E. H. HOTCHKISS & C. BEACH.

MACHINE FOR AFFIXING STAMPS.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1909.

936,631. Patented Oct. 12, 1909.

Fig. 1.

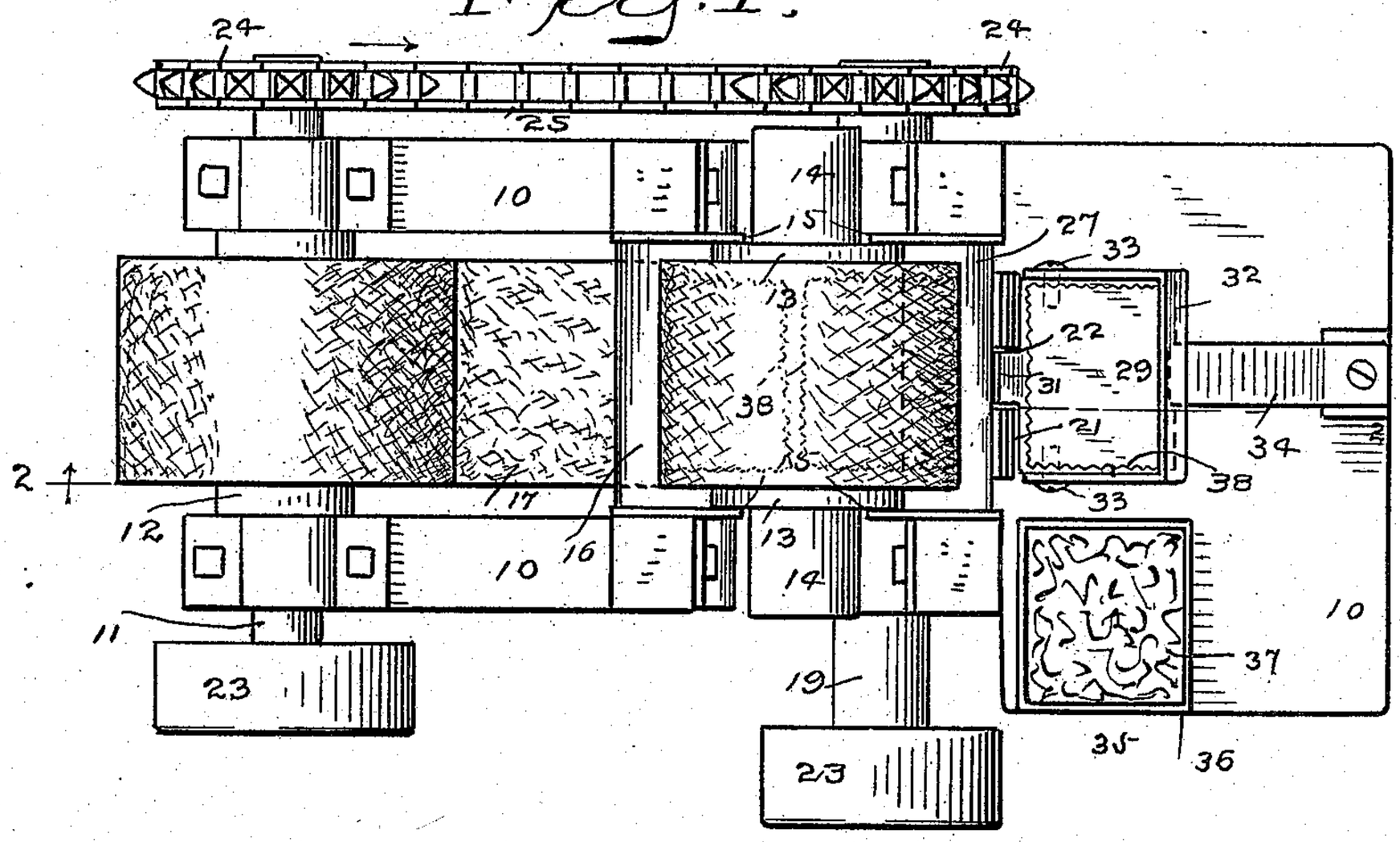
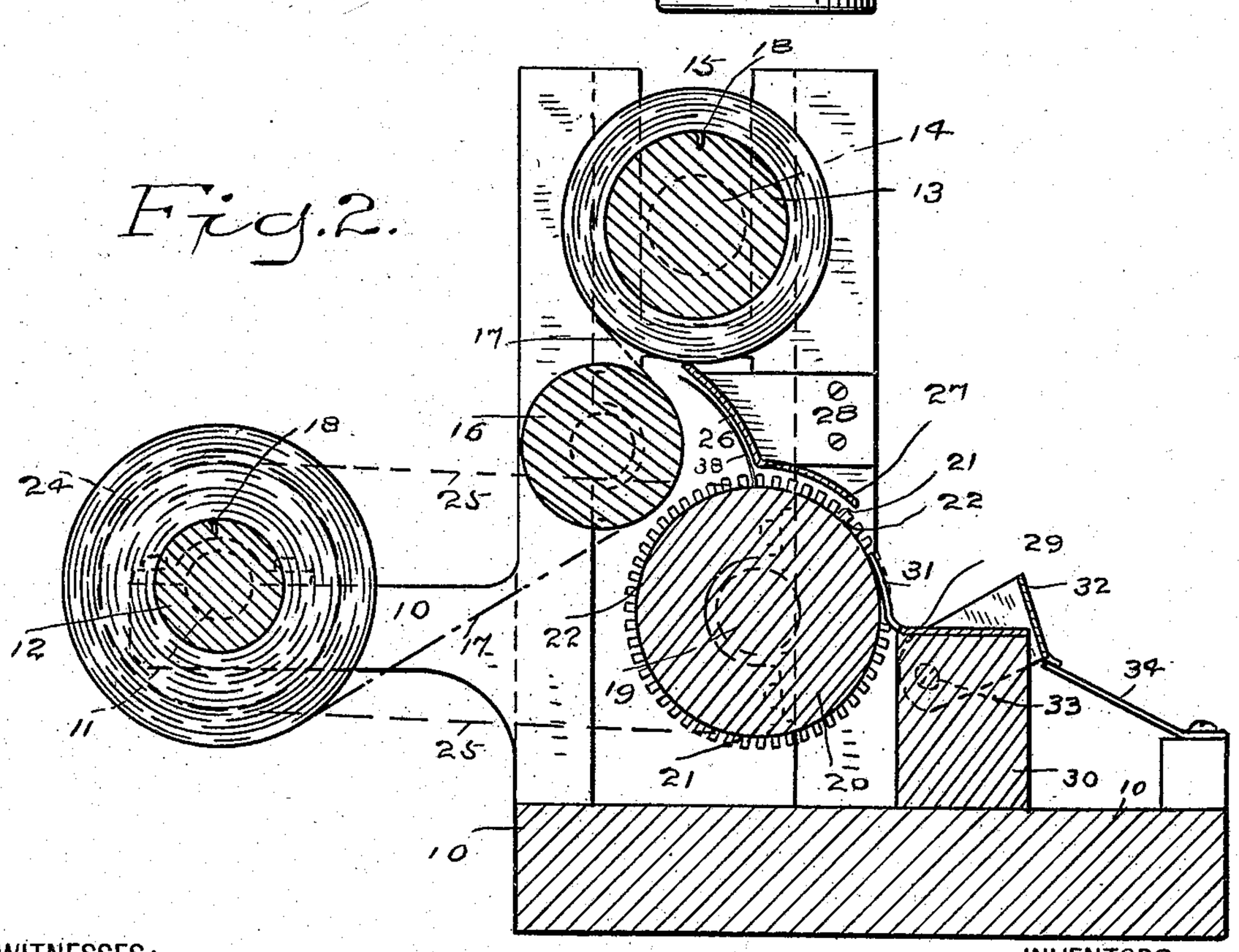


