

Aug. 17, 1943.

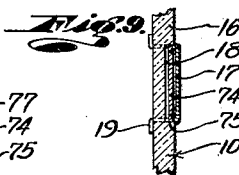
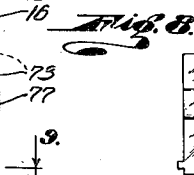
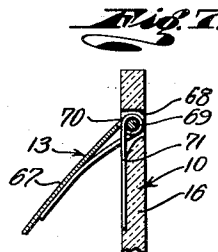
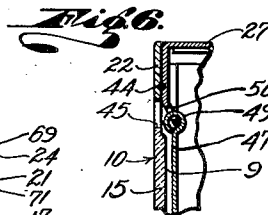
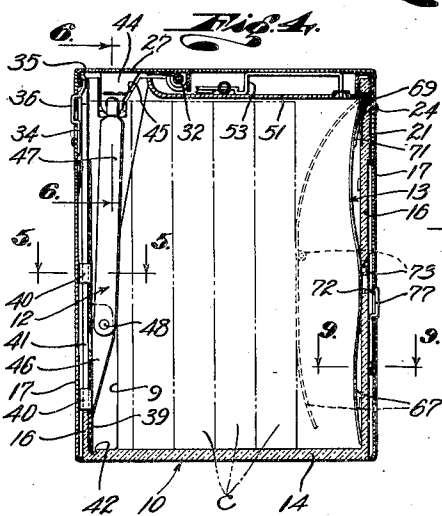
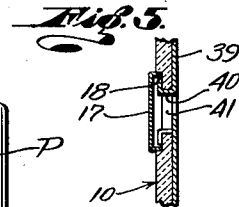
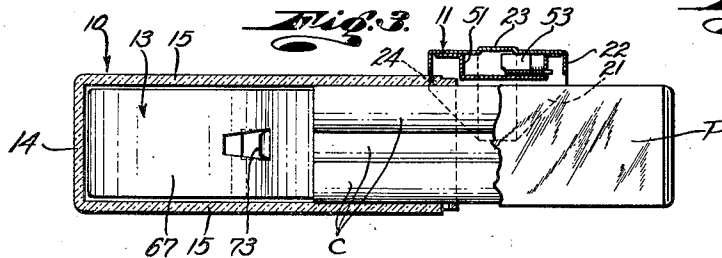
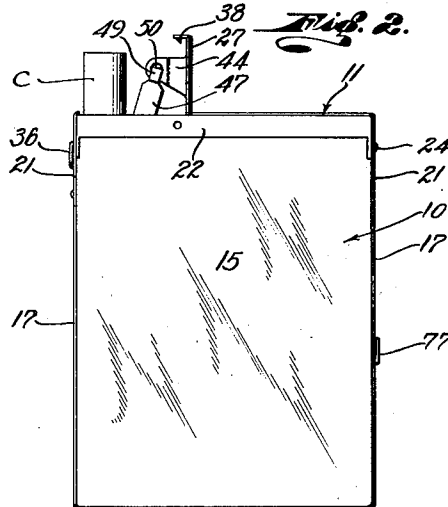
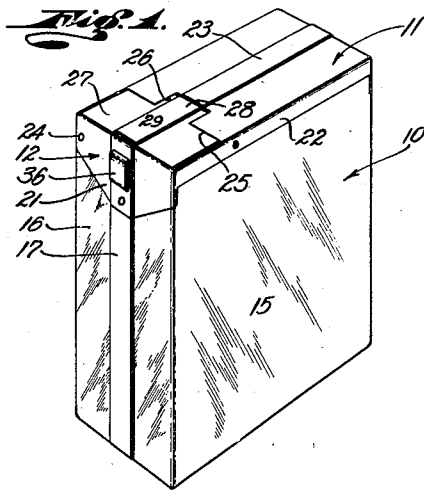
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2,327,120

