

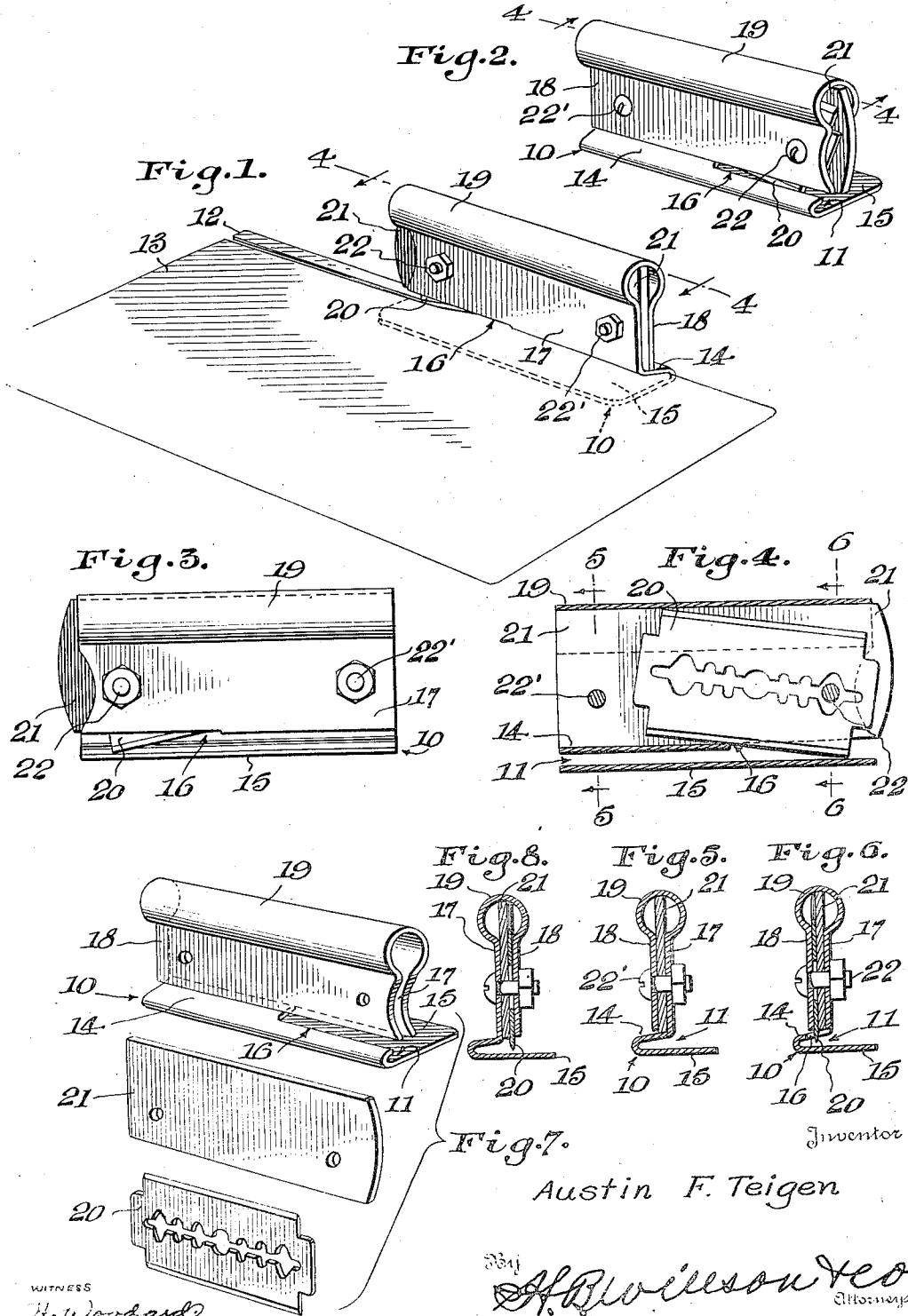
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ENVELOPE OPENER

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ENVELOPE OPENER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 30—294)

The invention aims to provide an exceptionally simple and inexpensive, yet an efficient and durable hand-operated device for quickly and easily opening envelopes by cutting one edge portion off, simply by engaging the tool with the envelope, holding the latter with the fingers of one hand and with the other hand sliding the tool longitudinally of the envelope, while both envelope and tool rest upon a horizontal surface such as a desk top.

With the foregoing in view, the invention resides in the novel subject matter hereinafter described and claimed, description being accomplished by reference to the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the device in use.

Figure 2 is a perspective view looking against the opposite side of the device from that shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevation looking against the side of the device shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view as indicated by the lines 4—4 of Figures 1 and 2.

Figures 5 and 6 are transverse sectional views on lines 5—5 and 6—6 of Fig. 4.

Figure 7 is a disassembled perspective view.

Figure 8 is a view similar to Fig. 6, but showing a modified and simplified form of construction.

Preferred details have been illustrated and will be rather specifically described, with the understanding, however, that within the scope of the invention as claimed, minor variations may be made. It is, of course, comprehended that the device may be constructed from any desired material or materials. Moreover, while the article is shown constructed for use with an ordinary razor blade, it will be understood that other specially formed blades could be used if desired.

An elongated base 10 is provided to rest slidably upon a desk top or other support, said base having a longitudinal laterally opening channel 11 to receive one edge portion 12 of an envelope 13, the top wall 14 of said channel being preferably narrower than the bottom wall 15. In the form of construction shown in Figs. 1 to 7, the top wall 14 is provided at one end with a longitudinal slot 16 for a purpose to appear, whereas in the modification shown in Fig. 8, such a slot is not necessary.

