June 3, 1958 R. E. WILLIAMS 2,837,258

PORTABLE SHELL CASE

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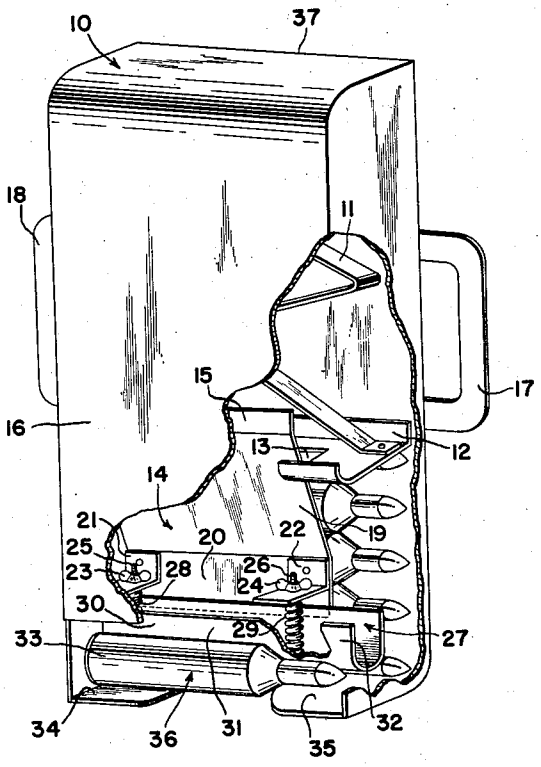


FIG. 1

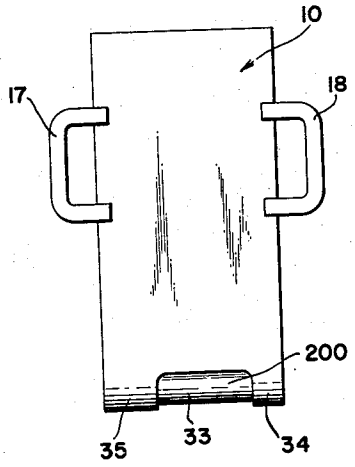


FIG. 2

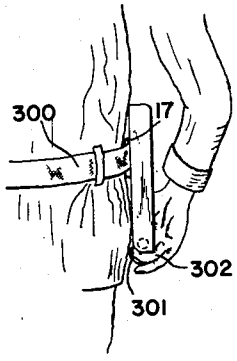


FIG. 3

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PORTABLE SHELL CASE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 224—15)

Generally speaking, the present invention is related to shell cases for hunting, for target practice, and for military use which, if desired, may be designed for easy attachment to the belt of an individual, for portability; more particularly, the present invention is directed toward the providing of a new and useful portable shell case for carrying extra rounds of ammunition, this shell case being adapted for easy loading and particularly easy unloading, which unloading may be accomplished by the exertion of slight pressure by the third and fourth fingers of either the right hand or left hand upon the round, rather than by the conventional, pulling out operation as is required with shell cases currently in use. The present shell case is particularly adapted for housing high-power, rifle shells of the rimless variety.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and useful portable shell case which is adapted to accommodate the housing therewithin of an appreciable number of extra rounds of ammunition, particularly those of the high power, rimless, rifle shell variety.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and useful portable shell case which will be extremely well suited for easy loading and unloading thereof, the aforementioned unloading being accomplished by the exertion of slight pressure by the third and fourth fingers of the hand when in cupped disposition upon the last enclosed rifle shell.

According to the present invention, a housing member is provided with a spring loaded, translatable follower which is adapted to exert a downward thrust upon the shells loaded within the housing member. A guide element cooperates with the follower to direct outcoming shells in a channel only as wide as the width of a single shell, even though the majority of the shells within the housing member may be disposed in staggered relationship. A spring loaded retaining member releasably secures the last loaded shell in proximate relation between a slot-like, escape area and a finger admittance aperture, both provided in the lower region of the housing member. Slight pressure exerted, for example, by the third and fourth fingers of either hand (depending upon which side of the body the wearer has his shell case) upon the last loaded shell will cause the shell to progress outwardly through the escape area provided in the housing member and thus be ejected therefrom.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable shell case according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the apparatus of Figure 1,

showing with particularity the finger admittance aperture provided in the housing member of the apparatus to accommodate shell extraction therefrom by means of the operator's third and fourth fingers, for example.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of a portable shell case according to the present invention strapped to the right side of the wearer by means of his belt, showing how the last loaded shell within the housing member may be ejected from the shell case by means of, for example, the third and fourth fingers of the right hand of the wearer.

