Sept. 1, 1931. H. VASTICAR 1,820,926

POCKET CASE

Filed Nov. 19, 1929

Fig:1

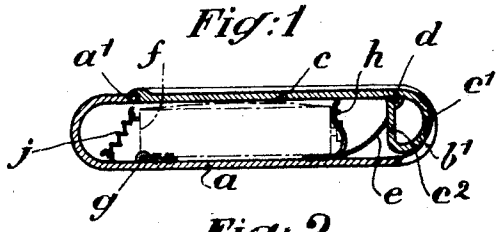


Fig:2

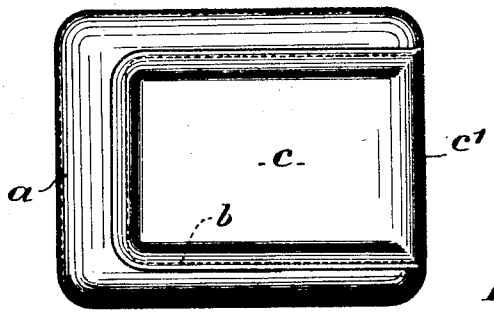


Fig:4

Fig:3

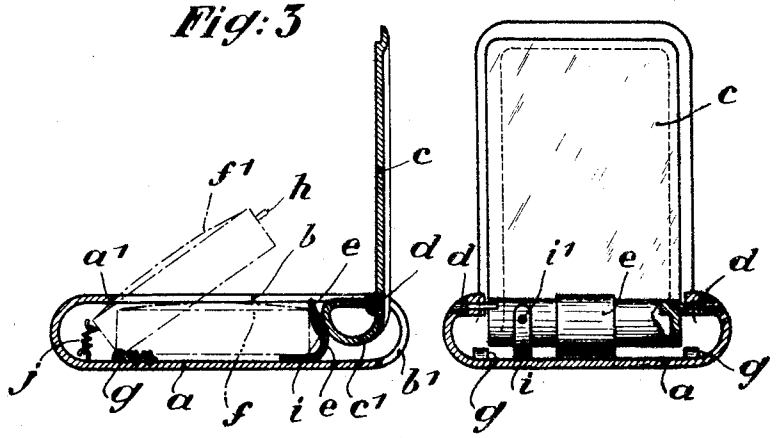
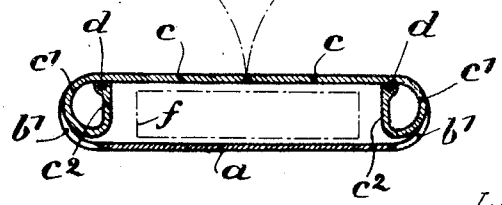


Fig:5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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POCKET CASE

Application filed November 19, 1929, Serial No. 408,197, and in Belgium December 20, 1928.

The present invention has for its object a pocket case destined to contain and protect a watch or other analogous object and adapted also serve as a match box or cigarette case, or the like.

Said case comprises a body with bottom and side walls with a hinged cover pivoted near one end of said side walls, and the most important feature of the invention is the provision of a rigid, downwardly extending projection from the pivoted end of said cover which, when the cover is in closed position, serves as a closure for the otherwise open end of the casing as well as a means for swinging the cover open when external pressure is applied to said projection, and the association, with said cover and projection therefrom of a spring or other elastic member normally tending to close the cover. This produces a very simple, durable, cheap, normally closed but easily opened form of box or casing for holding a watch, or other article desired to be alternately exposed to view, or concealed and protected.

My invention will be well understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings, given by way of example in which—

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal section through the case in closed position;

Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 with the case in open position;

Fig. 4 is a transverse section thereof; and

Fig. 5 is a modification showing a case with two covers or shutters in longitudinal section.

As shown in the drawings the case or box a (in the particular embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4) has an opening b which extends over almost the whole upper face thereof and is prolonged at b^1 along the end of the box and it is the recess within said opening which is destined to receive the watch, cigarettes, or the like.

The opening b is closed by a cover or shutter c which is formed by the long arm of a lever pivoted at d to the upper portions of the side walls of the body of the case a near one end thereof. The shorter arm c^1 of said lever is preferably bent over in a way to form a bead of semicircular cross-section which forms the wall or closure of that end of the case when the cover is in closed position as shown in section in Fig. 1.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that for opening the case, it suffices to bear lightly on the bead c^1 in order to depress the same into the body of the box which causes the cover or shutter c to swing outwardly and open the case. Yielding pressure means of any suitable character are provided for normally holding said cover in closed position.

