Feb. 16, 1971 W. RAKOCY ET AL 3,562,905

COMBINED ELECTRIC DRY SHAVER AND TRAVEL CASE

Filed Sept. 12, 1968

Fig. 1.

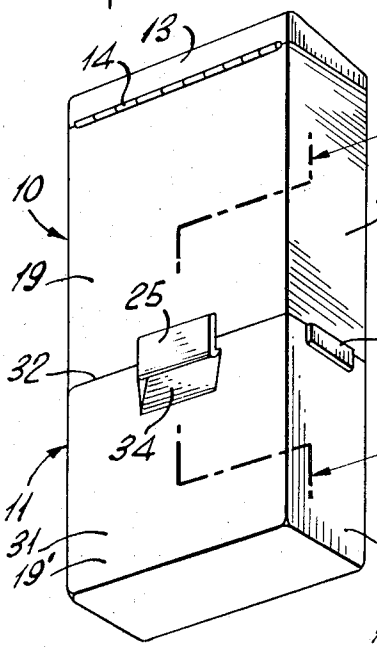


Fig. 2.

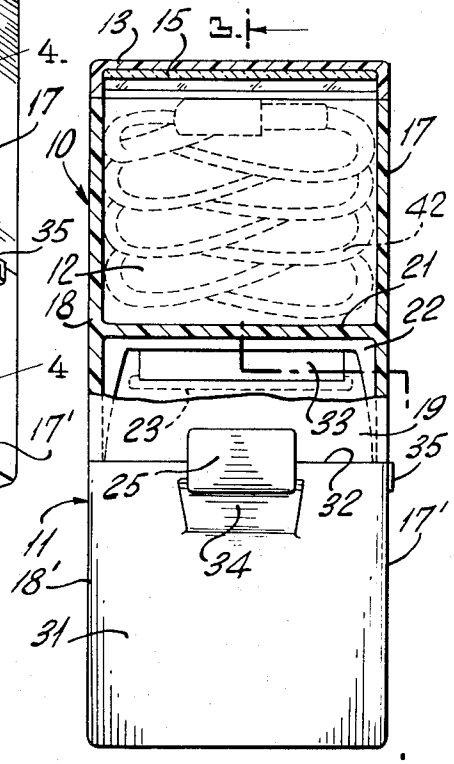
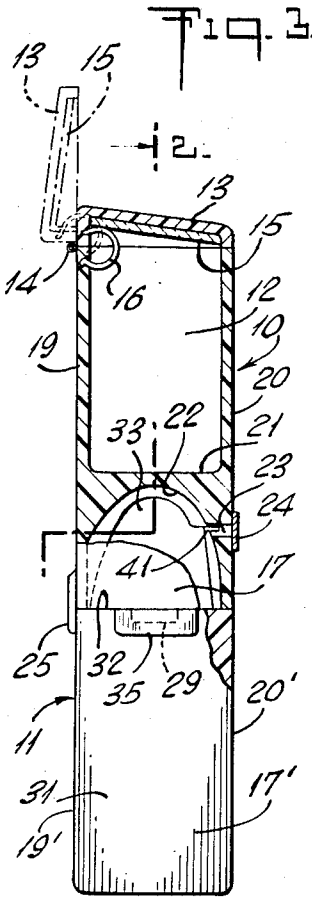
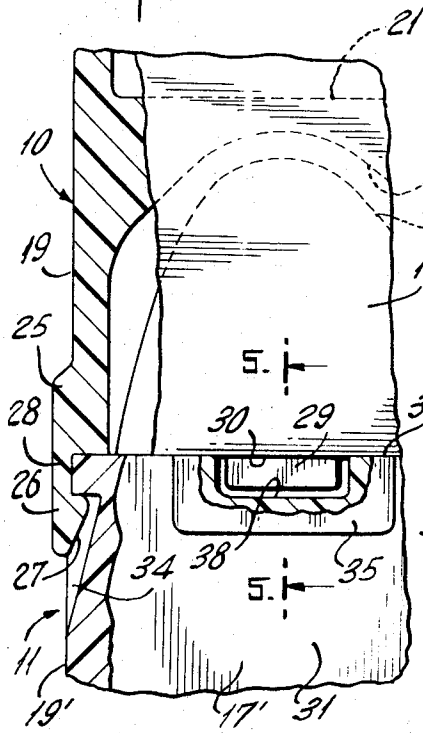


Fig. 3.



