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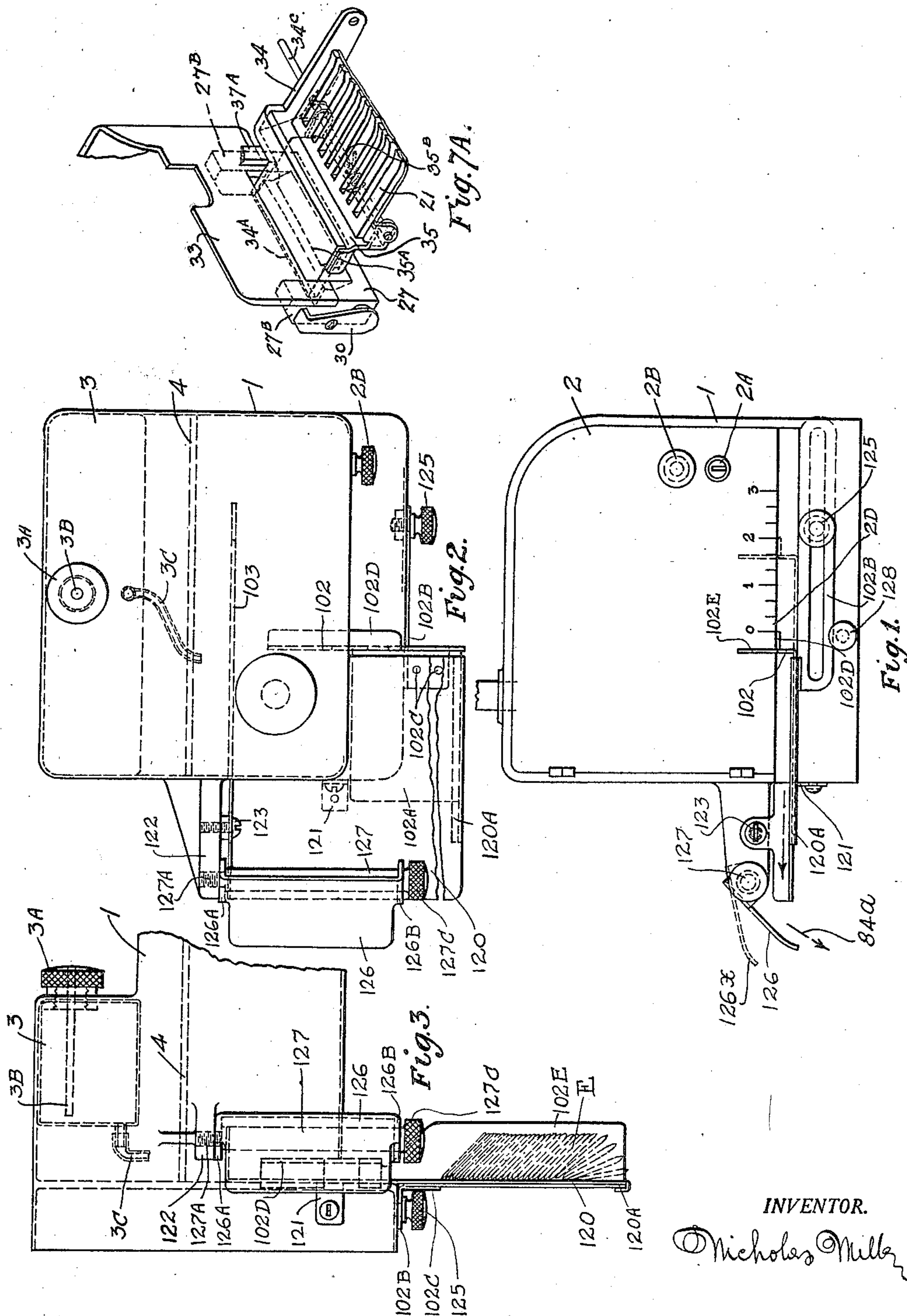
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N. MILLER

STAMP AFFIXING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 23, 1918

6 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.

Nicholas Miller

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6 Sheets-Sheet 2

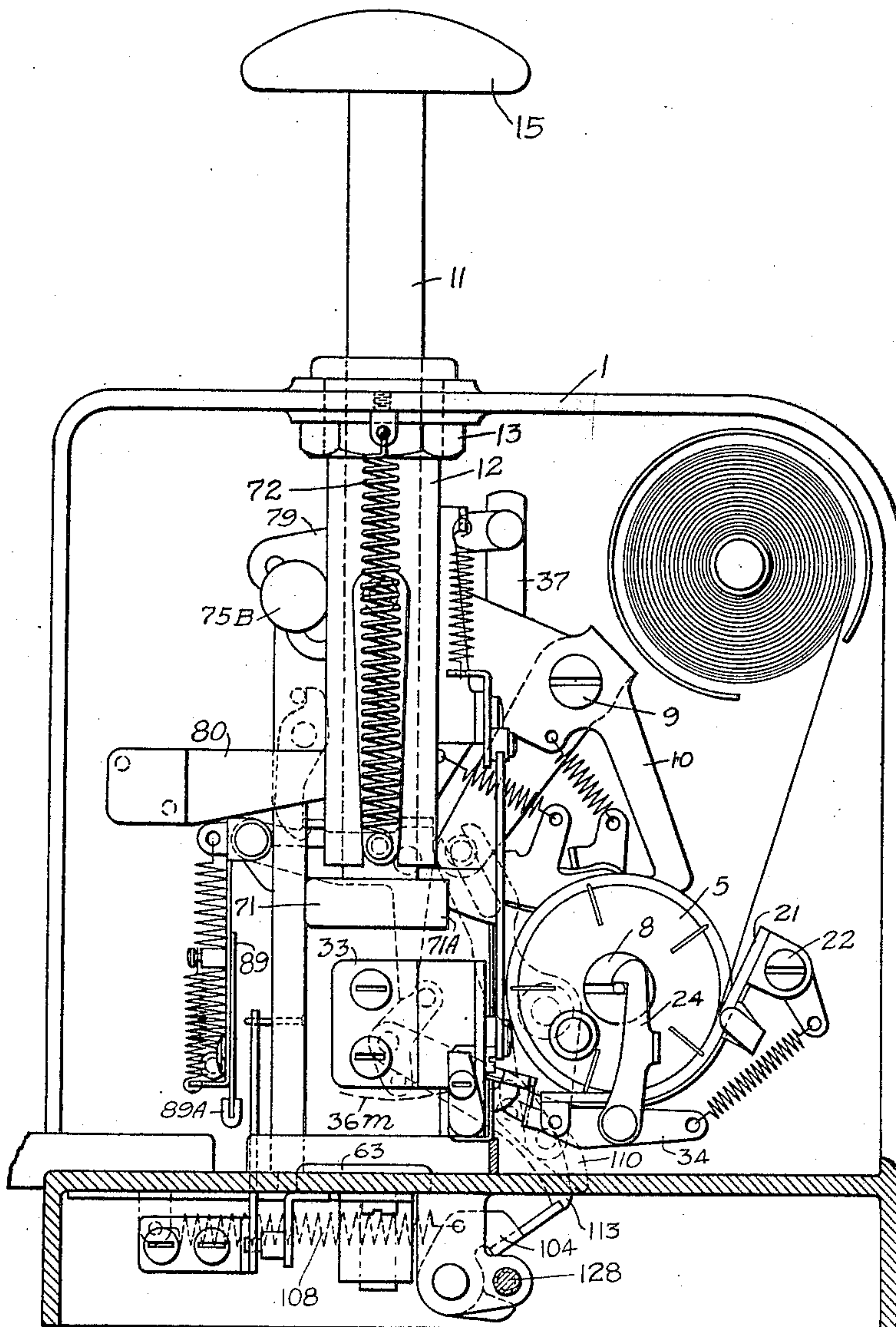


Fig. 4.