CIGARETTE CASE

Filed Nov. 12, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2,327,120

CIGARETTE CASE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

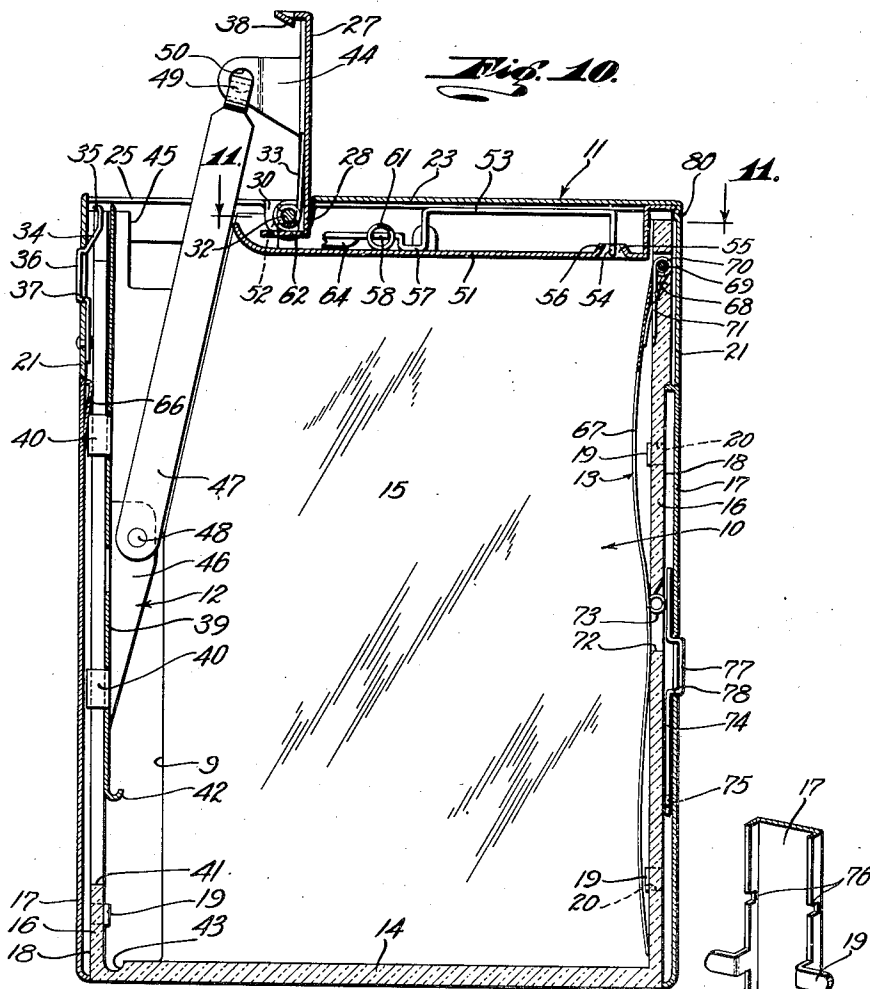


Fig. 11.

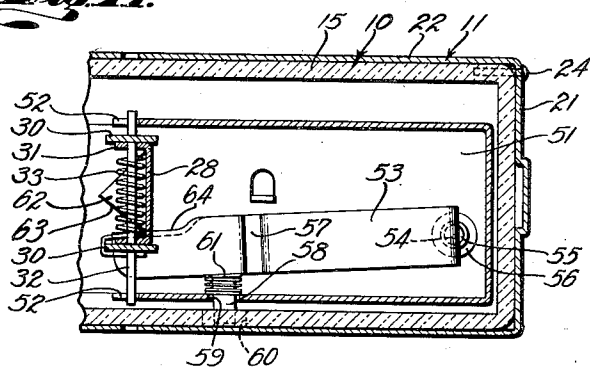


Fig. 12.

