United States Patent [19]

Karls et al.

[11] **3,859,911**

[45] **Jan. 14, 1975**

[54] **COMPACTOR**

[75] Inventors: **Robert F. Karls**, Hales Corner; **James H. Enright**, Racine, both of Wis.

[73] Assignee: **Emerson Electric Co.**, St. Louis, Mo.

[22] Filed: **Apr. 23, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **353,922**

Related U.S. Application Data

[62] Division of Ser. No. 177,385, Sept. 2, 1971, Pat. No. 3,772,984.

[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **100/215**, 100/229 A, 232/43.2

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **B30b 15/30**

[58] **Field of Search**.... 100/215, 255, 229 R, 229 A, 100/245; 232/43.1, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4; 141/71, 141/73, 80; 53/124 B; 292/158, 157, 156, 302

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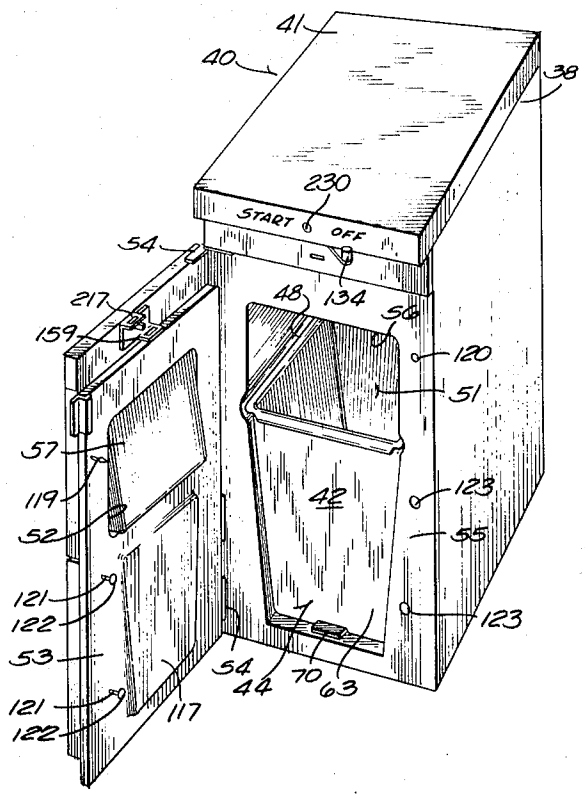
Primary Examiner—Billy J. Wilhite

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Joseph P. House, Jr.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A trash compactor with a housing having a head space at its top, a trash container at its bottom and a trash loading space between the head space and the trash container, a trash loading port in the side of the housing aligned with the trash loading space, a pressure platen and a lazy tong or scissors extension linkage mounted at the top of the housing and operable to move the platen between one or more advanced positions in which the extension linkage spans across the trash loading space and the platen is imposing compacting pressure on trash within the container, and a retracted position in which the extension linkage and platen are withdrawn into said head space, thus leaving the intervening trash loading space open for loading trash into the container through said loading port and without having to withdraw the container from the housing for loading purposes.