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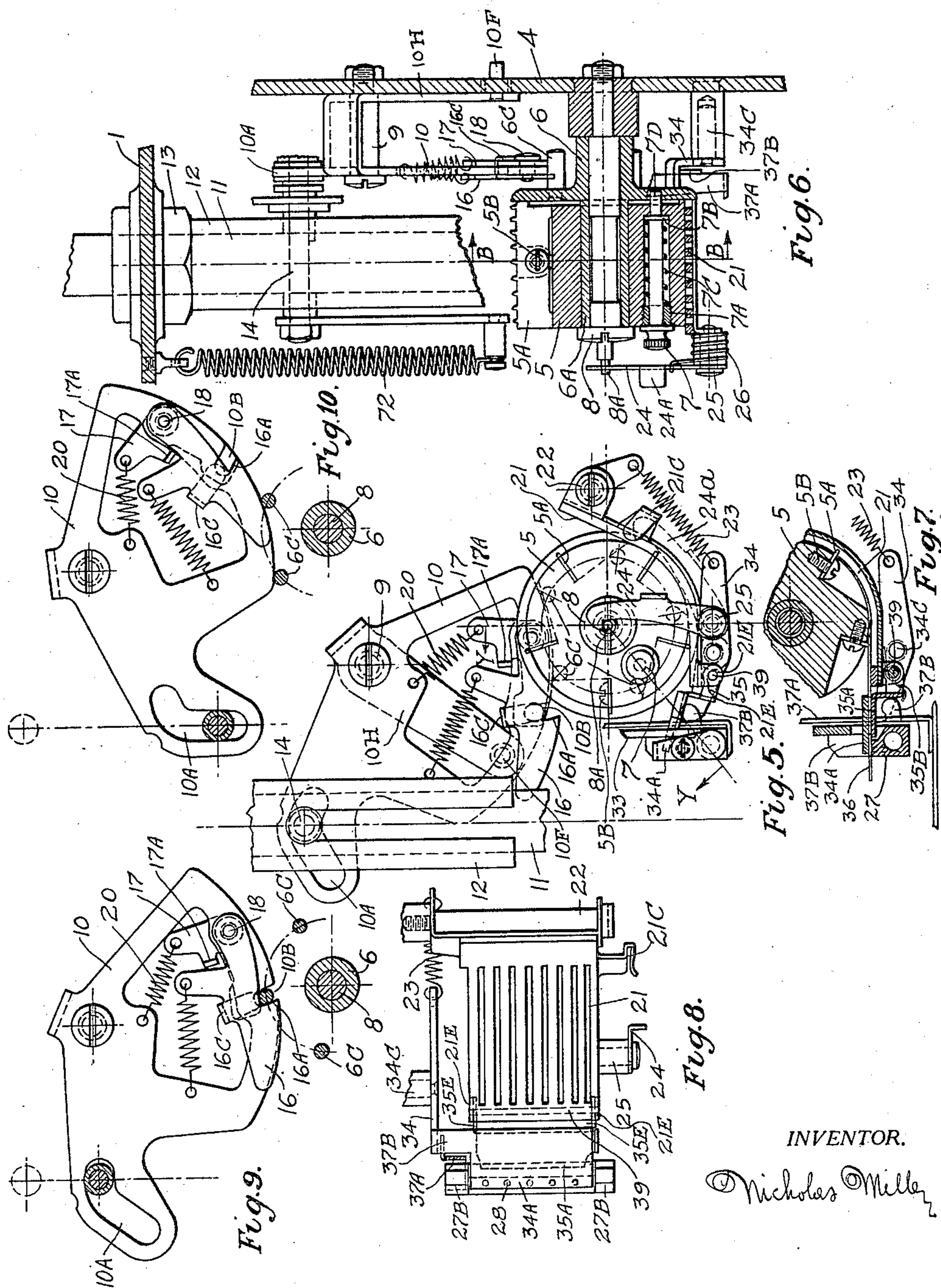
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6 Sheets-Sheet 3



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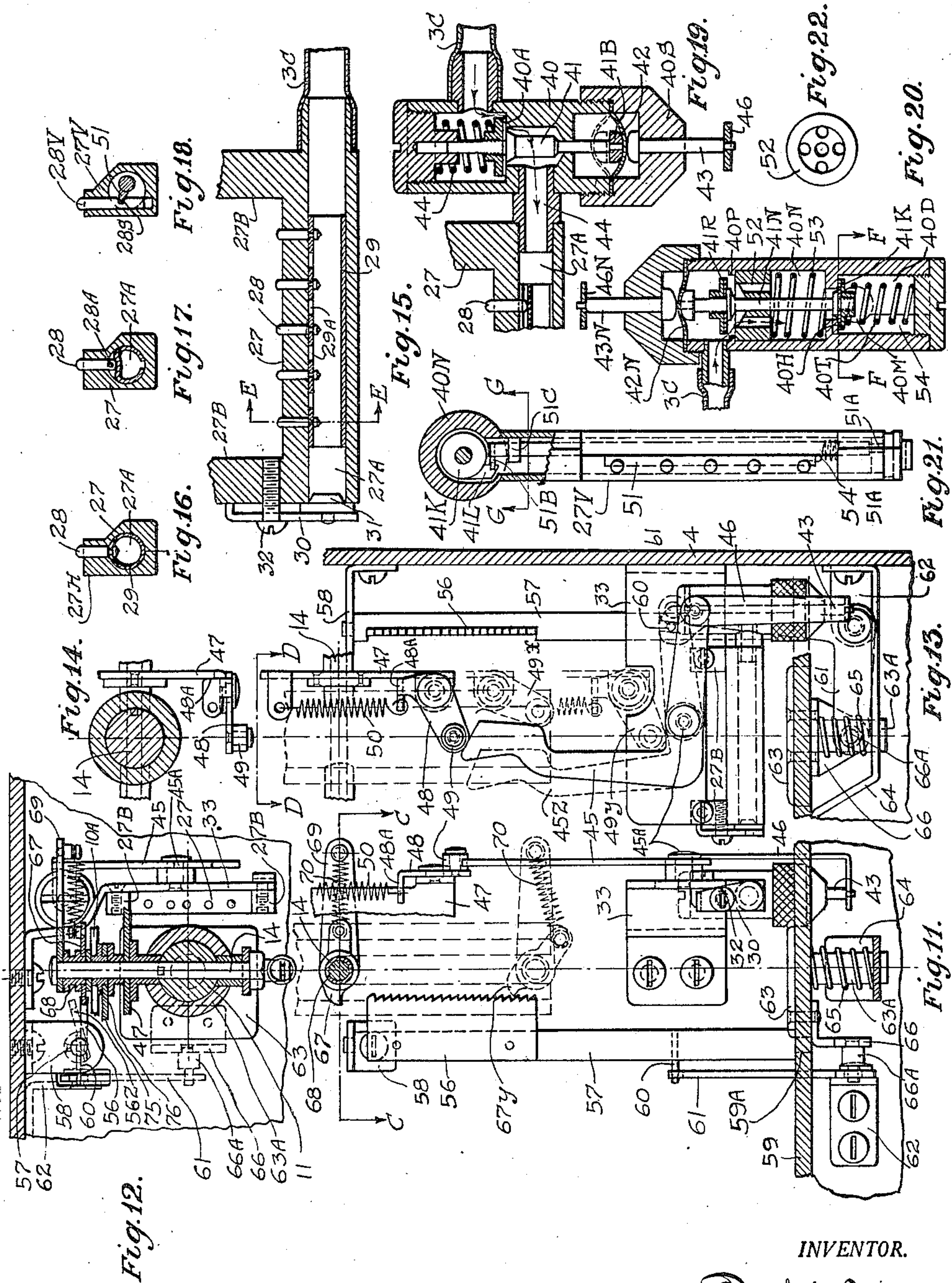
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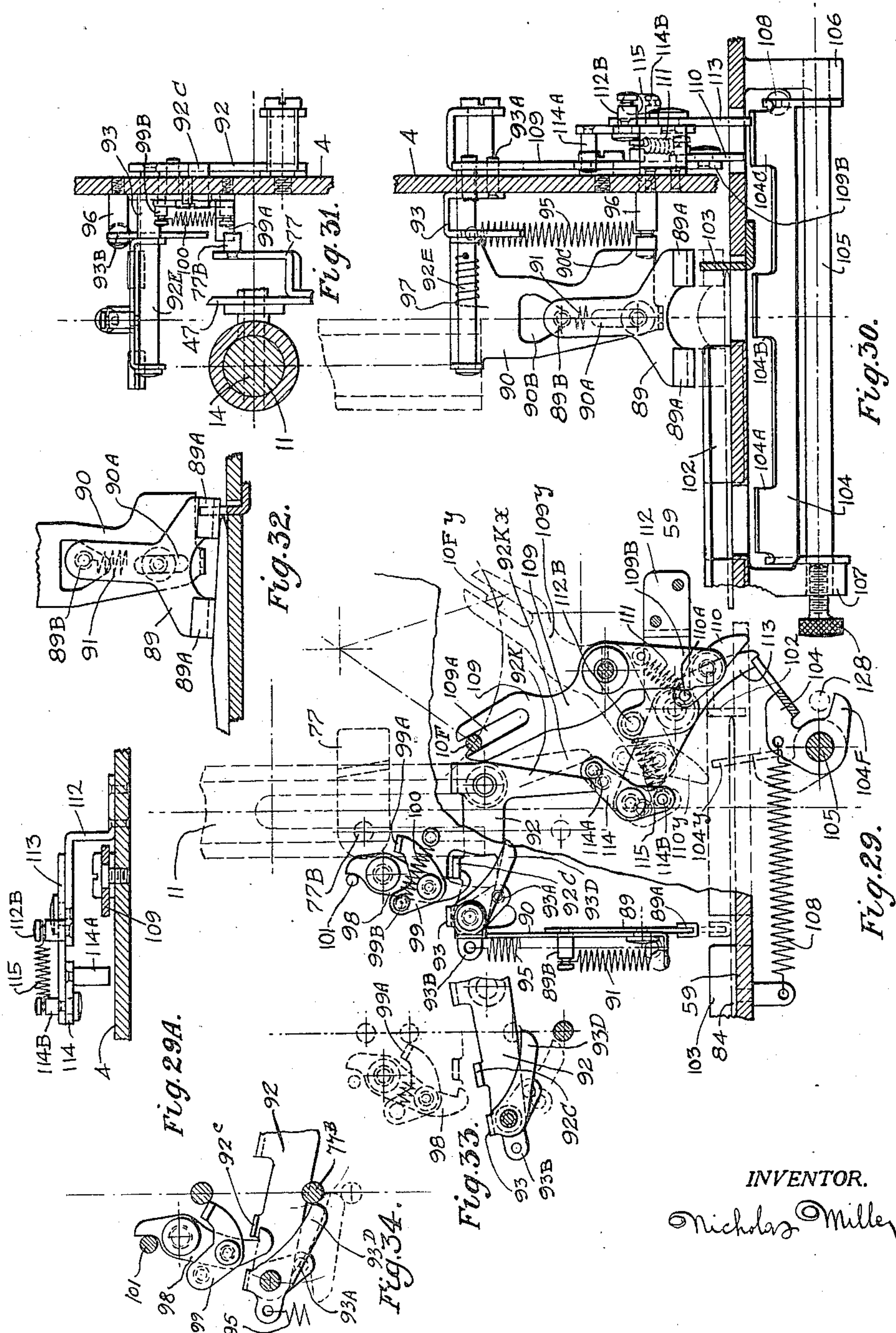
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N. MILLER

