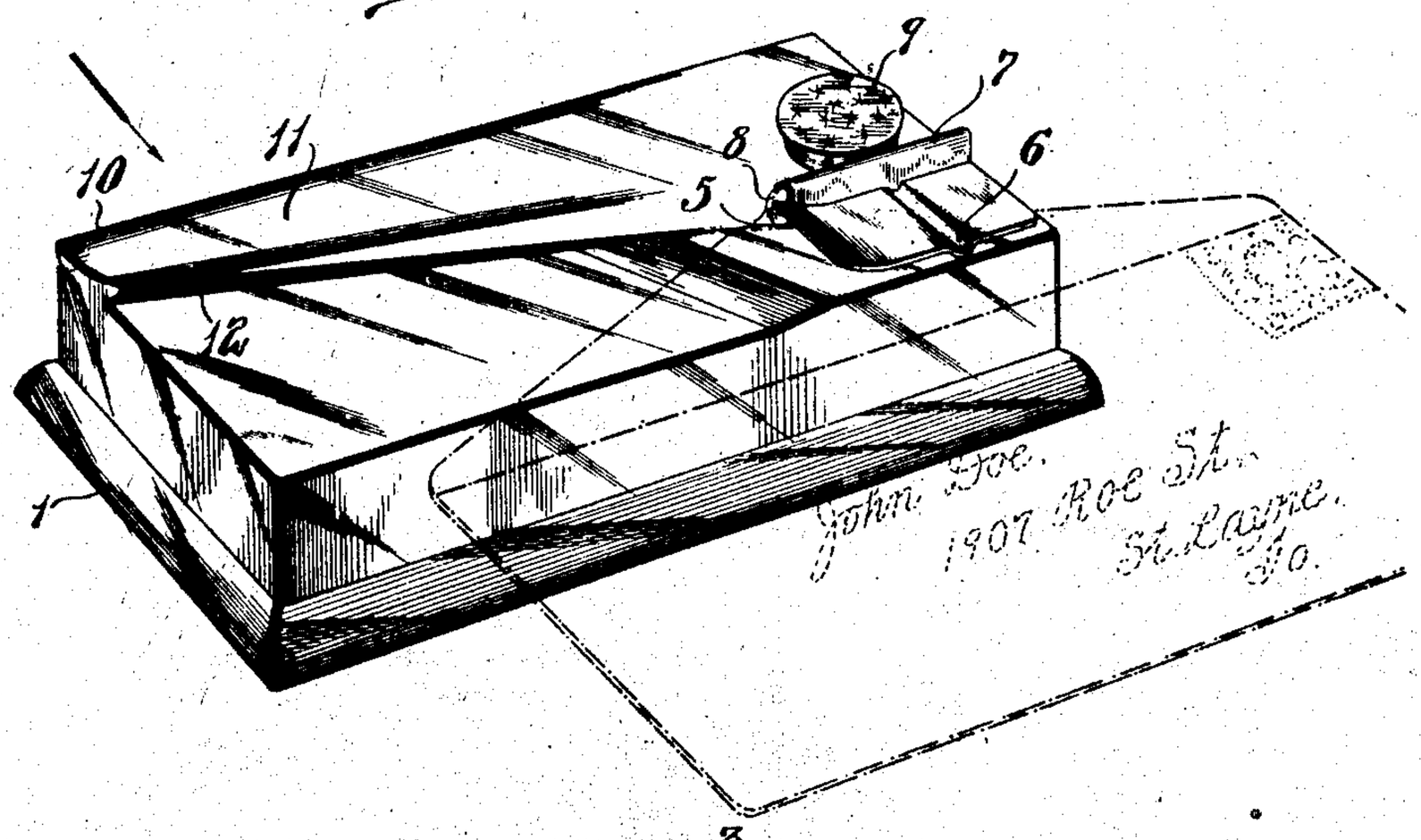
No. 859,646. PATENTED JULY 9, 1907.

J. A. DE VILBISS.

ENVELOP MOISTENER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 9, 1907.

Fig. 1.



