July 10, 1962 I. H. FOWLE 3,043,487

BOX FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

Filed Oct. 29, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

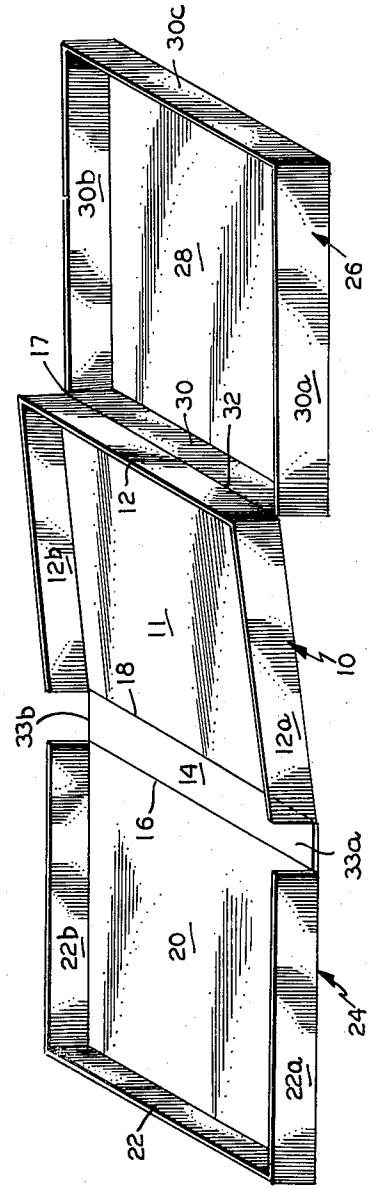

FIG. 1

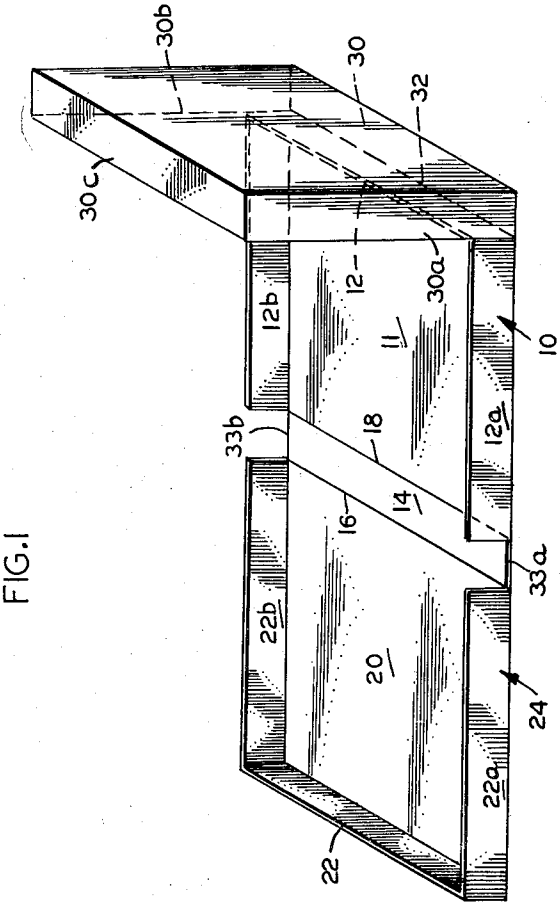

FIG. 2

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Filed Oct. 29, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

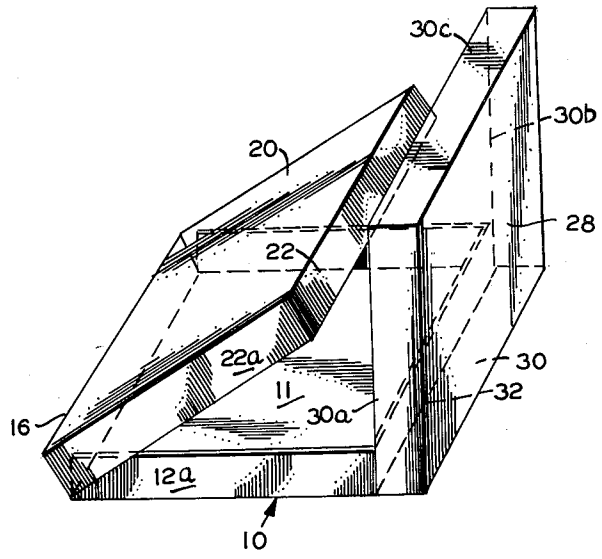

FIG. 3

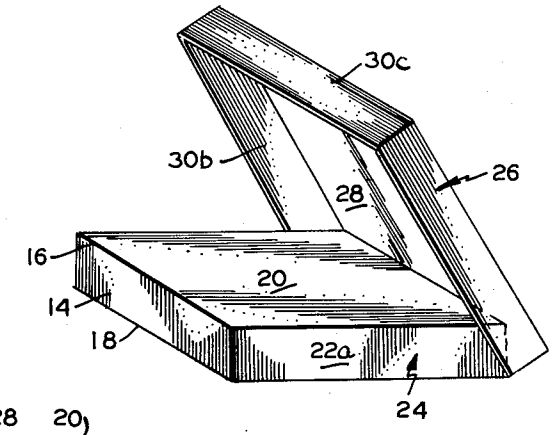

FIG. 4

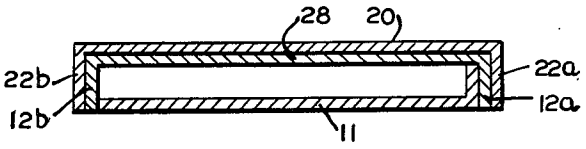

FIG. 5

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BOX FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—6)

This invention relates to improvements in boxes or containers and in particular to boxes of the type employed to package sensitive photographic elements such as light sensitive films and plates.

