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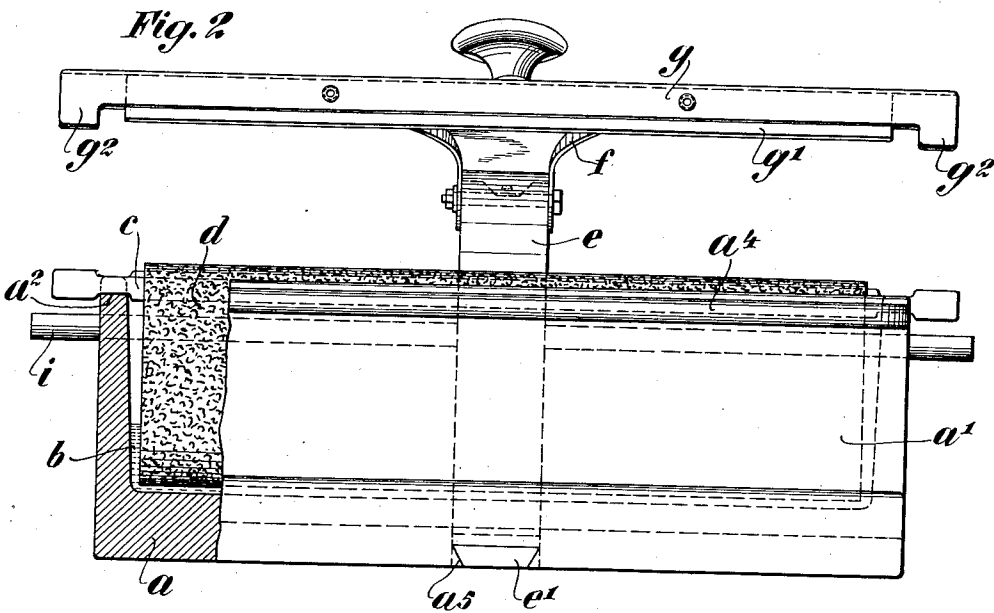
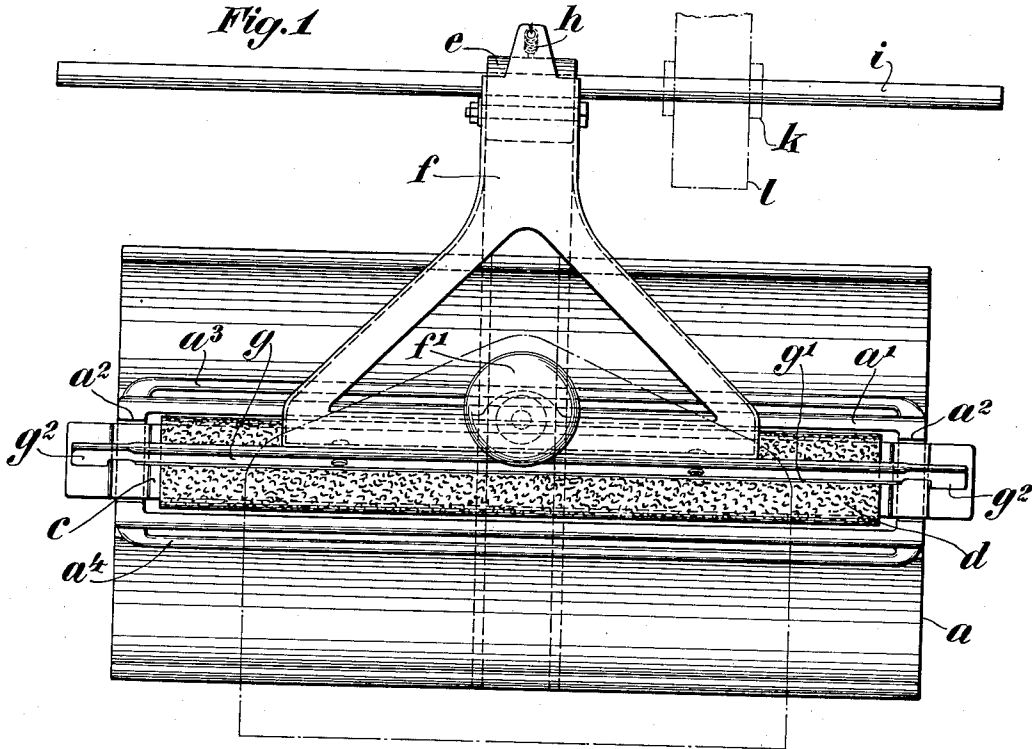
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DEVICE FOR MOISTENING GUMMED SURFACES

