March 25, 1947. H. LACHAPELLE 2,418,035

ENVELOPE MOISTENER

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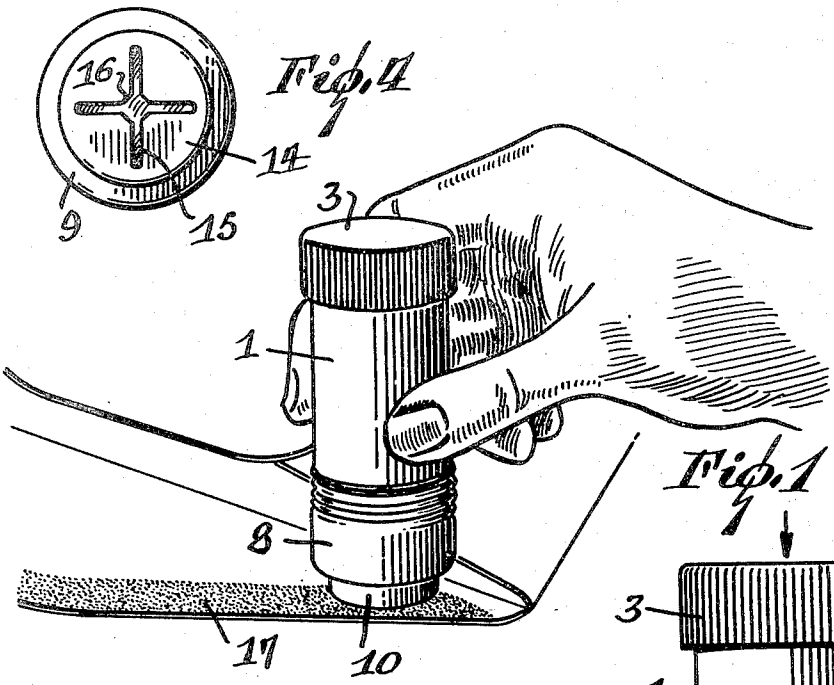


Fig. 4

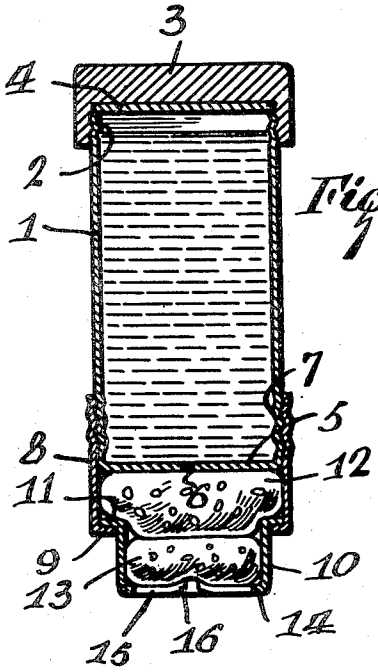


Fig. 2

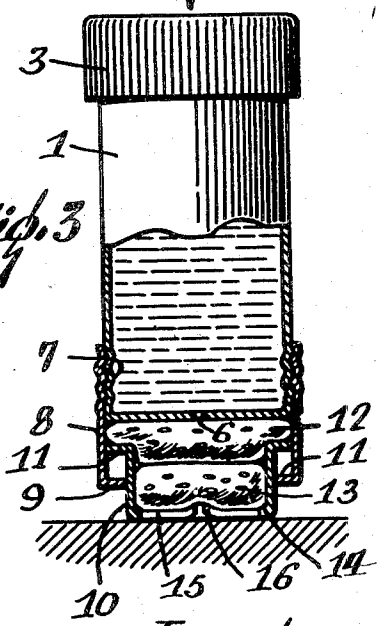


Fig. 1

Fig. 3

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ENVELOPE MOISTENER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 15—133)

1

The present invention pertains to a novel device for moistening glued surfaces such as envelope flaps, postage stamps and the like. The principal object is to provide a simple and inexpensive device of this character constructed of easily fabricated parts and positive in its operation.

The device includes a receptacle for water with a sponge-filled sleeve at one end. This end has a bottom closure with a small port therethrough to fill the sponge. In the sleeve is slidably guided a hollow plunger also containing a sponge, or a single sponge may suffice for both parts. The outer end of the plunger is also closed, except for a limited water outlet. The latter is preferably in the form of intersecting slots, and the corners formed by the intersection are bent inward in order not to scratch the surface over which the device is moved.

The sponges are resilient and project the plunger outwardly when the device is not in use. The sponges become filled with water from the receptacle, and the seepage then ceases, due to the obstruction of the venting through the sponges. When the slotted end of the plunger is laid on the surface to be moistened, a slight pressure is exerted upon it, thereby compressing the sponge or sponges to discharge water through the outlet slots.

The invention is fully disclosed by way of example in the following description and in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the device in use;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section thereof in idle position;

Figure 3 is a similar section of the device compressed in use, and

Figure 4 is a bottom end view.

Reference to these views will now be made by use of like characters which are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout.

The device is shown as including a cylindrical container 1 having a threaded open upper end 2 normally closed by a cap 3 screwed thereon. The cap is preferably lined with a washer 4 adapted to bear upon the upper extremity of the container 1, as in Figure 2. The lower end of the container has a bottom closure 5 formed with a central aperture 6. This end is also threaded at 7 for a purpose that will presently be described.

On the threaded end 7 is screwed a guide sleeve 8 having an inward flange 9 at its lower end. A tubular plunger 10 is slidably mounted within the flange 9 and is formed at its upper end with

2

an outward flange 11 slidably engaging the sleeve 8.

A resilient sponge 12 is contained in the sleeve 8, between the bottom piece 5 and the flange 9, when the device is expanded as in Figure 2. In the same condition, a similar sponge 13 is contained in the plunger 10.

The plunger has a bottom piece 14 with an outlet cut therethrough, preferably in the form of crossed slots 15 as shown in Figure 4. Where the slots intersect, the corners of metal are turned inward, as at 16, in order to avoid scratching the surface over which the member 14 is moved.

The container 1 is filled with water on removing the cap 3. When not in use, the resiliency of the sponges expands the device to the position shown in Figure 2. Only a limited quantity of water flows through the port 6 to sponges, owing to the limited venting through the sponges. This quantity of water is, at most, sufficient to fill the sponges, whereupon venting ceases.

Moisture is expelled upon an adhesive surface 17 by pressing the bottom 14 of the plunger 10 thereupon. The retraction of the plunger compresses the sponges, as shown in Figure 3, and the path of least resistance for the displaced water is through the slots 15. When the device is lifted from the surface 17, the parts return to the position shown in Figure 2.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described it will be understood that various alterations in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as indicated by the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. An envelope moistener comprising a receptacle having a closed bottom with a port therethrough, a guide sleeve detachably mounted on said receptacle and extending beyond said bottom, a hollow plunger slidably mounted in said sleeve, said plunger having an unrestricted inner end and a closed outer end with intersecting slots therethrough, resilient sponge material between said bottom and said closed outer end, and means for limiting the withdrawal of said plunger from said sleeve.

2. An envelope moistener comprising a receptacle having a closed bottom with a port therethrough, a guide sleeve mounted on said receptacle and extending beyond said bottom, a hollow plunger slidably mounted in said sleeve, said plunger having a closed outer end with intersecting slots therethrough, resilient sponge material between said bottom and said closed outer

end, said bottom being bent inward at the corners formed by the intersection of said slots, and means for limiting the withdrawal of said plunger from said sleeve.

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