3
2

Fig. 4.



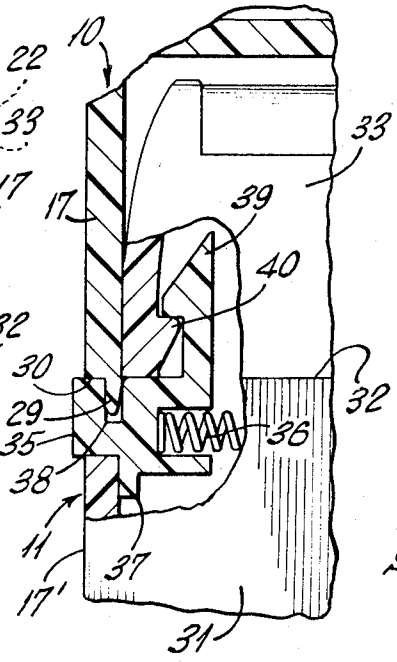


Fig. 5.

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COMBINED ELECTRIC DRY SHAVER AND TRAVEL CASE

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Int. Cl. B26b *19/38*
U.S. Cl. 30—34 6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact travel case for an electric dry shaver is provided having a dual-sectioned, removably interlocked housing wherein the shaver itself serves as an integral portion of the travel case when not in use, thereby constituting one of the sections, and the other section, which protects the shaver head, is formed with a compartment to accept and store the shaver line cord. A safety tab is also provided on the travel case to lock the shaver head release mechanism while the two sections of the travel case are joined in order to prevent accidental disengagement of the shaver head assembly.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

This invention relates to cases employed for the transportation, storage and convenient handling of electric shavers and, more particularly, to a travel case wherein the shaver is integral with and forms a portion of the travel case itself when not in use.

Description of the prior art

The prior art is replete with travel cases designed for the transportation, storage and handling of electric shavers. With very rare exception, these prior art travel cases are bulky, expensive and inefficient in use.

Generally, the prior art travel cases contain a raised platform or "nest" within which the shaver, its head covered by a separate protective cap, is placed. The platform is usually a vacuum formed vinyl material which is, in turn, often draped or covered with velvet or a velveteen material. A separate "nest" or compartment is provided for storage of the shaver line cord. The costs of the materials used in these prior art travel cases and the resultant assembly costs appreciably add to the costs of the shaver itself.

In use, these prior art travel cases have exhibited deficiencies of one kind or another. In addition to the cost factor previously noted, the prior art travel cases were volumetrically inefficient and needlessly occupied space generally required by the travelers. The actual use of the prior art travel case was further complicated by the careful and time consuming attention required in folding and then securing the folded line cord for insertion into the travel case.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide an inexpensive travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide an inexpensive travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver which is compact and achieves a great degree of portability without any sacrifice in its protective capability.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an inexpensive travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver, wherein the shaver itself forms a portion of the travel case.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an inexpensive travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver wherein the shaver and its line cord can be quickly stored.

An additional object of the present invention is to provide an inexpensive travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver which provides a high degree of protection for the shaver, but is simple to use.

Accordingly, there is provided a travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric shaver wherein the shaver is an integral portion or first section of the travel case. A protective cover or second section is locked onto the shaver, by appropriate latching means, and is provided with a compartment in which the shaver line cord can be swiftly and easily stored. An appropriately shaped recess is formed in the protective cover section to guard the shaver head. In addition, a safety tab is connected to the protective cover and serves to automatically prevent accidental disengagement of the shaver head while the two sections are latched together.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a combined electric shaver and travel case embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a front view, partly in section taken along the line **2—2** in FIG. 3 showing the shaver section of the travel case interlocked with the protective cover section, the latter section containing the shaver line cord;

FIG. 3 is a partial sectional view taken along the line **3—3** of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line **4—4** of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line **5—5** of FIG. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings wherein like reference numerals have been used in the several views for like parts,

FIG. 1 shows a travel case for transporting, storing and handling an electric dry shaver according to the present invention. The travel case is comprised of a protective cover or upper section **10** and a shaver or lower section **11.**

The protective cover section **10** has a line cord storage compartment **12** which is capped by a cover **13.** Cover **13** is connected to the protective cover section **10** by means of a hinge **14.** A mirror **15** can be fitted inside cover **13** for the convenience of the user. An arcuately shaped spring **16** is captured, in a well known manner, between protective cover section **10** and cover **13.** The spring **16** serves to hold the cover **13** in a fully open position, as shown in FIG. 3 in dotted lines, when desired by the user and serves, as well, to positively snap cover **13** closed when desired.

