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SAFETY CUTOUT FOR SHOTGUNS

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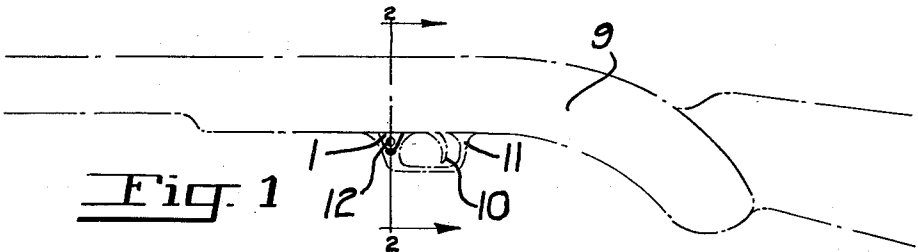


Fig. 1

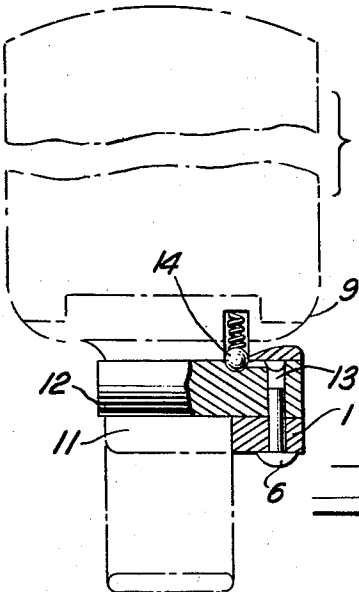


Fig. 2

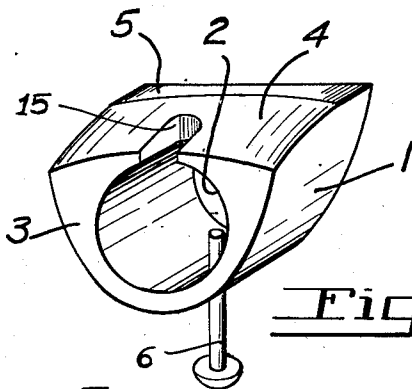


Fig. 3

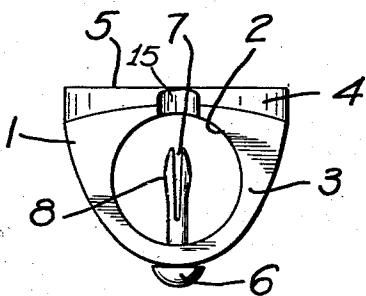


Fig. 5

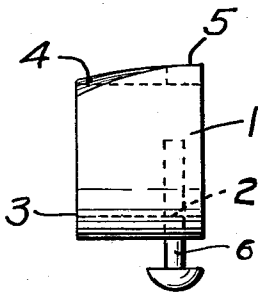


Fig. 4

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SAFETY CUTOUT FOR SHOTGUNS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 42—70)

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The present invention concerns skeet shooting, trapshooting, or the like, or more correctly, the shotgun used in those sports, and useful, of course, in field shooting. More specifically the present invention concerns a cut-out for the trigger lock of such a shotgun, by means of which the trigger lock may be securely held in unlocked position, when that is desired, yet removable so that the trigger lock may be maintained, particularly in field shooting, in locked position until such time as the gun is to be readied for firing.

In field shooting it is axiomatic that the gun must be kept "safe" until such time as the birds are expected to be flushed. Some shotguns, the Winchester model 12 for example, have a trigger lock in the form of a slide or pin mounted in the trigger guard ahead of the trigger, which will permit the gun to be carried ready to fire, but which will prevent firing so long as the trigger lock is pressed in, or to the right. In order to fire the gun the trigger lock must first be pushed out, or to the left, into protruding position. This can only be done by intention, and is hardly possible to do accidentally, because of its protected location close beneath the overhanging forward extension of the grip or stock. On the other hand, should the trigger lock be left unlocked, it protrudes to the left beyond the grip extension, and in the natural handling of the gun, or by contact with the hunter's clothing or other objects, it is quite likely to be pressed inwardly into "safe" or locked position. Should this occur in skeet shooting or trapshooting, however, the gun will not fire when the "bird" is released, and such a lost bird counts as a "miss." In the latter type of shooting, under controlled conditions, there is a minimum of danger if the gun is not kept locked. Accordingly, when the gun is to be used in skeet or trapshooting, it is desirable to provide means to prevent accidental or unconscious movement of the trigger lock into locked or "safe" position, to the end that, while the shooter is running his string of shots, the gun will always remain ready to fire. The provision of means to this end is the primary object of this invention.