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CIGARETTE CASE

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11 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.2)

This invention relates to containers or cases and relates more particularly to cases for cigarettes and the like. A general object of the invention is to provide a practical, effective and inexpensive cigarette case embodying a novel ejecting means.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cigarette case which effectively protects and seals the cigarettes and which is operable to successively project or eject the cigarettes for ready removal.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cigarette case formed with one end fully open for the easy insertion or loading of the entire contents of an original cigarette package into the case by merely entering the entire group of cigarettes into the case while stripping the original package away, said end of the case being provided with a cover for closing and sealing the case to retain and protect the cigarettes.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cigarette case of the character referred to in which the cover has an ejecting opening provided with a spring loaded door coupled with an ejector and easily released for opening to cause the automatic ejection of the cigarettes from the case.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character mentioned embodying a novel coupling between the case cover and the ejector door which is uninjured and unaffected when the cover is hinged between the open and closed positions for the loading of the case and which may serve as a hinge or auxiliary hinge for the cover.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cigarette case of the character referred to embodying a novel control or lock means for the cover which prevents opening of the case when the ejector door is open, thereby preventing injury to the ejecting mechanism, and embodying a lock means for the ejector door and ejector mechanism which holds the same against operation when the cover is raised to reload the case.

A further object of the invention is to provide a cigarette case of the character mentioned embodying an improved feeding mechanism which feeds or advances the cigarettes to the ejector for ejection thereby and controlled by a latch means which serves to hold the cigarette pushing or feeding element retracted against the wall of the case where it does not interfere with the free loading of the entire original group of cigarettes into the case, which latch means is readily released subsequent to the loading operation, conditioning the feeding mechanism for operation.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of a typical preferred form

and application of my invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the case provided by this invention with both the cover and the ejection means door closed. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the case showing the door raised and a cigarette partially ejected from the case. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal detailed sectional view of the case in a reclining position with the cover open showing the manner in which the case is loaded. Fig. 4 is a vertical detailed sectional view of the case in the closed condition illustrating the cigarettes in broken lines and showing the feeding mechanism retracted. Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 5—5 on Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view taken substantially as indicated by line 6—6 on Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view illustrating the mounting of the feeding means. Fig. 8 is an elevation view of the releasing member of the feeding mechanism removed from the other parts. Fig. 9 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 9—9 on Fig. 4. Fig. 10 is an enlarged vertical detailed sectional view of the case showing the ejecting means in an actuated condition and the feeding means retracted. Fig. 11 is a fragmentary horizontal detailed sectional view taken substantially as indicated by line 11—11 on Fig. 10 and Fig. 12 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the channel members removed from the case.

The cigarette case of the present invention may be said to comprise, generally, a case body 10, a pivoted or hinged cover 11 for the body 10, ejecting means 12 associated with the cover 11, and feeding means 13 for feeding the cigarettes C to the ejecting means 12.

The case 10 is provided to receive and contain the cigarettes C and carries and houses the various other elements of the device. In the preferred structure the case body 10 is designed and proportioned to receive the entire contents of an original package of cigarettes, for example, it may be proportioned to receive twenty cigarettes in a pack or group as generally marketed in the original paper container. As illustrated, the case body 10 may be a hollow rectangular structure comprising a bottom 14, side walls 15 and what I will term edge walls 16. In accordance with the invention the case body 10 has an open upper end normally closed by the cover 11. The case body 10 may be an integral or one-piece member formed of a selected material. In practice the body 10 may be constructed of one of the so-called plastic materials and it is preferred to form the body 10 of transparent or partially transparent material so that the user may ascer-

tain the number of cigarettes within the case. The case body 10 may be of any selected color and may be ornamented as desired. In the form of the invention illustrated the edge walls 16 of the body 10 are provided with ornamental trim or channel members 17 which serve to conceal, carry and house certain of the other elements to be later described. The channel shaped trim members 17 are partially recessed in central longitudinal grooves 18 in the external surfaces of the walls 16, being arranged to have their edge flanges bearing in the grooves, see Fig. 5. Ears 19 project from the edges of the channel members 17 at vertically spaced points to pass through openings 23 in the walls 16 and are turned back against the inner surfaces of said walls to retain the members in position. The channel members 17 may extend downwardly to the bottom 14 where they are rounded to merge with the bottom while their upper ends are spaced some distance below the top of the case body.