STAMP AFFIXING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 23, 1918

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**INVENTOR.**

Nicholas Miller



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NICHOLAS MILLER, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

## STAMP-AFFIXING DEVICE.

Application filed September 23, 1918. Serial No. 255,284.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NICHOLAS MILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Stamp-Affixing Device.

The purpose of this invention is to affix adhesive stamps to envelopes and other suitable articles. The main objects of my invention are the following:

(1) To provide an apparatus of this kind with a novel stamp or ribbon feeding mechanism of simple and durable construction, and one that is simple and reliable in operation.

(2) To provide an apparatus of this kind with a novel moistening device.

(3) To equip such a device with a mechanism which shall automatically insure the application of the same degree of pressure upon envelopes or articles of different thicknesses.

(4) To provide means for rendering the device automatically inoperative when it is not applied to the affixing of stamps upon suitable articles. The mechanism provided to this end employs means to overcome the inertia effect of the operative parts which would prevent the mechanism from functioning properly when rapidly operated.

(5) To provide means to facilitate the rapid operation of the device by automatically disposing of an envelope or suitable article after it is positioned relative to the device and the device actuated. Thus, as soon as the operator has "fed" an envelope in the device and has started to operate it, one hand of the operator is freed for the feeding of the next envelope while the other hand operates the device. This greatly increases the speed of the apparatus. The means provided include a clamping device for automatically clamping the envelope, an ejecting device for ejecting the envelope means being provided to render said ejecting device inoperative if so desired, and adjustable deflecting means to direct the ejected envelope in a desired direction.

(6) To provide an apparatus of this kind with a scale to aid in the positioning of stamps relative to the edges of an envelope or suitable article.

In order that my invention may more clearly be understood reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification and in which—

Figure 1 represents a partial outside front view of the device.

Figure 2 is a top view of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a partial side view of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a sectional front view of the device showing the interior structure.

Figure 5 is a partial front view of the stamp feeding mechanism and its connection with the moistening device.

Figure 6 is a partial side view of Figure 5, the sprocket members 5 and 6 being shown in section along lines "YY" of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a partial sectional front view of the sprocket mechanism along a line "BB" of Figure 6.

Figure 7<sup>A</sup> is an enlarged partial isometric view of the stamp feeding mechanism and the moistening device.

Figure 8 is a partial top view of the sprocket mechanism with the body of the sprocket 5 and 6 removed.

Figure 8<sup>A</sup> is a detail isometric view of a piece 35 shown assembled in Figures 5, 7 and 8.

Figure 9 shows an operative position of the intermittent feeding mechanism.

Figure 10 shows another operative position of the intermittent feeding mechanism.

Figure 11 is a partial front view showing the operative mechanism of the moistening device and the structure of the mechanism provided for insuring the application of the same degree of pressure to envelopes of different thicknesses.

Figure 12 is a partial sectional top view of Figure 11 on line "CC".

Figure 13 is a partial side view of Figure 11.

Figure 14 is a partial sectional top view of Figure 13 in direction of line "DD".

Figure 15 is a longitudinal sectional view of one form of the moistening device, drawn to an enlarged scale.

Figure 16 is a section of Figure 15 on line "EE".

Figure 17 shows a modified construction of the moistening device.

Figure 18 is another modification of the moistening device.



Figure 19 shows a partial longitudinal sectional view of a further development of the moistening device.

Figure 20 is a partial longitudinal section of another modification of the moistening device.

Figure 21 is a top view of Figure 20, partially shown in section on line "FF".

Figure 22 is a top view of member 52.

Figure 23 is a partial sectional view on line "GG" of Figure 21.

Figure 24 is a partial side view of the device showing the manner in which the moistening device illustrated in Figures 20 and 21 is applied to and operated by the device.

Figure 25 is a partial sectional front view on line "HH" Fig. 27, of the mechanism provided for rendering the device automatically inoperative when not used for the affixing of stamps upon envelopes or suitable articles.

Figure 26 is a partial side view of Figure 25.

Figure 27 is a partial top view of Figure 25.

Figure 28 shows different operative positions of the mechanism of Figure 25.

Figure 29 is a partial front view of the mechanism provided to facilitate the handling of the envelopes in connection with the operation of the device. A portion of the supporting frame is shown cut away to more clearly show the construction.

Figure 29<sup>A</sup> is a partial top view of Figure 29.

Figure 30 is a partial side view of Figure 29.

Figure 31 is a partial top view of Figure 30.

Figure 32 shows a different operative position of the envelope clamping device.

Figure 33 shows the operative mechanism of the envelope clamping device in different operative positions.

Figure 34 shows the elements of Fig. 33 in a different operative position.

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, 1 represents a casing for the device. 2 represents a hinged door provided with a lock and knob at 2<sup>A</sup> and 2<sup>B</sup>. 3 is a reservoir for supply the moistening device with water. 3<sup>A</sup> is a screw cap fitting into a threaded opening of the reservoir through which it is filled with water. Cap 3<sup>A</sup> is preferably provided with a tube 3<sup>B</sup> to prevent the formation of a partial vacuum inside the reservoir. 3<sup>C</sup> is a rubber tube connecting the reservoir with the moistening device to be described later. 4 represents a frame member upon which the mechanism of the device is assembled.

In Figures 5, 6 and 7, 5 represents a cylindrical element mounted for rotation upon the sleeve portion 6<sup>A</sup> of a member 6 (Figure 6). Cylindrical element 5 is provided with pieces 5<sup>A</sup>, preferably of sheet metal, which

are formed with teeth on their outside edges as shown in Figure 6. These pieces fit into the slots of the cylindrical element 5 and are secured in place by screws 5<sup>B</sup>. Thus the cylindrical member 5 forms a sprocket element, the teeth of pieces 5<sup>A</sup> fitting the perforations of the stamp band. At 7 Figure 5 is shown the position of a spring controlled plunger 7 the purpose of which is to connect members 5 and 6. The construction of this plunger is best shown in Figure 6. A spring 7<sup>C</sup>, holds the plunger 7 by its flange 7<sup>B</sup> in position shown. The reaction of the spring 7<sup>C</sup> is against a nut element 7<sup>A</sup> which serves also as a bearing for the plunger 7. Portion 7<sup>D</sup> of plunger 7 fits into a hole in member 6 as shown, thereby connecting members 5 and 6. If it is desired to rotate member 5 relative to member 6 it is only necessary to pull out plunger 7 and rotate it while member 6 is held firmly. The disc portion of member 6 is provided with pins 6<sup>C</sup> located equidistantly about its axis as shown in Figure 5. The number of pins corresponds to the number of toothed pieces 5<sup>A</sup>. Member 6 is mounted for free rotation upon a stud 8 which is held rigidly upon the frame 4. 10 is a sector member rotatably supported on screw stud 9, Figures 5 and 6. The arcuate portion of this sector is normally in contact with two of the pins 6<sup>C</sup> of disc member 6 and therefore locks disc 6 against rotation. If plunger 7 is in the locking position shown in Figure 6, sprocket member 5 will also be locked against rotation by sector 10. 11 is a plunger sliding in a tubular member 12. Member 12 is rigidly fastened to the casing 1 by nut 13 as shown in Figure 4. 14 is a bolt element by which different operating elements of the device are rigidly connected to plunger 11, Figures 6 and 12. A slotted portion 10<sup>A</sup> of sector 10 slidably fits between flanged washers that are rigidly clamped to plunger 11 by bolt 14, Figures 6 and 12. A spring controlled pawl member 16 is pivotally mounted on sector 10 by shoulder stud 18. Another member 17 is mounted on the opposite side of the sector by this same stud 18, Figure 6. Sector 10 is provided with a slot at 10<sup>B</sup>, Figures 5, 9 and 10, which is of a width to slidably fit pins 6<sup>C</sup>. Pawl member 16 has a portion 16<sup>A</sup> coinciding with one side of slot 10<sup>B</sup>. Member 17 has its lower edge coinciding with arc of sector 10 and its purpose is to yieldingly complete the arc opposite slot 10<sup>B</sup>. Member 17 is also provided with a stop portion 17<sup>A</sup> which contacts with sector 10 through tension of spring 20, insuring the coincidence of the arc of member 17 with that of sector 10. Pawl member 16 is likewise provided with a stop portion 16<sup>C</sup> which forms an inverted U, bridging portion of sector 10 as well as that of member 17 and its purpose is to limit the movement of the pawl member 16 relative to sector 130