Side walls **17** and **18,** front wall **19,** rear wall **20** and bottom wall **21,** the latter being generally perpendicular to walls **17, 18, 19** and **20,** define the line cord storage compartment **12** of the protective cover section **10.** Bottom wall **21** is recessed below the lower ends of side walls **17** and **18,** front wall **19** and rear wall **20,** as shown in FIG. 3, thereby forming a trough **22** which extends from side wall **17** to side wall **18.** As shown in FIG. 3, the trough **22** has a cross-sectional U shape. A slot **23** is cut in the rear wall **20,** for a purpose to be hereinafter described, and extends, generally parallel to bottom wall **21,** from side wall **17** to side wall **18.** The slot **23** is externally covered by a thin nameplate **24.**

A latch **25** is formed integral with and extends parallel to and beyond the lower edge of front wall **19,** as shown in FIG. 4. The latch **25** has a head portion **26** which is

shaped like a right-angle triangle. The sloping surface of the head portion **26** describes a camming surface **27** which faces rear wall **20**. The camming surface **27** slopes upwardly and inwardly towards trough **22**. Immediately below the head portion **26** is a relatively narrow neck section **28**.

A safety tab **29** is formed integral with and extends parallel to and beyond the lower edge of side wall **17**, as shown in FIG. 5. The safety tab **29** is formed as an extension of the inner surface of side wall **17**, but its thickness is less than that of the side wall **17**, thereby forming shoulder **30**.

The shaver section **11** of the travel case consists of an electric shaver (not fully shown) mounted within a jacket **31** which terminates in a rectangularly shaped collar **32**, leaving the shaver head **33** exposed. The jacket **31** is formed to smoothly mate with the edges of the protective cover section **10** and is comprised of side walls **17'** and **18'**, front wall **19'** and rear wall **20'**, all of which correspond to like walls of the protective cover section **10**. A ramped depression **34** is formed in front wall **19'**, being deepest near the upper edge of the front wall **19'**, and linearly rises therefrom to terminate flush with the surface of front wall **19'**.

For purposes of internal cleaning, the shaver is provided with a shaver head release mechanism, which is activated by button **35** which protrudes through jacket **31** on side wall **17'**. As shown in FIG. 5, button **35** is forced outwardly by helical spring **36** until its internal shoulder **37** engages and is restrained by the internal surface of side wall **17'**. The resultant rest position of button **35** exposes notch **38** cut in its upper edge. Spring **36** also urges latch **39** and inner protuberance **40** into engagement. The other end of the shaving head **33** is held fast in a like manner by corresponding latch and protuberance members (not shown).

On the side facing rear wall **20'**, the shaver head **33** is equipped with a sideburn and mustache trimmer **41** which extends across the width of shaver head **33**. The operation of and elements comprising trimmer **41** are described in U.S. Pat No. 2,873,520, assigned to the same assignee as this application.

The shaver section **11** is also fitted with a recessed male plug (not shown) for electrical connection of the shaver and an "on-off" switch (not shown). A line cord **42** is also provided.

In operation, after the user finishes using his shaver, he disconnects the line cord **42** from the shaver and places it in the line cord storage compartment **12**, as shown in FIG. 2. Since no elastic band is necessary to secure the line cord **42**, it is merely folded and placed in its storage compartment **12** with a minimum waste of time and effort. After the cover **13** is snapped closed, the travel case is ready for final assembly.