It is, furthermore, an object of the invention to provide a device of the general nature indicated, which shall be simple, small, and light, so that it may be readily carried in the pocket, to be available when needed, and yet impose no burden upon the hunter who carries it.

Additionally it is an object of the invention to provide a device of the nature indicated, which can be quickly and easily applied and as readily dismounted from the gun, without the use of tools.

With these and similar objects in mind, as will shortly appear, the present invention

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comprises the novel safety cut-out for use with such a shotgun, as shown in the accompanying drawings in a presently preferred form, and as will be more fully described and defined in this specification and in the claims, respectively.

Figure 1 is a general elevation of the trigger portion of such a shotgun in dot-dash lines, showing in full lines the safety cut-out applied thereto.

Figure 2 is an enlarged transverse view, somewhat in the nature of a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, illustrating the safety cut-out and the manner of its mounting upon the trigger lock, and with relation to the gun.

Figure 3 is a further enlarged isometric view of the safety cut-out detached from the gun, and Figure 4 is an elevation of the same.

Figure 5 is an elevation from a viewpoint 90° removed from that of Figure 4, illustrating a slightly modified form of the safety cut-out.

The shotgun includes the grip 9 which is part of the stock, the trigger 10, and the trigger guard 11. The trigger lock 12 takes the form of a generally cylindrical pin mounted in the forward part of the trigger guard 11, and slidable transversely of the trigger guard between locked and unlocked position. In the locked position its two ends project slightly, and generally by equal amounts, at opposite sides of the trigger guard, closely beneath and protected by the lower part of the adjacent grip or stock portion 9. In the unlocked position the left end of the trigger lock 12 projects materially beyond the trigger guard, and its right end is nearly flush with that side of the trigger guard. A transverse bore 13 is drilled transversely through this left end of the trigger lock 12, its normal function being to receive a ball click 14 which is mounted immediately above in the stock or in the barrel mount, for the purpose of assisting in retaining the trigger lock in the locked position.

The safety cut-out, which is the subject of this invention, consists essentially of a small block or sleeve 1 which has a bore 2 of a size to fit snugly over the end of the trigger lock 12 which projects when the latter is in unlocked position. Externally the block 1 is shaped to seat against the side face of the trigger guard 11, and to fit beneath the stock or grip 9. Thus its end face 3 seats against the side face of the trigger guard 11, and it may be beveled at 4 and formed with a substantially flat upper surface 5 to fit beneath the stock. A slot 15 straddles the ball click 14, hence the operation of the latter is not interfered with.

It is desirable to provide means other than merely the snug fit of the safety cut-out upon the trigger lock, to retain the safety cut-out upon the trigger lock. Preferably a retaining

pin 6 is employed to this end, this being received in the block 1 in position where, with the block or cut-out properly seated, the retaining pin 6 will register with and will enter the lower end of the transverse bore 13, in the manner shown in Fig. 2. The retaining pin 6 fits sufficiently closely and snugly within the bore 13 that it will not drop therefrom. Moreover, if a tighter fit is desired, the inner end of the retaining pin 6 might be slit, as indicated at 7 in Figure 5, so that its bulged tip 8 may spring inwardly to enter and press outwardly against the walls of the bore 13.

It will now be evident that when the safety cut-out is desired to be used the trigger lock 12 is pressed into unlocked position projecting from the trigger guard to the left. Now the safety cut-out 1 is applied to it, and, ordinarily, the retaining pin 6 is inserted within the bore, being properly located for such engagement by the seating of the safety cut-out. Now it is impossible to press the trigger lock 12 inwardly toward locked position, and so the gun remains always unlocked. Whenever the shooter is through, it is a simple matter to withdraw the retaining pin 6, and then to slip the sleeve or cut-out 1 off the trigger lock, and the latter may then be pressed inwardly or toward the right side of the gun to lock the gun.

