

No. 739,232.

PATENTED SEPT. 15, 1903.

H. L. STAFFORD.
MAILING TUBE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 27, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

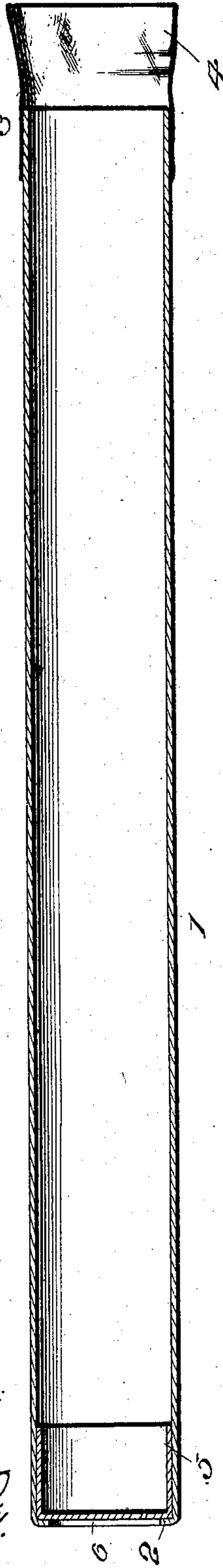
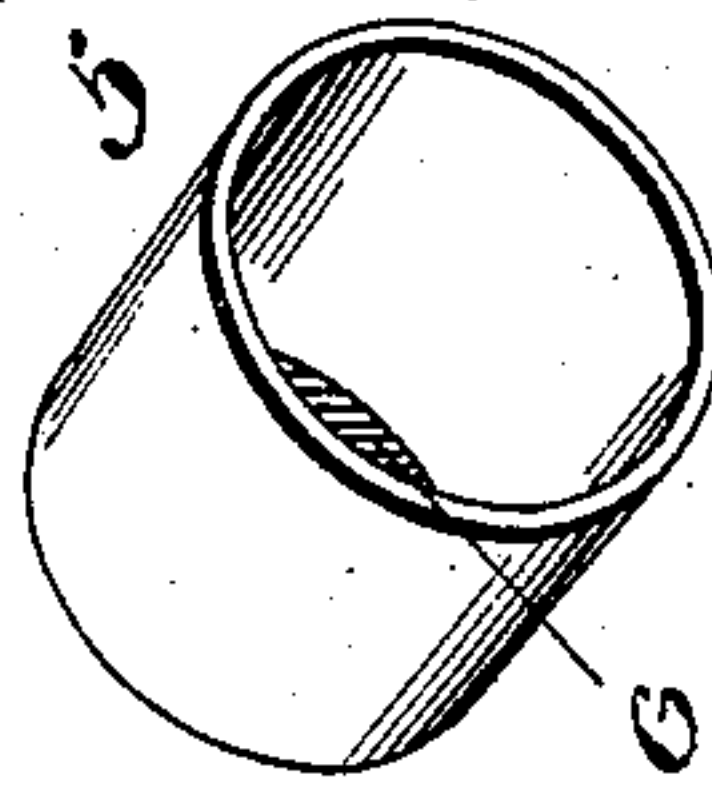


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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HENRY LATHROP STAFFORD, OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN.

MAILING-TUBE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 739,232, dated September 15, 1903.

Application filed January 27, 1903. Serial No. 140,766. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY LATHROP STAFFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marquette, in the county of Marquette and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mailing-Tubes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple and highly-efficient mailing-tube so constructed as to insure the easy removal of an article shipped therein without damaging the same or injuring the tube.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a mailing-tube constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the inner cup or receptacle.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the main tube or cylinder, of cardboard or other preferred material. At or near one end the cylinder is provided with a stop or seat 2, shown in the drawings as being in the form of an annular flange formed by bending inwardly the edge of the cylinder. At its other end, 3, the cylinder is provided with a flexible covering 4, preferably consisting of a strip of paper or fabric pasted or otherwise secured to the outside of the cylinder and projecting beyond the end thereof, so that it may be readily folded into the end of the cylinder and act as a closure.

5 designates a removable cup or receptacle of cylindrical formation and slightly less cross-sectional area than cylinder 1, within which it is designed to be accommodated and seated against stop 2, the bottom 6 of the cup when thus seated forming an end wall for the cylinder. The cup may be made of a single piece of material in the form shown, or it may be composed of two parts, the disk forming

the bottom and the cylindrical body portion being secured together in any preferred manner.

In practice the papers, drawings, or other article to be transmitted are rolled into cylindrical form, as customary, and one end of the roll is inserted into cup 5, which fits thereover like a ferrule. They are then placed within cylinder 1 through end 3, the end of the roll carrying the cup being presented foremost. The roll is pushed in until the cup contacts with seat 2, after which the covering 4 is turned inward or otherwise manipulated to properly close the cylinder. Thus the tube may be mailed without danger of injury to its contents. To remove the latter, the covering 4 is opened out and pressure applied by the finger to the bottom of cup 5 through the adjacent end of the cylinder, whereupon the other end of the article will be projected from the cylinder sufficiently far to permit of its being grasped, and thus wholly withdrawn. Should the cup fail to come with it, the same may be removed by means of a stick or pencil.

The advantages of my invention are apparent. The danger of injuring the inclosed roll in the insertion or removal thereof from a mailing-tube is entirely avoided, since such roll is held compact by the ferrule-like cup on one end thereof, which cup is always placed on the roll before insertion of the latter in the tube and is usually removed with the roll. The tendency of the latter being to expand, the cup avoids the binding thereof against the tube at one end, permitting the removal and insertion of the roll with perfect safety. The mailing-tube is composed of but few parts, which may be readily assembled and removed and which permit of ready inspection of the contents without damaging the latter or the tube. Furthermore, the latter is capable of continued use.

I claim as my invention—

As an article of manufacture, a mailing-tube comprising an open-ended cylinder formed at one end with an internal seat, a

flexible covering secured to the other end of
the cylinder and designed to be folded there-
in, and a removable cup or receptacle of
slightly less diameter than that of the cylin-
5 der, such cup being designed to accommodate
one end of the rolled article to be inclosed
within the cylinder, and when inserted in the
latter bear against said seat, such rolled ar-

ticle being inclosed within the cylinder by the
said flexible covering. 10

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

HENRY LATHROP STAFFORD.

Witnesses:

B. A. MAHER,
WILLIAM S. HILL.