One vertical blade-clamping plate 17 rises rigidly from the top wall 14, and another vertical blade-clamping plate 18 is disposed in parallel

relation with said plate 17, 18 being at one side of 17 in the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 7, and being at the other side of 17 in Fig. 8. The upper edges of the plates 17 and 18 are connected by a ridge portion 19 which unitarily connects said plates and forms a convenient handle portion for gripping and operating the tool.

A suitable blade 20 is disposed between the blade-clamping plates 17 and 18, and its cutting edge declines across the channel 11 into contact with the lower wall of said channel. A pad or the like 21 preferably lies against one side of said blade and against the fixed plate 17 to provide additional friction for tightly holding the blade in place when said plates 17 and 18 are drawn together. The thickness of this pad 21 of course regulates the distance which the cut will be made from the edge of the envelope or the like. Bolts 22 and 22' are shown to draw the walls 17 and 18 toward each other. The bolt 22 passes through the parts 17, 18, 20 and 21, being received in one of the usual openings of the blade 20, but the bolt 22' need not pass through the blade, as will be clear from Fig. 4. Thus, by simply removing the bolt 22, the blade may be easily removed or said blade may be adjusted by simply loosening said bolt. A new blade may be inserted with ease or the old blade simply turned to present a new edge to use. In the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 7, the sharpened lower edge of the blade 20 extends obliquely across the channel 11 and through the slot 16, but in Fig. 8 in which the blade is at the opposite side of the plate 17, requiring no slot, said blade merely extends obliquely across the channel.

In both forms of construction, the longitudinally channeled base 10, the blade-clamping plates 17 and 18, and the ridge portion 19 may be considered as being formed from a single piece of sheet metal. However, as above stated, material other than metal may be used.

In operating the device, it is engaged with the edge portion 12 of an envelope 13 as seen in Fig. 1. Then, while holding the envelope upon a desk top or the like with the fingers of one hand, the device is slid longitudinally upon the supporting surface, causing the sharpened lower edge of the blade 20 to slit through one or both sides of the envelope, according to the depth to which said blade be adjusted. The device may be quickly, easily and conveniently operated and provides for cleanly cutting the envelope without cutting the contents thereof, due to the fact that the envelope is slit in extremely close proximity

to its edge. If desired, the opening device could of course be held and the envelope or the like slid with respect thereto in performing the opening operation.

5 I claim:

1. An envelope opener comprising a horizontally elongated base to rest slidably on a supporting surface, said base having a flat longitudinal relatively wide bottom plate, a flat longitudinal relatively narrow top plate and a longitudinal bight portion integrally joining one of the longitudinal edges of said top plate to one of the longitudinal edges of said bottom plate and spacing said top and bottom plates apart vertically to provide a laterally open channel to receive an edge portion of the envelope, the other longitudinal edge of said bottom plate being free; a horizontally elongated fixed vertical blade-clamping plate integrally joined at its lower edge to the other of said longitudinal edges of said top plate, a second horizontally elongated vertical blade-clamping plate parallel with said fixed vertical plate, a transversely arched ridge extending along the upper edges of the two vertical plates and integrally connecting them, the lower edge of said second vertical plate being free, a blade disposed in a vertical longitudinal plane between said vertical plates and having a sharpened lower edge which declines across the aforesaid channel to said bottom plate, and bolts passing through said vertical plates for drawing said second vertical plate inwardly toward said fixed vertical plate to clamp said blade in place, said blade having an opening through which at least one of said bolts passes.

2. A structure as specified in claim 1; together with a vertical friction pad and spacer clamped between said blade and said fixed vertical plate, the thickness of said friction pad and spacer determining the distance which said sharpened edge of said blade is spaced from the aforesaid bight portion of said base.

3. An envelope opener comprising a horizontally elongated base to rest slidably on a supporting surface, said base having a flat longitudinal relatively wide bottom plate, a flat longitudinal relatively narrow top plate and a longitudinal bight portion integrally joining one of the longitudinal edges of said top plate to one of the longitudinal edges of said bottom plate and spacing said top and bottom plates apart vertically to provide a laterally open channel to receive an edge portion of the envelope, the other longitudinal edge of said bottom plate being free; a horizontally elongated fixed vertical blade-clamping plate integrally joined at its lower edge to the other of said longitudinal edges of said top plate, said top plate being provided at one end with a longitudinal slot at its juncture with said fixed vertical blade-clamping plate, a second horizontally elongated vertical blade-clamping plate parallel with said fixed vertical plate and disposed over said top plate, a transversely arched ridge extending along the upper edges of the two vertical plates and integrally connecting them, the lower edge of said second vertical plate being free, a blade disposed in a vertical longitudinal plane between said vertical plates and having a sharpened lower edge which declines through said slot and across said channel to said bottom plate, and bolts passing through said vertical plates for drawing said second vertical plate inwardly toward said fixed vertical plate to clamp said blade in place, said blade having an opening through which at least one of said bolts passes.

4. A structure as specified in claim 3; together with a vertical friction pad and spacer clamped between said blade and said fixed vertical plate, the thickness of said friction pad and spacer determining the distance which said sharpened edge of said blade is spaced from the aforesaid bight portion of said base.

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