The safety cut-out is small, light, and inconspicuous, and yet serves its purpose admirably. It may be carried ready for application at any time its use is desired, and may readily be detached and put in the pocket when shooting conditions are such that the gun should be carried locked. It may be made in various forms of construction, the essential thing being that it fits upon the projecting trigger lock, and seats against the trigger guard, thereby preventing depression, or dextral movement, of the trigger lock.

I claim as my invention:

1. A safety cut-out, for application to shotguns which have a trigger lock transversely slidable in a trigger guard, said cut-out comprising a sleeve formed and arranged when installed to embrace that end of the trigger lock which projects when slid into unlocked position, and of a length such that, when so embracing the lock, to engage such trigger guard, and when thus engaging the trigger guard, substantially enclosing the trigger lock, and means mounted on the sleeve and constructed and arranged to engage the trigger lock of the gun to prevent inward movement of the trigger lock into locked position.

2. A safety cut-out, for application to shotguns which have a trigger lock transversely slidable in a trigger guard, said cut-out comprising a sleeve formed and arranged when installed to embrace that end of such trigger lock which projects when slid into unlocked position, and of a length such that, when so embracing the lock, to engage the trigger guard, and when thus engaging the trigger guard, constructed and arranged to substantially enclose the trigger lock, and means engageable with said sleeve and constructed and arranged to removably engage the trigger lock to secure the sleeve in such position upon the trigger lock and thereby prevent inward movement of the trigger lock into locked position.

3. A safety cut-out, for application to shotguns which have a transversely bored, generally cylindrical trigger lock disposed transversely of and slidable in a trigger guard in the direction of the trigger's lock cylinder, between retracted

and projecting position, said cut-out comprising a sleeve constructed and arranged so that, when installed it will embrace that end of such trigger lock which projects when the trigger lock is slid into unlocked position, and a retaining pin mounted in said sleeve and constructed and arranged to be received within the transverse bore of the trigger lock, thereby to retain the sleeve upon the projecting end of the trigger lock, the sleeve being of such length that, when so retained, its end will engage the trigger guard to prevent inward movement of the trigger lock into locked position.

4. A safety cut-out, for application to shotguns which have a trigger lock transversely slidable in a trigger guard, and located adjacent a stock, and wherein such trigger lock has a bore disposed transversely of its length, and so located that it is outwardly of such trigger guard when the trigger lock is projected in unlocked position, said cut-out comprising a block bored in a manner such that when installed it will snugly fit over the projecting end of such trigger lock of such a shotgun, and externally shaped and arranged to seat, when so fitted, upon the thus-projecting trigger guard thereof and against the underside of such stock, and a retaining pin mounted in said block, and positioned therein to be received, when the block is so seated, within the transverse bore of the trigger lock of the gun, to prevent inward movement of the latter from its outwardly projected, unlocked position.

5. A safety cut-out, for application to shotguns which have a trigger lock transversely slidable in a trigger guard and just beneath an overhanging stock, and wherein such trigger lock is retained in position by a ball-click engaging its upper portion and mounted in such trigger guard, the trigger lock having a bore disposed transversely of its length for registry with such ball-click, and so located that it is outwardly of such trigger guard when the trigger lock is projected in unlocked position, said cut-out comprising a block bored in a manner such that, when installed, it will fit snugly over the projecting end of the trigger lock of such a shotgun, said block being tapered at its upper, inner portion in such manner that, when so installed, it will avoid contact with the stock and enable its inner face to seat against the trigger guard, its upper, inner portion being also slotted, outwardly from its inner face, in such manner that when so installed it will straddle the ball-click, a hole in the lower portion of the block located where, upon installation of the block in the manner described, said hole is in registry with the trigger lock's transverse bore, and a retaining pin received in said hole and constructed and arranged to be received in such transverse bore to retain the block in installed position.

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