10 and to limit lost motion of itself and of member 17 relative to sector 10. Figure 5 shows relative positions of sector 10, pins 6<sup>c</sup> and members 16 and 17. When plunger 11 is depressed, sector 10 is rotated about its axis at 9 and pawl 16 engages adjacent pin 6<sup>c</sup>, causing rotation of cylindrical sprocket 5. The relative positions of the cooperative parts when plunger 11 is partially depressed is shown in Figure 9. Here it will be seen that as the pins 6<sup>c</sup> are rotated, the one engaged by pawl 16 is forced into the slot 10<sup>B</sup> of sector 10 against the spring tension of the pawl and that of member 17. A further depression of the plunger will cause a further rotation of sprocket and the disengagement of pin 6<sup>c</sup> from slot 10<sup>B</sup>. Figure 10 shows rotation of the sprocket completed, the arc of the sector 10 contacting with two successive pins 6<sup>c</sup>. It will be seen that member 17 is back to its normal position while member 16 is held by pin 6<sup>c</sup> with its arcuate edge in coincidence with arc of sector 10. When sector 10 is returned to its normal position, slot 10<sup>B</sup> is prevented from any possible interference with pins 6<sup>c</sup> by member 17 which completes the arc opposite slot 10<sup>B</sup>, so that when plunger 11 is returned to its normal position, the different operative parts will assume the relative positions shown in Figure 5. Thus it will be seen that a reciprocal motion imparted to the plunger 11 will cause an intermittent rotary motion of the cylindrical sprocket 5 in one direction.

Member 21, Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 is a recessed piece bent to conform with surface of cylindrical sprocket 5, the recessed portions being opposite the teeth of pieces 5A. Member 21 is pivotally supported by shoulder screw 22, Figures 5 and 8, and is held against sprocket 5 by spring 23. A catch pawl 24 is pivotally supported on member 21 by a shoulder stud 25. Shoulder bolt 8 is provided with a narrow projection 8<sup>A</sup> with which catch pawl 24 engages and is held in position by spring 26 as shown in Figures 5 and 6, thus securely holding members 21 in relation with sprocket 5. Member 21 is also provided with a narrow U shaped bent portion 21<sup>c</sup> which is positioned opposite catch pawl 24 and its purpose is to frictionally hold pawl 24 in a disengaged position as shown in dotted lines at 24<sup>A</sup>, Figure 5. Thus, if it is desired to separate member 21 from sprocket 5, disengage pawl 24 by grasping lip 24<sup>A</sup>, Fig. 6, and forcing pawl into slotted portion 21<sup>c</sup>. A further pressure on lip 24<sup>A</sup> will separate member 21 from sprocket 5, against tension of spring 23. The operation of the feeding mechanism thus far described is as follows.

To apply the stamp band to the feeding mechanism, pull out plunger 7 to disengage sprocket member 5 from member 6 and press stamp band lightly on sprocket to as-

sist in engaging the perforations of the stamp band by the teeth of the sprocket. In the meantime the sprocket is rotated by the hand to roll the stamp band between the sprocket and the cooperating member 21. The stamp band is shown in position in Figure 4. It will be noticed from the foregoing operation that in the positioning of the stamp band no mechanism other than the sprocket cylinder need be disturbed. To feed the stamps intermittently, plunger 11 is moved up and down as previously explained.

The moistening device in its simplest form is shown in Figures 15 and 16. It consists of a member 27, with a hole 27<sup>A</sup> extending longitudinally through it. One side of member 27 is provided with a series of small holes into which are slidably fitted pins 28. A rubber tube 29 fits tightly into the hole and is preferably provided with perforations 29<sup>A</sup> positioned between holes for pins 28. The pins 28 are pointed at one end and each is provided with a small groove so that if they are forced into punctures in the rubber tube, the rubber by its elasticity will fill up the grooves and thereby yieldingly support the pins 28 as shown. 31 is a plug for sealing the mouth of the hole 27<sup>A</sup> by a clamp 30 and screw 32, a front view of which is shown in Figure 11. 3<sup>c</sup> is a rubber tube connecting the moistening device to the reservoir shown in Figures 2 and 3. A member 34 is pivotally supported upon frame 4 by stud 34<sup>c</sup>, Figs. 6, 7, 7<sup>A</sup> and 8, and a portion 34<sup>A</sup> of this member is shown in a horizontal plane in Fig. 7 extending over the apertured portion of the moistener, and is adapted to press upon pins 28 through action of spring 23, Figs. 5, 7 and 8. Another member 35, Figs. 7, 7<sup>A</sup>, 8 and 8<sup>A</sup>, is pivotally supported upon stamp guide 21 and a portion 35<sup>A</sup> of this member contacts with a part of the under surface of 34<sup>A</sup> and is held in contact with it by a light torsion spring 35<sup>B</sup>. The stamp band 36 passes between these yielding members as shown in Fig. 7 and is fed through them by sprocket 5. Normally member 34 is rocked slightly about its pivot 34<sup>c</sup> and the stamp band is raised up and out of contact with the moistener. This condition is shown in Fig. 5.

The lifting and lowering of the stamp band is controlled from a portion 37<sup>B</sup> of a member 37, cooperating with lower surface of 34<sup>A</sup> Figures 5, 6, 7 7<sup>A</sup> and 8. The structure and operation of this member 37 will be described later in connection with its other functions. Upon depression of plunger 11, member 34 is automatically released so that the adhesive side of the stamp will be pressed upon the moistener. (See Fig. 7).

Referring now to Figure 15, hollow portion 27<sup>A</sup> of the moistener is normally filled



with water and when pins 28 are depressed in the manner described, portions of rubber tube 29 will be separated from surface of 27<sup>A</sup> in the neighborhood of the pins and thus permit the water to pass through perforations 29<sup>A</sup> to the pins 28. The depression of the rubber tubing would assume a form similar to that shown in Figure 17. There is a slight clearance provided for the pins 28 in member 27 so that the cylindrical surfaces of the pins form capillary vessels with the cylindrical surfaces of the holes containing them and therefore causing the water in them to rise by capillary attraction and reach the adhesive side of the stamp band. The moistening device is rendered active upon a slight depression of plunger 11 and it remains in that state for a considerable period before the stamp feeding device is actuated, thus insuring the moisture reaching the stamps before being fed. Upon further depression of the plunger 11 the stamp feeding mechanism feeds the stamp forward with its adhesive side continuously in contact with the moistener and thus causing a film of water to be drawn upon the adhesive side of the stamp. In place of a rubber tube, a rectangular piece of sheet rubber may be bent up and allowed to expand in the cylindrical hole as shown in Figure 17. In Figure 16 the rubber tube acts as a valve sealing the moistener normally against leakage and also as a spring for pins 28. The purpose of the pins 28 is to operate on the rubber tube 29 and to prevent clogging of the moistener by any adhesive substance which might be deposited upon it from the stamps. The pins can also be retained by a thin wire passing through apertures in said pins 28 as shown in Figures 17 and 19 and in that case the rubber tube acts only as a spring, not being effective for the prevention of leakage and therefore a modified combination shown in Figure 19 is preferably used. 40 is a cylindrical body provided with a valve seat 40<sup>A</sup> normally closed by a spring actuated valve 41 which is provided on its lower portion with an enlargement 41<sup>B</sup> which rests upon a rubber diaphragm 42. This diaphragm 42 is clamped to the lower circular edge of valve body 40 by a nut member 40<sup>S</sup>, thus sealing it against leakage. A sliding plunger member 43 is mounted on the other side of the diaphragm in nut 40<sup>S</sup> to cooperate with valve 41. A rubber tube 3<sup>C</sup> connects the valve device to the reservoir. Thus when 43 is raised diaphragm 42 will assume dotted position and valve 41 will be lifted against stress of spring 44, thus separating the valve from valve seat at 40<sup>A</sup>. This will permit the water entering compartment 27<sup>A</sup> and when the device is in operation this compartment will be filled with water, but when the valve is in the closed position the outside air pres-

sure will prevent any leakage around pins 28. Thus diaphragm 42 provides a water-tight flexible means through which the valve is operated. The manner in which plunger 43 is actuated is shown in Figures 11, 12, 13 and 14. A lever 45 is pivotally supported upon a bracket 33 at 45<sup>A</sup> and a link 46 connects this lever with the plunger 43. A support member 47 is rigidly fastened to plunger 11 through bolt 14 and upon it is pivotally mounted a ratchet lever 48, provided with a roller 49 and held in position by a spring 50 against a stop portion 48<sup>A</sup>. Roller 49 cooperates with lever 45 so that when plunger 11 is depressed, lever 45 assumes position 45<sup>Z</sup>, causing the plunger 43 to be raised. Lever 45 is preferably so shaped that roller 49 will hold it in the active position (dotted) during the time that the feeding mechanism is actuated, thus insuring a continuous film of water being supplied to the stamps. 49<sup>V</sup> shows the extreme depressed position of ratchet lever 48, and 49<sup>X</sup> shows the position it assumes upon the return stroke of plunger 11 where it yields against the stress of spring 50 upon roller 49 coming in contact with lever 45. From the foregoing it is seen that on the downward stroke of plunger 11, the valve is opened and held in the open position during the feeding of the stamp and closed after the feeding is accomplished and retained in the closed position during the return stroke of the plunger 11.