1 Claim, 32 Drawing Figures



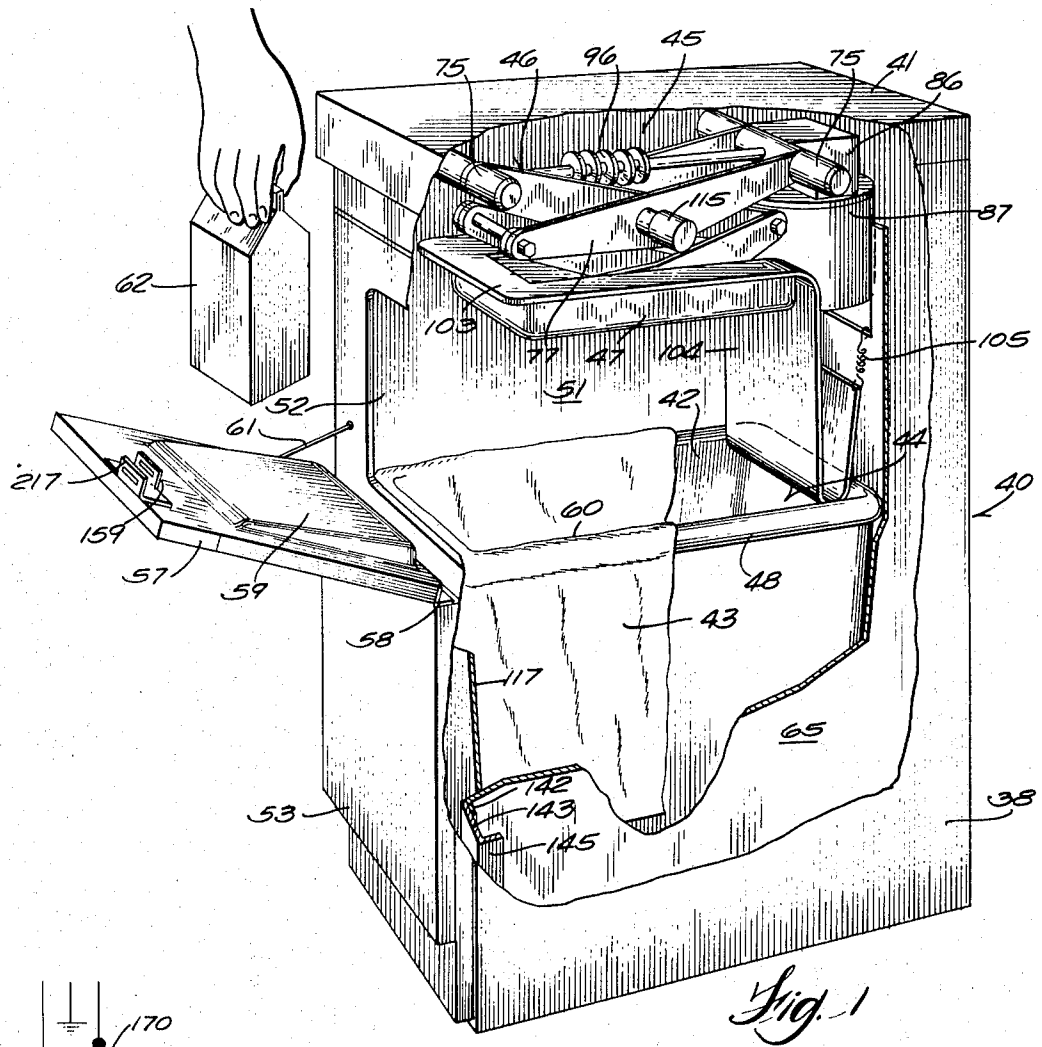

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Fig. 1

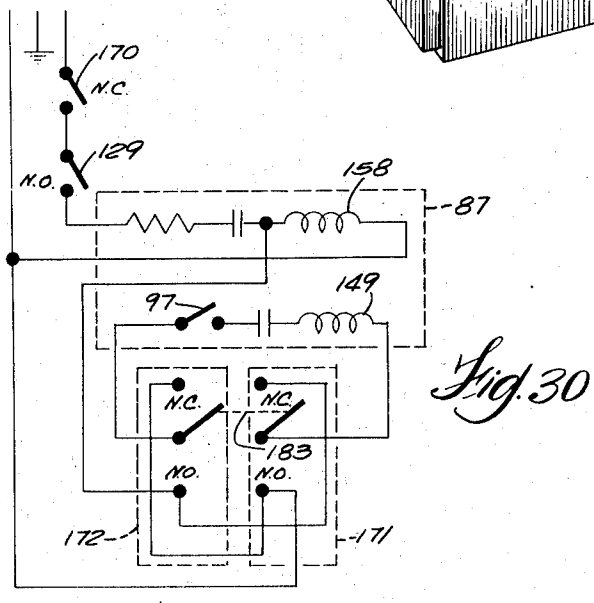

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Fig. 3a

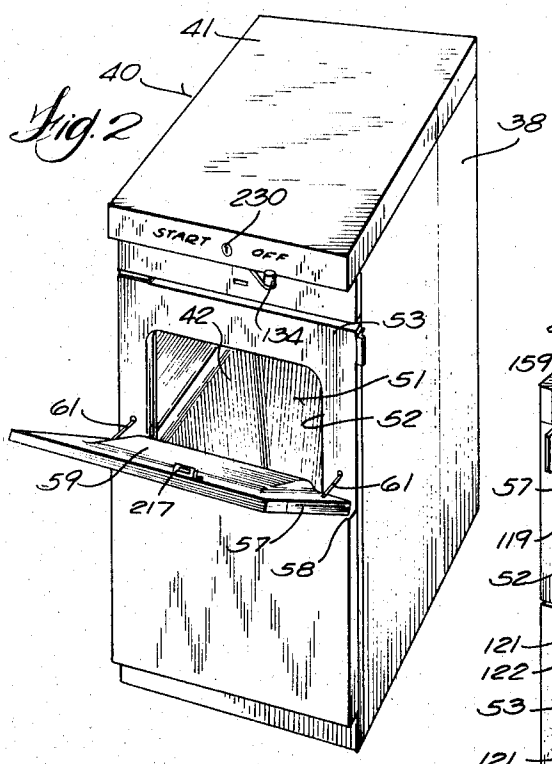


Fig. 2

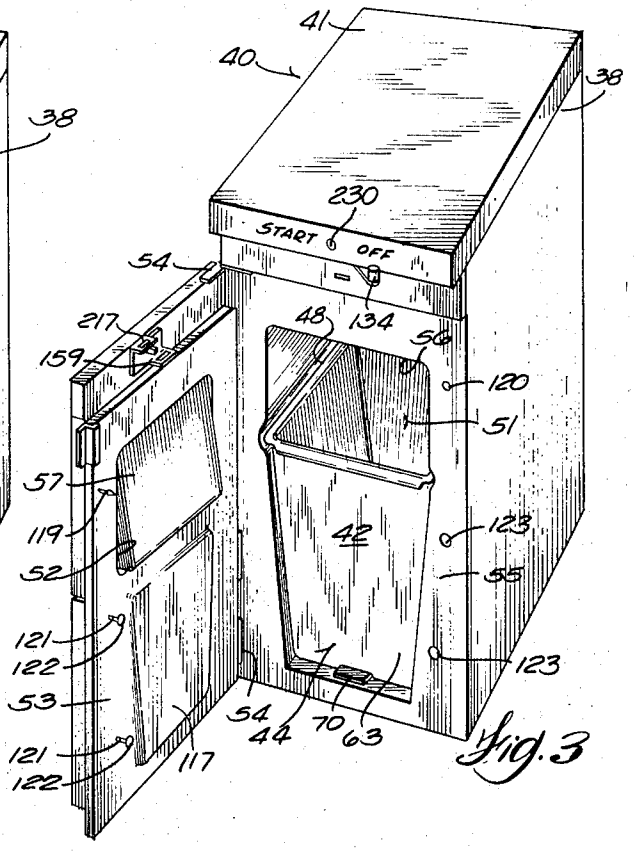


Fig. 3

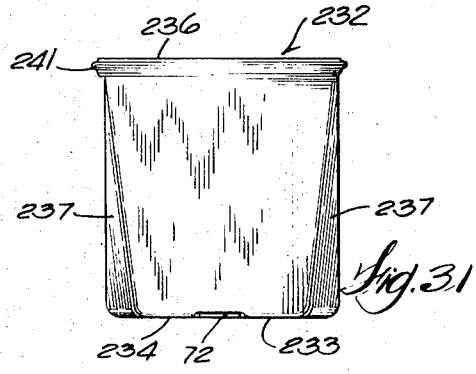


Fig. 31

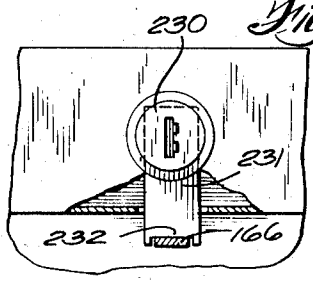


Fig. 23

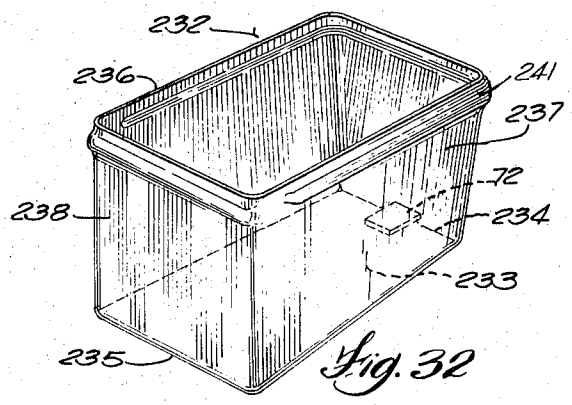


Fig. 32

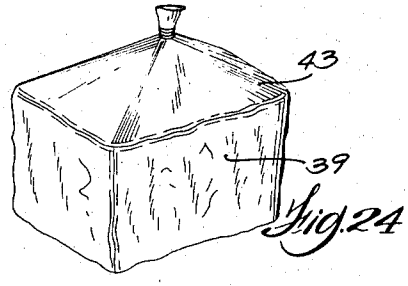


Fig. 24

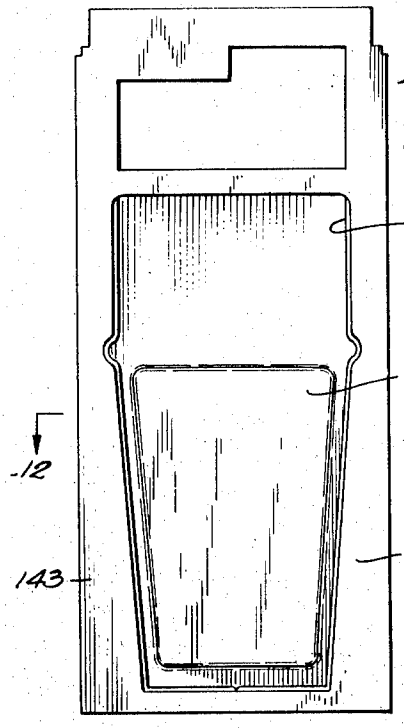


Fig. 11

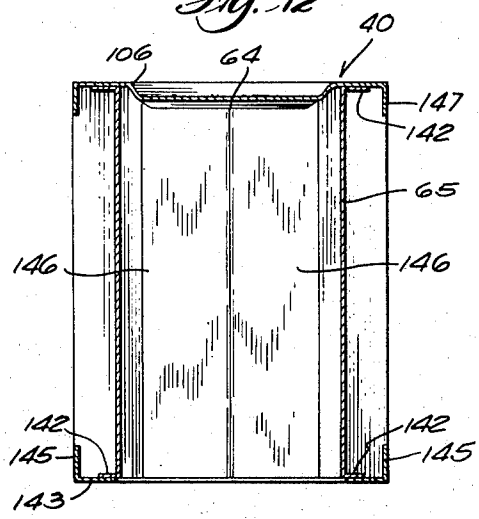


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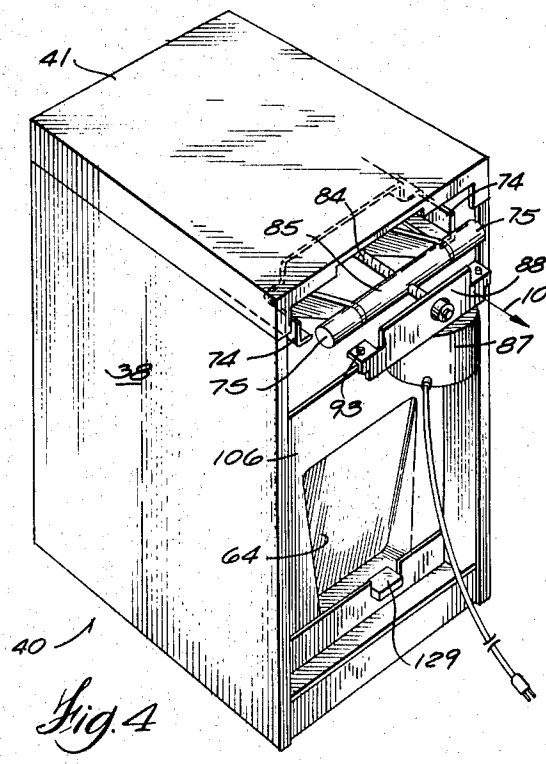


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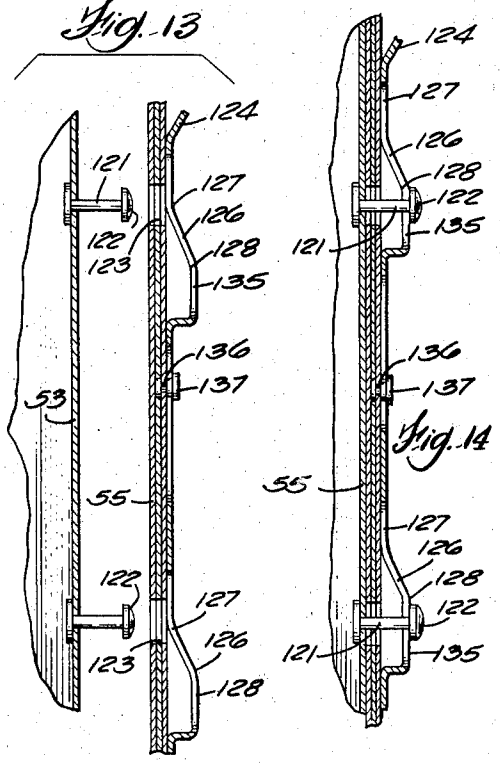


Fig. 13

Fig. 14

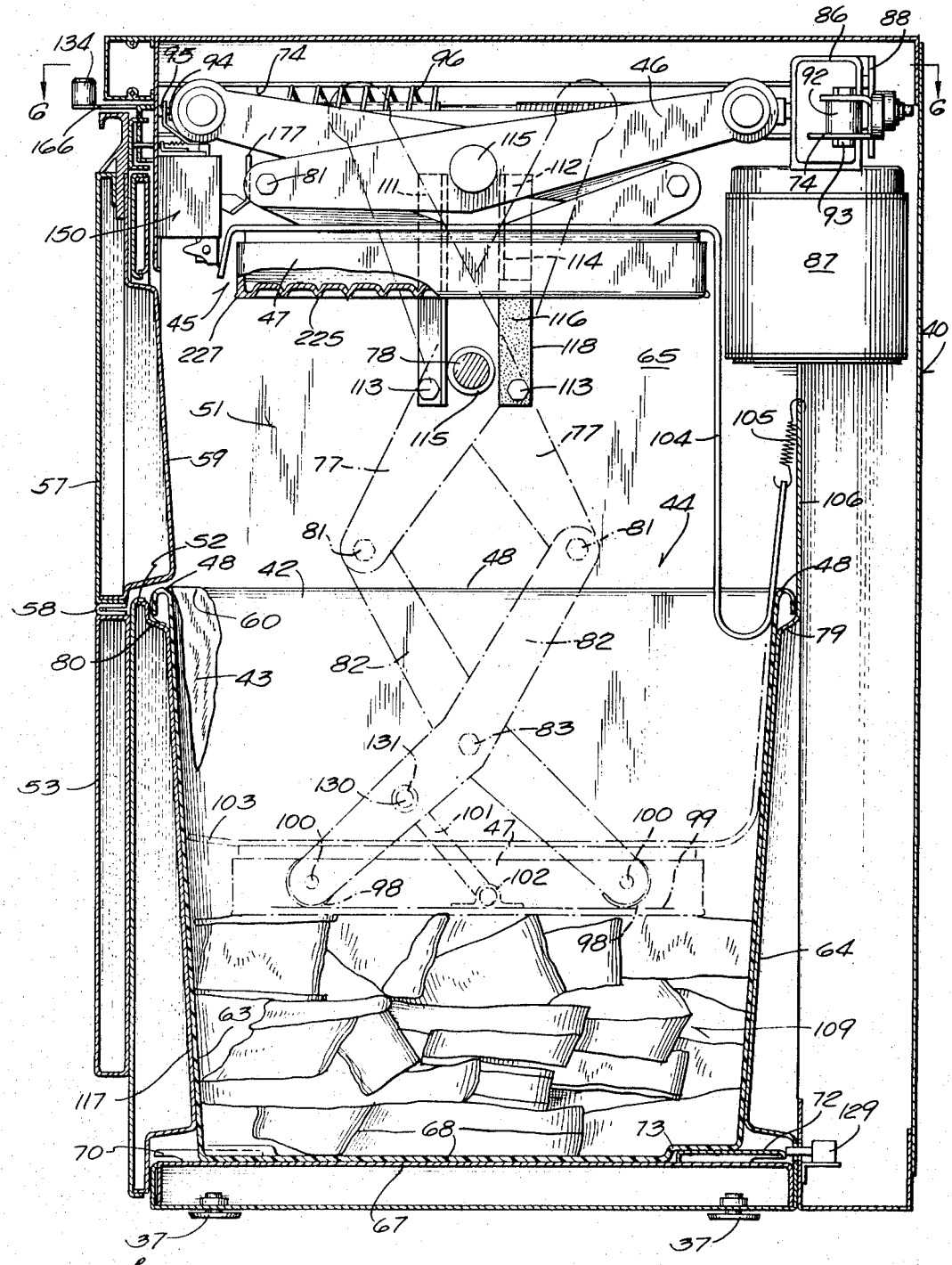
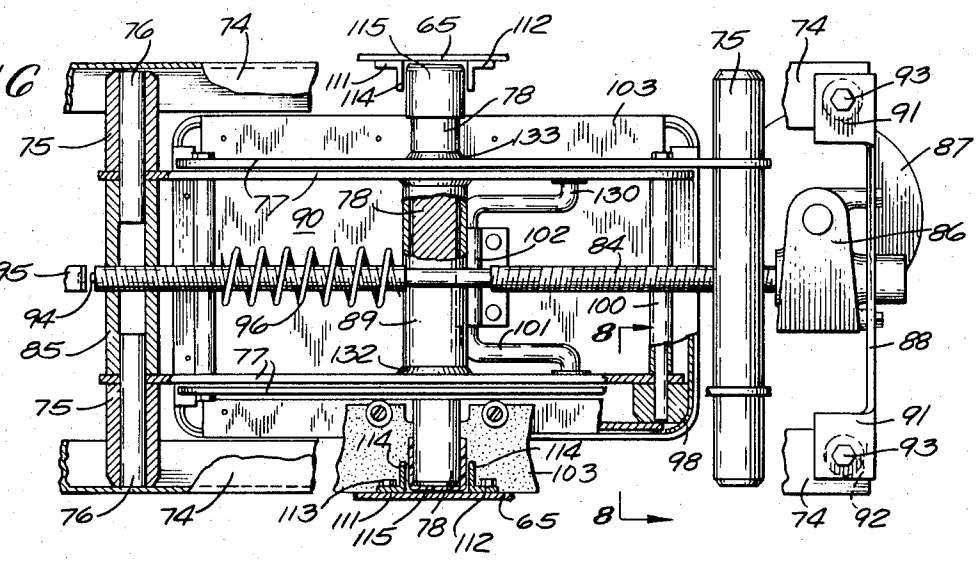

