No. 822,773. PATENTED JUNE 5, 1906.

B. M. ROGERS.

ENVELOP MOISTENER.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 22, 1905.

Fig. 1.

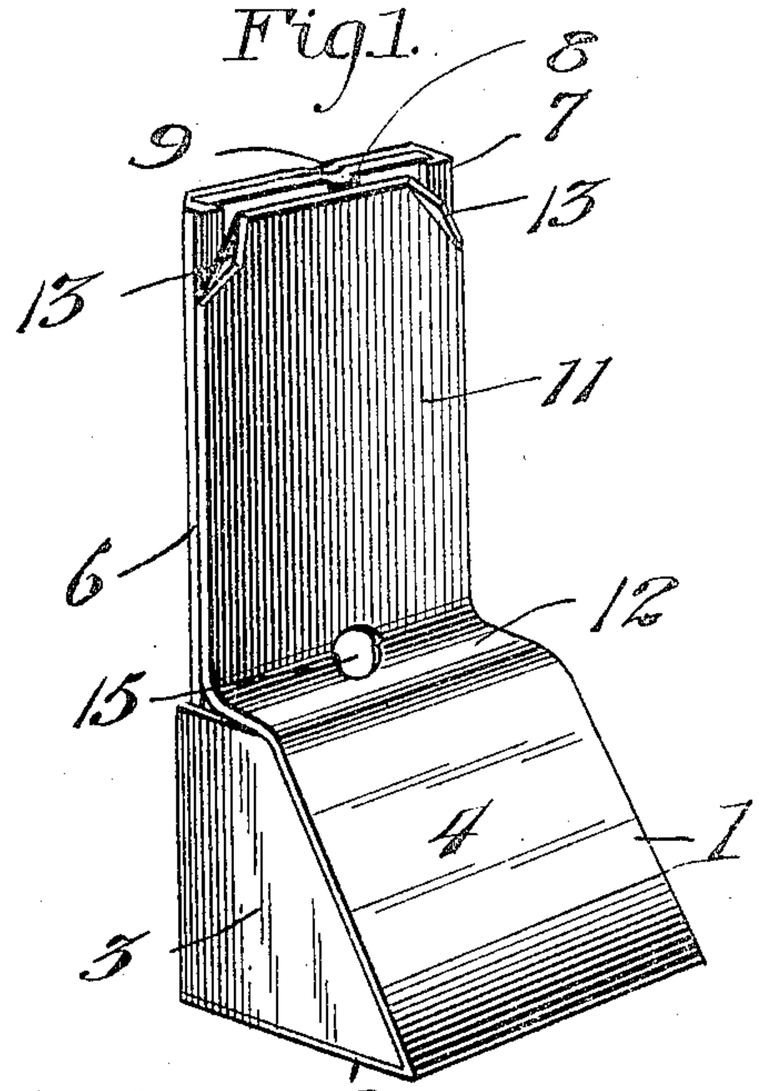


Fig. 2.

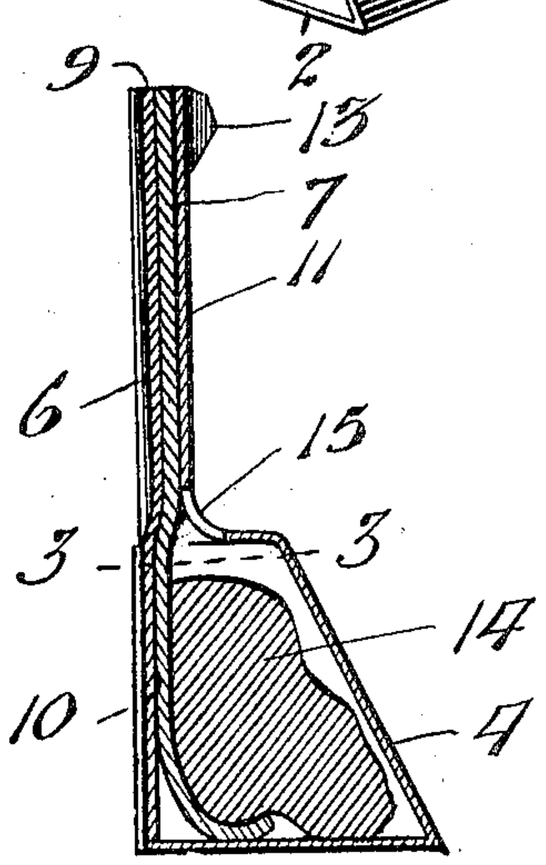
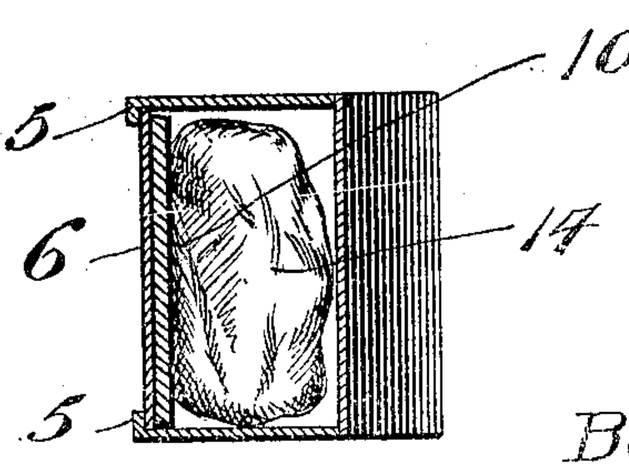


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BYRON M. ROGERS, OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK.

