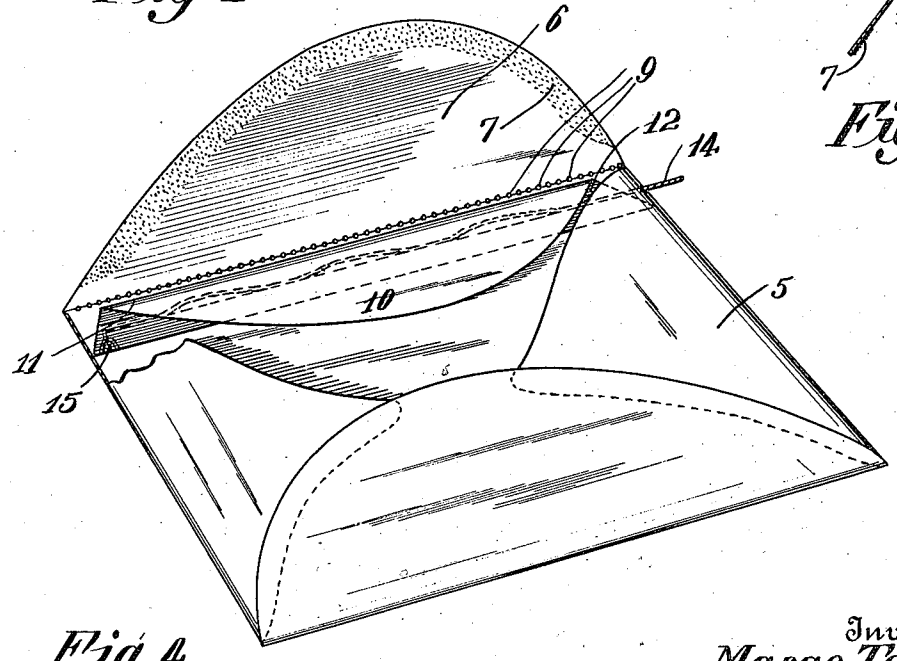


Fig. 2.



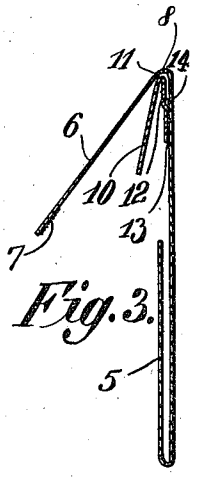
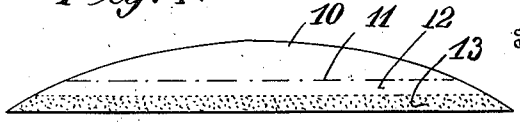


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ENVELOP.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MASAO TANAKA, a subject of the Emperor of Japan, and a resident of New York city, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to envelops of the kind sometimes designated as self-opening envelops—that is, which are each provided with a string, wire or analogous flexible member to be used for tearing open the envelop along one of its edges.

More particularly stated, my invention comprehends an envelop of the type just mentioned, provided with an inside flap for preventing the string or analogous member, when used for the purpose stated, from scattering or pulling out the contents of the envelops—the flap also serving to normally prevent the string from dropping into the envelop, as well as to prevent the contents of the envelop from fouling the string.

Reference is to be made to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, and in which like letters indicate like parts in all of the views.

Figure 1 is a view, partly in perspective and partly broken away, showing my improved envelop as it appears while it is being opened after being sealed.

Fig. 2 is a view, partly in perspective and partly broken away, showing the envelop as ready to receive its contents.

Fig. 3 is a substantially central vertical section through the envelop, substantially in the condition in which it appears in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a detail, showing in elevation the inner flap or shield of the envelop.

The body of the envelop is shown at 5, and the sealing flap at 6, the latter being provided along its outer or free edge with a thin layer 7, of adhesive material.

The envelop is provided with a bend or fold 8, and with a row of perforations 9, this bend and the row of perforations extending along it serving as the line of demarcation, separating the flap 6 from the rest of the envelop, all parts of the device thus far described however, being preferably integral.

In Fig. 4, I show a separate piece 10, which is secured, by use of an adhesive or in some other convenient manner, within the envelop body as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, and when thus secured this part is designated as the inner flap. It is provided with a folding line 11 and with a relatively wide portion 12, carrying an adhesive surface 13 whereby this member is secured in position. Between the adhesive surface 13 and the folding line 11 the portion of the member 12 is free of the envelop body, as indicated in Fig. 3.

A flexible member 14, preferably a string or wire and hereinafter designated for convenience as a string, extends along the envelop body, and substantially parallel to the adhesive surface 13. That is, the string extends between the inner surface of the envelop body and the adjacent free surface of the inner flap, and protrudes slightly from one end of the envelop body. The string is secured by a drop of adhesive 15 to the inner surface of the envelop body and the adjacent surface of the inner flap.

The operation of my device is as follows: The parts being arranged as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the complete envelop is ready for use and may be filled with papers, merchandise or the like. For this purpose the inner flap is raised or opened, the articles are placed in the envelop, and the inner flap is brought over them. Next the sealing flap 6 is brought down over the inner flap, and sealed in the usual or any desired manner.

In order to open the envelop, the operator grasps the protruding end of the string and by pulling it laterally away from the envelop he rips the paper along the folding line 11, the perforations 8 facilitating this object. In using the string for this purpose, the inner flap is not disturbed. As soon as the envelop is thus ripped open, the operator raises the inner flap and removes the contents of the envelop.

It will be noted that after the envelop is filled and sealed and before it is opened, the string lies in what is essentially a little crevice—that is, a lengthy space between a part of the inner flap and the adjacent inner surface of the envelop. The string while in this position is protected in the sense that it cannot be fouled by the contents of the envelop, and it is prevented, when pulled in order to open the envelop, from disturbing the contents thereof.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

In a device of the character described, the combination of an envelop body provided with a sealing flap and with a row of perforations, a ripping cord secured at one of its ends within said envelop body and normally lying adjacent said row of perforations, said ripping cord protruding from said envelop body in order to enable the operator to rip open the envelop body along the row of perforations by pulling upon said ripping cord, and an inner flap secured at one of its edges within said envelop body and bent back upon itself in order to maintain separation between said ripping cord and the contents of said envelop body, said ripping cord extending along the outer surface of said inner flap and free to move away from said inner flap without mutilating the same.

MASAO TANAKA.