The construction of boxes or containers suitable for packaging light sensitive photographic materials presents certain unique and specific problems. For instance, it is, of course, absolutely necessary that such containers be completely light proof since, otherwise, sensitive plates would become fogged. However, such containers must also be easily opened in the darkroom. This means that the construction of the box must be such that it is readily opened and the contents readily removed using only the sense of touch. Furthermore, it is highly desirable that any unused film can be replaced in the box without any intricate or involved sealing procedure to exclude light along creases or folds.

Although boxes of various types and construction are known which are fairly practicable, it is believed that the present construction provides a box having all the novel features and requirements for the above stated uses.

It is, therefore, the purpose and object of this invention to provide a box for sensitive photographic materials embodying the aforementioned desirable features.

A further object is to provide a box for sensitive photographic materials which is composed of a few simple parts which is easy to assemble.

Other objects will become apparent as the description proceeds.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, constituting a part of this application and in which like numerals designate like parts throughout the same and in which

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing the box in the fully open position;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing the inner telescoping lid and body member in an open position with the cover in a substantially upright position relative to the body member;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the folding box showing the inner telescoping lid in a partially open position and the cover in a position substantially perpendicular to the body member;

FIG. 4 shows the inner telescoping lid closed over the body member and the cover in a partially open position; and

FIG. 5 is a side view in section of the closed box.

Referring now to the drawing, **10** designates the tray which comprises a base **11** and three upright rigid side walls **12**, **12***a* and **12***b*, respectively. The tray **10** is adapted to receive or hold the contents of the box. The fourth side wall **14** of the tray **10** is foldable along the score lines **16** and **18** respectively and is integral with the base **20** and the side walls **22**, **22***a* and **22***b* of the inner telescoping lid **24**. Reference numeral **24** designates the inner telescoping lid which has the same construction as the tray in that it has a base **20** and the rigid side walls **22**, **22***a* and **22***b*. The fourth foldable side wall **14** of the tray **10** is common to the tray and telescoping lid being joined to the tray along score line **16** and to the lid along score line **18**. The side walls **12***a* and **12***b* of the tray are separated from the side walls **22***a* and **22***b* of the lid by cut out portions **33***a* and **33***b* having a width

equal to the width of the common foldable side wall **14**. Said cut out portions, as is evident, permit folding of the lid into the tray. The cover **26** comprises a base **28** and rigid depending side walls **30**, **30***a*, **30***b* and **30***c*. A hinged joint **32** connects the upper edge of side **30** of the cover **26** to the lower edge of side **12** of the inner telescoping lid **24**. The construction of the hinge joint **32** comprises a flexible strip such as paper or cloth or similar material securely bonded to the outer surface of side **12** and the lower surface of base **11**.

The operation of the box is as follows:

Any sensitive material, susceptible to fogging in the manner described above, is placed in the tray **10** and the inner telescoping lid **24** is closed over the side walls **12**, **12***a* and **12***b* of the tray **10** as indicated in FIG. 4. The cover **26** is then folded to closed position by pivoting along the hinged joint **32**.

When it is desired to remove the contents from the box, the aforesaid operation describing the closing of the box is carried out in reverse order.

The score lines **16** and **18**, the purpose of which is to facilitate the closing and opening of the box are preferably formed by shallowly incising the box material with a sharp cutting edge.

A highly important and valuable feature of the box is the fact that the cover can be completely opened while leaving the inner lid **14** tightly closed thus preventing exposure of the contents of the tray if the cover is inadvertently opened in the light.

The box is readily constructed of economic material and is furthermore simple to use. When the box is fully opened and placed on a level surface, the tray **10** is inclined from the cover **26** toward the inner lid **24** as shown in FIG. 1. This feature is especially valuable in a darkroom since the inclined body tray is instantly identified by touch so that the sensitive photographic elements can easily be removed or replaced in total darkness. This inclination, under darkroom conditions, of the tray **10** enables a darkroom operator to distinguish, by the sense of touch, the inner lid **24** from the cover **26**. Consequently, the lid is not mistaken for the cover when closing up the box.

I claim:

1. A rectangular box of light-tight construction for the packaging and handling of light-sensitive photographic sheet material comprising a tray having a base and rigid side walls extending perpendicularly therefrom on three sides, a lid including a base and rigid side walls extending therefrom perpendicularly on three sides, a side wall common to both said tray and said lid, said wall being formed integral with said base and scored whereby said lid may be closed to telescopically fit inside said tray and a cover including a base and side walls adapted to fit over said tray and closed lid, said cover being hingedly supported at the bottom edge of said tray, whereby upon placement of said box on a level surface with the cover fully opened, said tray assumes an inclined position for easy access to said light-sensitive material.

2. A box as defined in claim 1 wherein said hinged support comprises a flexible adhesive strip attached to one side wall of said tray and to one side wall of said cover.

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