Nov. 8, 1955 H. M. WHITMAN 2,723,077

CONTINUOUS ENVELOPES

Filed July 22, 1953

FIG. 1

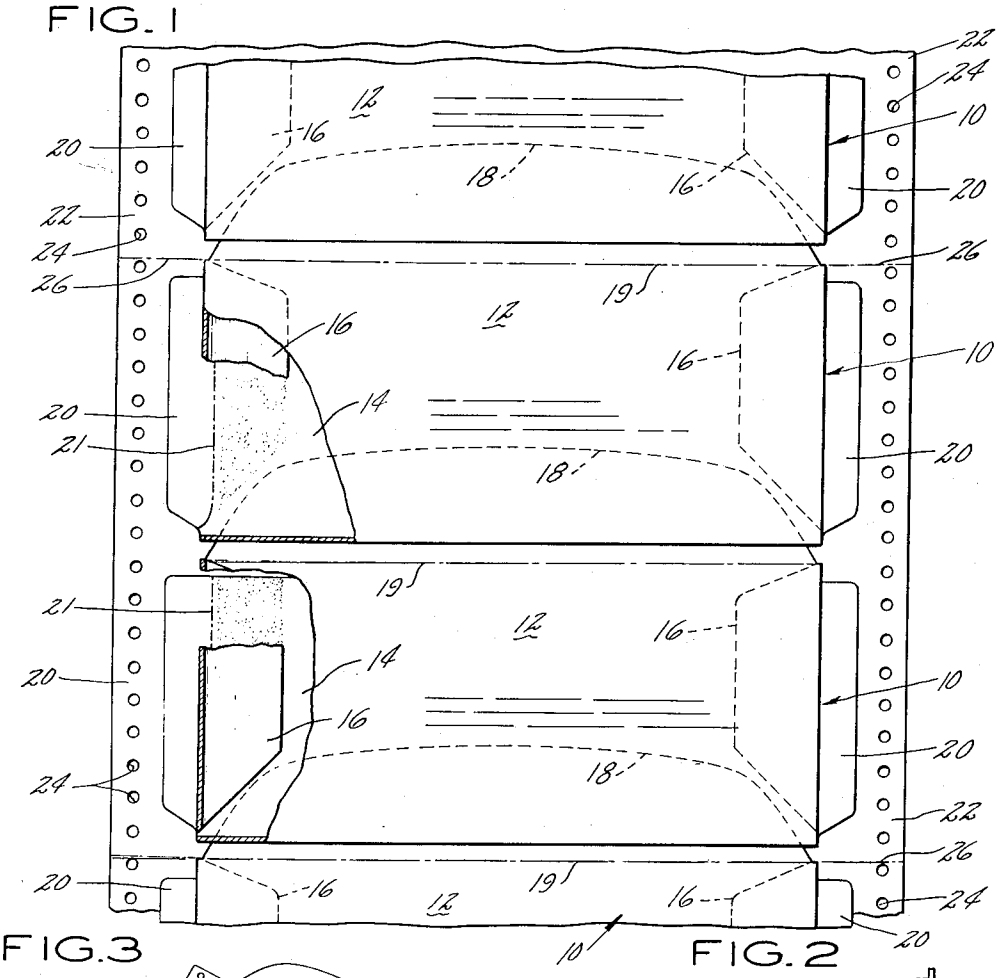


FIG. 3

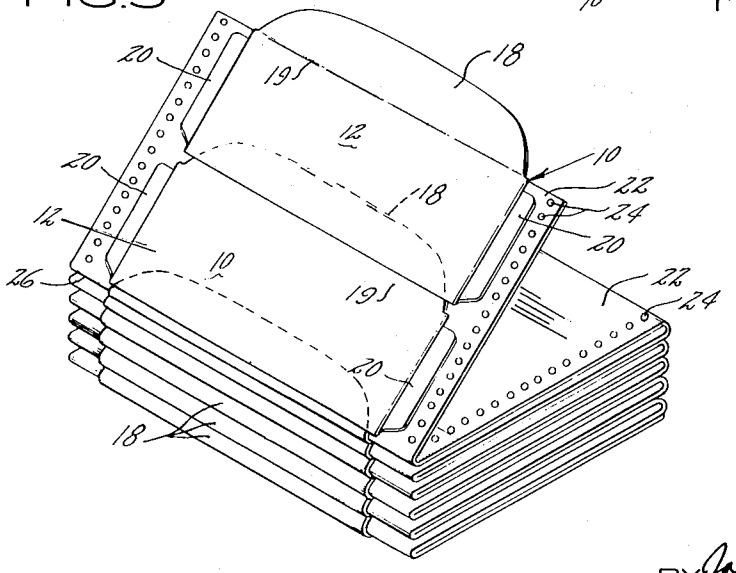
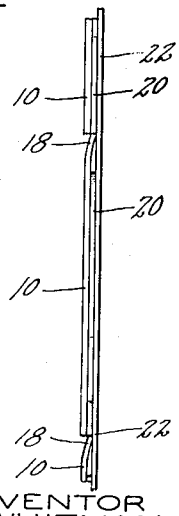