Filed March 2, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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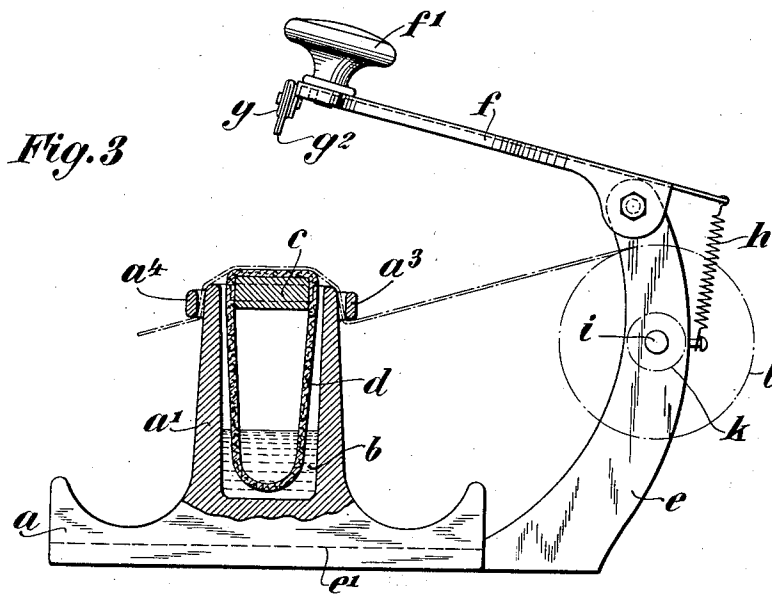
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DEVICE FOR MOISTENING GUMMED SURFACES

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DEVICE FOR MOISTENING GUMMED SURFACES

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8 Claims. (Cl. 91-14.5)

This invention relates to a simple, inexpensive and effective device for moistening gummed surfaces as, for instance, those to be found on stamps, labels, tape, etc. Devices intended for this purpose are, of course, well known. Such known devices, however, are not satisfactory in use and, for the most part, are not simple and inexpensive. The principal condition sought to be satisfied by the invention is the uniform moistening of the gummed surface without the application of so much water as to remove the gum and impair adhesion as is frequently the case in devices now in use. A further object of the invention is to provide a device by means of which the gummed surface can quickly and conveniently be moistened uniformly throughout its entire area by a very simple and obvious motion of the operator. Still a further object is to accomplish the result indicated while at the same time pressing the gummed surface against the moistening means yieldingly and with a force which is kept within predetermined limits. A further object of the invention is to provide an improved moistening element whose saturation is of the most favorable character for the purpose, by reason of its inherent properties, and which can be moved readily to present different portions to the gummed surface. A further object of the invention is to provide in the device a support for rolls of gummed articles in such relation to the gumming mechanism as will enable the strips to be readily moistened and severed in a most convenient manner by the operator. A further object of the invention is to provide an improved presser bar for pressing the gummed surface onto the moistening element yieldingly, stops being provided to check the movement of the presser bar.

These and other objects of the invention will appear at greater length hereinafter in connection with the description of the embodiment shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in plan of the improved device.

Figure 2 is a view in front elevation thereof showing the relation of the presser bar to the moistening element, a part of the reservoir being broken away.

Figure 3 is a view in transverse section through the reservoir and moistening element and showing the presser bar and base in end elevation.

The device includes a base *a* which carries or has formed therewith a reservoir *a'* within which is contained the moistening liquid such as water indicated at *b*. The reservoir is preferably of

rectangular shape, its length being such as to accommodate articles to be moistened having predetermined maximum width. The top of the reservoir is open. The end walls of the reservoir may be recessed at their top edges as indicated at *a²* to receive and support a bar *c* which carries the endless moistening element *d* which hangs down within the reservoir and into the water *b*. The supporting-bar *c* for the moistening element *d* is preferably of rectangular shape and it is evident that it may be lifted from its journals and rotated 180° in order to bring up into exposed position a fresh section of the moistening element *d*. This may be desirable whenever the exposed surface of the moistening element becomes a little gummy. When this section is thus moved downwardly into contact with the water it loses its gumminess.

The base *a* may have associated therewith in any desired manner an upwardly extending bracket *e* on which is pivotally mounted an arm *f*. In the illustrated embodiment the bracket *e* is shown as having a flat leg *e'* which may be engaged with a groove *a³* extending transversely across the underside of the base *a*. By this engagement it is evident that the bracket *e* will normally be in the desired relation to the base and may be conveniently disengaged therefrom when the parts are to be shipped. At the forward end of the arm *f* is supported a presser bar *g* on the lower edge of which is mounted a yielding strip *g'* of material such as rubber. At each end of the presser bar is a downwardly extending ear *g²* adapted to engage with the end of the supporting bar *c* for the moistening element *d*. Normally, the presser bar *g* is held out of engagement with the surface of the moistening element *d* by means of a spring *h* operatively interposed between the bracket *e* and the end of the supporting lever *f*. The same condition may, of course, be accomplished by weighting the rear end of the arm *f*. A knob *f'* may be provided on the arm *f* in proximity to the presser bar *g* to facilitate depression of the arm *f* against the action of the spring *h*.

In the bracket *e* may be supported a rod *i* which may extend generally in parallelism with the reservoir *a'*. On this bar *i* may be mounted one or more spools *k* carrying rolls *l* of paper or fabric having a gummed surface.