ENVELOP-MOISTENER.

No. 822,773. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 5, 1906.

Application filed August 22, 1905. Serial No. 275,285.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BYRON M. ROGERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Watertown, in the county of Jefferson and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Envelop-Moisteners, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to an improvement in envelop-moisteners designed particularly for coöperation with any desired type of sealing-machine.

The main object of the present invention is the production of a moistener arranged for ready coöperation with a sealing-machine and constructed to include a well and a wick-holder slidably connected with the well.

The preferred details of structure of the invention will be described in the following specification, reference being had particularly to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a moistener constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical central section of the same, and Fig. 3 is a tranverse section of the same taken through the well.

Referring to the drawings, my improved moistener comprises a well 1, including a bottom 2, sides 3, and a front wall 4, the forward edge of the sides being preferably inclined from the vertical, whereby to reduce the width of the upper end of the well, as clearly shown in the drawings.

The well proper, including the bottom, sides, and front wall, may, if desired, be formed from a single piece of material or from separate pieces suitably secured to provide a water-tight connection.

The rear vertical edges of the side walls 3 are inwardly bent to provide flanges 5, arranged to receive a guide or wick-plate 6, coextensive in width with the distance between the sides 3, but of a length to extend a suitable distance above the well. The side edges of the wick-plate are inwardly turned to provide lips 7, within which is secured the wick 8, said wick being equal in width to the width of the wick-plate and supported by the lips 7 on the inner surface of said plate. The upper end of the wick preferably terminates on a line with the upper edge of the wick-plate, while its lower edge projects within the well proper, as shown particularly in Fig. 2. The wick-plate is preferably formed on its outer surface with a longitudinally centrally-arranged indentation or groove 9, whereby to provide a rib projecting forward from said wick-plate to centrally ridge the wick, as at 10. By preference the ridge or groove 9 extends longitudinally of the wick-plate from its upper free edge to a point slightly above the well proper.

11 represents what I term the "sealing-tongue," being preferably formed by extending the forward wall 4 of the well, though it is to be understood that, if desired, said tongue may be formed of a separate piece of material. In forming said tongue integral with the well, however, said wall is projected inwardly from its upper end to overlie the upper edges of the sides 3, thereby forming a cover 12 for the upper end of the well and projected upwardly from said cover in alinement with and normally in contact with the wick 8 to provide the spring-tongue 11. The upper corners of the spring-tongue are bent outwardly at 13 to provide for the ready insertion of the envelop-flap.

By preference the well 1 is arranged to contain a mass of absorbent material 14, which is in direct contact with the lower end of the wick, as shown in Fig. 2. A filling-opening 15 is formed at the junction of the tongue 11 and the cover 12, whereby the absorbent material 14 may be saturated when desired.

In use the envelop-sealing flap is passed between the tongue 11 and the wick 8, being moistened by contact with the wick, the rib 10 in said wick insuring the application of sufficient moisture to the adhesive material of the flap, it being understood that the tongue 11 bears with more or less tension against the said rib.

The moistener described is adapted for hand use, in which event a plurality of envelops are arranged with their sealing-flaps properly positioned, and the moistener grasping the hand is rapidly passed lengthwise the sealing-flap of its successive envelop.

It is to be understood that I also contemplate the moistener as an addition to and for coöperation with any desired type of sealing-machine, in which event of course a suitable connection is to be provided for supporting said moistener.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A moistener comprising a tank, a wick-plate slidably connected with the tank, and a wick removably secured to said plate and depending within the tank, said wick-plate forming the rear wall of the tank.

2. A moistener comprising a well, a wick-plate slidably connected therewith and forming the rear wall of the well, a wick removably connected with said wick-plate and depending within the well, and a spring-tongue projecting above the well and bearing against said wick.

3. A moistener comprising a well, a wick-plate slidably connected therewith and forming the rear wall of the well, a wick removably connected with said wick-plate and depending within the well, and a spring-tongue projecting above the well and bearing against said wick, said spring-tongue being formed integral with the front wall of the well.

4. A moistener comprising a well, a wick-plate slidably connected with the well and forming the rear wall thereof, said wick-plate being formed with a projecting rib, a wick removably secured to said wick-plate and overlying said rib, and a spring-tongue formed integral with the well and contacting with the wick.

5. A moistener comprising a well open at its rear side, the side walls of the well being inwardly turned to provide flanges, a wick-plate slidably engaging said flanges and closing the rear side of the well, said wick-plate being formed with inturned lips, a wick secured by said lips, and a spring-tongue formed integral with the well and contacting with said wick, the free corners of said tongue being outwardly turned.

6. A moistener comprising a well open at its rear side, the side walls of the well being inwardly turned to provide flanges, a wick-plate slidably engaging said flanges and closing the rear side of the well, said wick-plate being formed with inturned lips, a wick secured by said lips, a spring-tongue formed integral with the well and contacting with said wick, the free corners of said tongue being outwardly turned, said well being formed with a filling-opening, and a mass of absorbent material within the well.

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

BYRON M. ROGERS.

Witnesses:
LE ROY L. LUTHER,
E. M. SMITH.