Fig. 2.



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MACHINE FOR AFFIXING STAMPS.

936,631. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 12, 1909.

Application filed May 24, 1909. Serial No. 497,873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, (1) ELI HUBBELL HOTCHKISS and (2) CHARLES BEACH, citizens of the United States, residing at (1) Norwalk, county of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, and (2) Catskill, county of Greene, State of New York, respectively, have invented an Improvement in Machines for Affixing Stamps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a simple and inexpensive hand operated machine for feeding stamps into position to be affixed to a moistened envelop or card; the machine being provided with means for moistening the card or envelop, with means for feeding the stamps singly into position to be affixed and with means for retaining the stamp in place while pressure is applied to the moistened envelop or card, thereby avoiding the necessity for moistening either the stamp or the article to which it is applied with the mouth and the machine requiring but little room on a desk and being so inexpensive to produce as to place it within the reach of all.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in certain constructions and in certain parts, improvements and combinations which will be hereinafter described and then specifically pointed out in the claims hereunto appended.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan view of our novel machine complete; and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

10 denotes the frame of our novel machine which may be made of metal, wood, hard rubber, vulcanized fiber or any suitable material.

11 denotes a shaft mounted to rotate in suitable bearings on the frame and carrying a drum 12. 13 denotes another drum having trunnions 14 which have their bearings in slots 15 in the frame and 16 denotes a roller journaled on the frame and located intermediate drums 12 and 13.

17 denotes a strip of paper or textile material as preferred and which may or may not be coated with paraffin. This strip passes over roller 16 and the ends thereof are detachably connected to the drums in any suitable manner as by being inserted in slots 18 in the drums. The strip may be of any suitable length and is wound upon the drums, as will be more fully explained.

19 denotes another shaft which is suitably journaled on the frame and carries a roller 20 which is provided with longitudinal slots 21 in its periphery and with a central circumferential groove indicated by 22. Shafts 11 and 19 are provided with roller 20 which is provided with longitudinal slots 21 in its periphery and with a sprocket or belt pulleys 24, sprocket pulleys being shown in the present instance which are connected by a sprocket chain 25.

26 denotes a deflector upon which the winding of the strip on drum 13 rests, said deflector lying between said drum and slotted roller 20, and 27 denotes a guide plate over the slotted roller but with a clear space between the guide plate and the roller. The guide plate and deflector are shown as formed integral from a piece of sheet metal which is provided with flanges 28 by means of which the parts are rigidly secured to the frame.

29 denotes the stamp bed or table which in the present instance is a plate of metal secured to an upwardly projecting portion 30 of the frame.

31 denotes a tongue of metal which extends upward from the stamp bed and lies in groove 22 in slotted roller 20.

32 denotes a guard which is pivoted to projection 30 as at 33 and partly incloses the stamp bed. A spring 34 acts to hold the guard at the raised position.

35 denotes a suitable moistening device which is placed on the left side of the stamp bed. This moistening device may be of any ordinary or preferred construction. In the present instance we have shown a cup 36 which may be made of metal or any suitable material and attached to the frame for carrying a sponge indicated by 37 or any suitable pad that will absorb moisture.

The operation is as follows: To load the machine where a permanent strip is used, the strip is first wound on drum 12 with the exception of a single ply which is left upon drum 13. The stamps are separated from each other. Drum 13 is then removed from its bearings, the strip unwound therefrom and then the drum is rotated by hand to wind the strip thereon, stamps, indicated by 38, being placed singly between the wind-

ings, the adhesive side of the stamps being placed inward. Any number of stamps may be placed in the windings of the strip depending of course upon the length of the strip. When the strip has been nearly all wound upon drum 13 or when the predetermined number of stamps have been wound therein, the drum is replaced in its bearings and the machine is ready for use. In practice drums 13 with strips wound thereon, and inclosing in the windings a predetermined number of stamps, may be furnished independently of the machine. The strips may be made of paper or of inexpensive textile material and may or may not be coated with paraffin as preferred. The drums and trunnions may be turned from wood; in fact, the drums and strips may be produced so cheaply that the completed drums or rolls of stamps may be sold for but a trifle more than the cost of the stamps. When the machine is used with the prepared rolls or drums of stamps, the strips and drums are thrown away when the stamps are all used. When a new drum is placed in the bearings, the end of the strip is carried about roller 16 and under and over drum 12 to which it is attached in any suitable manner as by inserting the end of the strip into slot 18 and then winding the strip closely upon the drum, several additional windings of the strip being provided on the prepared rolls for convenience in attachment to the other drum.