The cover 11 serves to normally close the upper end of the case to retain and protect the contents and is adapted to be opened to permit the loading of the case. The cover 11 is preferably, though not necessarily, formed of sheet metal and is generally flat and parallel with the bottom 14 when in the closed position. Depending flanges or wings 21 are provided on the opposite ends of the cover 11 and depending flanges 22 extend along the longitudinal edges of the cover. The edge walls 16 are indented or recessed at their upper parts to receive the wings 21 and the upper edges of the side walls 15 are recessed to receive the flanges 22 so that these parts may lie substantially flush with the external surfaces of the case. The case cover 11 is pressed or formed to have a raised longitudinal rib 23 which continues across its upper side and its wings 21 to complement or complete the channel members 17 of the body 10. In accordance with the invention the cover 11 is pivoted or hinged to the body 10 to swing about an axis in or immediately adjacent the plane occupied by one of the body side walls 15. Thus, as best illustrated in Figs. 1 and 11, horizontal hinge pins 24 are anchored in upper corner parts of the body 10 to have their axes in the vertical plane of a side wall 15 and these pins extend through openings in the cover wings 1 to support the cover for pivotal movement between its open and closed positions. When the cover 11 is closed the engagement of its wings 21 and flanges 22 with the body walls serves to hold the cover against opening. When the cover 11 is open, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, it is completely clear of the upper end of the body 10 so that the case may be readily loaded.

In accordance with the invention a discharge opening 25 is provided in the cover 11 to permit the ejection of the cigarettes C. The opening 25 is substantially rectangular and is provided at one end of the cover 11. The opening 25 preferably has one longitudinal wall at an end edge or corner of the cover 11 and its opposite end walls are adjacent the longitudinal edge corners of the cover. A central reduced extension or notch 26 is provided in the inner longitudinal side of the opening 25. The opening 25 is proportioned to freely pass at least two cigarettes.

The ejecting means 12 is operable at the will of the user to project the cigarettes C through the opening 25 singly or in pairs. The means 12 includes a door 27 for the opening 25. The door 27 conforms to the opening 25 to fully occupy or

close the same and has a tongue 28 occupying the notch 26. When the door 27 is closed its upper surface may lie flush with the surface of the cover 11 and it is preferred to provide a central rib 29 on the door to complete the rib 23. Down turned lugs 30 are provided on the cover 11 at the opposite sides of the notch 26 and down turned ears 31 on the tongue 28 lie against or adjacent these lugs. A pivot pin 32 passes through horizontal openings in the lugs and ears 31 to support the door 27 for pivotal movement. A torsional opening 33 surrounds the pin 32 and has one end anchored to the cover 11 and one end bearing upwardly against the door 27. The spring 33 is operable to swing the door 27 from its closed position to its open, substantially vertical position.

Latch means is provided to hold the door 27 closed and to retain the ejecting mechanism 12 in its idle retracted condition. The latch means comprises a latch 34 arranged at the inner side of the wing 21 which is at the discharge opening 25, see Fig. 10. The latch 34 may be riveted or otherwise fixed to the wing 21 and extends upwardly to have its upper end adjacent the opening 25. The upper end of the latch 34 is shaped or bent to form a catch 35. The intermediate portion of the latch 34 is shaped or bent to have an outwardly projecting button part 36 which is received in an opening 37 in the wing 21. An inwardly projecting detent or hook 38 is formed on the outer edge of the door 27. The hook 38 may be as shown or there may be an opening formed in the door 27 instead of the hook. The catch 35 is cooperable with the opening or hook 38 to hold the door 27 closed. The resiliency of the latch 34 normally retains the catch 35 in engagement with the opening or hook 38. By merely pressing inwardly on the part 36 the latch 34 is flexed to free the catch 35 from the opening or hook 38, thus freeing the door 27 for opening. When the door 27 is reclosed the opening or hook 38 again cooperates with the catch 35 to hold the door shut.

The ejector means 12 further includes a shiftable ejector 39. The ejector 39 is a flat strip or strap riding on the internal surface of the wall 16 below the opening 25. The means for guiding and retaining the ejector 39 comprises lugs or ears 40 projecting from the inner side of the ejector 39 and extending through a vertical slot 41 in the body wall 16. The outer parts of the ears 40 are turned back or laterally to ride on the bottom wall of the recess 13. This structure is illustrated in Fig. 5. The guiding ears 40 are spaced vertically along the ejector 39. The ejector 39 is guided by the ears 40 to lie flat against the wall 16. An outwardly or laterally turned lifting foot 42 is provided on the lower end of the ejector 39. The foot 42 may be curved or concave. A groove 43 is formed in the case bottom 14 to receive the foot 42 when the ejector is in its down position. When the ejector 39 is in its fully retracted position its upper end is spaced some distance below the opening 25.