The stamp is applied to the moistener in the manner already described. Figure 18 illustrates another means for operating the pins 28<sup>V</sup> which are provided with a groove 28<sup>S</sup> which cooperate with a pivotally mounted blade member 51, Figures 18 and 21. This member is pivotally supported at 51<sup>A</sup> and 51<sup>C</sup> and rocking of 51 will cause the lowering and raising of pins 28<sup>V</sup>.

Referring now to Figure 20, 43<sup>N</sup> represents a plunger, 42<sup>N</sup> a diaphragm, the purpose of which is similar to that described in connection with Figure 19. 52 is a piston member slidably fitting in valve body 40<sup>N</sup> and is pressed against shoulders 40<sup>P</sup> by spring 53. 52 is provided with some holes as shown in Figure 22 and a valve stem 41<sup>N</sup> passes slidably through it. Valve discs 41<sup>R</sup> on stem 41<sup>N</sup> cooperate with top surface of piston 52 so that when it is depressed it will seal the piston 52. 41<sup>K</sup> is another disc valve rigidly connected to valve stem 41<sup>N</sup> and is normally pressed against seat portion 40<sup>H</sup> by a spring 40<sup>T</sup> thus closing compartment 40<sup>D</sup>. 3<sup>C</sup> is a rubber tube leading to the reservoir and the valve body 40<sup>N</sup> is secured to member 27<sup>V</sup>, (Figures 18 and 21) at 40<sup>M</sup>, Figure 20. Disc 41<sup>K</sup> is provided with a projection 41<sup>L</sup>, Figure 21 which cooperates with a pin 51<sup>B</sup> which is integral with member 51, Figures 21 and 23. Pins 28<sup>V</sup> (Figure 130



18) are held in their normal position by torsion spring 54, Figure 21. The operation of the device is as follows: Normally water enters from the reservoir to compartment 40<sup>N</sup> through holes of piston 52. When plunger 43<sup>N</sup> is depressed compartment 40<sup>D</sup> is connected with compartment 40<sup>N</sup> so that the water will enter said compartment 40<sup>D</sup>.

After the device is operated all the compartments will be normally filled with water but the outside air pressure will prevent any leakage past the pins 28<sup>V</sup> through the closing of the valve at 41<sup>K</sup>. Now, as plunger 43<sup>N</sup> is further depressed valve 41<sup>R</sup> will seal piston 52 and force said piston downward while compartment 40<sup>D</sup> is remaining open. The effect of the motion of the piston as described is to positively force the water through compartment 40<sup>D</sup> and in quantity proportional to its displacement. Thus the moistening of the stamps does not depend upon gravity and capillary attraction alone but the supply of water is positively controlled from the actuation of the device.

It will also be noticed that the pins 28<sup>V</sup> are actuated independently of the stamps though the adhesive side of the stamps to be affixed is applied in the same manner as in the case of Figure 15 and as previously described. This arrangement possesses the advantage of positive action. Figure 24 illustrates the manner in which the moistening system just described is applied to and operated by the device and is analogous in operation with that of the mechanism provided for Figure 19, illustrated in Figures 11 and 13 and as previously described.

Referring to Figures 11, 12 and 13, 56 represents a rack supported on a rod 57 and pivotally mounted on a bracket 58 which is fastened to frame 4 and also on base plate 59 and 59<sup>A</sup> (Figure 11). Rod 57 is provided with a pin 60 which cooperates with a lever 61 pivotally mounted to a bracket 62. 63 is a rectangular member slidingly fitting in an aperture provided on base 59 and is also guided by a bracket 64 and a stud 63<sup>A</sup> which is integral with 63. A spring 65 forces member 63 upward and it is limited in its upward movement by a bracket 66 which is rigidly fastened to 63 and contacts with under side of base 59. Member 66 is also provided with a stud 66<sup>A</sup> which fits into a slightly elongated slot in lever 61. A ratchet pawl 67 is pivotally supported upon a sieve 68 which is rigidly connected to plunger 11 through bolt 14, Figures 11 and 12. A spring support 69 is also rigidly held to plunger 11 through bolt 14 and a spring 70 yieldingly holds pawl 67 in position shown. The operation of the recited mechanism is as follows. The member 63 projects slightly above surface of base 59 and is directly opposite stamp affixing member 71,

Figure 4 which is fastened to plunger shaft 11 and which is directly opposite of the affixed stamps.

Now, if plunger 11 is depressed, ratchet pawl 67 will engage teeth of rack 56 and prevent the return of plunger 11. If, through stamp affixing member 71, sufficient pressure is exerted upon member 63 to depress it against stress of spring 65, lever 61 will be actuated and through it rack 56 will be turned away from the plane of pawl 67 as shown at 56<sup>Z</sup>, Figure 12. The low position of pawl 67 is shown at 67<sup>V</sup>, Figure 11 and when rack 56 is turned to position 56<sup>Z</sup>, pawl 67 will be disengaged from rack 56 and plunger 11 will be freed and returned to its initial position by spring 72, Figure 4. Thus it will be seen that plunger 11 can be returned to its normal position only after member 63 is depressed a definite amount, and since in the process of affixing stamps this depression is transmitted by the pressure exerted upon the stamp to the stamp affixing member 71, it follows that stamps will be affixed upon an envelope or other suitable article with substantially the same pressure regardless of the variations in thickness of such envelope or article.

Referring now to Figures 25, 26 and 27, 75 represents a member loosely mounted upon a sleeve 76, Figure 12, which is rigidly connected to plunger 11 by bolt 14. A bracket 77 is rigidly secured to the support 47 which is also secured to plunger 11 by bolt 14. A spring 78 tends to pull member 75 toward bracket 77. Member 75 is provided with a cam slot 75<sup>A</sup> which cooperates with a pin 79<sup>A</sup> of a lever 79. A weight 75<sup>B</sup> is fastened to member 75 as shown and a bent portion 75<sup>C</sup> cooperates with a bracket member 80 which is secured to frame 4. Lever 79 pivotally supports the member 37 at 79<sup>B</sup>. Member 37 is provided with a slot 37<sup>C</sup> and is slidingly supported by a shoulder screw 81 relative to the frame 4 and a light spring 82 pulls member 37 downward. 37<sup>D</sup> is a bent portion resting against under side of moistening member 27 and a portion of base 59 is perforated opposite bent portion 37<sup>D</sup> to allow this portion to descend below surface of base 59. The operation of the recited structure is as follows.

Normally the plunger 11 is held in position by spring 72, Figures 4 and 6, and the parts just described are in their relative positions as shown in Figure 25. Now when the plunger 11 is depressed, member 75 will descend with it being guided during this movement by pin 79<sup>A</sup> of lever 79 which also descends in contact with it through action of spring 82 upon member 37. Under these conditions bent portion 75<sup>C</sup> of member 75 will be brought in contact with end of bracket 80 as shown by the dotted position of member 75 at 75<sup>CX</sup> in Figure 25 and the corre-



sponding positions of member 79, member 37<sup>c</sup> and 37<sup>d</sup> are shown in dotted lines at 79<sup>x</sup>, 37<sup>cx</sup> and 37<sup>dx</sup>. Thus when the plunger is normally depressed a predetermined amount it is arrested in its downward movement by the contacting of members 75<sup>c</sup> and 80. If, however, an envelope is positioned above the aperture on the base 59, member 37<sup>d</sup> will be stopped by it when plunger 11 is actuated and lever 79 assumes position shown in Figure 28 and will remain in that position until the return of the plunger 11 to its normal position. Now, if plunger 11 is further depressed member 75 will be turned about the axis of sleeve 76 through the cam surface of slot 75<sup>A</sup> cooperating with pin 79<sup>A</sup> and edge of bent portion 75<sup>c</sup> will move along a line 85 thus clearing stop bracket 80 so that plunger 11 is unrestrained to complete the stroke. When the slot 75<sup>A</sup> has disengaged from pin 79<sup>A</sup> it will be held against side of bracket 77 by spring 78 as shown in dotted lines in Figure 28. When the plunger 11 is returned to its normal position by spring 72, Figures 4 and 6, cam slot 75<sup>A</sup> re-engages pin 79<sup>A</sup> and the several operative parts assume position shown in Figure 25. Thus normally when no envelope is applied to the device it is automatically rendered inoperative, but when an envelope is positioned in the device for the affixing of stamps, the device is automatically rendered operative. The purpose and function of the weight member 75<sup>B</sup> will now be described.