In use, emphasis is to be placed on the uniform moistening of the gummed surface within desirable limits and the avoidance of over-wetting. Emphasis is also to be placed on the convenience obtainable in moistening gummed surfaces by

reason of the simple nature of the device. Contributing to the uniform moistening of the gummed surface is the character of the moistening element. It has been found that a fabric such as felt will be moistened by capillarity to a desired degree when the lower end is immersed in water. Such a moistening element does not carry a great deal of water. By providing a yielding member g' on the presser bar g the article whose gummed surface is to be moistened is pressed yieldingly against the moistening element d which itself is yieldable so that there is avoided a squeezing of the moisture from the moistening element. This condition is maintained by providing the stops g^2 on the presser bar so that the actual force impressed on the article being gummed is kept within predetermined limits thereby assuring that an excess of moisture will not be applied to the gummed surface. As indicated in Figure 1 an envelope may have its gummed surface readily presented to the moistening element and be pressed thereagainst uniformly for wetting throughout by depressing the presser bar and bringing the yielding element g' against the ungummed surface of the envelope. With the parts in this relation the operator merely withdraws the envelope and it will be found that every portion of the gummed surface has been uniformly, but not excessively, moistened.

Where, as is often the case in larger organizations, gummed tape is used in great quantity or gummed labels or rolls of stamps are to be moistened frequently, the device lends itself particularly to such use as clearly shown in Figure 3. Guide rails a^3 , a^4 , are shown as mounted on the reservoir in spaced relation thereto with respect to the front and back walls. The strip from the roll l is threaded through the bar a^3 , carried over the exposed surface of the moistening element d and threaded through the bar a^4 . When the strip is drawn forwardly its gummed surface will be carried across the face of the moistening element and when a strip of desired length has thus been withdrawn it can be severed readily by using the bar a^4 as a straight edge for tearing.

Changes in details of construction and arrangement of parts will suggest themselves to the skilled mechanic without departing from the invention so long as the operative relation of elements is retained and the results secured by an assembly which is characterized by the simplicity of that contemplated.

I claim as my invention:

1. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a presser bar for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member and a stop member in a position with relation to said predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of said presser bar to provide substantially uniform pressure of contact of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

2. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extend-

ing upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a pivoted presser bar extending longitudinally of said bar member and having a resilient strip of material mounted on the lower edge of said presser bar, said strip being adapted to hold the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member and a stop member mounted in a position with relation to said predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of the said presser bar and to provide substantially uniform pressure of contact of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

3. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and an endless moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting the said bar member at the ends permitting rotation to bring up into exposed position fresh sections of the said moistening member, said bar member forming a solid base or foundation surface for supporting said moistening member in each position of the bar member, a bracket attached to said container, a presser bar pivotally attached to said bracket and adapted for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member and stop members on each side of said presser bar for limiting the movement of engagement of the said presser bar so as to provide substantially uniform pressure of contact of the surface being moistened with the said moistening member.

4. An applying device in accordance with claim 3 in which said bar member is supported at its ends upon said container by means of grooves in the bar cooperating with recesses in the top edges of the said container, and having extending portions adapted to cooperate with the said stop members on said presser bar so as to provide uniform pressure engagement of the surface of the article being moistened with the moistening member.

5. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a bracket member associated with said container, a presser bar pivotally mounted on said bracket member for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member, a support attached to said bracket member, a roll of material having a gummed surface carried by said support and adapted to be passed over said moistening member and a stop member in a position with relation to the predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of the said presser bar so as to provide

substantially uniform pressure contact of the surface of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

5 6. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a bracket member associated with said container, a presser bar pivotally mounted on said bracket member for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member, a support attached to said bracket member, a roll of material having a gummed surface carried by said support, a guide bar connected to said container through which a strip from the said roll may be threaded and carried over the exposed surface of said moistening member, a second guide bar for severing portions of the strip which have been moistened and a stop member in a position with relation to the predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of the said presser bar so as to provide substantially uniform pressure contact of the surface of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

3.5 7. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a bracket member associated with said container, a presser bar pivotally mounted

on said bracket member for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member, a support attached to said bracket member for carrying a roll of material having a gummed surface, a guide bar connected to said container through which a strip from the said roll may be threaded and carried over the exposed surface of said moistening member, a second guide bar connected to said container, through which the said strip is passed for severing portions of the strip which have been moistened, a spring element for normally retaining the said presser bar in raised position and a stop member in a position with relation to the predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of the said presser bar so as to provide substantially uniform pressure contact of the surface of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

8. An applying device comprising a container having walls forming an opening extending upwardly and adapted to hold a liquid, a bar member and a moistening member of predetermined thickness extending over said bar member and freely into the liquid in said container, means for supporting said bar member permitting the bar member to be turned to expose new surfaces of the said moistening member and forming a solid base or foundation surface in each position of the bar member supporting said moistening member, a presser bar pivotally mounted for holding the surface to be moistened into pressure contact with the said moistening member, a support for carrying a roll of material having a gummed surface, a guide bar for severing portions of the said roll which have been moistened, and a stop member in a position with relation to the predetermined thickness of the moistening member to limit the movement of engagement of the said presser bar so as to provide substantially uniform pressure contact of the surface of the article being moistened with the said moistening member.

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