The invention provides a novel coupling or connection between the door 27 and the ejector 39. This connection includes a depending lug 44 on the under side of the door 27. The lug 44 is at one side edge or end of the door 27 and is received in a notch 45 in the aligned case side wall 15 when the door is closed. A laterally or inwardly projecting flange 46 is provided on the ejector 39 in substantially vertical alignment with the lug 44. A link 47 extends between the lug

44 and the flange 46 and a pivot pin 48 connects the lower end of the link 47 with the flange 46. A groove 9 in the internal surface of the adjacent wall 15 receives the flange 46 and the link 47 so that these parts do not interfere with the cigarettes C. A reduced finger 5 is provided on the upper end of the link 47 and is bent or curved to form an eye 49. The eye 49 is received or linked in an opening 50 in the lug 44. The fit of the eye 49 in the opening 50 is such that there may be relative pivotal movement between the lug 44 and the link 47 about the longitudinal axis of the opening 50 and is such that the lug 44 may pivot on the common axis of the pivot pins 24 with respect to the link 47. This structure provides an effective pivotal connection between the lug 44 and the link 47 whereby the door 27 operates the link to elevate the ejector 39 when the door opens and the connection also permits swinging or hinging of the closed door 27 with the cover 11 when the latter is opened and closed without moving or interfering with the link 47 or the ejector 39. In other words the door 27 is operatively connected with the ejector link 47 by a means which allows the cover 11 to be swung open and closed without disturbing or injuring the ejecting mechanism so long as the door 27 remains closed. Upon the release of the latch 34 the spring 33 automatically swings the door 27 upwardly to its open position and the link 47 transmits movement from the door to the ejector 39 so that the ejector is moved upwardly simultaneously with the opening of the door. The foot 42 of the ejector 39 is operable to raise and eject the cigarette or cigarettes C which may be resting against the ejector 39. Thus, the single spring 33 serves to open the door 27 and to eject the cigarette or cigarettes C.

The invention provides means for automatically locking the cover 11 when the ejecting means 12 is operated or used. The under side of the cover 11 is provided with a generally horizontal shield or housing 51 having side walls and edge flanges which are releasably engaged or snapped with lugs 50 on the inner side of the cover to hold the housing 51 in place. The under side of the housing 51 may be engageable with the upper ends of the cigarettes C to limit or prevent longitudinal shifting of the same. Notches 52 are formed in the forward edges of the housing 51 to receive the hinge pin 32 of the door 27 which assists in holding the housing in place. The lugs 30 and ears 31 of the door mounting project downwardly into the housing. The lock for the cover 11 comprises a lever 53 pivotally mounted in the housing 51. The lever 53 has a down turned ear on one end provided with a reduced finger 54. The finger 54 enters an opening 55 in the lower wall of the housing 51 and the lower end of the lever 53 bears on a ridge 56 surrounding the opening to support the lever for free pivotal movement. The major intermediate portion of the lever 53 engages the under side of the cover 11 to prevent upward movement of the lever. The lever is bent or shaped to have a downwardly extending runner 57 which rides on the inner surface of the housing 51 to prevent downward movement of the lever and to guide the outer part of the lever. A laterally projecting bolt part 58 is formed on the outer part of the lever 53 adjacent the runner 57. The bolt part 58 passes through an opening 59 in the side wall of the housing 51 and is adapted to extend into a socket or opening 60 in the adjacent side wall 15 of the case 10, see Fig. 11. The engagement

of the part 58 in the opening 60 positively locks the cover 11 against upward movement. A coiled spring 61 is arranged under compression between the lever 53 and the opposing wall of the housing 51 to urge the lever to its released position where the part 58 is free of the opening 60. The spring 61 may be arranged on the part 56 as illustrated in Fig. 11.