FIG. 2



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2,723,077

CONTINUOUS ENVELOPES

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Application July 22, 1953, Serial No. 369,583

7 Claims. (Cl. 229—69)

This invention relates to envelopes and more particularly to a series or assembly of envelopes so mounted on a flexible member that they may be continuously advanced to operative position by the flexible member in a business machine for addressing, printing or other operation thereon.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a series of envelopes having their panels slightly spaced apart and with each sealing flap below and retained by the panel of an adjacent envelope, the envelopes each being attached to a backing sheet provided with feeding wheel perforations in a manner to permit successively feeding said envelopes individually to an operative position in a business machine.

A feature of importance of the invention is that each envelope, in addition to the usual gummed seal forming flaps at the opposite ends of one of the panels, by which the envelope is formed, has outstanding supplemental flaps or extensions on its opposite ends, these supplemental flaps having a line of perforations by means of which they may be severed from the panel of which they form extensions, these extensions or flaps being attached along opposite sides of the backing sheet.

Another feature of advantage of the invention is that the envelopes of the series are mounted closely adjacent each other on a continuous sheet of greater width than the length of the envelopes which may be flat folded with two or more envelopes on each fold, the folding line between the front panel and sealing flap of each envelope being disposed in alignment with the folding lines of the package.

And finally it is a feature of importance that the envelopes may be individually separated from the group and from the backing sheet after addressing or other operation in a business machine by tearing the envelopes along the perforations provided on the supplemental flaps.

With the above and other objects in view the invention may include the features of construction and operation set forth in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the accompanying drawing annexed hereto and forming a part of this specification, I have shown the invention embodied in a series of standard business mailing envelopes but it will be understood that the invention can be otherwise embodied and that the drawing is not to be construed as defining or limiting the scope of the invention, the claims appended to this specification being relied upon for that purpose.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of several envelopes shown in position on their backing sheet;

Fig. 2 is a side or edge view of a portion of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a group of envelopes so mounted that they form a flat folded package.

In the above mentioned drawing, there has been shown

but one embodiment of the invention which is now deemed preferable, but it is to be understood that changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Briefly, and in its preferred aspect, the invention may include the following principal parts: First, envelopes having front and rear panels, a sealing flap and inturned sealing flaps of usual or standard form; second, outstanding supplemental flaps on the opposite ends of one of the envelope panels; third, a line of perforations between the supplemental flaps and their panel; and fourth, a backing strip to which the envelopes are attached by means of the supplemental flaps, the backing strip being foldable with its fold lines coinciding with the fold lines of the sealing flaps of spaced envelopes.

This application is a continuation in part of my copending application Ser. No. 316,586 filed October 24, 1952.

Referring more in detail to the figures of the drawing, it will be seen that the envelopes **10** are of the same shape and construction as shown in the above mentioned application. The front and rear panels **12** and **14** are secured together along their opposite ends by inturned flaps **16** in the usual manner and have sealing flaps **18** of any conventional form. In addition to the inturned flaps **16** each envelope **10** is provided with outstanding flaps or extensions **20**. These flaps **20** may extend from opposite ends of either the front or rear panel **12** or **14**. Preferably for business mailing envelopes and as shown in the drawing, the inturned flaps **16** for forming the envelopes are extended from the front panel **12** and the outstanding flaps **20** extend from the rear panel **14**. Along the inner edges of the outstanding flaps **20** are lines of perforations **21** by means of which these flaps may be readily severed from the envelopes.