If the plunger 11 should be rapidly operated, the inertia of members 37 and 79 would cause them to maintain their position of rest momentarily while member 75 which is positively mounted upon plunger 11 would descend, thus cam slot 75<sup>A</sup> would be operated against pin 79<sup>A</sup>, the effect being the same as if an envelope or other obstruction were placed in path of portion 37<sup>d</sup>. In other words, rapid operation of plunger 11 such as might be imparted to it by a blow upon the knob 15, Figure 4, will prevent the contacting of the locking members. In order to counteract the sluggish operation of members 79 and 37 due to their inertia, weight 75<sup>B</sup> is provided on lever 75 which by its inertia induces a turning effort in the direction of arrow 88, Figure 28, when plunger 11 is rapidly operated. This turning effort has a tendency to hold pin 79<sup>A</sup> in engagement with cam slot 75<sup>A</sup> and thus cause members 79 and 37 to move in unison with member 75 and thereby cause 75<sup>c</sup> and stop lever 80 to cooperate as previously explained in connection with Figure 25. Thus the inertia effect of members 79 and 37 is opposed and neutralized by inertia effect of weight 75<sup>B</sup> resulting in the mechanism functioning equally well under various conditions of speed.

Referring now to Figures 29, 29<sup>A</sup>, 29<sup>B</sup>, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, 89 represents a clamp member for holding the envelope during the time the affixing of the stamp is performed. Member 89 is provided with two contact pieces, 89<sup>A</sup> preferably of rubber and is slidably supported in a slot 90<sup>A</sup> of a member 90. 89<sup>B</sup> is a spring stud fastened to 89 and it projects through an extended aperture 90<sup>B</sup> of member 90 and a spring 91 yieldingly supports member 89 relative to member 90. The extended aperture permits the yielding of member 89 in any plane when forced in contact with the irregular surface of an envelope as shown in Figure 32. Member 90 is pivotally supported on a lever 92 by a stud 92<sup>E</sup>. Lever 92 is mounted on the opposite side of frame 4 and an aperture is provided in frame 4 to permit stud 92<sup>E</sup> to pass through it and to allow for its movement. On stud 92<sup>E</sup> another yoke-formed lever 93 is loosely mounted and one arm of this lever is provided with a stop pin 93<sup>A</sup> cooperating with lever 92 and the other end 93<sup>B</sup> is adapted for receiving spring 95 which is supported by stud 96 and end of which overlaps member 90 at 90<sup>C</sup> and is guided in contact with it by torsion spring 97 about stud 92<sup>E</sup>. A part of yoke member 93 forms a ratchet pawl 93<sup>D</sup> which cooperates with a pin 77<sup>B</sup> on bracket 77 which is rigidly fastened to a member 47 and member 47 is rigidly connected to plunger 11 by bolt 14 as has already been explained. (Figures 25, 26 and 27.) A bent portion 92<sup>C</sup> is provided on lever 92 and projects through an enlarged aperture in frame plate 4. A catch pawl member 98 is pivotally supported on frame 4 and another ratchet pawl 99 is pivotally supported on member 98 and is provided with a bent portion 99<sup>A</sup> which likewise cooperates with pin 77<sup>B</sup>. A spring stud 99<sup>B</sup> on pawl 99 acts also as a stop relative to member 98 and a spring 100 holds member 98 and 99 in their normal positions against a stop pin 101, Figure 29.

Operation of the recited mechanism is as follows. Normally, pawl member 98 holds member 92 by bent portion 92<sup>C</sup> against tension of spring 95 and the several cooperating parts in their relative positions as shown in Figure 29. When plunger 11 is depressed pin 77<sup>B</sup> will disengage pawl 98 from bent portion 92<sup>C</sup> through cooperation with bent portion 99<sup>A</sup> of pawl 98, Figure 33, and release clamping member 89 which will press upon an envelope 84 positioned upon base plate 59. Now if the pin 77<sup>B</sup> is further depressed it will contact with ratchet pawl 93<sup>D</sup> and pass by it through yielding of spring 95, Figure 29. Upon the return of plunger 11 pin 77<sup>B</sup> (Figs. 33 and 34) engages pawl portion 93<sup>D</sup> and through it lifts lever 92 in normal position and into engagement with catch pawl 98. Upon further movement of



pin 77<sup>B</sup> it comes in contact with under side of bent portion 99<sup>A</sup> of the ratchet member 99 which will yield against tension of spring 100, thus allowing pin 77<sup>B</sup> to pass without affecting catch pawl 98. Hence it is seen that upon depression of plunger 11 clamping member 89 is released for the clamping of the envelope and on the return stroke all the different operative parts of the clamping mechanism are restored to their normal positions. 102 and 103 are guide members to aid in positioning the envelope relative to the apparatus. A member 104 is mounted for rocking movement upon a shaft 105 which is supported by lugs 106 and 107. Member 104 is also provided with three projecting portions 104<sup>A</sup>, 104<sup>B</sup> and 104<sup>C</sup> and the base plate 59 and guide member 102 opposite these projections is cut out to permit the rocking of member 104 into a position 104<sup>V</sup> shown in dotted lines in Figure 29. The motion of 104 is imparted by a spring 108. 109 is a lever pivotally mounted upon the back side of frame support 4 and is provided with a slot 109<sup>A</sup> which cooperates with a pin 10<sup>F</sup> on an arm 10<sup>H</sup> of sector member 10, Figures 5 and 6. Another end 109<sup>B</sup> pivotally supports a ratchet member 110 which is held in its position by spring 111 against stop pin 110<sup>A</sup>. A bracket 112 is fastened upon frame 4, a top view of which is shown in Figure 29<sup>A</sup> and on it is pivotally mounted a catch pawl 113. One part of this pawl normally holds member 104 in the position shown in Figure 29 by cooperating with portion 104<sup>C</sup>. On pawl 113 is mounted a ratchet member 114 which is provided with a pin 114<sup>A</sup> and through which it cooperates with portion 92<sup>K</sup> of lever 92. A stop pin 112<sup>B</sup> limits motion of 113 and it serves also as a spring stud for holding ratchet member 114 in position by a spring 115 which connects with another spring stud 114<sup>B</sup> and which likewise limits motion of 114 relative to 113. The operation of the described mechanism is as follows.

Arm portion 92<sup>K</sup> of lever 92 assumes the position 92<sup>KX</sup> when member 92 is released by operation of pin 77<sup>B</sup> as previously described. This will position 92<sup>K</sup> on the other side of pin 114<sup>A</sup> of ratchet member 114 which yields through action of spring 115 and without disturbing member 113. However when member 92<sup>K</sup> is restored it will trip catch pawl 113 through actuation of ratchet member 114 as shown in dotted lines in Figure 29. This will result in the spring 108 pulling member 104 in position shown in dotted lines at 104<sup>V</sup>, Figure 29. Thus it will be seen that if an envelope 58 is positioned as shown and the plunger 11 operated, the envelope is clamped in position by member 89 at the early part of the downward stroke and member 104 released simultaneously with the lifting of the clamp 89

upon the early part of the return stroke, resulting in a quick impulse being imparted to the envelope by portions 104<sup>A</sup> and 104<sup>B</sup> of member 104 which will cause the ejection of the envelope from the device after the affixing of a stamp. The restoration of 104 is accomplished as follows. When the plunger is depressed pin 10<sup>F</sup> is moved into position 10<sup>FV</sup> by sector 10, which will cause member 109 to assume position 109<sup>V</sup> and ratchet member 110 position 110<sup>V</sup>. Now the movement of sector 10, Figures 5 and 10, is so timed that it will start to return lever 109 some time after 104 has been released, so that the relative positions of ratchet member 110 and 104 will be as shown at 110<sup>V</sup> and 104<sup>V</sup>. Now when members 109 and 110 are restored to their normal positions ratchet 110 will engage side of 104<sup>C</sup> opposite it and bring it in engagement with catch pawl 113.

