March 14, 1967 A. SILVERBERG 3,308,835

COMPACT

Filed June 9, 1964

FIG. 1

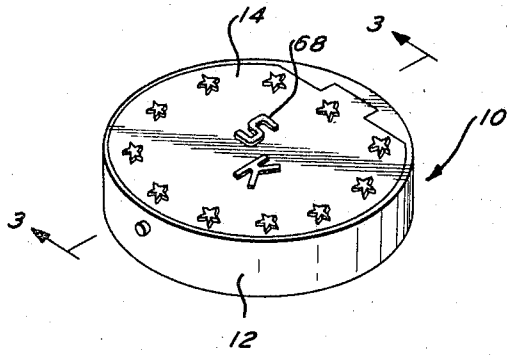



FIG. 2

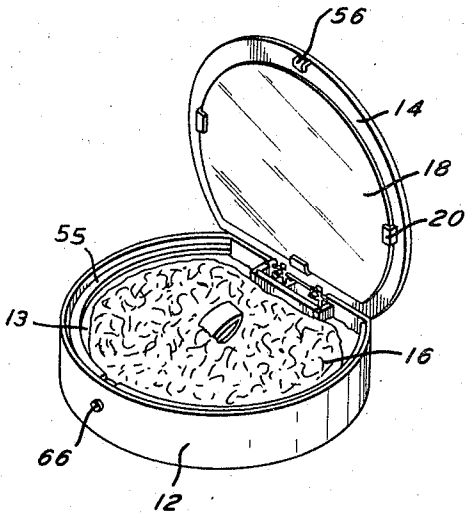



FIG. 3

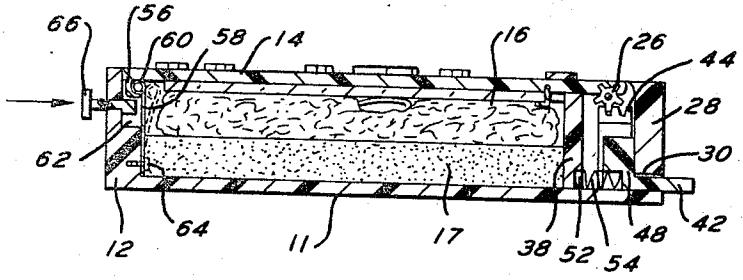



FIG. 6

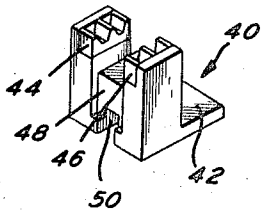



FIG. 4

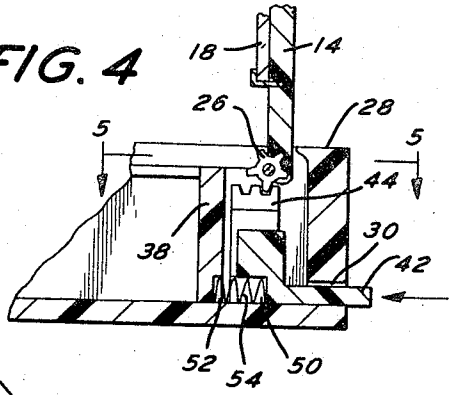
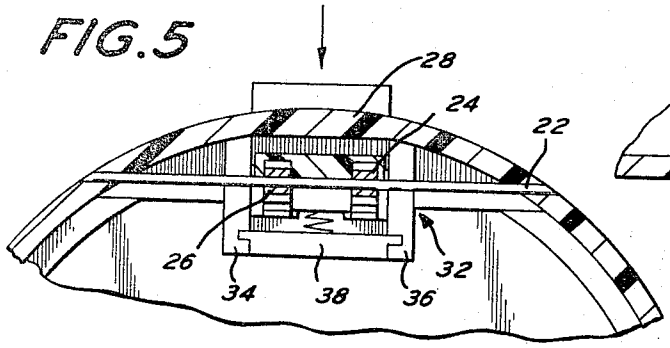



FIG. 5




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# COMPACT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 132—83)

This invention relates to a case for carrying small articles or the like and more particularly to one which is especially adapted to hold toilet articles such as a powder puff and powder.

This invention has as an object the provision of a case of the character indicated which can be opened in a rapid and efficient manner.

A further object of this invention is to provide a case which can be held and opened in one hand of the user.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a case having a lid which is adapted to be raised by a sliding actuator.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a case including a safety latch for preventing indiscriminate raising of the lid of the case when the case is subjected to jostling in a lady's handbag or the like.

