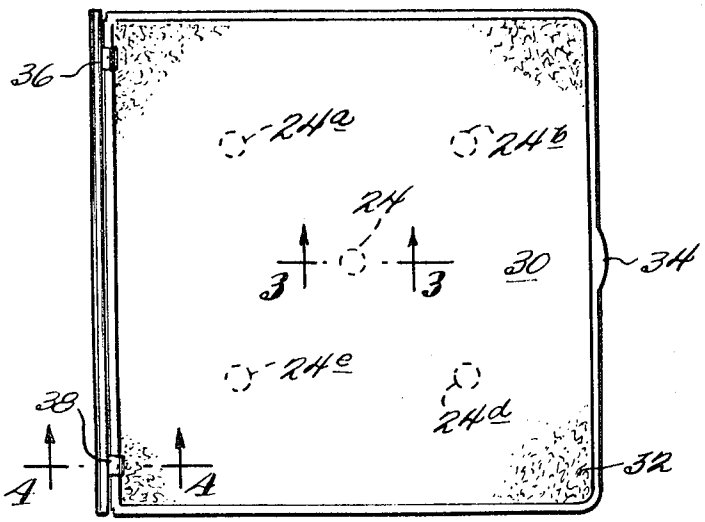
July 22, 1969 B. G. BRADBURY 3,456,781

SPOOL CONTAINER

Filed Sept. 14, 1967

Fig. 1



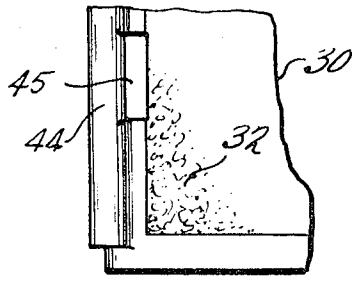
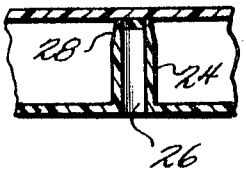


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



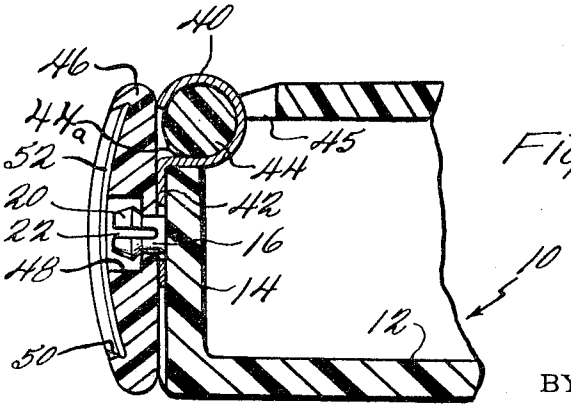


Fig. 4

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SPOOL CONTAINER

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U.S. Cl. 206—52 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A container for tape spools including a lower receptacle portion having protuberances on the rearward edge and unitarily formed pegs interior of the receptacle for receiving thereabout the holes in tape spools, a cover pivotally mounted for closing the receptacle by means of a hinge which includes a spring clip having an arcuate portion and a flat apertured portion received over the protuberance on the receptacle portion and a backing member having a groove for receiving a label which is also secured by means of the protuberance on the receptacle portion.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to containers and more particularly to special purpose containers of the type adapted to receive and store recording tape.

Several types of holders for tape and the like are known in the prior art. However, the present invention provides a simpler, more durable, and more easily manufactured container for spools. It is, accordingly, an object of the invention to provide an improved spool container.

SUMMARY

The present invention comprises, in its exemplary embodiment, a receptacle having pegs therein with a movable cover mounted by a spring clip hinge and a backing plate, the spring clip hinge and the backing plate being secured to the receptacle by a protuberance unitarily formed thereon.

It is, accordingly, an object of the invention to provide a spool container which includes a receptacle having a unitarily formed peg therein and a hinged cover.

A further object is the provision of a spool container having a peg for containing each of a plurality of spools in the container and a hinged cover therefor.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a spool container having a receptacle and a hinged cover wherein the hinge is a spring clip which is secured by means of a resilient protuberance on the receptacle portion.

A further object is the provision of a backing member especially constructed and adapted for receiving a label on the back thereof and being secured in place by means of the resilient securements on the receptacle.

A specific construction shown in the drawing and described hereinafter constitutes an additional and specific object of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the container of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged view of the lower left-hand corner of the cover of this invention.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken substantially along line 3—3 of FIGURE 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

FIGURE 4 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the hinge of this invention taken substantially along line 4—4 of FIGURE 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

In its exemplary embodiment, the present invention comprises a receptacle indicated at **10** which is generally rectangular in shape as shown in FIGURE 1 and which comprises a bottom as shown at **12** in FIGURE 4 and the side walls **14**. On the rear wall there is formed a protuberance **16** which extends outwardly therefrom. The protuberance may preferably have a shoulder or enlarged head **20** thereon and, in the preferred embodiment, is split as indicated at **22** in the center.