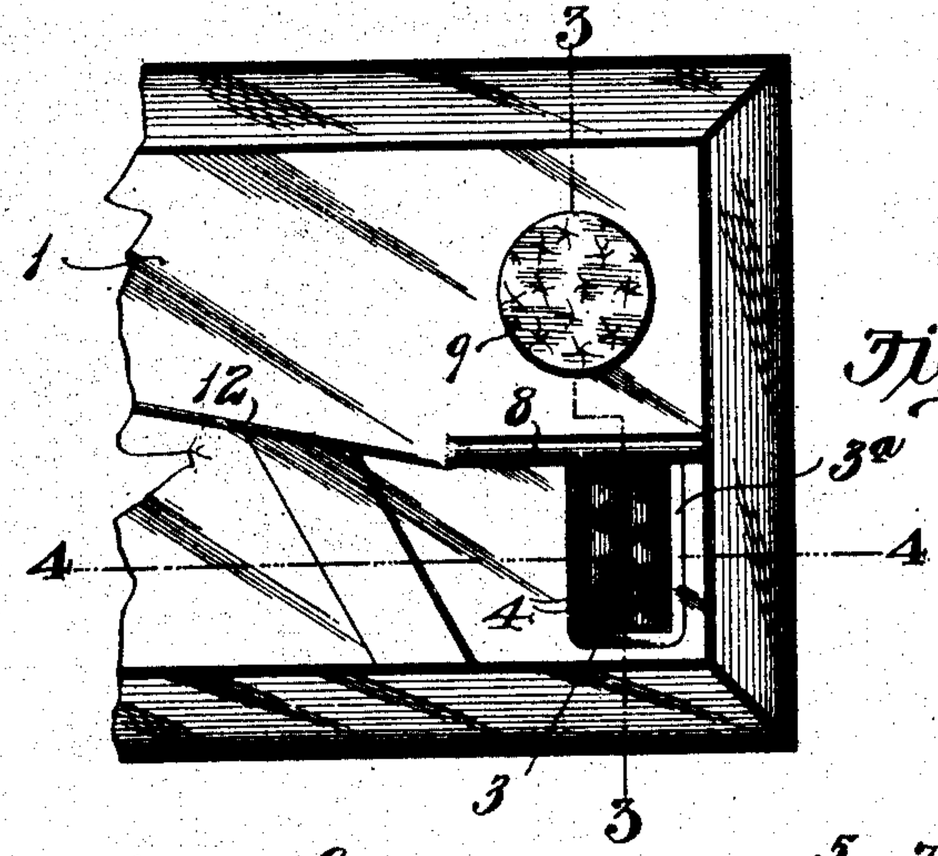


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

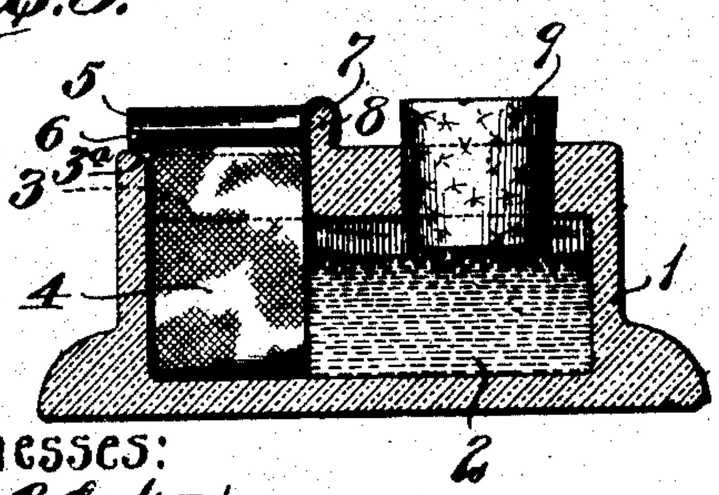
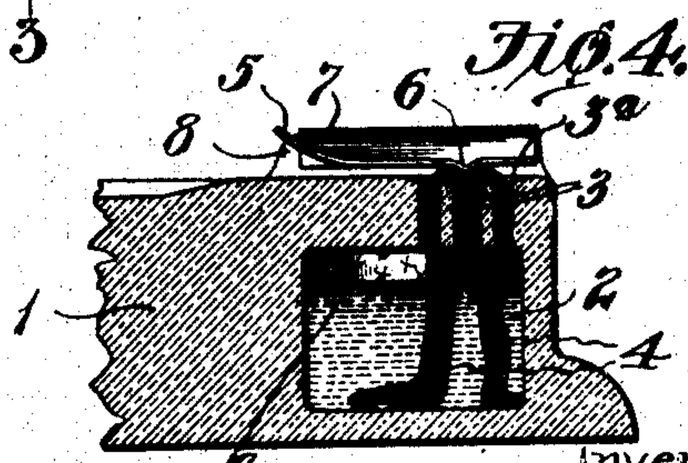


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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Inventor:
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By Baskerville & Cornwall Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. DE VILBISS, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO SIMON J. HARBAUGH, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

ENVELOP-MOISTENER.