As here shown a leaf spring e is fastened on the bottom of the body of the box in such a way that its extremity bears against the turned up portion c^2 which forms an extension of the bead c^1 on the shorter arm of the lever. Said spring maintains by its flexibility the lever arm or cover c in closed position (Fig. 1) and returns it to this position as soon as the exterior pressure which was applied to said bead when opening the case is removed. I may provide a disposition of the spring such that it also maintains the cover in side open position (Fig. 3). For this it is merely necessary to provide the bead with two flat portions or less curved portions extending at an angle of 90° to each other.

When the case a is to enclose a watch f, as shown in dot and dash lines in Figs. 1 and 3, the said watch may be mounted on hinges at one extremity, as at g, on the bottom of the case. The watch is then maintained at its other extremity by a small finger h engaging in the hole i^1 of a leaf spring i.

A coil spring j secured at one end to the bottom of the case and at the other end to the upper edge of the hingedly mounted watch, raises the said watch into the position f^1 of Figure 3 when the finger h is released by pulling away the spring i. In this position the watch bears along the upper face thereof against the chamber a^1 provided on the edge of opening b of the case and the lower part of the bead c^1 is adapted to become lodged in the curved part of the spring i which maintains the lever or cover c in open position, in a way that the whole performs

the part of a small clock and can be disposed flat on a desk or bedside table.

Obviously many modifications in detail may be resorted to in connection with the embodiment of my invention above described without departing from the scope thereof. Thus the spring which serves to close the cover, instead of being exterior of the hollow projection from the cover proper formed by the extension c^1 c^2 might be located in a position different from that of the spring e here shown, so long as it bears effectively on some portion of the cover, or the rigid extension thereto, to produce a closing motion.

In particular the case may be provided with two or more similar covers pivotally mounted as shown in Fig. 5, in which case the watch g would preferably be hinged on an axis extending at right angles to the axes of the cover hinges.

In the preferred forms of the invention the side walls of casing a have semicircular, outwardly convex extension on each side of its end opening b, and also the rigid projection c' from cover c is curved to produce a cross-section of the same semicircular outline and normally held substantially flush with said side wall ends as shown in Figs. 1 and 5. When this is done and the axis of the hinge pivots for the cover is located at or near the junction line of the cover proper (c) and its semicylindrical projection c', a neat end-closure for the case is produced, and one to which finger pressure can be continuously applied conveniently as the cover opens progressively,—and this without requiring the fingers exerting such pressure to be pushed into the casing interior. This is clearly indicated in Fig. 3. Another advantage of this exteriorly cylindrical or convex formation of the cover projections is that whether the cover c is wide open or only partially open the convex projection c' nearly fills the otherwise open end of the casing a and so serves to that extent in preventing ingress of dust or other foreign matter.

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

1. In a casing having a bottom and side walls and a cover pivoted on the upper portion of said side walls near one end thereof, which cover has a projection rigidly depending from the hinged end thereof forming a substantial closure for that end of the casing when the cover is in closed position, the combination, with said above described apparatus, of yielding pressure means tending to force said cover into closed position; whereby said casing is normally maintained in closed condition but may be opened by an inwardly directed external pressure on said depending projection.

2. A structure such as defined in claim 1 in which said depending projection has a convex substantially semi-cylindrical exterior with the axis of the cover pivots located near the junction line of said cover and such semi-cylindrical projection.

3. A structure such as defined in claim 2 in which said depending projection has a convex substantially semi-cylindrical exterior with the axis of the cover pivots located near the junction line of said cover and such semi-cylindrical projection, and in which the ends of said side walls of said casing have rounded extremities substantially conforming in outline to the exterior of said semi-cylindrical projection.

4. A casing having side walls and a bottom, a cover pivoted on the upper portion of said side walls near one end thereof, said cover having an integral projection rigidly depending from the hinged end thereof, said projection forming a substantial closure for that end of the casing when the cover is in closed position and said projection being bent inwardly and upwardly from its lower portion, a spring attached to the casing and resting against said projection to force said cover into closed position; whereby said casing is normally maintained in closed position but may be opened by inwardly directed external pressure on said depending projection.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification.

HENRI VASTICAR.