Referring now to Figures 1, 2 and 3, 120 represents a tray resting on the top of the base and is secured to the casing by a bracket 121 and to the lug 122 by a screw 123. The outside edge of tray 120 is channel formed at 120<sup>A</sup> into which slidably fits a portion 102<sup>A</sup> of envelope guide member 102. A slotted piece 102<sup>B</sup> is fastened to under side of 102<sup>A</sup> as shown at 102<sup>C</sup>. A knurled shoulder screw 125 is supported by the casing and serves to secure guide 102 in any desired position relative to the casing. 102<sup>D</sup> is a bent reinforcement to support the guide portions inside the device. Outside edge 102<sup>E</sup> is made high to act as a support for the storing of a number of envelopes as shown at E to aid in the rapid handling of the work. A scale is marked upon the door 2 at 2<sup>D</sup> as an aid for positioning guide 102 when it is desired to affix a series of stamps. A member 126 is mounted upon a shoulder screw stud 127 which is threaded into lug 122 at 127<sup>A</sup> and which forms a shouldered portion with body of screw 127. A bent portion 126<sup>A</sup> of member 126 fits loosely the threaded part 127<sup>A</sup> and the other bent portion 126<sup>B</sup> loosely fits body of screw so that member 126 can be clamped against lug 122 by shouldered portion of 127 at 127<sup>A</sup>. 127 is also provided with a knurled head 127<sup>C</sup> for conveniently securing 126 in any desired position about shoulder screw 127. The purpose of member 126 is to deflect the ejected envelopes in any desired manner. In Figure 1 the envelopes are ejected in the direction of the arrow and when an envelope strikes member 126 it will be deflected to fall in the direction 84<sup>A</sup>. Thus, if the device is positioned near the edge of a table or stand the envelopes can be successively and automatically ejected into a container positioned underneath the table and in the path of the deflected envelopes. If it is not desired to deflect the envelopes, member 126 is secured in a position 126<sup>X</sup>.



A thumb screw 128, Figure 30 is fitted into lug 107 and it is for the purpose of rendering the ejecting means inoperative, if so desired, by adjusting it opposite portion 104<sup>F</sup> of lever 104 as shown in Figure 29, thereby preventing the actuation of said member 104 by spring 108 and therefore preventing the ejection of the envelopes. It is necessary to render member 104 inoperative when envelope guide member 102 is shifted relative to the scale at 2<sup>D</sup>, for then the envelope could not properly be acted upon by the ejecting member 104.

The principal operative features of the device are summarized as follows:

An envelope is placed manually upon the base 59 and with two of its adjacent edges contacting with guide members 103 and 102, Figures 1, 2, 3 and 29. Upon depressing plunger 15, Figure 4, clamp member 89 is released to hold envelope in its position during the downward stroke of plunger 11. Upon further depression of the plunger 11 the adhesive side of the stamp is brought in contact with the moistening device by member 34<sup>A</sup>, Figures 5, 7 and 8, and the moistening device is rendered active as previously described in connection with Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19. Next, the stamp is fed forward by the feeding mechanism, the moistening of the adhesive side of the stamp taking place simultaneously. Upon the completion of the feeding, the stamp will appear in a position as shown in dotted lines at 36<sup>m</sup>, Figure 4, and upon further movement the stamp will be sheared off by edge 71<sup>A</sup> of affixing member 71, Figure 4, cooperating with edge 27<sup>H</sup> of moistening member 27, Figure 16. Following the shearing the stamp is pressed upon the envelope and simultaneously member 63 is depressed thus freeing plunger 11, to be returned by spring 72, Figure 4. On the return stroke of the plunger, clamp 89 is lifted and restored and immediately after the ejecting mechanism released and the envelope ejected in the manner explained in connection with Figures 29, 29<sup>A</sup>, 30, 31, 32, and 33. If no envelope is placed in the device or if not properly positioned relative to the guide members 102 and 103, the device is automatically locked against operation, thus preventing the accidental delivering, mutilation and wasting of stamps, as has been explained in connection with Figures 25, 26, 27, and 28.

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

1. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means an elongated member, provided with a narrow compartment and adapted to receive moistening liquid from a reservoir; a plurality of apertures connecting an outside surface of said

member with said compartment, means for holding the stamps away from said surface and provision for automatically bringing the adhesive side of the stamps in contact with said surface, when the apparatus is operated.

2. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a narrow compartment and connected to a reservoir; a plurality of apertures connecting an outside surface with said compartment, said surface being adapted to contact with the adhesive side of the stamps; means for sealing said apertures against leakage, means controlled from the stamps to permit moisture to pass through said apertures and means for feeding said stamps in contact with said apertures.

3. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a cylindrical compartment and connected to a reservoir, a plurality of apertures passing through said compartment, an elastic tubular member expanding against the side of said cylindrical compartment and sealing said apertures against leakage, means for contacting the adhesive side of the stamps with said apertures, means for operating upon said elastic member through said apertures and means for feeding said stamps in contact with said apertures.

4. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member, provided with a cylindrical compartment and connected to a reservoir, a plurality of apertures passing through said compartment, an elastic rubber tube expanding against the side of said cylindrical compartment and normally sealing said apertures, pins slidably fitting in said apertures and yieldingly supported by said rubber tube, said pins being adapted to depress said rubber tube to permit the moisture to pass through said apertures, means for pressing the adhesive side of the stamps upon said pins to operate on said rubber tube, and means for feeding the stamps in contact with said pins.

5. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a narrow compartment, capillary openings connecting with said compartment, means for feeding stamps in contact with said openings, a valve device attached to said compartment for controlling the passage of moisture from a reservoir to said opening and means for actuating said valve by the operation of the apparatus.

6. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a compartment, a plurality of apertures connecting



with said compartment, a pin yieldingly supported and projecting from each of said apertures, means for depressing said pins by the adhesive side of the stamps, means for feeding the stamps in contact with said apertures and pins, a valve device attached to said compartment and connected to a reservoir, means normally closing said valve to prevent leakage past said apertures, means for opening said valve by operation of said device, and simultaneously with the bringing of the adhesive side of the stamps in contact with said apertures and means for closing said valve at a predetermined point in the operation of the apparatus.

7. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a compartment, capillary openings connecting with said compartment, means for feeding the adhesive side of the stamps in contact with said openings, a valve device attached to said compartment and connected with a reservoir, means for controlling said valve device by the operation of the apparatus, said valve device embodying means for forcing a predetermined quantity of moisture through said apertures for the moistening of the stamps.

8. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, an elongated member provided with a narrow compartment, a plurality of apertures connecting with said compartment, a valve device attached to said compartment and controlling passage of moisture from a reservoir to said apertures, a pin projecting from each of said apertures and adapted to be lowered and raised by the actuation of said valve device, means for feeding the adhesive side of stamps in contact with said apertures, said stamp feeding means and said valve device being actuated in unison by the operation of the apparatus.

9. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with a stamp affixing means, a moistener, a reservoir, a valve for controlling the moisture between the moistener and the reservoir, a flexible diaphragm connected to said valve device, and means for actuating said valve through said diaphragm.

10. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a moistener, a reservoir, a valve device adapted to deliver a definite amount of moisture to said moistener, a flexible diaphragm for sealing the valve, and means for actuating said valve device through said diaphragm.

11. In a stamp affixing apparatus, stamp affixing means, a moistener, means for holding the stamps away from the moistener, means for automatically bringing the stamps in contact with the moistener when the device is operated; a reservoir, a valve device

disposed between the moistener and the reservoir and adapted to deliver a predetermined quantity of moisture to the moistener, and provision for feeding the stamps in contact with the moistener.

12. In a stamp affixing apparatus, an affixing member for pressing the moistened stamps upon envelopes or other suitable articles, means for retaining said member in a depressed position, means for releasing said member, said last recited means being controlled by the pressure applied to the affixed stamps.

13. In a stamp affixing apparatus, an affixing member for pressing the moistened stamps upon the envelopes or suitable articles, means for retaining said member in a depressed position, and means for releasing said member by application of a predetermined pressure upon the affixed stamp by the affixing member.

14. In a stamp affixing device, an affixing member for pressing the moistened stamps upon the envelopes or suitable articles, means for retaining said member in a depressed position, means for releasing said member; a yielding member responsive to the pressure applied to the affixed stamps, and provision for controlling said releasing means by said yielding member.

15. In a stamp affixing device, a stamp affixing member, means for actuating said member, a rack and pawl combination adapted to retain said affixing member in a depressed position, spring controlled means responsive to the pressure applied to the affixed stamp and adapted to release said affixing member.

16. In a stamp affixing device a stamp affixing member, means for actuating said member, a rack and pawl combination adapted to retain said affixing member in a depressed position, a spring controlled yielding member positioned opposite said affixing member, and mounted upon the envelope support, said last recited member being adapted to cooperate with said rack and pawl combination, to release said affixing member upon the application of a predetermined pressure by said affixing member.

17. In a stamp affixing device, in combination with stamp affixing means, means for operating said device, means for restoring said device to its initial operative condition, and provision for controlling the restoration of said device by the pressure applied to the affixed stamp.

18. In a stamp affixing device, means for actuating the device, means for preventing the restoration of said device to its initial operative condition before the completion of its functions and provision for controlling said last recited means by the pressure applied to the affixed stamp.

19. In a device adapted to affix stamps on



envelopes or other articles, means for operating said device, means controlled from the operation of said device for rendering said device inoperative, said last recited means  
 5 embodying mechanism responsive to the varying operative speeds for insuring the proper functioning of the operative parts at said varying operative speeds, substantially as described.