Cam means is provided to control or actuate the lock lever 53. The tongue 23 of the door 27 has a down turned cam part 62 on its outer end provided with convergent faces 63. One of these cam faces 63 constitutes a cam face and is engageable with a lip 64 formed on the adjacent side edge of the lock lever 53. When the door 27 is in the closed position the cam part 62 is retracted with respect to the lock lever 53 and the spring 61 holds the lever in the position where the part 58 is clear of the opening 60. Under these conditions the cover 11 may be opened and closed at will. When the ejector means 12 is operated to cause opening of the door 27 and upward movement of the ejector 39, the cam face 63 cooperates with the lip 64 to pivot the lever 53 to the position where the part 58 engages in the opening 60. This holds the cover 11 against opening. When the cover 27 is reclosed the lock lever 53 returns to its idle position where the part 58 is out of the opening 60. The forward part of the housing 51 is extended and curved upwardly to form a spring. The lower end of the cam part 62 cooperates with this spring portion of the housing to retard the opening movement of the door 27. It will be observed that the cooperation of the cam face 63 with the lip 64 and the engagement of the cam part 62 with the spring portion of the housing 51 operate to retard the final opening movement of the door 27 and final upward movement of the ejector 39 so that the ejecting means parts are not subjected to shock and so that the ejected cigarette is not thrown out of the case.

In addition to the shock absorbing action of the cam parts just described it is preferred to provide means for retarding the upward movement of the ejector 39 as it approaches the end of its upward movement. This shock absorbing or retarding means comprises a part 66 turned down from the upper end of the channel member 17 which is adjacent the ejecting means 12. This part 66 is turned back to lie against the inner side of the channel member 17 and presents a downwardly and outwardly sloping face. The uppermost lug or ear 40 of the ejector 39 rides up against the part 66 as the ejector 39 approaches the end of its upward movement. This engagement slows down the upward movement of the ejector and finally stops the ejector and limits the opening movement of the door 27. The feeding means 13 operates to urge or feed the cigarettes C toward the ejector 39 so that the cigarettes are successively discharged by operation of the means 12. The feeding means 13 includes a curved spring blade 67 arranged in the case body 10 to push the cigarettes C toward the ejector 39. A substantially horizontal slot 68 is formed in the body wall 15 which opposes the ejecting means 12, and a pin 69 extends through the slot 68. The spring blade 67 has spaced ears 70 on its upper edge rolled about the pin 69 to pivotally support the blade 67. A torsional spring 71 is arranged around the pin 69 and reacts between the body wall 15 and the blade 67 to urge the blade forwardly. The blade 67 is bowed downwardly and inwardly and then

downwardly and outwardly to have its major intermediate part bear against the cigarettes C. I prefer to construct the blade 67 of very thin material, such as spring brass of .006 or .007 of an inch thick, so that it conforms to the cigarettes C for a substantial part of its length. It will be observed that the torsional spring 71 aids the inherent resiliency of the blade 67 in maintaining the blade in pressure contact with the cigarettes C. The blade 67 is mounted on the body wall 16 adjacent the under side of the housing 51 and the blade is bent or shaped so that it is stopped or limited by the housing 51 when the supply of cigarettes C is reduced to only two or three. The shape or curvature of the blade 67 is such that the lower part of the blade cannot dig into or injure the cigarettes C when the blade is stopped or limited by the housing 51, as just described. The last cigarettes C are readily ejected without further movement of the blade 67 which might wedge or pinch them against the ejector 39.

The feed means 13 further includes means for latching or retaining the blade 67 in a retracted position against or adjacent the wall of the case 10 when a new supply of cigarettes is to be loaded in the case. This means includes or provides an opening 72 in the adjacent wall 16 of the body 10. A U or V slot is cut in the blade 67 and the material defined by the slot is curled or rolled into a detent projection 73 for engaging in the opening 72. The engagement of the detent part 73 in the opening 72 serves to hold the blade 67 flattened or partially flattened as illustrated in Fig. 10 of the drawings where it lies substantially flush against the adjacent body wall 16. The portion of the retracted blade 67 above the detent part 73 bows inwardly to a sufficient extent to guide the cigarettes C past the opening in the blade at the detent part 73 so that the cigarettes do not foul or catch in the opening when loaded in the case.