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Fig. 5

Fig. 6



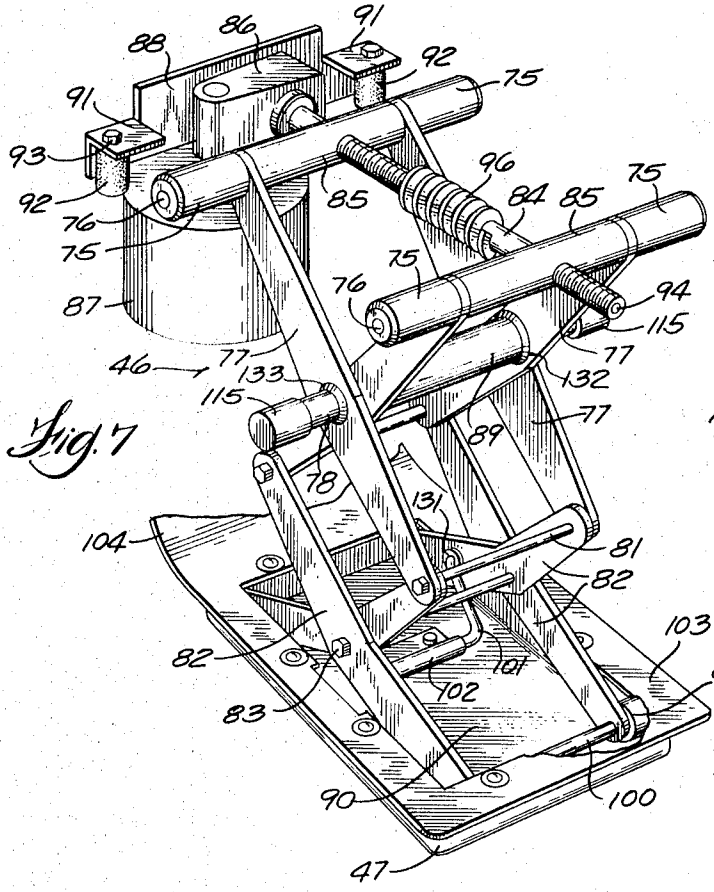


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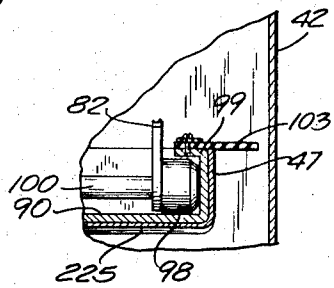


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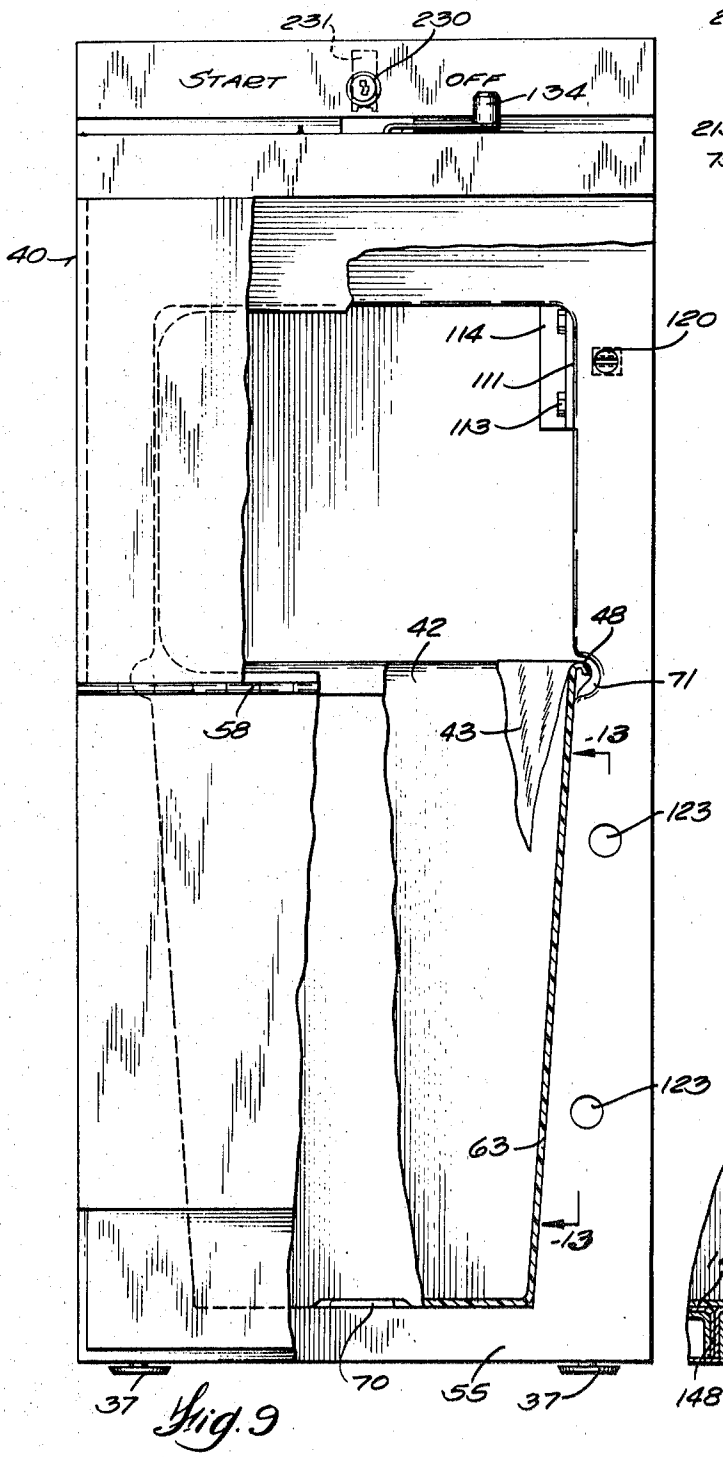