No. 859,646. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 9, 1907.

Application filed January 9, 1907. Serial No. 351,528.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. DE VILBISS, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Envelop-Moisteners, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying the features of my invention; Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a portion of the device with the pressing member that co-operates with the moistening member removed; Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, the pressing member 5 being shown in operative position; and Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, the pressing member 5 also being shown in the view.

This invention relates to devices for moistening the adhesive on envelop flaps and similar articles.

The object of my invention is to provide a device of simple construction having means for opening the flap of the envelop, and means for guiding the flap to the member which moistens the adhesive thereon.

Another object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described having a yielding presser that co-operates with the moistening member.

Referring to the drawings which represent the preferred form of my invention, 1 designates a block which may be formed of glass or any other suitable material, and provided at one end with a hollow chamber 2 for receiving water. If desired, however, the entire block may be formed hollow instead of providing a separate chamber at one end thereof.

The upper wall of the water chamber is so formed that two parallel supports or bars 3 are arranged above the water chamber, and over these bars wicks 4, or other suitable material, are mounted which extend down into the water chamber and are kept moist by capillary attraction. These wicks 4 constitute the moistening member, and co-operating therewith is a pressing member 5, preferably formed of yielding material, and provided with a rib 6 arranged in alinement with the opening between the two bars 3, as shown in Fig. 4. The openings in the upper face of the block through which said wicks extend, are tapered or beveled inwardly at 3^a, as shown in Fig. 2, so as to prevent the water from passing onto the upper face of the block. The member 5 is also provided with a flange 7 that extends over a rib 8 formed on the upper face of the block 1 for securing said pressing member in position. The water chamber 2 is filled through an opening in the upper face of the block which is closed by a stopper or cork 9. A sharp corner 10 extends along the upper rear edge of the block 1, and adjacent this corner the top face of the block is hollowed out or curved slightly at 11, as shown in Fig. 1, for a purpose hereinafter to be described. A guiding rib 12 extends diagonally across the upper face of the block and terminates adjacent the moistening member.

To use the device, a person takes an envelop with its flap closed and draws it transversely in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 1, across the upper face of the block 1, the sharp corner 10 at the upper rear edge of the block engaging the flap of the envelop and thus causing it to be straightened out as the envelop continues to move over the upper face of the block, the hollowed-out portion 11 permitting the envelop to be pressed downwardly a slight distance so as to aid the corner 10 to straighten out the flap. When the edge of the flap reaches the inclined guide 12 the envelop is moved longitudinally of the block and this guide 12 causes the flap to pass between the moistening member and the yielding presser which co-operates therewith, thereby moistening the adhesive on the underneath side of the flap.

A device of this character not only dispenses with the necessity of a separate operation for opening the flap of the envelop, this being accomplished by the same movement which carries the flap onto the moistening device, but also presents a neat and ornamental appearance.

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

1. A device of the character described, comprising a member provided with moistening means and with an inclined guide adapted to co-operate with the edge of the flap of the envelop to guide it to the moistening means; substantially as described.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a member provided with moistening means, a yielding presses co-operating with said means, a flange on said presser, and a rib on the upper face of said member over which said flange extends; substantially as described.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a rectangular-shaped block provided adjacent one end thereof with moistening means, and a guiding rib extending diagonally across the upper face of said block and terminating adjacent said moistening means; substantially as described.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a rectangular-shaped block, the upper face of which is hollowed out adjacent the rear edge of the block, a diagonally

extending guide on the upper face of the block, and a moistening member at the end of said guide; substantially as described.

5. A device of the character described, comprising a block provided with a water chamber and with an opening through which said chamber is filled, the top wall of said chamber being provided with an opening across which a parallel bar extends, a moistening member mounted on said bar and extending down into the water chamber, a presser co-operating with said moistening member, and an inclined guide on the upper face of said block adapted to co-operate with the edge of the flap of the envelop to guide it to said moistening member; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this fifth day of January 1907.

JOHN A. DE VILBISS.

Witnesses:

WELLS L. CHURCH,

GEORGE BAKEWELL.