Other objects will appear from the disclosure which follows hereinafter.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings a form which is presently preferred; it being understood, however, that this invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the case comprising the subject matter of the instant invention and illustrating the case with its lid closed.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view similar to FIGURE 1, but illustrating the case with its lid in an open disposition.

FIGURE 3 is a cross sectional view taken substantially along the plane indicated by the line 3—3 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged detailed sectional view of the righthand portion of the case shown in FIGURE 3 and illustrating a slide mechanism for raising the lid of the case.

FIGURE 5 is a cross sectional view taken substantially along the plane indicated by the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the slide actuator comprising a portion of the mechanism for raising the lid of the case.

The case to be described herein is especially useful for holding small articles. While the case has been illustrated as a compact for carrying women's toilet articles, it should be understood that its use is not so limited . The case can be used for other special purposes such as holding pills and the like, and is an article of general utility.

The case of the present invention is specifically designed to be opened by one hand. Due to this construction, the other hand of the user is free for using the contents of the case when it is desirable to maintain the lid of the case open.

Referring in greater detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals indicate like elements, the case of the present invention is generally designated by the numeral **10**. The case **10** is in the nature of a box including a bottom wall **11**, an upstanding generally circular peripheral wall **12**, an open top **13**.

A lid **14** is pivotably secured to the box intermediate opposed portions of the peripheral wall as shown most clearly in FIGURE 5. The lid **14** is adapted to close the open top.

A hinge pin **22** secured adjacent one end of the lid **14** has its ends journalled in opposed portions of the upstanding peripheral wall **12**. Fixedly secured to the hinge pin



**22** adjacent its mid portion are a pair of spaced pinions **24** and **26**.

A housing generally designated by the numeral **32** is provided in the interior of the case **10**. The housing **32** includes a pair of parallel side walls **34** and **36** projecting outwardly from a portion **28** of the upstanding peripheral wall **12**. Supported intermediate the side walls **34** and **36** is a front wall **38** substantially parallel to the peripheral wall portion **28**. The front wall **38** completes the housing **32** and provides a substantially rectangular enclosure within the interior of the case **10**.

A slide actuator generally designated by the numeral **40** is placed within the housing **32**. An elongated slot **30** is provided along the lower end of the peripheral wall portion **28**. The slide actuator **40** includes a cross bar **42** adapted to be seated along the bottom wall **11** of the case and to protrude through the slot **30**.

The slide actuator **40** is also provided with a pair of parallel posts terminating in rack teeth **44** and **46**. Rack teeth **44** and **46** are placed in meshing engagement with the pinions **26** and **24** respectively projecting downwardly from the lid **14**.

Intermediate the racks **44** and **46** is a stop projection **48**. The projection **48** limits the extent of movement of the cross-bar **42** through the slot **30** by abutment with the peripheral wall portion **28** as shown in FIGURE 3. The front face of the stop **48** includes a notch **50**. The rear face of the front wall of the housing **32** is also provided with a notch **52** in axial alignment with the notch **50**. A coil spring **54** is compressed and disposed within the aligned notches **50** and **52**. The coil spring **54** urges the slide actuator **40** towards the peripheral wall portion **28**.

FIGURE 3 illustrates the position of the slide actuator when the lid is closed. To open the lid **14**, as illustrated in FIGURE 4, it is only necessary to push the cross-bar **42** inwardly to compress the coil spring **54**. This movement of the slide actuator **40** will cause the racks **44** and **46** to rotate the pinions **26** and **24** respectively. Rotation of the pinions will cause rotation of the hinge pin **22** and the lid **14** will be raised. Release of pressure on the cross-bar **42**, will automatically result in the closing of the lid **14**. This is, the coil spring **54** will urge the slide actuator **40** back to the position illustrated in FIGURE 3. The racks **44** and **46** will rotate the pinions **26** and **24** to close the lid under the urging of the spring **54**. When closed, the lid **14** is adapted to seat upon a radially inwardly extending peripheral flange **55** secured to the upstanding peripheral wall **12**.

A safety latch is also provided for holding the lid **14** in a secure, closed position. The latch will preclude inadvertent opening of the lid **14** by accidential movement of the slide actuator **40**.

The latch comprises an upstanding leaf spring **58** secured by means of a fastener **64** to the peripheral wall **12**. At its top end, the leaf spring **58** is rolled to form a bead **60**. The lid **14** is provided with a latch keeper **56**. The latch keeper **56** includes a downwardly extending projection terminating in a radially inwardly extending curved seat for the bead **60** on the leaf spring **58**. A recess **62** is cut in the upstanding peripheral wall **12** and peripheral flange **55** for receiving the latch keeper **56**. When the lid **14** is closed, the latch keeper **56** will contact the bead **60** and cam the leaf spring **58** to the position shown in phantom in FIGURE 3. The leaf spring **58** will then return to its former mode and the bead **60** will seat on the curved seat of the latch keeper.