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Fig. 9

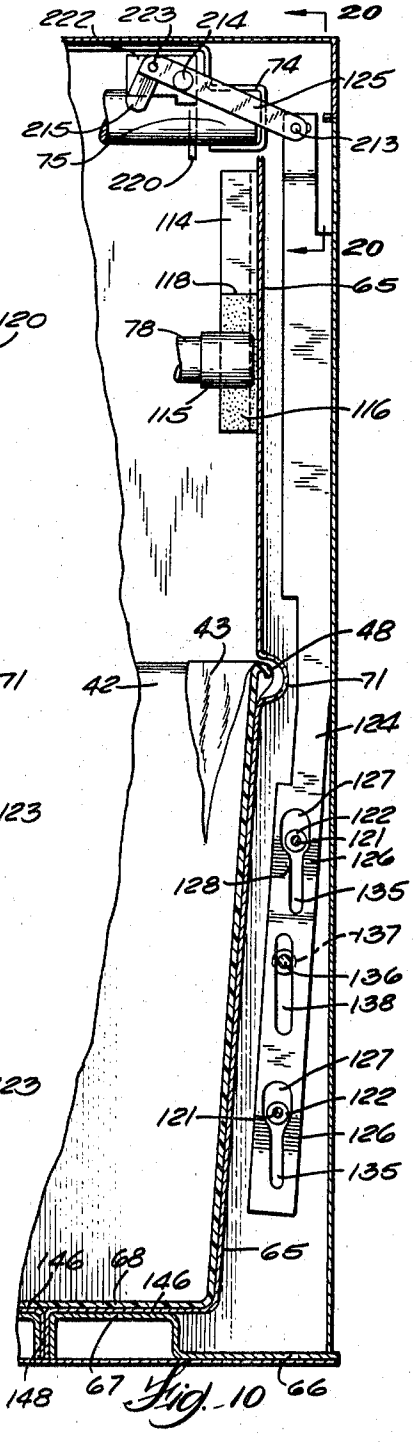

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Fig. 10

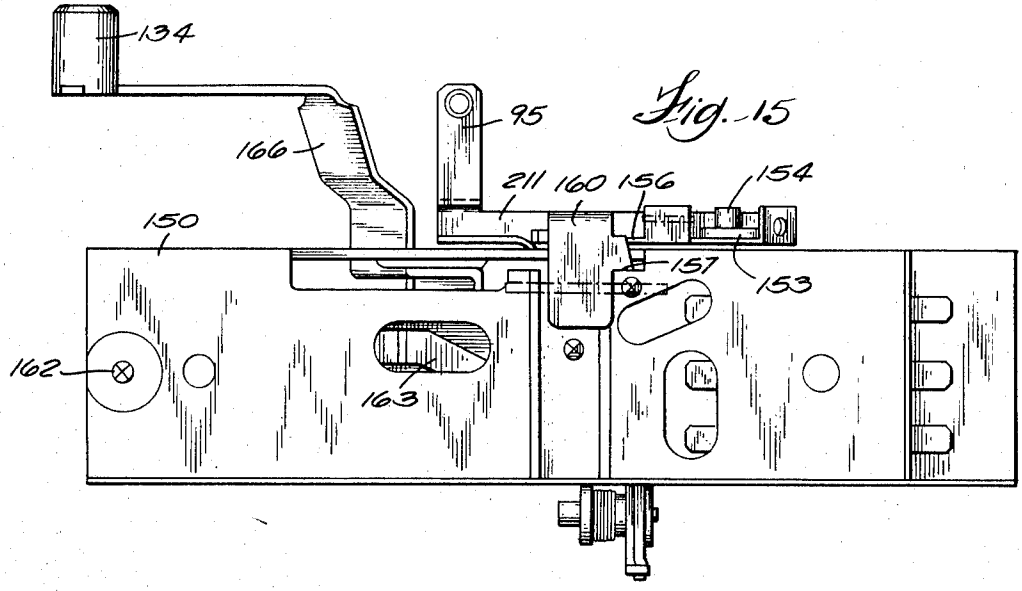


Fig. 15

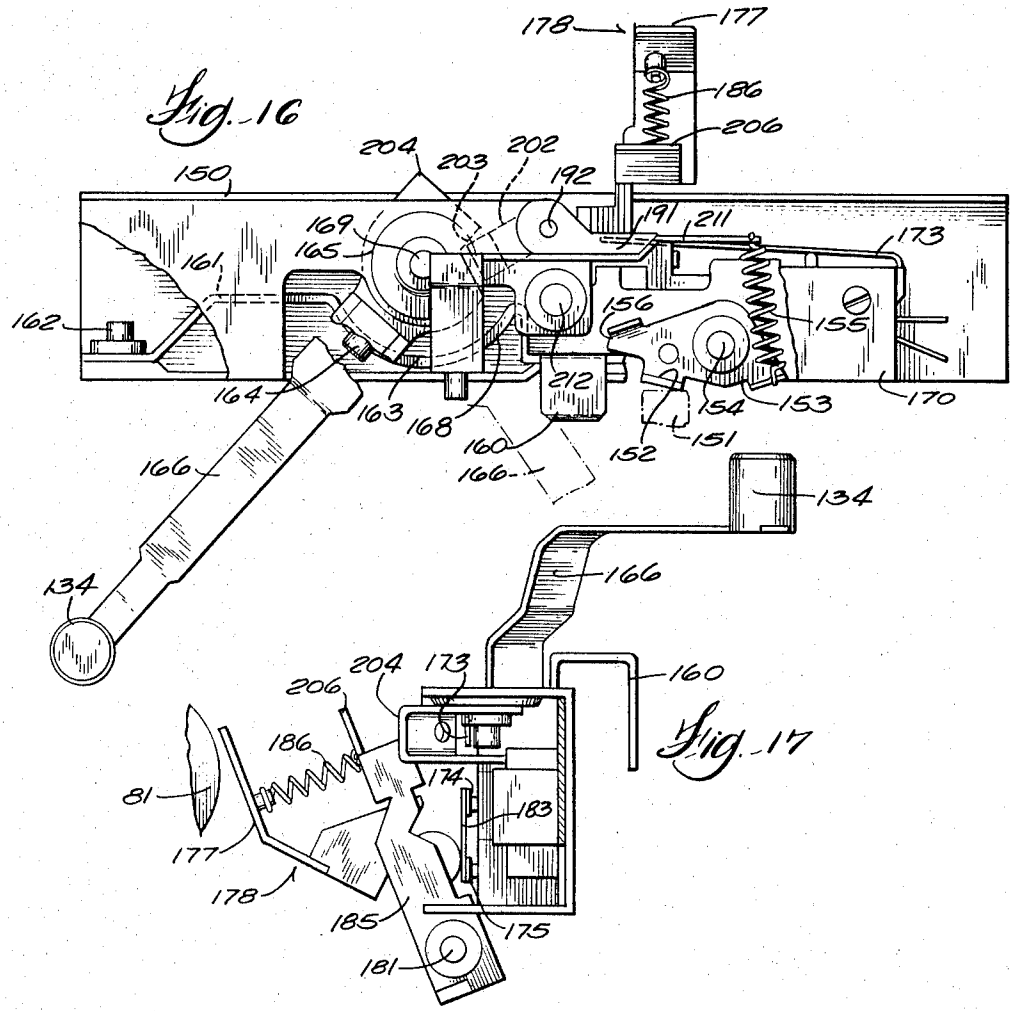


Fig. 16

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

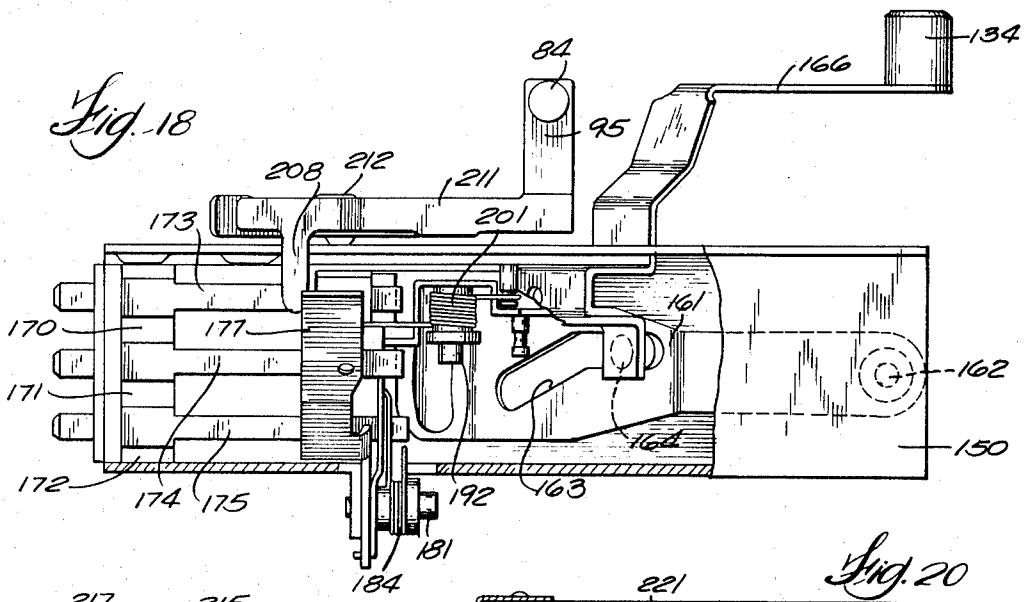


Fig. 19

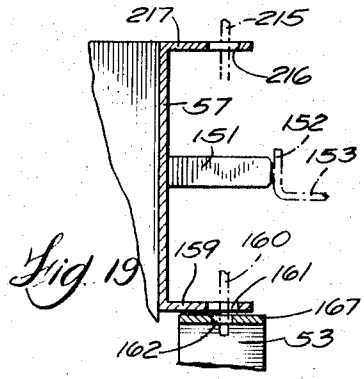
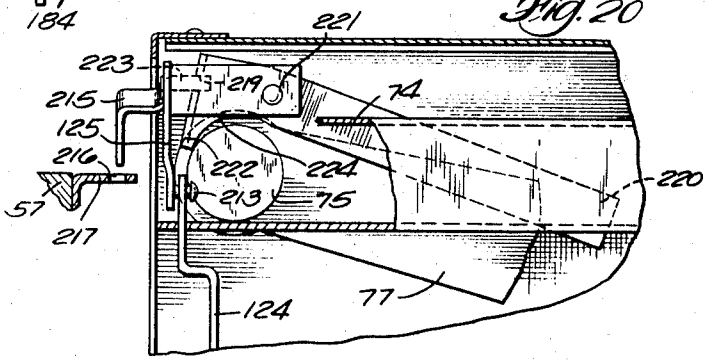


Fig. 20



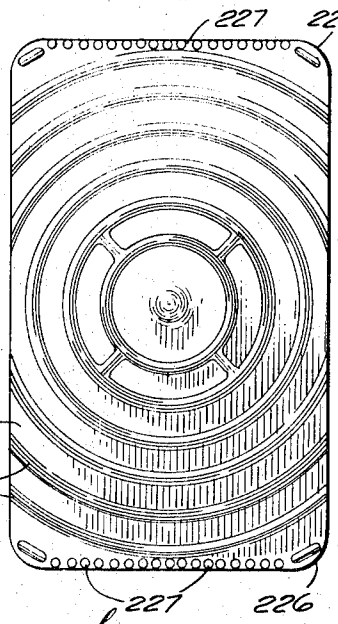


Fig. 22

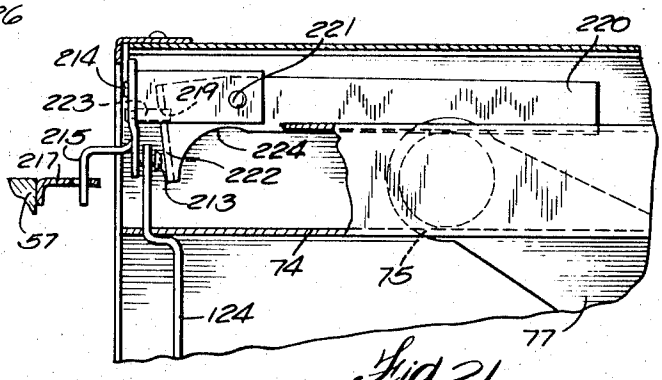


Fig. 21

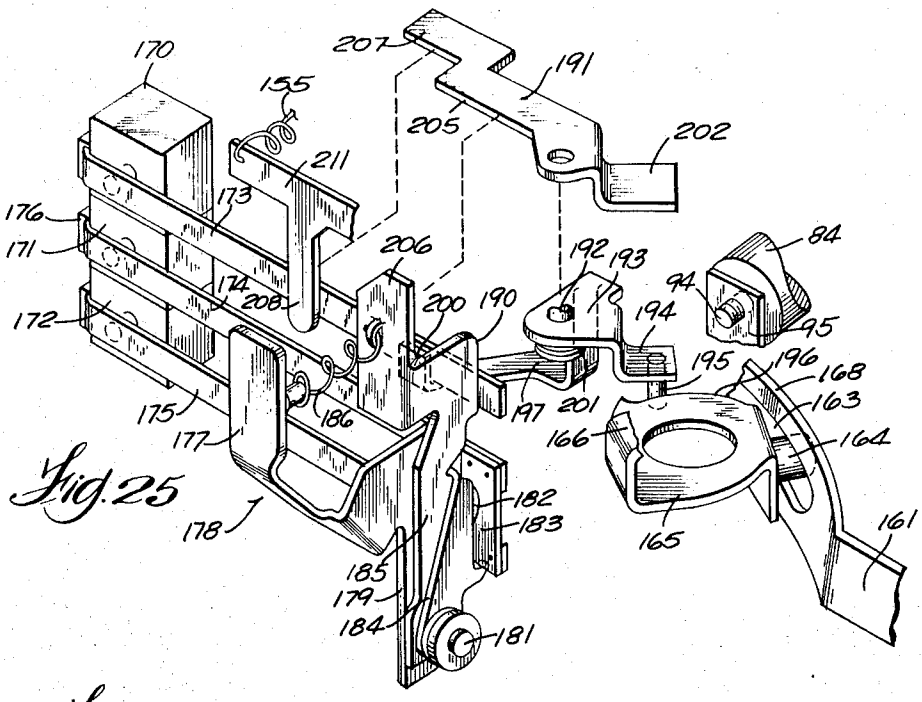
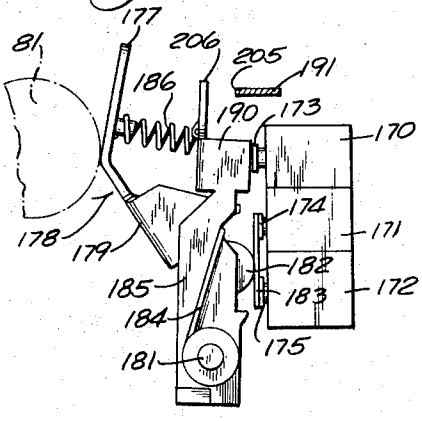


Fig. 25

Fig. 26



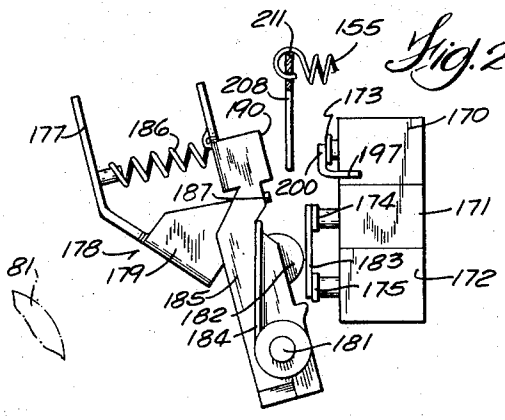


Fig. 28

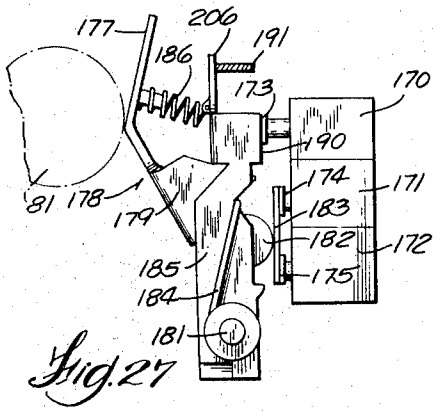


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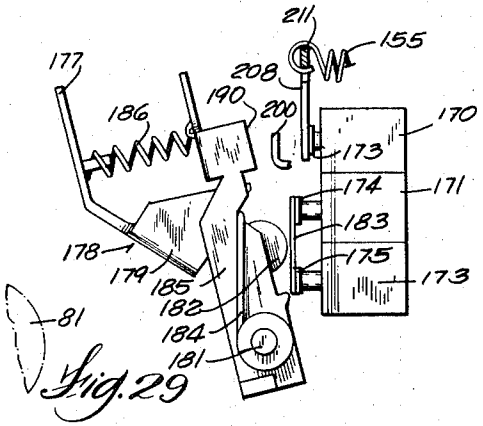


Fig. 29

COMPACTOR

This application is a division of application Ser. No. 177,385 filed Sept. 2, 1971 now U.S. Pat. No. 3,772,984.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Commercial and industrial trash compactors have been in use for many years, but only recently have trash compactors of small and compact size and adapted for home use become available. The trash compactor shown in U.S. Pat. No. 3,537,390 is an example of the current state of the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention improves on the prior art in several significant particulars. The typical prior art compactor, as above mentioned, mounts the trash container in a drawer which must be pulled out each time trash is loaded into the compactor. This requires manual exertion which militates against use of the compactor and also creates a problem of supporting the trash container during the compaction cycle.