Means is provided for releasing the detent part 73 from the opening 72 to free the blade 67 for operation. This means includes a releasing member 74 arranged within the channel member 17 to extend across the outer side of the opening 72. The lower part of the releasing member 74 has lugs 75 projecting from its opposite edges and these lugs are received in notches 76 in the side flanges of the trim or channel member 17, see Figs. 8 and 9, or engaged in notches in the body wall 16. The engagement of the lugs 75 in the notches 76 retains the member 74 in position and permits limited pivotal movement of the member. The inner side of the releasing member 74 engages with the detent part 73. The member 74 is bent or shaped to have an outwardly projecting button 77 received in an opening 78 in the body wall 16. The user may press on the button 77 to cause the member 74 to free the detent part 73 from the opening 72.

It is believed that the operation of the improved cigarette case of the invention will be readily understood from the foregoing detailed description. Assuming that the cover 11 and the door 27 are closed and that it is desired to load the case the user merely swings the cover 11 to the open position. During this operation the ejecting means 12 remains unactuated and the lug 44 merely swings or pivots in the eye 49. The cover 11 swings back to expose the entire end of the case body 10. This allows the entire group of cigarettes C contained in an original paper package P to be entered in the case body 10. 75

Prior to the insertion of the cigarettes C, the user may insert his fingers in the case and press the blade 67 back to latch the detent part 73 in the opening 72 to hold the blade 67 retracted and out of the path of the cigarettes to be loaded in the case. With the cover 11 open and the blade 67 retracted the entire group of cigarettes C may be easily loaded in the case body 10 as a single unit or group in the order or packed relation they had in the original package. Fig. 3 illustrates how this is done. The inside dimensions of the case body 10 are such that the case is adapted to hold the cigarettes C in the closely packed relation they bore in the original package. Transferring the cigarettes C from the original package to the case does not change the positions of the cigarettes C. The case body 10 is very little larger than the original cigarette package P and the ejecting mechanism, etc. is made to occupy a minimum amount of space so that the cigarettes are not crowded or crushed in the case. With the cigarettes C loaded in the case body 10 the cover 11 may be closed. The case is then in condition for use.

When it is desired to obtain a cigarette C the user merely pushes on the part 36. This releases the catch 35 from the hook 38 and the spring 33 swings the door 27 open and moves the ejector 39 upwardly. The ejector raises or ejects one or two cigarettes so that they project through the opening 25 to be readily withdrawn. If only one cigarette is desired and two cigarettes have been ejected the user merely closes the door 27 to return the extra cigarette. When the door 27 is closed the hook 38 engages the catch 35 to latch the door. When three or four cigarettes have been withdrawn from the case the user may press on the part 77 to free the blade 67. The blade 67 presses against the group of cigarettes C to urge the cigarettes against the ejector 39 and thus feeds the cigarettes to the ejecting means 12. The blade 67 remains effective until the supply of cigarettes is exhausted.

Having described only a typical preferred form and application of my invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may appear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims:

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A cigarette case comprising a case body having a filling opening, a cover for the opening hingedly connected to the body to be moved between open and closed positions and having a movable portion, means operated by the movable portion for ejecting cigarettes from the case body, and a lock operated by the movable portion for locking the cover closed during said ejection of the cigarettes.

2. A case of the character described comprising a case body having a filling opening, a cover for the opening hinged to the body, the cover having a discharge opening, a door for the discharge opening, ejector means in the body for ejecting objects through the discharge opening, an operative connection between the door and ejector for causing simultaneous opening of the door and operation of the ejector, said connection permitting opening of the cover when the door is closed, and a lock for the cover connected with the door so that the cover is locked closed when the door is open.

3. A cigarette case comprising a case body for

containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening through which the cigarettes may be passed into the case, a pivoted cover for the filling opening having a discharge opening, a hinged door for the discharge opening, an ejector in the case for ejecting the cigarettes through discharge opening, an operating member connected with the ejector, and a universal connection between the member and door whereby opening of the door is accompanied by operation of the ejector, said connection being located to provide for relative pivotal movement between the door and member about the pivotal axis of the cover when the cover is opened and closed.