The receptacle further contains a plurality, or at least one, peg extending upwardly into the interior of the receptacle indicated at **24**. The peg **24** is formed integrally with the container and may be hollow as indicated at **26** if desired or may include a sharpened point as indicated at **28**.

A cover **30** is provided which as indicated at **32** may include a decorative imitation leather appearance. A lip **34** extends from the front edge thereof to permit easy grasping of the cover and opening of the container. A pair of hinges **36** and **38**, hinge **38** being shown in greater detail in FIGURES 2 and 4, are provided for hinging the cover to the receptacle. The hinge includes a spring clip **40** which has an arcuate portion and a flat apertured portion shown at **42**. The arcuate portion receives a cylindrical portion of the cover shown at **44** resiliently therein. An opening **45** is provided adjacent the round cylindrical portion **44** to permit movement of the lid relative to the cover.

A small protuberance **44***a* is preferably formed upon the cylindrical portion **44** such that when the lid **30** is lifted, thereby rotating the cylindrical portion **44** in the clip **40**, the protuberance **44***a* tends to expand the clip **40**. The protuberance **44***a*, as shown in FIGURE 4, is disposed such that when the lid is completely closed the spring clip **40** is not expanded whereas only a slight opening of the lid tends to expand the spring clip **40** as the protuberance **44***a* moves into the circular portion of the clip **40**. Thus, there is a resilient force exerted by the spring clip **40** tending to push the protuberance **44***a* out of the circular portion thereof and in so doing tending to hold the lid **30** in the closed position and to return it to the closed position.

There is further provided a backing member **46** which includes an aperture and a recess shown at **48**. The backing member is grooved at **50** for receiving a label **52** therein.

The protuberance **16** is preferably unitarily formed with the bottom **12** and is made of a resilient or semi-resilient plastic material such as vinyl, or the like. The protuberance is slotted as at **22** to provide additional flexibility and resiliency. The slotting permits the enlarged head **20** to pass through the aperture in the spring clip portion **42** and through the aperture into the recess **48** of the backing member to thereby secure the backing member and the spring clip in place on the rear of the bottom receptacle portion. Similarly, the pegs **24** are formed unitarily, in the preferred embodiment. with the bottom.

It will be apparent that the container is extremely simple in construction, very easily fabricated, is rugged and very convenient in use.

The provision of the groove for the label is an important feature of the invention.

The method of hinging the cover onto the receptacle of the invention is a very important feature of the invention in that it permits each of the components to be manufactured individually and the entire container to be assembled without any specialized tools. Indeed, no tools at all are required. All that is necessary is that the spring clip be made to slide over the cylindrical portion **44**, starting at the edge of the cover, and that the protuberance **16** be resiliently forced through the aperture in the

spring clip and in the backing member **46**. This completes the assembly in two simple steps.

In addition to its economy in manufacture, the container of this invention is highly useful because of the sturdy rigid character of the construction. This protects the spools of magnetic recording tape, movie film or the like, from damage due to exposure to sunlight, unwinding, or excessive handling. Dust and foreign matter are prevented from coming in contact with the tape, film or stored wound material of any type.

It will be realized that while the invention has been abstracted, summarized and disclosed with reference to a specific embodiment of the invention, departure therefrom may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A tape spool container which comprises:

a bottom portion which is shaped to form a receptacle;

at least one upwardly extending retaining peg in the bottom portion secured thereto for being received by the center hole of a tape spool to thereby fix the position of the spool in the receptacle;

a movable cover for the receptacle;

at least one hinge mounting the cover for hinged movement along one edge of the receptacle and the cover comprising:

a spring clip having a relatively flat apertured portion secured to the bottom portion and an upwardly extending arcuate portion; and

a generally circular portion formed integrally with the cover, said circular portion being received in the arcuate portion of the spring clip;

a backing plate comprising:

an elongated member having a groove formed therein on the exterior portion for receiving a label, said plate having at least one aperture therein; and

a protuberance on the bottom, said protuberance having an enlarged head and being resilient to permit said enlarged head to be forced through the aperture in the spring clip and the aperture in the backing plate for simultaneously locking the backing plate and the spring clip to the bottom.

2. The container of claim **1** wherein:

the protuberance is slotted longitudinally to permit inward resilient collapsing movement to permit the head to pass through a relatively smaller opening; and

the protuberance extends through the aperture in the spring clip and the aperture in the backing plate to secure both to the bottom.

3. The container of claim **2** wherein the bottom is formed of molded plastic and the peg is integrally formed therewith.

4. The container of claim **3** wherein the hinge further comprises:

a protuberance formed on the generally circular portion, said protuberance being normally disposed out of engagement with the arcuate portion of the spring clip and being so disposed that upon opening of the cover the protuberance engages the arcuate portion of the spring clip thereby causing said spring clip to resiliently urge the cover to the closed position.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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