In use, drum 12 is turned toward the front, *i. e.* toward the right as seen in the drawing, by means of the hand wheel. This draws the strip from drum 13 over roller 16 and winds it upon drum 12, and the sprocket chain or belt communicates motion to grooved roller 20. The stamps, as already explained, are inclosed in the windings of the strip on drum 13 with the adhesive side inward. As the strip passes over roller 16 while being drawn from drum 13 by drum 12, the stamps will drop from the winding and the edge of each stamp will drop into one of the slots 21 of roller 20. Deflector 26 acts to deflect the edge of the stamp downward as it passes from the strip and prevents the stamp from turning over or doubling up. The forward movement of roller 20 carries the stamp under guide plate 27 which retains it in position as it is carried forward by roller 20 until it passes out from under the guide plate and drops down over tongue 31 upon stamp bed or table 29, still with the adhesive side upward. The corners of the envelops or cards to which stamps are to be affixed are moistened, the address side being held downward, and then the moistened portion of the envelop or card is placed over the stamp pocket and the guard and pressed downward, the guard yielding and the moistened portion of the envelop or card coming in contact with the adhesive side of the stamp which lies upon the stamp bed and is retained thereon by the guard. Should two or more stamps be required upon an envelop, a sufficient portion of the address side is moistened by being passed over the moistening device and the required number of stamps are successively delivered into the pocket from drum 13 and affixed in place in the manner described.

Having thus described our invention we claim:—

1. A machine for affixing stamps comprising a rotatable drum, a strip wound thereon and adapted to carry separated stamps, a grooved roller by which stamps delivered from the strip are carried forward, a guide plate over said roller, a stamp bed upon which the stamps drop with the adhesive side upward, a spring-controlled guard about the bed and a moistening device, the envelops to be stamped being first moistened and then placed over the stamp bed and guard and pressed downward, the guard yielding and permitting the moistened surface to engage the adhesive side of the stamp.

2. A machine for affixing stamps comprising a drum, a strip wound thereon and adapted to carry separated stamps, a grooved roller by which stamps delivered from the drum are carried forward, a deflector, a guide plate over the grooved roller, a stamp bed, a spring-controlled guard about the bed and a moistening device.

3. A machine for affixing stamps comprising a drum, a strip wound thereon and adapted to carry separated stamps, a roller provided with longitudinal grooves, for the purpose set forth, and a circumferential groove, a guide plate over said roller, a stamp bed, and a tongue extending from the bed and lying in the circumferential groove of the roller.

4. A machine for affixing stamps comprising a frame having slots, a removable drum having trunnions lying in said slots, a strip wound on said drum and adapted to carry separated stamps, a roller having longitudinal grooves, for the purpose set forth, a deflector over said roller upon which the winding on the drum rests, a stamp bed and a spring-controlled guard about the bed.

5. A machine for affixing stamps comprising a frame having slots, a drum having trunnions engaging said slots, a second drum journaled on the frame, a strip adapted to be wound from one drum to the other, a roller intermediate said drums over which the strip passes, a grooved roller contiguous to said roller, a deflector and a guide plate, for the purpose set forth, a stamp bed, a spring-controlled guard about the bed and a moistening device.

6. A machine for affixing stamps compris-

ing a frame, shafts journaled thereon, a drum carried by one of said shafts, a grooved roller carried by the other shaft, a driving connection between the shafts, a removable drum, a strip adapted to be wound from one drum to the other, a roller contiguous to the grooved roller over which the strip passes, a deflector and a guard plate, for the purpose set forth, a stamp bed and a spring-controlled guard about the bed.

7. The combination with a detachable drum, a strip wound thereon and a drum upon which the strip is wound from the detachable drum, of a grooved roller, driving connections between said roller and the second drum, a deflector and a guard plate contiguous to the grooved roller, a stamp bed and a yielding guard about the bed.

8. The combination with a detachable drum, a strip wound thereon, a drum upon which the strip is wound from the detachable drum and an intermediate roller over which the strip passes, of a grooved roller contiguous to the intermediate roller, driving connections between the second drum and the grooved roller, a stamp bed, a pivoted guard therefor and a moistening device.

9. The combination with a detachable drum, a strip wound thereon and a drum upon which the strip is wound from the detachable drum, of a roller having longitudinal grooves and a central circumferential groove, driving connections between said roller and the second drum, a stamp bed, a tongue extending therefrom and engaging the circumferential groove and a deflector and guard plate.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

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