4. A cigarette case comprising a case body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening through which the cigarettes may be passed into the case, a pivoted cover for the filling opening having a discharge opening, a hinged door for the discharge opening, a spring means for opening the door, releasable latch means for latching the door closed, an ejector in the case for ejecting the cigarettes through the discharge opening, an operating member connected with the ejector, and a universal connection between the member and door whereby opening of the door is accompanied by operation of the ejector, said connection being located to provide for relative pivotal movement between the door and member about the pivotal axis of the cover when the cover is opened and closed.

5. A cigarette case comprising a case body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening through which the cigarettes may be passed into the case, a pivoted cover for the filling opening having a discharge opening, a hinged door for the discharge opening, an ejector in the case for ejecting the cigarettes through discharge opening, an operating member connected with the ejector, a universal pivotal connection between the member and the door whereby opening of the door is accompanied by operation of the ejector, said connection being located to provide for relative pivotal movement between the member and door about the pivotal axis of the cover when the cover is raised with the door in the closed position, and a lock for the cover connected with the door so that the cover is locked closed when the door is open.

6. A cigarette case comprising a case body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening through which the cigarettes may be passed into the case, a pivoted cover for the filling opening having a discharge opening, a hinged door for the discharge opening, an ejector in the case for ejecting the cigarettes through the discharge opening, an operating member connected with the ejector, a pivotal connection between the member and the door whereby opening of the door is accompanied by operation of the ejector, said connection providing for relative pivotal movement between the member and door about the pivotal axis of the cover when the cover is raised with the door in the closed position, and lock means operable upon opening of the door for locking the cover against opening, the lock means comprising a movable lock part carried by the cover for locking with the body, and cam means on the door for operating the lock part.

7. A case of the character described comprising a case body having a filling opening, a cover for the opening hinged to the body, the cover hav-

ing a discharge opening, a door for the discharge opening, ejector means in the body for ejecting objects through the discharge opening, an operative connection between the door and ejector for causing simultaneous opening of the door and operation of the ejector, said connection permitting opening of the cover when the door is closed, and means operative upon opening of the door for locking the cover closed, the last named means comprising a lock part movably carried by the cover adapted to have locking engagement with the body, spring means holding the lock part retracted, and cam means on the door for moving the lock part into locking engagement with the body when the door is opened.

8. A cigarette case comprising a case body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening through which the cigarettes may be passed into the case, a cover for the filling opening adapted to be moved to an open position clear of the filling opening, the cover having a discharge opening, an ejector at one wall of the body for ejecting the cigarettes through the discharge opening, a leaf spring mounted at the opposite wall of the body for feeding the cigarettes to the ejector, and means for latching the leaf spring in adjacent relation to said opposite wall when the cigarettes are to be loaded in the body including a fixed shoulder in the body and a projection on the spring for latching with the shoulder.

9. In a cigarette case, a body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening, ejecting means in the body for ejecting the cigarettes therefrom, a blade tending to move toward the ejecting means to feed the cigarettes thereto, and releasable means for holding the blade retracted when the cigarettes are to be loaded into the case body, the last named means including a shoulder on the body, a part on the blade for releasably latching with the shoulder, and a manually operable member on the case for disengaging said part from the shoulder.

10. In a cigarette case, a body for containing the cigarettes and having a filling opening, ejecting means in the body for ejecting the cigarettes therefrom, a curved spring blade tending to move toward the ejecting means to feed the cigarettes thereto, and releasable means for holding the blade retracted when the cigarettes are to be loaded into the case body, the body having an opening in its wall, the last named means including a part on the blade for latching in the opening, a trim member on the exterior of the body covering said opening in the wall of the body and having a window, and a releasing member in the trim member manually accessible through the window to release said part from the opening in the body wall.

11. In a cigarette case, a body for receiving and holding the cigarettes, ejecting means in the body for ejecting the cigarettes therefrom, a substantially semi-circular thin flexible spring blade having one end anchored in the body to have its intermediate portion flattened through contact with the cigarettes and urging the cigarettes laterally toward the ejecting means while maintaining the cigarettes upright and an auxiliary torsional spring acting on the blade adjacent its anchored end to assist the blade in feeding the cigarettes to the ejecting means.

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