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A. K. SMITH ET AL
ENVELOPE OPENING DEVICE

1,934,098

Filed Jan. 12, 1931

Fig. 1.

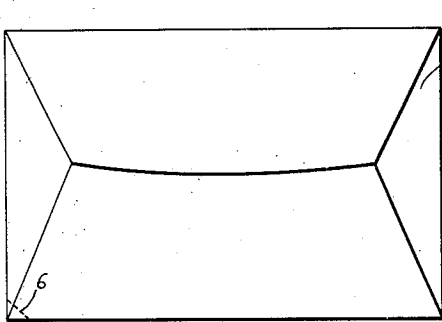


Fig. 2.

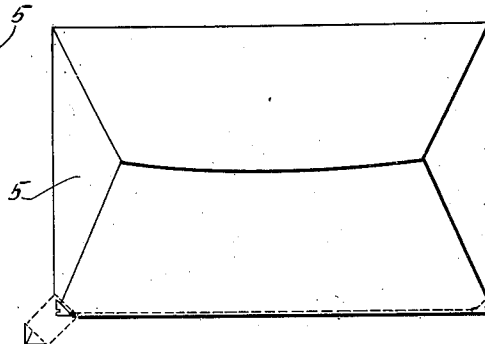


Fig. 3.

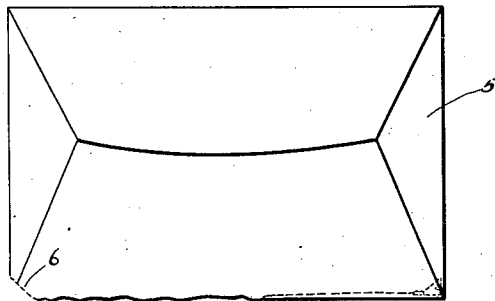


Fig. 4.

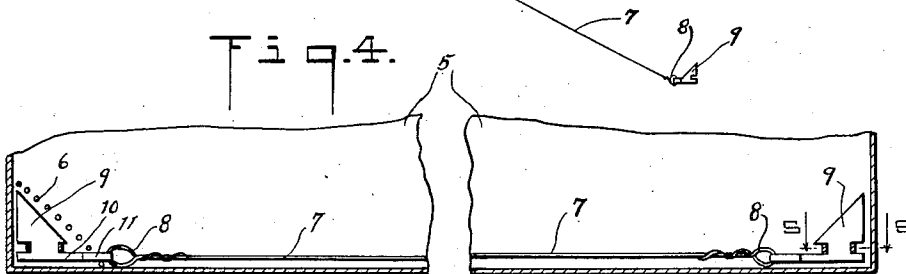
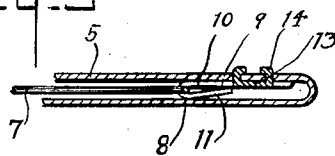


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ENVELOPE OPENING DEVICE

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Application January 12, 1931. Serial No. 508,328

2 Claims. (Cl. 229—86)

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in envelopes, and more particularly it pertains to an opening device therefor.

It is one of the objects of the present invention to provide a new and novel opening means for envelopes.

A feature of the invention resides in a novel form of ripping element adapted to tear through a folded edge of an envelope to provide access to the interior thereof after the same has been sealed.

A further feature of the invention resides in a novel form of means for anchoring the ends of a ripping element and thereby providing means for securing the ripping element within one of the folded edges of an envelope.

Other features of the invention will be apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, and with this object in view, reference is had to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of an envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention, the envelope being shown sealed,

Figure 2 is a similar view showing a portion of the envelope removed,

Figure 3 is a similar view showing the ripping element and its position during the envelope opening operation,

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view on an enlarged scale illustrating the position of the ripping element with respect to the envelope and the means for securing the ripping element within the envelope, and

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring more specifically to the drawing, the reference character 5 designates the envelope, and in carrying out the invention, the envelope is provided with a line of perforations designated 6 which preferably extend diagonally across one corner of the envelope as illustrated herein.

A ripping element 7 preferably in the form of a length of relatively small fine wire is provided, and as shown in Figure 4 this ripping element is adapted to extend along one edge of the envelope in parallelism therewith, and be positioned in the fold thereof as best illustrated in Figure 4. This ripping element has loop ends 8 the purpose of which will be hereinafter described.

Means is provided for anchoring the ripping element 7 in position in the envelope, and in the present embodiment of the invention, this anchoring means comprises two metallic plates 9 made of relatively thin metal. Each of these metallic

plates 9 is provided with a tongue 10 which is adapted to be bent upon itself as at 11 after it has been passed through its respective loop 8 of the ripping element 7. Means is provided for securing these metallic plates 9 in position in the envelope, and this means preferably comprises integral tongues or the like 13 which are bent upon themselves as at 14 in Figure 5 after they have been passed through the material forming one wall of the envelope thus securing the metallic plate 9 in position.

By reference to Figure 4 it will be noted that one of these metallic plates 9 is positioned in a corner between the corner and the line of perforation heretofore mentioned in such a manner that when the envelope is torn along the line of perforations, the member 9 will be removed with relation to the main body of the envelope and the ripping element may be employed to sever the folded edge of the envelope as illustrated in Figure 3.

Thus it will be apparent that one of the anchoring means becomes the operating member for the ripping element when the said member 9 is separated from the main body of the envelope by tearing the same along the line of perforation.

It will be apparent that the present invention provides an effective and novel means for anchoring a ripping element within the fold of an envelope in such a manner that the ripping element may be employed to open the envelope as desired.

While the invention has been herein illustrated in a preferred form, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the specific details of construction herein illustrated, and that it may be practiced in other forms without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and what it is desired to secure by Letters-Patent of the United States, is:

1. In combination with an envelope, an opening device for the same, including a cord with a loop at each end; two plates of single sheet material placed in two corners of the envelope at the two ends of the edge of the envelope to be opened, each plate having a triangular shape, an integral strip forming an extension of one side of the plate in parallelism with the edge of the envelope to be opened, said strip being bent over itself and engaging the loop at the respective end of the cord; two prongs struck out from the edges of the triangular plate adjacent to and in parallelism with the axis of said strip, adapted

to penetrate through the material of the envelope and secure said triangular plate thereto by being bent thereover, and a row of perforations across one corner of the envelope, one side of each triangular plate being placed diagonally across the respective corner of the envelope and said row of perforations following said diagonal edge of the respective plate but being inside thereof for a free removal of the plate.

2. In an envelope opening device having a ripping cord with a loop at its end, an anchoring plate being a triangular shaped piece of sheet material secured in a corner of said envelope, the two sides thereof being in parallelism with the two respective edges of the envelope; a strip of material extending from one end of said triangular plate in parallelism with the adjacent edge of the envelope, and engaging the respective loop at the end of the cord, said envelope having a row of perforations diagonally across the corner thereof containing said plate, said perforations being inside of and in parallelism with the diagonal side of the triangular plate to free the same when the corner of the envelope is severed along said perforations.

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