A latch actuator **66**, accessible from the exterior of the case **10** is reciprocally supported on the upstanding peripheral wall **12**. The latch actuator **66** has a portion extending into the recess **62**. Upon movement of the

latch actuator **66** in the direction of the arrow shown in FIGURE 3, it will contact the leaf spring **58** and remove the bead **60** from the latch keeper **56**. In this manner, the lid **14** can then be opened.

It will now be apparent that the case **10** may be held in the palm of the user's hand. Pressure can be applied simultaneously to the cross-bar **42** and latch actuator **66** to raise the lid **14**. By maintaining this pressure, the lid will remain in its opened disposition.

Since one hand is free for using the contents of the case **10**, the case is ideal for use as a compact. Therefore, a mirror **18** may be held by L-shaped clips **20** on the underside of the lid **14**. Powder **17** may be disposed in an article receiving chamber defined between the upstanding peripheral wall **12** and the housing **32**. The powder puff **16** may be laid upon the powder **17**. The user may remove the powder puff from the open case and apply make-up to her face while using the mirror **18**.

If desired, the lid or any other portion of the case **10** may be supplied with indicia such as indicated at **68** to provide the case with an attractive appearance.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof and, accordingly, reference should be made to the appended claims, rather than to the foregoing specification as indicating the scope of the invention.

I claim:

**1.** A case for carrying small articles comprising a box having an open top, a bottom opposite said open top, and an upstanding peripheral wall connected to said bottom, a lid pivotably secured to said box intermediate opposed portions of said peripheral wall adapted to close said open top, a rod having its ends journaled in opposed portions of said upstanding peripheral wall, at least one rotatable gear fixedly connected to said rod, said rod being fixedly connected to said lid, a slide actuator slidably supported on the bottom of said box for raising said lid, said slide actuator including a cross-bar protruding through an aperture in a portion of said upstanding peripheral wall, gear teeth upwardly projecting from said actuator in meshing engagement with said rotatable gear on said rod for rotating said rod and thereby moving said lid, means within said box for urging said cross-bar outwardly of said box through the aperture in said peripheral wall portion and biasing said lid to a closed position on said open top, and latch means associated with another portion of said upstanding peripheral wall and said lid for holding said lid in a closed position on said open top whereby said cross-bar and latch means must be actuated to open said lid.

**2.** A case in accordance with claim **1** wherein said latch means includes a keeper projecting downwardly from said lid, a leaf spring projecting upwardly from the interior of said box, catch means on one end of said leaf spring



receivable by said keeper for holding said lid in closed position on said open top, and means reciprocably mounted on said upstanding peripheral wall for flexing said leaf spring to remove said catch means from said keeper, said last-named means being accessible from the exterior of said box.

**3.** A case in accordance with claim **2** wherein said reciprocable means is mounted on a portion of said peripheral wall directly opposite from the aperture in said peripheral wall.

**4.** A case for carrying small articles comprising a box having an open top, a bottom opposite said open top, and an upstanding peripheral wall connected to said bottom, a lid pivotably secured to said box intermediate opposed portions of said peripheral wall adapted to close said open top, a rod having its ends journaled in opposed portions of said upstanding peripheral wall, rotatable gears fixedly connected to said rod, rotation of said gears operatable to pivot said lid, a housing within said box, said housing including a segment of said peripheral wall and an interior wall within said box connected to said peripheral wall segment, a slide actuator supported on the bottom of said box, said slide actuator including a cross-bar protruding through an aperture in said peripheral wall segment, gear teeth projecting upwardly from said actuator in meshing engagement with said rotatable gears on said rod, a spring member extending between said interior wall and slide actuator for biasing said cross-bar outwardly through the aperture in the peripheral wall segment and for biasing said lid to a closed position on said open top, means on said actuator for limiting the extent of movement of said cross-bar through the aperture in the peripheral wall segment, latch means associated with another segment of said peripheral wall of said box and said lid for holding said lid in closed position on said open top independent of said slide actuator, said latch means including a keeper projecting downwardly from said lid, a leaf spring projecting upwardly from the interior of said box, catch means on one end of said leaf spring receivable by said keeper for holding said lid in closed position on said open top, and means reciprocably mounted on said upstanding peripheral wall for flexing said leaf spring to remove said catch means from said keeper, said last-named means being accessible from the exterior of said box.

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