The protective cover section **10** and the shaver section **11** are positioned with the trough **22** and the shaver head **33** facing each other with the corresponding walls of each section matched. As the two sections are brought closer, the rear walls, **20** and **20'**, of each section are tilted slightly towards each other. This permits the trimmer **41** to find purchase in slot **23**. Once this occurs, the two sections are straightened out, whereupon camming surface **27** contacts the lower edge of front wall **19'**. The resultant camming action, in the face of continued pressure, lifts latch head **26** over the edge of front wall **19'** and into the ramped depression **34**. The latch **25**, thus, is secured in depression **32** with the lower edge of front wall **19'** held fast in its necked section **28**. Since the locking action of latch **25** urges trimmer **41** deeper and more securely into slot **23**, the travel case will not accidentally open during transportation. Simultaneously with the movement of latch **25** into the depression **34** and the movement of trimmer **41** into slot **23**, the safety tab **29** is moved into notch **38** of button **35** until halted by the interference of shoulder **30** and button **35**. Thus, safety

tab **29** prevents the movement of button **35** and accidental actuation of the shaver head release mechanism.

To prepare the shaver for use, the user need only loosen latch **25** with his thumbnail and tilt the two sections slightly to remove latch **25** from the depression **34** and trimmer **41** from slot **23**, whereupon the shaver is ready for use as soon as electrical connection is made.

It may also be unnecessary, in view of the battery-operated cordless shaver now coming into vogue, to have a line cord storage compartment. With these newer type shavers, the protective cover section would consist only of a trough which would be interlocked to the shaver section in the manner previously described.

Having shown and described in the drawings and specification the preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is nevertheless to be understood that various changes thereto may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A combined electric dry shaver and travel case which comprises:

(a) walls forming a section containing the electric dry shaver;

(b) walls forming a mating protective cover section having a recessed trough formed therein at its mating end for the reception of the shaver head; and

(c) means for removably mating the protective cover section and the shaver section wherein the protective cover section has a compartment for the storage of an electrical line cord formed therein above the recessed trough, the compartment being covered by a movably mounted lid at the non-mating end of the protective cover section.

2. A combined electric dry shaver and travel case which comprises:

(a) walls forming a section containing the electric dry shaver;

(b) walls forming a mating protective cover section having a recessed trough formed therein at its mating end for the reception of the shaver head; and

(c) means for removably mating the protective cover section and the shaver section wherein the protective cover section has a compartment for the storage of an electrical line cord formed therein above the recessed trough, the compartment being covered by a movably mounted lid at the non-mating end of the protective cover section wherein the mating means comprises,

(d) a wall of the shaver section having a depression formed in the outer surface thereof; and

(e) a resilient latch extending from the wall of the protective cover section corresponding to the depression containing wall of the shaver section, the latch being positioned an dimensioned to snugly fit within the depression.

3. The travel case according to claim **2** wherein the mating means further comprises:

(a) a wall of the protective cover section, other than the wall from which the latch extends, having a longitudinal slot cut therein, within that portion of the wall which forms part of the recessed trough; and

(b) a longitudinal protuberance mounted on the shaver section positioned and dimensioned to be removably locked within the slot.

4. The travel case according to claim **3** wherein the longitudinal protuberance comprises an auxiliary long hair trimmer mounted on the shaver section.

5. The travel case according to claim **1, 2, 3** or **4** which further comprises:

(a) a shaver head release mechanism mounted within the shaver section;

(b) actuating means for operating the shaver head release mechanism; and

(c) safety means for preventing actuation of the shaver head release mechanism while the shaver and protective cover sections are latched together.

6. A combined electric dry shaver and travel case which comprises:

(a) walls forming a section containing the electric dry shaver;

(b) walls forming a mating protective cover section having a recessed trough formed therein at its mating end for the reception of the shaver head; and

(c) means for removably mating the protective cover section and the shaver section, and

(d) a shaver head release mechanism mounted within the shaver section;

(e) actuating means for operating the shaver head release mechanism; and

(f) safety means for preventing actuation of the shaver head release mechanism while the shaver and protective cover sections are latched together wherein the actuating means comprises a button movably mounted within and normally biased outwardly from the shaver section, partially extending therefrom and partially situated therewithin, the

exposed portion having a notch cut therein facing the mating end of the shaver section, the internal portion located in communication with the shaver head release mechanism and having a shoulder located thereupon to prevent passage of the button from the shaver section and the safety means comprises a tab extending from the wall of the protective cover section corresponding to the wall of the shaver section through which the button extends, the tab being positioned and dimensioned to fit the notch of the button thereby preventing an accidental inward movement of the button while the shaver and protective cover sections are latched together.

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OTHELL M. SIMPSON, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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