It is an object of the present invention to eliminate the need for withdrawing the container from the housing during loading and to make the loading operation extremely easy, requiring little or no manual effort. In accordance with the present invention the container remains in the compactor housing in substantially the same position during loading and during the compaction cycle. An easily opened access or loading door is provided which is aligned with a loading or chute space above the container and above which the pressure platen is withdrawn on a lazy tong or scissors extension linkage so as to be withdrawn into a head space above and completely out of the way of loading trash into the container through said door.

It is an important feature of the present invention to mount the pressure platen on a linkage which is capable of substantial extension from its retracted to its advanced position, thus enabling the pressure platen to have movement substantially into the container for compaction purposes but yet leave it free to move upwardly into the head space and clear of the loading or chute space. Accordingly, there is no need to withdraw the container from the housing for loading purposes as there is ample loading space thereabove when the extension linkage is fully retracted.

Additional important objects, features and advantages of the invention include:

1. A single lever control which performs multiple functions in the control and operation of the compactor.
2. A unitized frame and body for the compactor housing making for a "clean" design with no projections or crevices to accumulate dirt.
3. A unitary assembly of the pressure platen, linkage extension and drive means therefor, including a motor, all mounted on a carriage which can be removed as a unit from the compactor housing for service, repair and replacement.
4. A trash container with flexible walls and which is configured for all around support by a similarly configured housing cavity into which it fits. Accordingly, great compacting pressure may be imposed without rupturing the flexible walls of the container.

5. A lazy tong or scissors extension linkage which is provided with torque resisting guide structure to track the linkage and pressure platen on a predetermined vertical path, regardless of the symmetry or asymmetry of the resistance offered by the trash and thus relieving the drive screw and force transmitting mechanism of twisting forces.
6. A switch assembly and electrical circuit integrated with the single lever control and by which the ram motor and door latching mechanism are cycled through an operating cycle.
7. A ram pressure platen which has a surface pattern which intensifies fracturing stress on frangible trash.
8. A trash container basket and bag which are presanitized, thus making it unnecessary to provide any supplemental sanitizing treatment therefor.

Other objects, features and advantages will appear from the detailed disclosure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a compactor embodying the invention, portions of the housing being broken away to expose the trash basket, pressure platen and scissors or lazy tong extension linkage assembly, the loading door being open to illustrate loading of trash into the basket.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view on a reduced scale of the trash compactor with its loading door open.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 2, showing the service door open and the loading door closed.

FIG. 4 is a rear perspective view illustrating the removing of the assembly of pressure platen, extension linkage and motor.

FIG. 5 is a vertical cross section taken through trash compactor embodying the invention, the retracted position of the pressure platen and extension linkage being shown in full lines and advanced position thereof being shown in broken lines.

FIG. 6 is a view partly in plan and partly in cross section along the line 6—6 of FIG. 5, certain parts being broken away and shown in section.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the pressure platen, extension linkage and motor assembly shown apart from the remainder of the device, parts being broken away.

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary detailed view of the sliding connection of the extension linkage to the pressure platen, this view taken in cross section along the line 8—8 of FIG. 6.

FIG. 9 is a front elevation of the compactor with portions successively broken away to show details thereof.

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary transverse vertical cross section taken through the compactor housing just rearwardly of the housing front wall. A fragment of the extension linkage and its guide track is also shown in this view.

FIG. 11 is a front elevation of the housing shell.

FIG. 12 is a horizontal cross section taken along the line 12—12 of FIG. 11.

FIG. 13 is a detailed vertical cross section illustrating the relationship between the co-acting walls of the housing and service door and showing the position of the slide bar latch prior to movement of the latch to lock the door to the housing.

FIG. 14 is a view similar to FIG. 13, but showing the door closed and the slide bar latch actuated to fasten the door to the housing.

FIG. 15 is a front view of the single lever control assembly.

FIG. 16 is a top view of the single lever control assembly.

FIG. 17 is an end view of the single lever control assembly.

FIG. 18 is a rear view of the single lever control assembly.

FIG. 19 is a fragmentary vertical cross section taken through the service and loading doors and illustrating the latching operation.

FIG. 20 is a fragmentary cross section taken along the line 20—20 of FIG. 10.

FIG. 21 is a fragmentary cross section similar to FIG. 20, but showing a different position of the parts.

FIG. 22 is a face view of the undersurface of the pressure platen.

FIG. 23 is a fragmentary view illustrating the operation of the key lock.

FIG. 24 is a perspective view of a bagged unit of compacted trash, after removal from the basket.

FIG. 25 is a fragmentary perspective view of the single lever control switch actuating mechanism.

FIG. 26 is a diagrammatic fragmentary end view of the switch actuating mechanism, illustrating the position of various elements prior to starting the compacting cycle.

FIG. 27 is a similar diagrammatic fragmentary view similar to FIG. 26 and showing the position of the corresponding parts after the single lever control has been moved to start position.

FIG. 28 is a similar diagrammatic fragmentary view similar to FIG. 26 illustrating the position of the corresponding parts part way through the compacting cycle and illustrating the positions of the corresponding parts when the single lever control is moved to stop position.

FIG. 29 is a similar diagrammatic fragmentary view illustrating the position of the corresponding parts during operation of the jam responsive mechanism.

FIG. 30 is a simplified electric circuit diagram for the motor controller.

FIG. 31 is an end view of a modified trash basket.

FIG. 32 is a perspective view of the modified trash basket of FIG. 31.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Although the disclosure hereof is detailed and exact to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, the physical embodiments herein disclosed merely exemplify the invention which may be embodied in other specific structure. The scope of the invention is defined in the claims appended hereto.

The compactor includes a housing 40 which is typically about 15 inches wide, 25.5 inches deep and 34.5 inches high, thus to adapt it to fit as a modular unit into a kitchen counter and cabinet assembly. In a free-standing model the housing 40 is surmounted by a top 41 and has a shroud 38 to dress its external surfaces. In a built-in model a portion of a counter in which the compactor interfits substitutes for the top 41. The housing is desirably supported from the floor on adjustable feet 37 (FIG. 9). The compactor may also be located at any other convenient home location, such as laundry room, utility room, closet, basement, garage, covered patio, etc.

As shown in FIG. 1, the interior of the housing 40 is provided with a cavity 44 for a trash receiving container or basket 42 which has a disposable plastic bag 43 draped into its interior and reverse folded over the outside of the container 42 to provide folding flaps by which the bag 43 may be closed when the container is withdrawn from the housing 40 and the bag is withdrawn from the basket to form a disposable bagged trash unit 39 as shown in FIG. 24. The basket 42 is typically about 16 inches high.

There is a head space 45 within the upper portion of the housing 40 and within which the extension linkage 46 and attached ram or pressure platen 47 are retracted during the "off" or trash loading period of the over-all trash compaction cycle.

Scissors-type ram actuating linkages are, of course, old and well known for use in baling presses and the like. U.S. Pat. Nos. 266,967 and 460,009 are typical examples. However, such prior art scissors-type linkages did not employ the multiple or tandem connected scissors linkage characteristic of lazy tong linkages, as herein employed and by which the movement of the ram or pressure platen is greatly extended or magnified in its movement between its retracted position and its advanced position, as is illustrated in FIG. 5.

This capacity of the tandem scissors or lazy tong linkage for great extension is an important advantage in the present invention because it enables the pressure platen to be retracted clear above and in upwardly spaced relation to the basket, thus to permit loading trash into the basket without withdrawing the basket from the housing, in the manner illustrated in FIG. 1.

Scissors linkages are advantageous, because as the scissors links approach parallelism, their mechanical advantage and pressure markedly increase. The greatest resistance to platen movement occurs near the end of the platen advancing stroke where the trash 109 is being compacted (FIG. 5). The platen 47 moves relatively slowly near the end of its advancing stroke at the time when the extension linkages exert their greatest pressure at the greatest mechanical advantage. The extension linkages move relatively quickly near the top of the housing when the platen is under no load, speed of movement being desirable in this part of the cycle.

In a practical embodiment of the invention, the extension linkages and platen assembly will occupy a space of about 6 inches when retracted and will extend to a distance of about 26 inches, for a throw of about 20 inches. The available pressing force of ram platen 47 varies from about 600 pounds at full retracted height to about 3500 pounds at full extension. The total time cycle of the ram is about 70 seconds. This time cycle shortens as the basket fills.

There is a substantial space of approximately 8 or 9 inches between the upper rim 48 of the basket 42 and the pressure platen 47 when the pressure platen is fully retracted, as shown in FIG. 1, such space being denominated herein as the trash loading or chuting space 51. Space 51 aligns with the loading port 52 in service door 53. Service door 53 is hinged to the housing 40 on vertical hinges 54 along one corner of the housing 40.

Accordingly, service door 53 can be swung from its closed position shown in FIG. 2 its open position shown in FIG. 3, thus to expose the front face 55 of the housing 40 which has a cutout or opening 56 through which

the container 42 is loaded into the housing cavity 44 and removed therefrom.

Service door 53 carries a loading door 57 which is pivotally attached to the service door 53 on a horizontal hinge 58, to be swung to its open position shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 and its closed position shown in FIGS. 3 and 5. Conventional retainer cables 61 are spring biased to hold the loading door 57 in its normally closed position will stop and support the door in its inclined position as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 during loading of trash 62 through the door opening 52 (FIG. 1). The trash 62 passes through the loading or chute space 51 within the housing en route to the basket 42. The only manual effort required of the housewife is to pull the door 57 about its hinges 58 to its inclined position, against the light tension of the springs connected to the cables 61.

Loading door 57 is provided with an inwardly formed sloping panel or ramp 59 which, in the closed position of the doors as shown in FIG. 5 overhangs the rim 48 of basket 42. Accordingly, any trash which is not completely loaded into the basket 42 and which tends to overhang the front edge 48 thereof, will be pushed into the basket as the door 57 closes. Moreover, as ram platen 47 descends the incline of panel ramp 59 will guide trash which is piled up above the level of rim 48 into the basket and will prevent it from spilling over the front edge of the basket.

Typically, any and all types of household trash will be accepted by the compactor, whether the trash be paper, glass bottles, metal cans, etc. Compacted trash is shown diagrammatically at 109 in FIG. 5.

The plastic basket 42 has downwardly tapering flexible walls 63 on all sides. These flexible walls 63 are supported in the seated position of the basket by rigid reenforcing or support walls of the housing 40. For this purpose the rear wall of housing 40 is provided with a downwardly and inwardly inclined panel 64 (FIG. 5) and the housing side walls 65 (FIG. 10) are similarly downwardly and inwardly inclined, thus to support the downwardly tapered flexible side walls 63 of basket 42 against ram pressure. Service door 53 is provided with an inclined panel 117 which supports the front wall of basket 42.

The bottom wall 66 of the housing (FIG. 10) has upwardly embossed portions 67 providing a support floor for the bottom 68 of the basket 42.

Housing side walls 65 are provided with an outwardly deformed fold or groove 71 within which the outwardly flanged rim 48 on the basket 42 interfits. Housing rear wall panel 64 is similarly offset at 79 (FIG. 5) and door panel 117 is similarly offset at 80 (FIG. 5) to provide a peripheral seat for basket rim flange 48. When basket 42 is properly received with its rim 48 thus seated, its flexible walls will be supported by the housing and door panels, and a switch actuator 72 within a recess 73 in its bottom wall 68 will engage a basket safety switch 129 which is part of the electric circuit as hereinafter described. The front of basket 42 is also provided with a projecting tab 70. Tabs 70, 72 can be used as bottom handles when inverting the basket 42 to remove the closed, filled bag 43. Alternatively, the operator can step on the tabs 70, 72 to anchor the basket 42 against movement if the filled bag 43 is lifted manually out of the basket.