Secured to the outstanding flaps **20** is a backing sheet **22**. This sheet **22**, preferably of thin paper, as shown has spaced circular apertures **24** extending along its opposite edges to engage the teeth of feeding wheels of a business machine by means of which the sheet **22**, with envelopes **10** attached thereto, may be advanced to successively position the envelopes individually for addressing, printing or other operation.

The backing sheet as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing is adapted to be flat or zig-zag folded to form a convenient package for shipping and handling. Each fold may have several envelopes **10** thereon with their panels closely adjacent each other. The major portion of the sealing flap **18** of each envelope **10** is below the panels of the adjacent envelope **10** above or ahead of it so that the envelopes will feed easily through a business machine. Also the envelopes **10** are so mounted on the backing sheet **22** that the fold lines **26** of the sheet **22** to form the flat folded package are aligned with the fold lines **19** between the front panel **12** and sealing flap **18** of the spaced envelopes. In the embodiment of the package illustrated there are two envelopes on each fold of the sheet **22**. It will be understood that with different sizes of envelopes three or more may be mounted on each fold of the sheet **22**. In each case, however, the folds **26** of the sheet **22** will coincide with the fold lines **19** between the envelope panel and sealing flap **18**. At one end of a fold of the sheet **22** the flap **18** will be folded forwarded and at the opposite end of the fold the sealing flap **18** will be folded rearwardly.

To remove the envelopes **10** from the sheet **22** it is only necessary to tear the envelope along the line of perforation **21** between the panel on which the supplemental flaps **20** are formed. This may conveniently be

done in the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawing by placing the hand below the panel 14 of the envelope being removed and above the sealing flap 18 of the adjacent envelope.

By means of the overlapping of the panels 12 and 14 of one envelope with the sealing flap 18 of an adjacent envelope, the movement of the envelopes continuously by feeding wheels (not shown) engaging perforations 24 is facilitated.

I claim as my invention:

1. A series of envelopes mounted on a single continuous backing sheet in adjacent parallel positions, flaps forming extensions from opposite ends of one of the panels of said envelopes, lines of perforations between said panels and extensions, attaching means for each of said envelopes to said sheet provided on said extensions, said backing sheet extending laterally beyond said envelopes and being foldable, whereby an equal number of envelopes may be mounted on each fold.

2. A series of envelopes having sealing flaps mounted on a single continuous backing sheet in adjacent parallel positions and with each sealing flap extending under an adjacent envelope, flaps forming extensions from opposite ends of one of the panels of said envelopes, lines of perforations between said panels and extensions, attaching means for each of said envelopes to said sheet provided on said extensions, said backing sheet extending laterally beyond said envelopes and being zig-zag foldable with envelopes on each fold, and the fold lines of said backing sheet being in alignment with the fold lines between the panels and sealing flaps.

3. A series of spaced envelopes, each having a panel and sealing flap, a single continuous backing sheet therefor, and means to detachably attach said envelopes individually to said sheet closely adjacent each other and with the sealing flap of one envelope positioned below the panel of its adjacent envelope.

4. A series of similar envelopes spaced closely adjacent and in parallel relation to each other, a single continuous backing sheet therefor, supplemental flaps at opposite ends of said envelopes for attaching said envelopes individually to said sheet, said sheet extending laterally beyond said envelopes and flaps and having feeding holes along opposite sides thereof.

5. A series of similar envelopes spaced closely adjacent and in parallel relation to each other, a single continuous backing sheet therefor extending laterally beyond said envelopes, supplemental flaps on said envelopes for attaching said envelopes individually to said backing sheet, feeding means on said backing sheet to individually feed said envelopes successively to a business machine, and lines of perforations between said supplemental flaps and said sheet to facilitate removal of said envelopes individually from said sheet.

6. A series of closely adjacent envelopes attached individually to a zig-zag folded single continuous backing sheet, there being a plurality of envelopes on each fold thereof, each envelope having a panel and sealing flap, the fold lines of said sheet being in alignment with the fold line between an envelope panel and its sealing flap.

7. A series of envelopes, a single continuous backing sheet to which said envelopes are individually attached, flaps forming lateral extensions of said envelopes, lines of perforations between said flaps and envelopes, means on said flaps for attaching said envelopes to said backing sheet, said backing sheet being zig-zag foldable and having an equal number of envelopes on each fold.

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