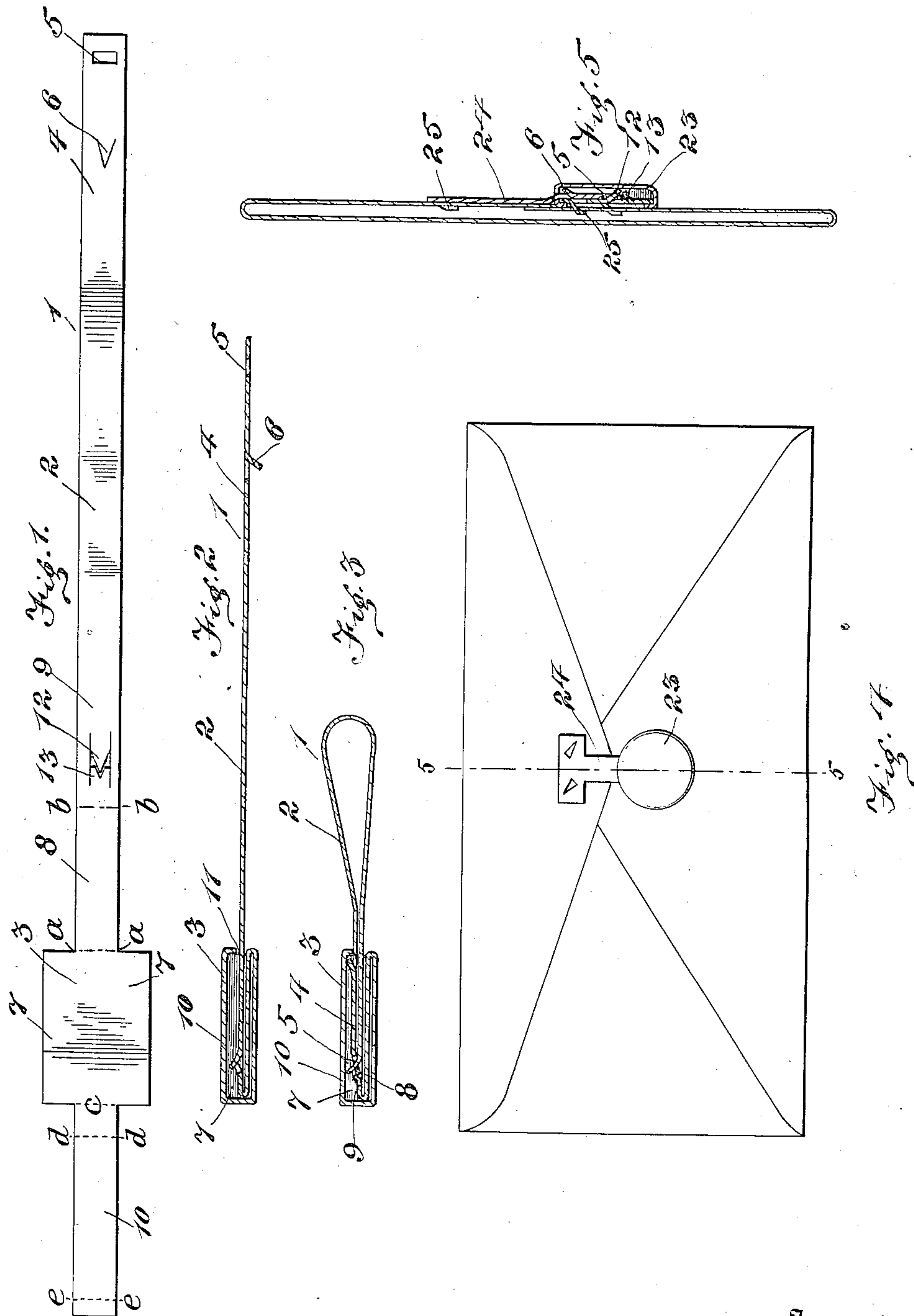


No. 816,376.

PATENTED MAR. 27, 1906.

F. W. PURCELL.
SEALING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 19, 1905.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK W. PURCELL, OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

SEALING DEVICE.

No. 816,376.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 27, 1906.