When bag 43 is fitted into the basket 42 the surplus bag material is reverse folded over the outside of the basket (FIG. 1). Thus this reverse folded bag material is clamped between the basket and housing and door panels 63, 64, 117 under pressure of the basket 42. The bag fold 60 is snubbed about the basket rim 48 and the reverse folded bag material will not be pulled into the basket even though the pressure of the ram on the trash 109 tends to drag the bag into the basket.

The assembly ram unit of extension links 46 and pressure platen 57 is mounted within the head space 45 at the top of the housing 40 on tracks 74 which run fore and aft of the housing 40. Tracks 74 support and guide a carriage comprising four rollers 75 mounted respeectively on the ends of the pintles 76 at the upper ends of the upper scissors links 77 of lazy tong or extension linkage 46. There are two spaced parallel sets of scissors linkages 77 interpivoted on a cross pintle 78.

The ends of the scissors links 77 opposite pintles 76 are pivotally connected by pintles 81 to succeeding or tandem sets of scissors links 82, likewise arranged in parallel. Links 82 have their mid points pivotally connected on pintle 83. The far ends of said scissors links 82 are slidably connected to the pressure platen 47, as hereinafter described.

The lazy tongs or extension linkage 46 is actuated by a double reverse pitch lead screw 84 threadedly engaged in spacer tubes 85 which provide bearings for the pintles 76 of the upper scissors linkage 77, which maintain the parallel sets of scissors links 77 in spaced relation and which provide nuts for the screw 84. One end of the lead screw 84 is connected through suitable gearing in the gear box 86 to an electric motor 87. Gear box 86 is fastened to a mounting arrangement including an end plate 88 which has out-turned flange brackets 91 which carry rubber bushings 92 and bolts 93 by which the plate 88 and suspended motor 87 are releasably attached to the aft ends of the track 74 (FIG. 5). The bushings 92 isolate motor vibration from the compactor and provide limited yieldability of the ram assembly in a fore and aft direction.

Accordingly, the extension linkage 46 is mounted in position so that in fully retracted position, as shown in FIG. 5, a contact button 94 on the far end of lead screw 84 will make contact with a switch actuator 95 of the control assembly as hereinafter explained.

A spring 96 coiled about the lead screw 84 will bear against the spacer cubes 85 when the extension linkage 46 is in its fully extended position as shown in broken lines in FIG. 5, thus to provide resistance to further extension of the linkage, in the event of insufficient trash in basket 42, and cushion the end of the lazy tong extension movement. The load thus added to motor 87 will cause the motor to slow down and centrifugal switch 97 in the motor circuit will reverse the motor 87 and withdraw the ram platen 47 from the basket 42. The aforedescribed structure, in which the extension linkage 46 is driven from one end, is advantageous because the lead screw 84, motor 87, gear box 86, etc., have a substantially fixed position during actuation of the extension linkages 46. While it would be possible to drive the linkages from points which must move vertically during expansion and retraction of the linkages, such an arrangement would require complementary movement of the motor, drive screw, etc., and is less desirable for that reason.

The uppermost sets of spaced parallel scissors linkages 77 are interconnected by torque arms or tubes 78, 89 in a unique manner. Spacer or torque arm or tube

89 is rigidly connected by welds 132 to the inside faces of the innermost links 77. Tube 89 is hollow. Torque arm or tube 78 extends through the hollow of tube 89, to turn thereon, and is welded near both ends at 133 to the outer faces of the outermost links 77.

The respective torque tubes or arms 78, 89 transmit unbalanced forces between corresponding links at opposite sides of the scissors extension mechanism to keep the links in alignment and prevent cocking of the spacer nuts 85. Accordingly, twisting forces are balanced by the torque tubes or arms 78, 89 and relieve the screw 84 thereof.

As best shown in FIGS. 5, 6, 7 and 8, the lower ends of scissors links 82 are provided with wheels 98 at the ends of axles 100. The wheels 98 ride or slide freely on tracks 99 formed on the edges of a plate 90 to which the pan-shaped pressure platen 47 is releasably attached. The plate 90 and platen 47 are linked to extension linkage by a U-shaped link 101 which has a bight portion pivotally connected to the plate 90 in a tubular eye 102 and has out-turned ends 130 pivotally connected to the links 82 in bearing apertures 131.

Wheels 98 and the parallelogram motion of the extension linkage 46 to keep the platen 47 horizontal. Link 101 keeps the platen 47 substantially centered in basket 42.

Platen 47 is desirably provided around its periphery with a rubber sealing flap 103, the rear end of which is formed as a flexible apron 104 connected by means of a series of small springs 105 to a rear wall panel 106 of the housing 40. As shown in FIG. 5, the apron 104 will drape itself into the basket 42 as the platen 47 descends, thus preventing trash in the basket from climbing out of the basket and overflowing its rim 48. Moreover, the rubber seal 103 acts as a wiper to wipe down the sides of the basket and keep the trash therein as the pressure platen 47 enters the basket.

The fore and aft tracks 74 at the top of the housing 40 provide a convenient means of mounting the extension linkage 46 and provide guide ways for expanding and contracting the linkages on a vertical path as the lead screw 84 turns in forward and reverse direction. The tracks 74 also provide a convenient means for completely removing the unitary motor-operated assembly of extension links 46, pressure platen 47, motor 87, gear box 86, etc., from the housing 40, as is illustrated in FIG. 4. This facilitates maintenance, repair and replacement of the unit. The back of housing 40 is open. When in its fully retracted position the foregoing unitary assembly can be removed in the direction of arrow 108 (FIG. 4) when the attaching bolts 93 are detached from track 74, and guides 112 are removed.

The opposite side walls 65 of the housing 40 are desirably provided with vertically extending metal angle iron guides 111, 112 (FIGS. 5, 9 and 10) which are adjustably mounted on bolts 113 and which provide facing guide channel flanges 114 between which the torque arm 78 of the extension linkage 46 rides vertically for at least a portion of its vertical movement. Torque arm 78 is desirably provided with end wear caps 115 which ride against the channel flanges 114. The extension linkage 46 moves on a vertical path on which the pressure platen 47 is centered in the basket 42 by reason of the drive mechanism in which the lead screw 84 concurrently drives the nuts 85 concurrently toward and away from each other, the path of movement of pintles 78 and 83 remaining on the same vertical axis. Guides 111, 112 function to absorb forward and rearward thrust in the event the reaction pressure of trash tends to move the platen off course.

As best shown in FIG. 5, the rearmost pair of channel flanges 114 are relieved at 118 and rubber or other yieldable blocks 116 are inserted in the recess 118. The blocks 116 are positioned to be engaged by the caps 115 of torque arm 78 just as the platen 47 enters the basket 42. Accordingly, if a hard, unyielding object is wedged between the front of the basket and the platen 47, pressure is exerted to tend to force the platen 47 and extension linkage 46 toward the rear of the housing 40. The yieldable blocks 116 and yieldable bushings 92 permit slight rearward movement of the linkage. Thus the lead screw 84 will back away slightly from contact of its button 94 with switch actuator arm 95 and will actuate the motor control to stop the motor. The operator may now actuate control lever 134 to restart the motor in reverse, thus to cause the platen to retract and relieve the system of the jam, as hereinafter explained. The aforedescribed structure functions as a jam sensor.

As previously indicated, the basket 42 has its flexible plastic side walls supported by correspondingly shaped panel walls in the housing 40. The opening 56 (FIG. 3) in front panel 55 would leave the front wall 63 of the basket 42 unsupported, except for the fact that in accordance with the present invention the service door 53 is provided with an appropriately shaped downwardly and inwardly inclined pressure support panel 117 which supports the wall 63 of the basket 42 (FIG. 5).

To securely latch the service door 53 to the housing 40 when it is closed and thus insure adequate support for the basket 42 and also to insure against service door 53 opening once the compacting cycle has started, a novel latching mechanism, as shown in FIGS. 3, 9, 10, 13 and 14, is provided. Service door 53 is provided with vertically spaced, inwardly projecting pegs 121 having enlarged heads 122. The housing front panel 55 and adjacent frame parts are provided with aligned openings 123 large enough to receive the heads 122 (FIGS. 13, 14). Behind the panel 55 and adjacent frame parts is a vertically slidable latch bar 124 (FIG. 10), the upper end of which is pivotally connected on pin 213 to the crank arm 125 of actuating mechanism which functions as hereinafter explained. Latch bar 124 is provided with inclined cam portions 126 (FIGS. 13, 14), each one of which is provided with a keyhold slot having an enlarged head portion 127 and a narrow neck portion 128.

The heads 122 of the pins 121 an door 53 are received through the apertures 123 on the panel 55 and through the enlarged head portions 127 of the latch bar 124 when the door 53 is closed. At the same time, a headed pin 119 engages a spring biased detent socket 120 (FIG. 3) to hold the door 53 closed pending actuation of the latch slide bar 124.

When the single lever 134 of the compactor control is actuated as hereinafter described, the crank arm 125 will be actuated to lift the latch bar 124 and press its cams 126 against the undersurface of pin heads 122, thus to clamp the service door 53 against the panel 55, as is shown in FIG. 14. The inclined cam portions 126 of the latch bar 124 merge into vertical bar portions 135 whch include the tail ends of narrow slots 128 and which align with the pins 121 in the latched position of door 53.

In order to guide movement of latch bar **124**, panel **55** is provided with guide pins **136** which have heads **137** which overlap guide slots **138** on the latch bar **124**, as shown in FIG. **10**.

The housing **40** is uniquely formed with a unitary frame and body, substantially free of crevices and cracks within which bacteria, dirt, etc., can lodge. The unitized frame and body is inherently strong, simplifies fabrication and reduces fabrication expense.

As best shown in FIGS. **11** and **12**, the side wall panels **65** of the housing have out-turned edge flanges **142** by which the panel edges are stiffened. Structural front panel **143**, which is cut out at **144** to match cutout **56** in face panel **55** (FIG. **3**) has edge flanges **145** turned at a **90** degree angle to flanges **142**. Rear panel **106** is similarly provided with turned flanges **147**.

Flanges **142** are fastened or joined mechanically in face relation to front panel **143** and rear panel **106**, as by welding, riveting, bolting, etc., thus to unitize the front, side and rear panels, with the flanges **142, 145, 147** forming box section corner posts rigidly supporting the housing **40** with no need for any other form or frame. The side walls **65** of housing **40** are turned inwardly to form floor panels **146** beneath the basket **42** (FIGS. **10** and **12**), and are turned downwardly to form abutting flanges **148** similarly fastened or joined in face relation.

Thus the surfaces within the housing are broad and smooth without cracks, crevices, interior bolts, etc., which would otherwise trap dirt and bacteria.

The single lever control switching mechanism and circuit diagram are shown in FIGS. **15** through **30**, inclusive. Control and switching mechanism is housed in a control box **150** (FIGS. **5** and **9**) at the upper front corner of the housing **40**. The single control lever **134** on arm **166** projects forwardly of the housing **40** in an easily accessible position. Control lever **134** is actuated manually by the operator through a cycle in which various functions are automatically coordinated for safe and convenient operation of the compactor.

An important safety feature requires that both the service door **53** and the trash loading door **57** be closed before the single lever **134** can be moved from its "off" position at the right of the housing to its "start" position at the left of the housing, as shown in FIGS. **2, 3** and **9**. For this purpose the loading door **57** is provided with a striker **151** (FIGS. **16, 19**) which is aligned to engage tab **152** of a rotary bracket **153** which is pivotally mounted on pintle **154** and is biased by spring **155** to project the tab **152** forwardly of the housing **40** and into the path of striker **151** of loading door **57**.

