

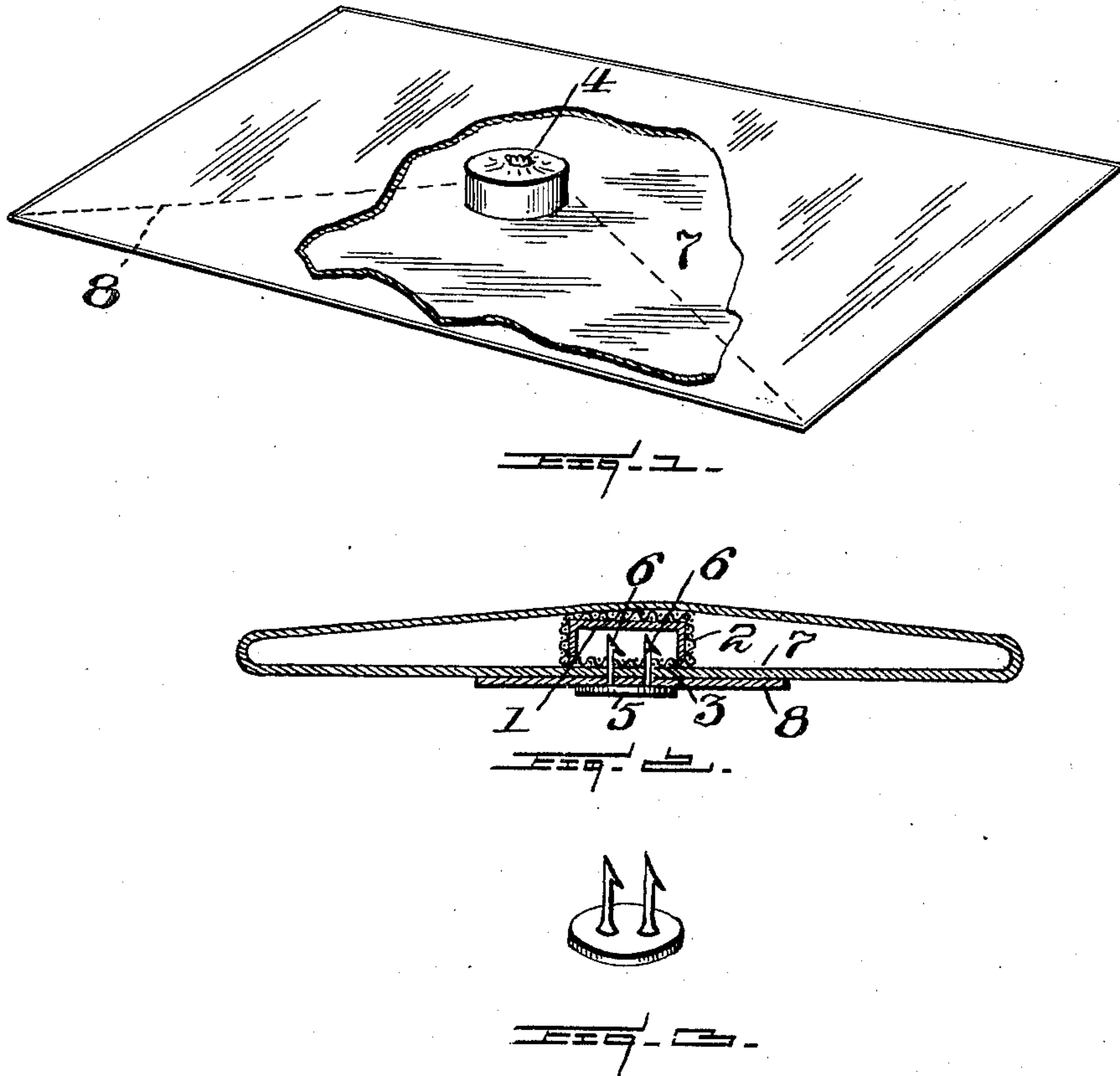
No. 706,417.

Patented Aug. 5, 1902.

J. B. HOWE.
ENVELOP.

(Application filed May 12, 1902.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. HOWE, OF WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 706,417, dated August 5, 1902.

Application filed May 12, 1902. Serial No. 106,885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. HOWE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Windber, in the county of Somerset and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in envelops, and more particularly to an envelop-seal, the object of the invention being to provide novel means whereby an envelop when sealed may not be
15 opened by unauthorized persons without such opening being detected.

To this end the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement, as will be hereinafter more fully described and then specifically pointed out in the claims.

In describing the invention in detail reference is had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and
25 wherein like numerals of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved seal in position on an envelop, the
30 latter being partly broken away in order to show the seal in position. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal sectional view of the envelop with the seal applied in position. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of one member of the
35 seal.

My improved envelop-seal is adapted to be employed in connection with any ordinary envelop, and it consists of a thimble or sleeve 1, which may be made of metal or other hard
40 substance having the desired strength and rigidity. This thimble or sleeve is closed at one end and open at the other end, being substantially cylindrical in form and provided with a covering of suitable fabric—such as
45 closely-woven linen, canvas, or other material—as indicated at 2, this covering forming a diaphragm 3 over the open end of the thimble. The covering is suitably secured by stitching or any other desired method, and
50 said covering is drawn together at a point, as shown at 4 in Fig. 1, so as to hold the

diaphragm stretched tightly across the open end of the thimble. In connection with this member of the seal just described I employ a disk 5, which is provided with one or more
55 barbed prongs 6. The device is used by placing the covered thimble or drum within the envelop 7 after the contents have been placed in the latter. The sealing-flap 8 is then sealed against the back of the envelop,
60 after which the barbed prongs 6 are passed through the sealing-flap 8, through the back of the envelop, and through the diaphragm 3, so that the sealing-flap may not be opened
65 along its sealed edge without breaking the same in a manner that could be readily detected. The thimble or drum is made comparatively flat and of a size which will act as an obstruction, and for clearness of illustration I have shown the same somewhat enlarged.
70 If desired, the diaphragm 3 may be provided on its outer face with adhesive substance, so that it may be secured to the inner face of the back of the envelop, which will facilitate the sealing of the envelop, as no great care
75 will need be exercised in order to retain the thimble or drum in position to receive the barbed prongs of the disk.

It will be noted that various changes may be made in the details of construction with-
80 out departing from the general spirit of my invention.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—
85

1. An envelop-seal consisting of a metal thimble having a covering of suitable fabric, and a disk having barbed prongs to penetrate said fabric and connect the disk with the thimble, substantially as described.
90

2. An envelop-seal consisting of two members, one having a diaphragm of fabric or like material, and the other having prongs to penetrate the envelop and said diaphragm to connect the members together, substantially
95 as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN B. HOWE.

Witnesses:

O. J. SHANK,
JOHN KINNY.