In Figure 1, housing member **10** is shown to include spring **11** and follower **12** mechanically affixed or otherwise related to spring **11**. Follower **12** may have a substantially U-shaped configuration as shown and be provided with a relief area **13** to permit the cooperation therewith of guide element **14**. Guide element **14** may be provided with flanged end portion **15** which may be spot-welded, for example, to front face portion **16** of housing member **10**. By reason of the requirement of the attachment of flanged end portion **15** to front face portion **16** of housing member **10**, housing member **10** may itself be fabricated by the affixing together of two separate parts (of which front face portion **16** may comprise one part and the remainder of the housing comprise the second part). Belt ring elements **17** and **18** may be affixed last to the rear face portion **37** of housing member **10** during its fabrication process. The remainder of guide element **14** may comprise central portion **19** and channel portion **20**, to which L-brackets **21** and **22** may be affixed by means of spot-welding. Channel portion **20** cooperates with the rear face portion **37** to form a channel restricting shell progression to single file progression in the region thereof. Wing nuts **23** and **24**, for example, may cooperate with threaded shafts **25** and **26**, respectively, the ends of which are affixed to retaining member **27**. Compression springs **28** and **29** are mounted upon shafts **25** and **26** for exerting repulsion forces upon retaining member **27** with respect to L-brackets **21** and **22**. Retaining member **27** may comprise main portion **30**, shoulder portion **31**, and end portion **32**, the combination forming a unitary, contoured retaining member for accomplishing the appropriate retention of last loaded shell **33**. Lip portions **34** and **35** of housing member **10** operate as suitable supports for the last loaded shell within the housing and also to define the escape area **36** for shell ejection and also the finger admittance area (shown in Figure 2). It should be mentioned with reference to the spring loading means provided for follower **12** that spring **11** may consist either of a leaf spring (as shown) or a rectangular, loose coil spring of a conventional variety. Other types of spring arrangements might be employed with equal effectiveness.

Figure 2 illustrates a rear view of the apparatus of Figure 1, showing with particularity the delineation of finger admittance area **200** by lip portions **34** and **35** of the Figure 1 apparatus. The last loaded shell **33** is shown within housing member **10** in the region of finger admittance aperture **200**, ready for ejection.

Figure 3 illustrates the apparatus of Figure 1 when strapped on the belt **300** of the wearer, illustrating the manner in which the last loaded shell may be ejected from the instant shell case apparatus. Numbers **301** and **302** represent the third and fourth fingers, for example, of the right hand of the shell case wearer. It becomes apparent from the illustration of the apparatus in Figure 3 that by the slight exertion of pressure by the third and fourth fingers of the hand through finger admittance area **200** (of Figure 2) that the last loaded shell may be conveniently ejected from escape area **36** (see Figure 1).

Thus, from a consideration of the various figures, it becomes apparent that the present apparatus facilitates

loading and unloading of several spare shells therewithin. The design of the apparatus permits the enclosure of fifteen high speed rifle shells, for example, within an unusually small volume since, by virtue of the design of the guide element **14** (see Figure 1) the shells may be staggered throughout the major portion of the inner region of housing member **10**. And yet, by the unique design of guide element **14**, the several shells are channeled through a small space which allows them to be ejected one at a time, by the accomplishment of outward thrust upon the last loaded shell past retaining member 27 (in Figure 1). The easy manner in which shell ejection is accomplished, as illustrated in Figure 3 and the discussion relating thereto, is of prime importance; namely, by exerting by the third and fourth fingers, for example, of the hand when in a cupped disposition upon the last loaded shell, the shell will be ejected easily from its container. The various dimensions of the portable shell case of the present invention will of course vary with the caliber shell used and with the number of shells desired to be enclosed thereby.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from this invention in its broader aspects, and, therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. A shell case for containing shells or extra rounds of ammunition including, in combination: a housing member including a front face portion, a rear face portion, and first and second lip portions, said first and second lip portions defining lower, contiguous, shell ejection and finger admittance areas; a guide element disposed within said housing member and including a flanged end portion and an inclined central portion, said flanged end portion being affixed to said front face portion; a spring loaded retaining member disposed within said housing member substantially parallel to said first and second lip portions and in proximity with said shell ejection and said finger admittance areas; and a vertically translatable spring loaded follower disposed within said housing member and

adapted to cooperate with said guide element for routing shells within said housing member in single file relationship in the region of said retaining member.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said guide element also includes a channel portion contiguous with said inclined central portion, said channel portion cooperating with said rear face portion of said housing member to form a channel restricting shell progression to single file progression in the region thereof.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said retaining member is contoured to have a main portion, an inclined shoulder portion, and an end portion, all being adapted to cooperate with corresponding portions of a shell to be retained thereby.

4. Apparatus according to claim 2 in which said retaining member is contoured to have a main portion, an inclined shoulder portion, and an end portion, all being adapted to cooperate with corresponding portions of a shell to be retained thereby.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said follower has a relief area adapted to admit, progressively, said guide element therewithin for progressively lower dispositions of said follower within said housing member.

6. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said contiguous, shell ejection and finger admittance areas defined by said lip portions of said housing member are unitary.

7. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which at least one L-bracket is mounted upon said guide element in the region between said guide element and said front face portion of said housing member for mounting said spring loaded retaining member thereto.

8. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which first and second L-brackets are mounted upon said guide element in the region between said guide element and said front face portion of said housing member for mounting said spring loaded retaining member thereto.

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