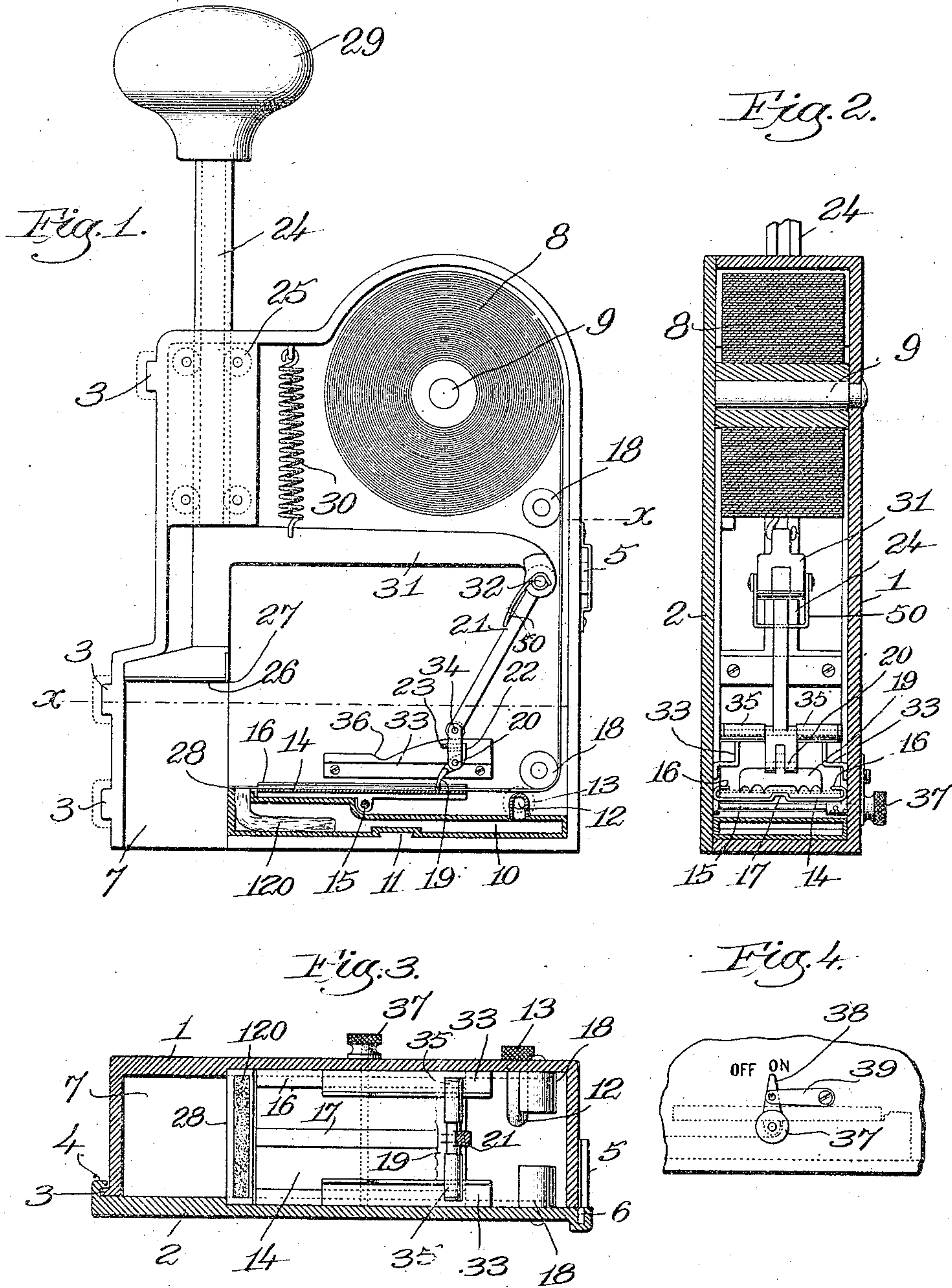


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STAMP AFFIXING DEVICE.
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Patented Dec. 3, 1912.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STAMP-AFFIXING DEVICE.

1,046,292.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED HALL, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Los Gatos, county of Santa Clara, State of California, have invented an Improvement in Stamp-Affixing Devices, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like characters on the drawing representing like parts.

This invention relates to a stamp affixing device, and its object is to provide a device of this character of simple and efficient construction, by means of which the stamps will be properly moistened, separated from a rolled strip and applied to the envelop or package by a single blow or stroke.

The device is so constructed that the roll of stamps may be locked within the casing to guard against theft or unauthorized removal of the stamps.

The device is particularly adapted for handling a rolled strip of stamps, in which the several stamps are separated by rows of perforations.