When in its forward position a latch finger **156** on the swing bracket **153** engages beneath ledge **157** (FIGS. **15, 16**) on latch bolt **160** to prevent downward movement of bolt **160** and hence prevent any substantial movement of the lever **134** away from its off position. The latch bolt **160** is mechanically connected to lever **134** so that blockage of movement of bolt **160** also blocks movement of lever **134**. However, when both the service door **53** and loading door **57** have been closed, the striker **151** moves the swing bracket **153** rearwardly to its position shown in FIG. **16**, thus withdrawing the finger **156** from obstructing downward movement of the bolt **160** and its interconnected lever **134**. Accordingly, lever **134** may then be swung to its "start" position at the left of the cabinet, in which position it is shown in each of FIGS. **15, 16** and **18**.

In the course of its movement from "off" to "start," lever **134** will function to operate the latch bolt **160** which will move downwardly to engage through a bolt opening **161** in a flange **159** of loading door **57** (FIG. **19**). Bolt **160** concurrently engages through a bolt opening **162** in a flange **167** of service door **53** (FIG. **19**), thus to positively latch both loading and service doors in closed position, prior to the starting of the compacting cycle.

Latch **160** is moved in response to movement of a swing arm **161** (FIGS. **16, 18** and **25**) which is swingable about pintle **162** at one end of the box **150**. Arm **161** has a curved portion **168** about the axis of pintle **169**, and a contained inclined cam follower slot **163** (FIGS. **15, 16, 18** and **25**) in which rides a cam trunnion **164** mounted on a rotor bracket **165** from which arm **166** for single lever **134** projects. Bracket **165** turns on the axis of pintle **169**. Accordingly, as lever **134** swings, it will cause the trunnion **164** to sweep through an arc including the inclined cam follower slot **163** in the swing arm **161** and thus raise and lower the arm **161** about its pintle **162**.

In moving from its broken line position of FIG. **16** (off position) to its full line position (start position), the arm **166** for lever **134** will function to swing the latch bolt **160** downwardly into latching engagement with the latch apertures **161, 162** as shown in FIG. **19** aforesaid, provided however that the interlock swing bracket **153** has first swung inwardly against the bias of its spring **155**, as aforestated.

In this manner the single control lever **134** functions to lock both the loading door **57** and the service door **53** before reaching its "start" position. Moreover, unless the doors **53, 57** are closed, the control lever **134** cannot even be moved toward initiation of the compacting cycle.

Conversely, when the compacting cycle is finished and the control lever **134** and arm **166** are swung from full to broken line positions shown in FIG. **16**, latch finger **160** will be lifted as a consequence of upward pivotal movement of the arm **161**, thus to withdraw the finger **160** from the latch holes **161, 162** and will permit both doors **53, 57** to be opened. As soon as pressure of the striker **151** is withdrawn from tab **152**, spring **155** will pivot latch bracket **153** to a position where its stop detent **156** is in the path of downward movement of bolt ledge **157**, thus preventing any further actuation of the lever **134** until the doors are again closed.

Control box **150** contains switches for actuating the motor **87** in a cycle which includes several additional interlocks and safety features. The motor circuit is indicated in FIG. **30**. The motor start-stop switch **170** and paired reversing switches **171, 172** typically comprise microswitches having actuating buttons respectively actuated by leaf blades or arms **173, 174, 175**, each of which is anchored at corresponding ends upon a block **176** (FIG. **25**).

The actuating buttons of switches **170, 171** and **172** are internally spring biased to project the buttons outwardly, in which position the switches are normally closed or normally open, as indicated in FIG. **30**. The leaf arms **173, 174, 175** can be actuated to press the buttons inwardly against their spring bias, in which event the respective switches will be thrown to their opposite positions. When the leaf arms **173, 174, 175** are

actuated to release pressure on the buttons, they will return to their normal positions.

The leaf arms **173, 174, 175** are subject to the pressure of several levers, tabs, etc., which respond to various forces all of which are integrated and inter-related to produce the desired sequential actuation of the switches **170, 171 172** for proper operation of the motor **87** and for safety reasons. Fundamentally, motor **87** will be energized whenever the pressure of leaf arm **173** is relieved from the actuating button of the start-stop switch **170.** Switch **170** will then move to its normally closed position and energize the motor circuit, assuming however that basket switch **129** is also closed.

Moreover, the centrifugally actuated motor start switch **97** must also be closed to start the motor **87** through its start winding **149.** Switch **97** will normally be closed when the motor is at rest or whenever the motor slows down from its normal running speed as a consequence of the imposition of heavy loads thereon. When running at normal running speeds the conventional centrifugal actuator therefor will cause switch **97** to open. However, this will not stop the motor which will then be energized directly through its main winding **158.** Motor **87** will be deenergized whenever the actuator button for switch **170** is subject to the pressure of leaf arm **173,** thus to open switch **170.**

The direction of motor operation depends upon the position of the reversing switches **171, 172.** Reversing switches **171, 172** are single pole, double throw switches interconnected by bridge **183** to function as a double pole, double throw switch. When the leaf arms **174, 175** are pressed against the button actuators for the switches **171, 172,** the motor **87** will be conditioned to operate in a direction to advance the ram toward basket **42** when switch **170** is closed to energize the starting circuit. After the motor is up to speed and runs on its main winding **158** and centrifugal switch **97** opens, the reversing switches **171, 172** can be reversed in position without affecting the continued operation of the motor **87** to drive the ram downwardly. However, if in the course of such movement switch **170** is opened, thus to stop motor **87** and cause centrifugal switch **97** to close, and meanwhile reversing switches **171, 172** have been actuated, then the next actuation of leaf arm **173** to close switch **170** will start the motor in reverse, through its start winding **149,** thus to withdraw the ram platen **47** toward the top of the housing **40.**

The various instrumentalities which act upon the leaf blades **173, 174, 175** include a double armed blade actuator **178** directly responsive to the movement of the ram platen **47.** One arm **179** of actuator **178** has a cam follower plate or lever **177.** Arm **179** pivots about pintle **181** and carries a cam **182** adapted to press against a bridgeplate **183** which ties together the otherwise free ends of the leaf arms **174, 175** which actuate the reversing switches **171, 172.** Accordingly, whenever the lever **177** is swung clockwise to its position shown in FIGS. **26** and **27,** both leaf arms **174, 175** will press the spring biased actuator buttons of switches **171, 172** inwardly and switches **171, 172** will be actuated to reverse the polarity of the circuit to the start winding **149.** Clock spring **184** about pintle **181** biases arm **179** and lever **177** counter clockwise toward its position shown in FIGS. **28** and **29.** In this position the polarity of switches **171, 172** is reversed, as aforesaid.

Lever **177** is in the path of vertical movement of front cross member **81** of the extension linkage **46** for the ram platen **47.** Accordingly, as illustrated in FIG. **5,** when the extension linkage is in its fully retracted position at the top of the housing **40** lever **177** will be engaged by the cross member **81,** thus to swing the lever **177** clockwise as shown in FIGS. **26, 27,** and thus actuate the reversing switches **171, 172.** However, when the extension linkages have dropped somewhat as a consequence of energization of the motor **87** to drive the ram downwardly, thus to relieve the pressure of the cross member **81** from the lever **177,** the clock spring **184** will swing the lever **177** to its position shown in FIGS. **28** and **29** and switches **171, 172** will reverse polarity.

Arm **179** carries a second swing arm or lever **185** swingable about the same pintle **181** and also subject to the pressure of clock spring **184,** and which is further subject to the opposite pressure of a compression coil spring **186** between lever **177** and plate **206** to bias arm **185** away from lever **177** and toward a stop tab **187** (FIG. **28**) formed on arm **179.** Second arm **185** carries a cam **190** which will press against the uppermost leaf arm **173** which actuates motor start-stop switch **170.** Accordingly, in the full line position of the ram and extension linkages **46** shown in FIG. **5,** the actuation of cam lever **177** by the ram cross piece **81** will not only actuate the reversing switch leaf arms **174, 175** but will also actuate the start-stop switch leaf arm **173,** as is illustrated in FIG. **26.** In this position of the parts lever arm **185** is subject to being moved counter clockwise away from pressure engagement with leaf arm **173** against the bias of its spring **186.**

Because of the foregoing structure, the start-stop switch **170** will be actuated into open position every time the ram assembly moves upwardly into its completely retracted position, thus to stop motor **87** at the conclusion of the compacting cycle.

Leaf arm **173** for start-stop switch **170** also responds to manual control movement of the single control lever **134** and its arm **166.** As indicated in FIG. **25,** control bell crank **191** is pivotally mounted on pintle **192.** While in this view bell crank **191** is illustrated (for clarity of presentation) in spaced relation to other parts, it actually occupies a position indicated by the dotted lines in which it is in face contact with a swing bracket **193,** also pivoted about pintle **192.**

Bracket **193** has a depending arm **194** and a peg **195** depending therefrom and which functions as a cam follower which rides on a cam surface **196** of the annular bracket **165** formed on the inner end of arm **166** and which is rotated thereby.

Bracket **193** has a depending lever **197,** the end of which is provided with a tab **200** which hooks around leaf arm **173** as shown in FIG. **25.** Clock spring **201** around pintle **192** biases bracket **193** in a clockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. **25,** thus to tend to draw leaf arm **173** to the right and actuate switch **170.** Clockwise movement of the rotor bracket **165** however will cam its surface **196** against the peg **195** to rotate the bracket **193** counter clockwise, as shown in FIG. **25,** and against the bias of spring **201,** to relieve pressure of leaf blade **173** on the button actuator of switch **170** and permit the self-bias of the button actuator to open switch **170.**

Bell crank lever **191** has an input arm **202** which fits into a notch **203** of bracket **204** on arm **166** of single control lever **134** (FIG. **16**). The output arm of bell

crank lever **191** has a thrust edge **205** adapted to engage the upstanding plate **206** of lever **185** (FIG. **25**). Offset rearwardly from thrust edge **205** is a second thrust edge **207** aligned to engage a downwardly extending tab **208** of lever **211** (FIGS. **18** and **25**). Lever **211** has the upstanding actuating arm **95** which is engaged by the end of the lead screw **84** of the extension linkages **46**, as hereinbefore described. Lever **211** is pivoted to the box **150** on a pintle **212** (FIGS. **16** and **18**).

As indicated in FIG. **16**, the end of spring **155** is connected to one end of lever **211** to bias it toward engagement of its tab **208** with leaf arm **173**, thus to overcome the self-bias of the button actuator of switch **170** and actuate switch **170**. However, lever **211** is normally inoperative to affect the position of leaf blade **173** because its actuating arm **95** is engaged by the end of lead screw **84** of the lazy tong linkage, thus to pivot the arm **211** about its pintle **212** to a "neutral" position shown in FIGS. **16** and **25** in which tab **208** is spaced away from leaf blade **173** and has no effect thereon. It is only when the jam sensing feature of the compactor is active that lever arm **211** functions to actuate the leaf blade **173**, as hereinafter described.

The operation of the manual control lever **134** and the inter-related switch actuating devices and the functioning of the switches will now be described in sequence with particular reference to the diagrammatic views of FIGS. **26** through **29** which illustrate the various steps.