10 20. In a device adapted to affix stamps on envelopes or other articles, means for operating the said device, means controlled by the actuation of said device to render it inoperative. Said last recited means embodying  
 15 mechanism compensating for the inertia of the operative parts, under varying conditions of speed.

21. In a device adapted to affix stamps on envelopes or other suitable articles, means  
 20 for operating said device, locking means controlled by the operation of said device to lock said device against operation, said locking device comprising mechanism responsive to the various operative speeds and  
 25 influencing said locking device to function properly under various conditions of speed.

22. In a device adapted to affix stamps on envelopes or other suitable articles, means for operating said device, means  
 30 responsive to the actuation of said device for rendering it inoperative when not applied to the affixing of stamps upon envelopes or articles, said last recited means embodying mechanism responsive to the  
 35 varying operative speeds and influencing the different parts to function properly under said varying operative speeds, substantially as described.

23. In a device adapted to affix stamps  
 40 upon envelopes or other suitable articles, means for operating said device, means responsive to the actuation of said device and cooperating with said envelope or article and adapted for locking said device against  
 45 operation when not applied to the affixing of stamps upon the envelopes or other articles, said last recited means embodying mechanism to counteract the inertia of the operative parts for compelling the proper  
 50 functioning of said locking means under varying operative speeds.

24. In a device adapted to affix stamps on envelopes or other suitable articles, means  
 55 for operating said device, means for positioning envelopes or other suitable articles relative to the device, means responsive to the actuation of the device and controlled from the position of said envelope or article, and adapted to render said device in-  
 60 operative when the envelope or article is not properly positioned relative to the device, said last recited means embodying mechanism responsive to the varying operative speeds and compensating for the  
 65 inertia effect of the several operative parts.

25. In a stamp affixing device means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, means for actuating the device, a member adapted to contact with the envelope or article when the device is actuated, mechanism controlled from said member and adapted to render the device inoperative when there is no envelope or other article in the path of said member, and provision for compensating for the inertia effect of the various parts of said mechanism.

26. In a stamp affixing device, guide means for positioning envelopes or other articles relative to the device, a spring actuated member adapted to contact with an envelope or other article, mechanism cooperating with said member, and adapted to lock said device against operation when an envelope or article is not properly positioned relative to said guides, and provision for compensating for the inertia effects of the parts of said mechanism.

27. In a stamp affixing device, in combination with stamp affixing means, mechanism adapted to lock said device against operation when not applied to the affixing of stamps upon envelopes or other articles, said mechanism being also adapted to render the device operative when used for affixing stamps upon an envelope or other article, and provision for compensating for the inertia effects of said mechanism.

28. In a stamp affixing device in combination with stamp affixing means, mechanism for rendering the device normally inoperative, said mechanism being also adapted to render the device operative when applied to affix stamps upon an envelope or other article and provision for compensating for the inertia of the operating parts of said mechanism.

29. In combination with a stamp affixing device, guide means for positioning an envelope or other article relative to the device, means for manually operating said device, a spring actuated member responsive to the actuation of the device for clamping the envelope or article in its position during the affixing functions, and provision whereby the device is rendered automatically inoperative when the envelope or article is not properly positioned relative to said guide means.

30. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, means for automatically clamping the envelope or article in its position, means for releasing said envelope or article after the completion of the affixing functions, means for ejecting the envelope or article, and provision for rendering the device automatically inoperative when not applied to the affixing of stamps upon an envelope or other article.



31. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps to envelopes or other articles, means for manually actuating said device, a member responsive to the actuation of the device and adapted to contact with the envelope for holding said envelope in its position during the affixing functions, means for restoring the device to its initial operative condition, and provision for preventing the restoration of said device to its initial condition before the completion of its functions.

32. In a stamp affixing device in combination with stamp affixing means, means for automatically ejecting the envelope, means for manually operating the device and provision for preventing the restoration of said device to its initial operative condition before the completion of its functions, said provision being controlled by the pressure applied to the affixed stamps.

33. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, means for manually operating said device, means for ejecting the envelope or article, means for deflecting the ejected envelope or article and provision for preventing the restoration of said device to its initial operative condition before the completion of its functions, said provision being controlled by the pressure applied to the affixed stamps.

34. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, means for manually operating said device, a member normally held out of contact of the envelope, means for releasing said member by the actuation of the device for holding said envelope in its position during the affixing functions, means for ejecting the envelope or article and provision for preventing the restoration of said device to its initial operative condition before the completion of its functions.

35. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, means for manually operating said device, means for preventing the restoration of the device to its initial operative condition before the completion of its functions and provision for rendering the device automatically inoperative when not applied to the affixing of stamps upon said envelope or other article.

36. In combination with a stamp affixing device, stamp affixing means, a member adapted to contact with an envelope or article, a spring tending to force said member in contact with the envelope, means for holding said member away from the envelope, means for automatically releasing said member, and means for restoring said member after the completion of the affixing functions.

37. In combination with a stamp affixing

device, stamp affixing means, means for positioning an envelope or article relative to the device, mechanism responsive to the actuation of the device and adapted to hold said envelope in its position during the affixing functions means for releasing said mechanism from the envelope, a spring actuated ejecting device for ejecting the envelope and provision for controlling the actuation of the ejecting device by said mechanism.

38. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon envelopes or other articles, a reciprocating plunger, means for operating the device by said plunger, a member adapted to hold the envelope or article in its position, a spring tending to force said member in contact with the envelope, means for holding said member away from the envelope, and means for automatically releasing said member by the actuation of the plunger.

39. In a stamp affixing device, means for affixing stamps upon an envelope or other article, a reciprocating plunger, means for operating the device by said plunger, a spring actuated member, adapted to eject an envelope or other article, means for holding said member out of the path of the envelope, means for releasing said member, and provision for automatically restoring said member to its initial position by the operation of said plunger.

40. In a stamp affixing device, means for positioning an envelope relative to the device, means for operating the device, means for ejecting said envelope, and means for rendering said last recited means inoperative.

41. In a stamp affixing device, means for positioning envelopes relative to the device, means for operating said device, means for automatically ejecting said envelopes, and adjustable means for locking said last recited means against operation.

42. In a stamp affixing device, means for positioning an envelope relative to the device, means for operating said device, means responsive to operation of said device for automatically ejecting the envelope and manually adjustable means for rendering said last recited means operative or inoperative at the will of the operator.

43. In a stamp affixing device, adjustable guides for positioning an envelope or suitable article relative to the device and adapted for the affixing of one or of a plurality of stamps upon said envelope or article, stamp affixing means, automatic means for ejecting the envelope and provision whereby the ejecting device may be rendered inoperative when it is desired to affix a plurality of stamps upon the envelope or article.

44. In a stamp affixing device, means for positioning an envelope relative to the device, means for operating said device, means



for automatically ejecting the envelope and cooperating adjustable means for deflecting said envelopes in a desired direction, said last recited means being adapted to be rendered effective or ineffective at the will of the operator.

45. In a stamp affixing apparatus, in combination with stamp affixing means, a moistener consisting of a compartment having a plurality of apertures a series of pins projecting through said apertures; a reservoir, connection between the moistener and the reservoir; means responsive to the actuation of the apparatus and cooperating with said moistener for causing it to supply moisture for the affixing of stamps upon an envelope or other article.

46. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a moistener consisting of a compartment having a plurality of apertures, pins yieldingly supported and projecting through said apertures, cooperating means for depressing said pins by the actuation of the apparatus and for supplying moisture through said apertures, for the affixing of stamps upon an envelope or other article.

47. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a moistener consisting of a compartment having a series of apertures, pins projecting through said apertures, means for automatically depressing said pins when the apparatus is actuated and means for applying moisture through said apertures for the affixing of stamps upon an envelope or other article.

48. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a moistener consisting of a compartment provided with a series of apertures, pins projecting through said apertures, means for automatically actuating said pins with the operation of the apparatus; a reservoir for supplying moisture to the moistener, a valve device dis-

posed between the moistener and the reservoir, and provision for automatically actuating said valve device for controlling the supply of moisture to said moistener.

49. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a member adapted to contact with an envelope for holding said envelope in its position during the affixing functions; a detent normally holding said member away from the envelope, means for automatically actuating said detent to release said member and means for restoring said member to its initial position.

50. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a member for holding the envelope in its position during the affixing functions; said member being normally held out of the path of the envelope, a spring tending to force the member into contact with the envelope, means for releasing said member and provision whereby said member may yield in any plane in contact with the envelope.

51. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a member for holding an envelope in its position during the affixing functions, means for moving said member away from the envelope; a spring actuated ejecting device normally held out of the path of the envelope and provision for releasing the ejecting device to operate upon the envelope simultaneously with the movement of said member.

52. In a stamp affixing apparatus in combination with stamp affixing means, a spring actuated member adapted to eject the envelope, a detent normally holding said member out of the path of the envelope, means for actuating said detent to release said member; a cooperating lever, and provision for restoring said member to its normal position through the operation of said lever.

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