Application filed January 19, 1905. Serial No. 241,874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK W. PURCELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Luverne, in the county of Rock and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sealing Devices; and I do 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.

My invention relates to improvements in sealing devices for the closures of containers of all kinds, but particularly for the doors of railway-cars and the flaps of envelopes, packages, and the like.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and highly-efficient sealing or locking device of this character which cannot be opened without destroying the same.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a blank from which the sealing or locking device is constructed. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the completed device in its open position. Fig. 3 is a similar view, the same being in its closed or locked position. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the rear face of an envelop, showing a slightly-modified form of my invention applied thereto; and Fig. 5 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, taken on the line 5 5 of Fig. 4.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, of the drawings, the numeral 1 denotes an improved sealing or locking device which is particularly designed for use in sealing the doors of railway-cars and the like. As shown, the device is made from a single piece of sheet metal by bending the blank (shown in Fig. 1) so as to form the completed device. (Seen in Figs. 2 and 3.) The device comprises a flexible strip or loop 2, which has at one of its ends a closed casing 3 and at its opposite end a coacting tongue 4. The tongue has adjacent to its end a slot or opening 5 and a projecting spur 6.

In forming the casing 3 the laterally-extended portions 7 of the blank (shown in Fig. 1) are bent up to form the sides. The portion 8 is then bent over the bottom on the line *a a* and caused to lie between the sides. The por-

tion 9 is then bent reversely on the line *b b*, so as to lie between the sides and on the portion 8, and the portion 10 is then bent upwardly on the line *c* to extend to the upper edges of the sides, is then bent on the line *d d* to lie above the portion 9, and is finally bent downwardly, near its outer end, on the line *e e*. Hence the said portion 9 forms the top and ends of the casing.

The ends and top of the casing may be secured to the sides by solder or any other suitable means, and an inlet-opening 11 is left at that end of the casing from which the strip or loop 2 projects, so as to receive the opposite end or tongue 4, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. In the portion 9 of the blank is formed an upwardly and rearwardly projecting locking-spur 12, which is guarded by an oppositely-projecting guarding-spur 13. The latter is disposed below and in rear of the spur 12, so that when the opening 5 in the tongue 4 is once engaged with the locking-spur 12 it will be retained in such engagement by the guard 13.

It will be seen that the portions 8 and 9 of the blank are disposed within the casing 3 and that the portion 8 forms a spring, which assists in holding the parts in their locked position.

The use and advantages of the device will be readily understood upon reference to the drawings. It will be seen that when it is desired to seal or lock the device the tongue 4 is forced into the inlet-opening 11 of the casing 3 until its opening 5 engages the spur 12 and its spur 6 engages the interior of the casing 3, as clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. When the parts are in this position, it will be impossible to remove the tongue 4 from the casing without destroying the latter.

In Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings I have shown my invention applied to the flap of an envelop. It will be seen that upon one of the flaps I secure a casing 23, which corresponds to the casing 3, and upon the other flap I secure a tongue 24, which corresponds to the tongue 4. The casing 23 is circular in form and has within the same a locking-spur 12, which is guarded by a guarding-spur 13. The tongue 24 has a slot 5 to engage the spur 12 and a spur 6 to engage the interior of the casing. This casing 23 and the tongue 24 may be attached to the envelop in any desired manner; but I preferably attach them by means of spurs 25, as shown.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

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

1. A sealing - device blank comprising a strip of sheet metal formed at a suitable distance from one end with a widened portion adapted to have its sides bent up to form the sides of a casing, the ends of the strip forming a comparatively short, and a comparatively long tongue respectively, the latter having at a suitable distance from the widened portion a locking-spur 12 and a guard

13 and provided near its outer end with an opening 5 and a spur 6.

2. A sealing device formed from a blank strip having a portion to form a casing open at one end, and a tongue extending from the open end of the casing having a portion doubled in the casing and provided with a locking-spur 12 and a guard 13, and a portion extending from said doubled portion adapted to be doubled and having its outer portion inserted in the casing, said outer portion of the tongue having an opening 5 to receive the locking - spur 12, and a spur 6 to engage a flange at the opening in the casing, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK W. PURCELL.

Witnesses:

W. W. COCROFT,
G. W. KNISS.