FIG. **26** shows the various parts with the ram fully retracted and prior to starting the compacting cycle. All leaf arms **173, 174, 175** are cammed against the self-bias of the button actuators of switches **170, 171, 172** to actuate the switches **170, 171, 172** against their "normal" positions. Thus switch **170** is in its open position with motor **87** de-energized. To start the cycle, lever **134** is swung to the left, from broken to full line position shown in FIG. **16**. Assuming the doors **53, 57** to be closed, thus to release the interlock **153** as hereinbefore described, lever **134** can swing to its extreme left position in which the bell crank **191** is actuated by pressure of the notch **203** in rotor **204** to swing the crank **191** about its pivot **192**. This will force thrust edge **205** against the plate **206** of the lever **185** and force the lever **185** to its position shown in FIG. **27** in which spring **186** is compressed and the lever **185** has moved far enough counter clockwise in this figure to relieve pressure against the leaf arm **173** so that the self-bias of button actuator for switch **170** will move the start-stop switch **170** to its normally closed position. This will start the motor **87** and the ram will be actuated to advance toward the basket **42**.

As illustrated in FIG. **28**, as soon as the cross member **81** on the extension linkage has descended it will release lever **177** and clock spring **184** will swing leaf actuator **178** counter clockwise and relieve the pressure of cam **182** on the reversing leaf arms **174, 175**. The reversing switches **171, 172** will thus reverse polarity to condition the motor to operate in reverse, the next time the motor is started.

FIG. **28** illustrates the position of parts when the operator stops the cycle prior to completion thereof. Control lever **134** is swung to the right (FIG. **16**) from its "start" toward its "off" position. Movement of the arm **166** of lever **134** slightly beyond its center position will allow the cam follower peg **195** (FIG. **25**) to ride along the cam surface **196** of rotor **165**, thus permitting clock spring **208** which engages the rotor bracket **193** to pivot the rotor bracket clockwise in this view, thus drawing tab **200** against the leaf blade **173** and forcing it against the self-bias of the button actuator on switch **170**, as illustrated in FIG. **28**, to open switch **170**. Motor **87** will now stop. If lever **134** is now again turned to its "start" position, thus to cam **200** away from leaf arm **173**, the self-bias of the button actuator for switch **170** will reclose this switch and start the motor, but this time in reverse direction, because the switches **171, 172** have previously changed polarity as a consequence of the extension linkage having moved from retracted position.

The ram will now move upwardly to its completely retracted position. As soon as the ram reaches uppermost position, as indicated in FIG. **26**, the leaf arm **173** will open switch **170** under pressure of the extension linkage cross member **81** against the lever **177**, thus to stop the motor.

Access can then be had to the interior of the compactor housing by swinging lever **134** to its "off" position. In the course of thus swinging the lever, leaf blade **173** will not be reactuated because it is already in FIG. **26** position because of the pressure of ram member **81**. Movement of the lever to its "off" position will unlatch the doors **53, 57** by withdrawing latch arm **160** (FIG. **19**) and permit the doors to be opened.

FIG. **29** illustrates a situation similar to that shown in FIG. **28**, in that the motor **87** is stopped, but in which instead of stopping the motor **87** by manually manipulating the lever **13**, it is stopped because a jam is sensed. If some hard object becomes lodged between the front of the basket **42** and the ram platen **47**, the rubber elements **116, 92** shown in FIG. **5** will yield rearwardly and the lead screw **84** will retract slightly rearwardly in the housing, thus to take the pressure of its end button **94** off of the actuator arm **95** of lever **191**. When this happens, the lever **211** will swing about its pintle **212** (FIG. **16**) under the pressure of spring **155**, thus to force tab **208** against the leaf blade **173** and actuate switch **170** to stop the motor **87**.

The operator may now re-start the motor by swinging the lever **134** to the left (clockwise in FIG. **16**). This will swing the bell crank **191** counter clockwise about its pintle **192** (FIGS. **16** and **25**) and press its cam edge **207** against the tab **208** to take the tab pressure off of the leaf blade **173** so that the self-bias of button actuator for switch **170** will close switch **170**, thus starting the motor. However, because the reversing switches **171, 172** had been previously actuated as aforestated, the motor will now operate in reverse to withdraw the ram platen from the basket. When the ram is completely withdrawn and the motor is stopped as a consequence of actuation of switch **170** when ram cross member **81** engages lever arm **177**, the operator can open the doors and reach in to remove or rearrange object which caused the jam and start a fresh compacting cycle.

As previously explained, there is also a safety switch **129** which is closed when the basket **42** is completely seated in the housing **40**. As shown in FIG. **30**, this switch **129** is in series with the motor **87**. Accordingly, if the basket is not seated in position switch **129** will not be closed and the electrical circuit is interlocked against operation.

As previously explained and as indicated in FIG. **30**, the motor **87** is also provided with a centrifugally actuated switch **97**. Accordingly, when the motor is subjected to loads which tend to slow it below running speed, switch **97** will close. The motor will slow down as it is compressing trash in basket **42** and as the resistance to ram movement builds up.

Moreover, if there is no trash in the basket, centrifugal switch **97** will nevertheless operate as the extension linkages reach their maximum extension and spring **96** (FIG. 7) imposes stalling loads on the motor **87**.

Switch **97** will function after the reversing switches **171, 172** have been previously actuated, as a consequence of the movement of the ram cross member **81** away from lever **177**, so that the operation of switch **97** will cause reversal of the motor and withdraw the ram from the basket.

The latch slide bar **124** shown in FIGS. **10, 13** and **14** is actuated by the crank **125** by the mechanism shown in FIGS. **10, 20** and **21**. Latch bar **124** is connected by pintle **213** to the crank **125** which pivots on pintle **214**. The other end of crank **125** is provided with latch finger **215** which engages into a latch opening **216** in the top flange **217** of loading door **57** (FIGS. **19, 20, 21**). Latch finger **215** supplements door latch finger **160** hereinbefore described.

Crank **125** is caused to pivot about its pintle **214** by ram movement. One of the rollers **75** for the uppermost linkages **77** of the extension linkages **46** is aligned to actuate a cam follower arm **220** (FIGS. **20, 21**) which is pivoted to housing **40** on pintle **221**. Cam follower arm **220** has an end flange **222** with a hole **219** in which the cam follower pin **223** rides. Arm **220** is provided with a curved end portion **224** against which the roller **75** presses when the extension linkage **46** is in its completely retracted position, as shown in FIG. **20**. In this position the cam follower lever **220** is tilted as illustrated to swing crank arm **125** clockwise about its pintle **214** as viewed in FIG. **10**, thus to lift latch finger **215** out of the door flange opening **216**. At the same time slide bar **124** is displaced downwardly to release the engagement of the cams **126** from the headed pins **121** on the service door **53**. Accordingly, all doors are released and the doors may be opened for removing the basket, feeding trash thereinto, etc.

However, during the compaction cycle, as soon as the ram moves downwardly, the roller **75** moves to its position shown in FIG. **21** in which the cam follower arm **220** is lifted, thus pivoting about pintle **221**, swinging crank arm **125** counter clockwise as viewed in FIG. **10**, engaging latch **215** with the loading door **57** and lifting the latch bar **124** to engage the cams **126** with the headed pins **121** on the service door **53**, thus positively locking the doors **53, 57** and insuring ample front support for the basket **42**, as is shown in FIG. **5**.

The bottom of the pressure platen **47** is desirably provided with a concentric series of ribs **225** (FIGS. **5, 22**). These ribs concentrate pressure on frangible trash, such as bottles, to promote shattering of the bottles in the compactor, thus to reduce the volume which these bottles would otherwise occupy.

The fore and aft edges **226** of the platen **47** are desirably provided with projections **227** which engage and score frangible trash at the edges of the basket, to promote shattering thereof.

The concentric rib series **225** is the preferred pattern, because one or another of the ribs will likely contact an item of frangible trash, such as a bottle, regardless of its orientation in the basket.

FIGS. **31–32** illustrate a modified trash container or basket **232**. This basket is made of the same plastic material as basket **42** and has flexible side walls which yield under ram pressure to seat against correspondingly shaped walls of the housing **40**. However, in basket **232** the bottom wall **233** is rearwardly tapered so that the bottom rear corner **234** of the basket is somewhat narrower than the bottom front corner **235**. The top rim **236** is rectangular in outline, whereas the bottom outline of the basket comprises a rearwardly tapering trapezoid. Rim **236** is desirably provided with an outwardly embossed rib **241** which fits into housing groove **71** (FIGS. **9** and **10**) similar to rim **48** of basket **42**. Bag **43** snubs about rib **241**, as it does about rim **48**. The side walls **237** of the basket converge downwardly and rearwardly. The supporting walls of the housing **40** are modified in shape to conform to basket **232**, thus to provide a snug all around seat for the basket **232** when it is fully received therein. However, the downward and rearward taper of the basket is such as to predispose the basket to slide forward slightly in the event a hard object becomes jammed between the front wall of the basket and the ram platen **47**.

In a practical embodiment of the invention in which there is approximately a one-eighth inch spacing between the flexible side walls **233** of the basket **232** and the supporting walls of the housing **40**, and a one-fourth inch spacing between the front wall **238** of the basket and the door wall **117**, the basket **232** will slide forwardly about one-quarter inch during a jam. This is sufficient to relieve the pressure of switch actuator tab **72** from basket switch **129** and thus stop motor **87** in the event of a jam. In this embodiment it is unnecessary to provide the jam sensing mechanism hereinbefore described in which the entire ram assembly yields rearwardly slightly in the event of a jam and in which the tab **208** on the lever **211** actuates leaf blade **173**. In this modified embodiment, the jam responsive switch actuating mechanism aforesaid can be omitted in favor of stopping the motor by relieving the pressure of actuator tab **72** on the basket safety switch **129**.

A re-set button can be located near the bottom of the compactor frame to permit the operator to re-start the motor which will then return to its uppermost position and actuate the various mechanisms which unlatch the door, etc., so that the operator can then open the door and relieve the jam.

The tapered or wedge configuration of basket **232** has the further advantage that it may be easily removed from its seat in the compactor after it has been filled with trash. During the compacting procedure the flexible walls of the basket flex against the supporting frame. When the basket is filled and it is desired to remove the same from the housing, a slight forward movement of the basket will quickly relieve the pressure engagement of its flexible walls with the corresponding tapered supporting walls of the housing and relieve all binding therebetween.

In preferred embodiments of the invention the basket **42, 232** is made of polyethylene plastic which is sanitized with a bactericide molded into the plastic. The bags **43** are likewise sanitized.

A key lock **230** is also provided. As shown in FIGS. **9** and **23**, it actuates a vertically reciprocating plunger **231** which has a socket **232**. The key lock has two

modes of use. In its first mode, when the lever is in its right hand or "off" position (FIG. 9) actuation of the lock will advance the plunger downwardly into the path of swinging movement of the lever **134,** thus to block movement of the lever toward "start" position. With the lever **134** at the right of center, latch **160** is in raised position and both doors **53, 57** are free to be opened, thus permitting loading and unloading the basket, but precluding operation of the compactor.

In its second mode, the lever is placed in its center position (FIG. **23**). Acutuation of the lock will advance its plunger **231** to engage its socket **232** over the arm **166** of the lever **134.** In this position of the lever **134** latch **160** is also advanced to lock both doors **53, 57** in closed position. Starting of the compactor is also precluded. In this mode small children can neither gain access to the interior of the housing nor start the compactor.

We claim:

1. In a trash compactor of the character described the combination with a housing for a trash basket and ram assembly of a double door therefor, one of said doors comprising an innermost service door having a loading port above the level of the basket, said housing having an unobstructed chuting space above said basket and opposite said loading port and a loading door over said loading port, said loading door having a hinge by which it is connected to the service door and about which the loading door may be swung away from the service door to open said loading port to admit trash through the loading port and said unobstructed chuting space into the basket, said loading door having a panel which projects inwardly through said loading port in the service door and which overhangs the rim of the trash basket when both the loading door and the service door are closed.

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