The nature of the invention will more fully appear from the accompanying drawings and description, and will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The drawings represent a preferred form of device embodying the invention.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a side elevation with the casing cover removed, of the entire device, with certain parts shown in vertical cross section. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section of the device shown in Fig. 1, taken through the axis of the stamp roll support, but with the mechanism of the interior of the casing shown in end elevation. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the cross section taken on the line X—X of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detailed view.

The device comprises a generally rectangular metallic casing comprising the body part 1, and a cover part 2, the cover part being a generally flat plate fitting against the body part. In the construction shown the body part along one edge is formed with lugs or projections 3, and the cover part, along the corresponding edge, is formed with ears or flanges 4, adapted to fit over the lugs 3. At the opposite edge the body part carries a suitable locking device 5, cooperating with a complementary locking device 6 on the cover part, so that upon un-

locking parts 5 and 6 the cover may be entirely removed, so that when the cover is in place and locked it cannot be removed, and access is prevented to the contents of the casing. The only opening into the casing when the cover is in place is the rectangular opening 7 at the bottom, of the size of the stamp, and through which the stamp is discharged on to the envelop.

The main elements of the device contained within the casing are the reciprocating plunger moistening device, including the tank for supplying moisture, the guide table over which the strip of stamps is fed to the moistening device, the feeding claw by means of which the strip of stamps is fed forward, the connections between the feeding claw and the plunger for operating the former, cam guides for controlling the movement of the feeding claw, support for the roll of stamps, and the guides for determining the course of the strip of stamps, and the means for severing the moistened stamp from the strip.

The roll of stamp strips is shown at 8, mounted upon a support 9, shown as a pin projecting from the face of and riveted to the wall of the body part of the casing, so that when the cover is removed the roll may be placed on or removed from the support 9.

At the bottom of the casing a tank 10 is provided, and is shown as a flat tank completely covering the bottom of the casing and held in place thereon by having formed in its bottom a groove by means of which it may be slid on and off of a rib 11 formed on the bottom of the casing, so that when the cover 2 is removed the tank may be removed if necessary. This tank carries at its forward end a flat wick 120, which projects up through an opening at the top and forward end of the tank. The water may be supplied to the tank from the outside of the casing through a tube 12, which is closed by the screw plug 13.

A guide table, 14, supported upon the shaft 15 is pivoted to the casing above the tank, and with its upper surface substantially in the plane of the end of the wick 120. The rear end of the tank is depressed so that this guide table may swing about its pivot to raise the end of the guide table adjacent to the wick. The cross section of the guide table 14 may be seen in Fig. 2, and therefrom it appears that it is provided with intumed edges 16, and a raised

central rib 17, so that the stamp strip is supported upon this rib 17 and is guided at its edges by the "inturned edges" 16. The stamp strip as it comes from the roll 8 passes over suitably located idler rolls 18, secured to the body and covering of the casing, and is directed therefrom on to the guide table 14. The stamp strip is fed over the guide table and over the wick beneath the plunger by a feeding claw 19, shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This feeding claw is provided at its lower edge with teeth adapted to catch in the perforations between successive stamps, and to insure this being done the teeth are staggered in the plane of the claw slightly, as indicated in Fig. 1, and are spaced to straddle the central rib 17. Means are provided for giving the feed claw precisely the requisite forward feeding movement to feed the strip the length of a single stamp, and to prevent the action of the feeding claw upon the strip at other times. For this purpose the feeding claw is pivoted at 20 to a carrier 21. During the forward movement of the carrier to feed the strip the upper end 22 of the feeding claw engages the carrier with an adjustable screw 23 mounted therein, by means of which the claw may be adjusted, but during the opposite movement the claw will swing about its pivot upon engagement with the stamp strip and have no effect thereupon. In the construction shown the feeding claw is operated by the movement of the plunger which severs the stamp from the strip and affixes it to the envelop. This plunger is shown at 24 as mounted to reciprocate in the vertical guides at the forward end of the casing. Anti-friction rolls are provided, being mounted in the casing and engaging the plunger. At its lower end the plunger is shaped to correspond with the size of the stamp and to move through the aperture 7. The plunger carries on its lower face a metallic plate 26, presenting a rear cutting or shearing edge 27, and the forward upper edge of the tank is provided with a cooperating shear edge 28, so that as the plunger descends the edges 27 and 28 cooperating will shear the stamp to meet the plunger from the strip of stamps. The plunger is depressed by a blow of the hand upon the knob 29, and is elevated by the helical spring 30 connected to the casing, and an arm 31 projecting rearwardly out from the plunger. The feeding movement of the feeding claw 19 is obtained from the plunger by connecting the carrier 21 pivotally at 32 to the end of the arm 31, and providing means for directing the movement of the lower end of the carrier. This means comprises cam guides 33 secured the one to the body and the other to the cover of the casing above and at each side of the guide table 14. The carrier is mounted transversely thereon at 34. Rolls 35 ride upon

the upper cam edges of the cam guides 33, and these edges are so formed that as the plunger descends the carrier guided thereby will bring the feeding claw into engagement with the perforations between the stamps and move forward in a horizontal plane, feeding the strip exactly the length of one stamp, or until a preceding row of perforations comes over the shearing edge 28, when rise 36 of the cam guide will cause the elevation of the carrier, removing the feeding claw from the strip and stopping the feeding movement of the strip so that upon the continued depression of the plunger to sever the stamp and apply it to the envelop, the movement of the carrier will be ineffective to feed the stamp. The weight of the carrier 21 and the feeding claw being comparatively slight, it may be advisable to insure the rolls 35 being held in contact with the cam guides 33 by means of a spring, and such a spring is shown at 50 coiled on the pivot 32 and pressing against the carrier 21. The stamp as it is fed forward passes over the moistening wick 120 and is moistened. When the device is not in use the guide table 14 may be tipped about its pivot 15 to elevate its forward end and lift the stamp strip from contact with the moistening wick 120. For this purpose a stud 37 is secured to the shaft 15 upon the outside of the casing, and is provided with a finger 38 engaged by a catch 39 to lock it in operative position marked "On" or allow it to be turned into inoperative position marked "Off" on the casing.

The invention having been fully described, what is new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, a guide table in proximity to and adapted to guide the strip of stamps over the moistening device, a feeding claw and means operated upon depression of the plunger to move the feeding claw and feed the strip over the guide table and over the moistening device and beneath the plunger, and means for elevating the guide table adjacent to the moistening device to lift the stamp strip from the moistening device when desired.

2. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, guiding means for directing the strip of stamps from the roll over the moistening device, a feeding claw adapted to engage the perforations in the strip, a carrier for said feeding claw, cam guides adapted to control the movement of the carrier, connections between said carrier and said plunger whereby upon depression of the plunger the carrier will be moved along said cam guides to cause the feeding claw to engage the perforations

rations of the stamp strip, feed the strip the length of a single stamp and then be removed from engagement therewith.

3. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, a guide table having one end in proximity to and adapted to guide the strip of stamps over the moistening device and mounted on a transverse pivot, means for rocking the guide table on its pivot to elevate the end of the guide table adjacent the moistening device and thus lift the stamp strip from the moistening device when desired and means operated from or by said plunger to feed the strip over the guide table and over the moistening device and beneath the plunger.

4. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, a guide table having one end in proximity to and adapted to guide the strip of stamps over the moistening device and mounted on a transverse pivot, a feeding claw and means operated on depression of the plunger to move the feeding claw and feed the strip over the guide table and over the moistening device and beneath the plunger; and means for rocking the guide table on its pivot to elevate the end of the guide table adjacent the moistening device and thus lift the stamp strip from the moistening device when desired.

5. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, guiding means for directing the strip of stamps from the roll over the moistening device, cam guides extending longitudinally of said guiding means, a carrier riding on said cam guides and pivotally connected to said plunger with its path of movement between the stamp affixing face of the plunger and said pivot, and a feeding claw yieldingly mounted in said carrier and adapted to engage the perforations in the strip, whereby upon depression of the plunger the carrier will be moved along said cam guides to cause the feeding claw to engage the perforations of the stamp strip, feed the strip the length of a single stamp, and then be removed from engagement therewith during the stamp affixing movement of the plunger.

6. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, guiding means for directing the strip of stamps from the roll over the moistening device, an arm extending from the plunger above and over said guiding means, cam guides extending longitudinally of said guiding means, a carrier riding on said cam guides and pivotally connected to the end of said arm, a feeding claw yieldingly mounted on said carrier and adapted to engage the perforations in the strip, whereby upon depression of the plunger the carrier will be moved along said cam guides to cause the feeding claw to engage the perforations of the stamp strip, feed the strip the length of a single stamp, and then be removed from engagement therewith during the stamp affixing movement of the plunger.

7. A stamp affixing device comprising a reciprocating plunger, a support for a roll of perforated stamps, a moistening device, guiding means for directing the strip of stamps from the roll over the moistening device, cam guides extending longitudinally of said guiding means, a carrier riding on said cam guides and pivotally connected to said plunger with its path of movement between the stamp affixing face of the plunger and said pivot, and a feeding claw yieldingly mounted in said carrier and adapted to engage the perforations in the strip, said parts and their connections being disposed symmetrically with respect to a central, longitudinal, vertical plane, whereby the action is positive and lost motion is prevented.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED HALL.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM M. WHITTEN,
THOMAS J. DRUMMOND.