April 3, 1928. 1,664,500

G. T. BATES

CATCH FOR CASES AND THE LIKE

Filed Jan. 12, 1926

Fig. 1.

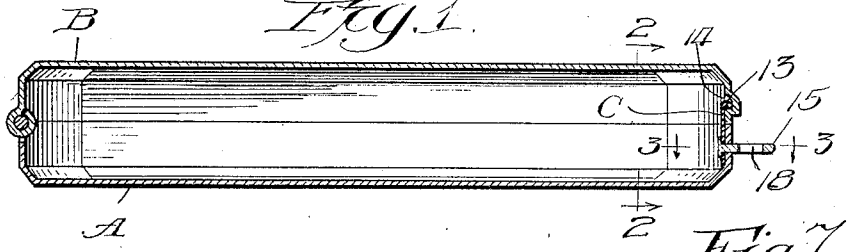


Fig. 7.

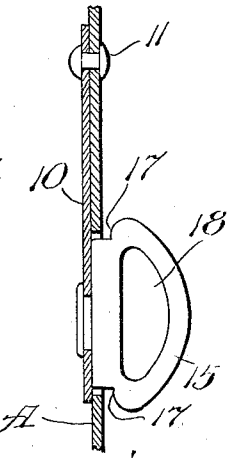


Fig. 2.

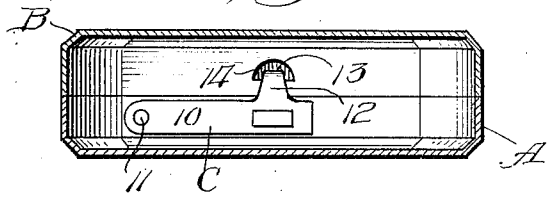


Fig. 6.

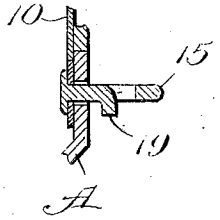


Fig. 3.

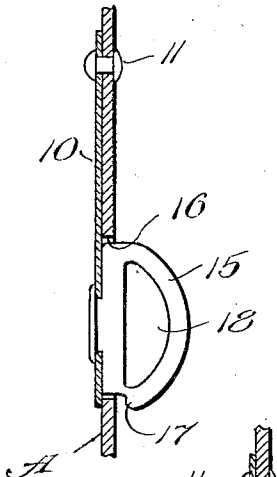


Fig. 4.

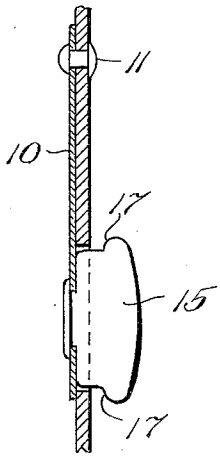


Fig. 5.

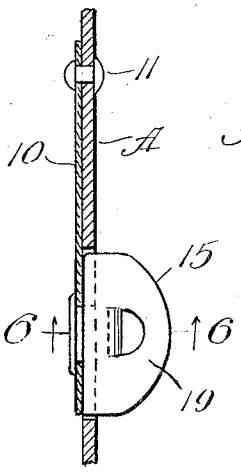
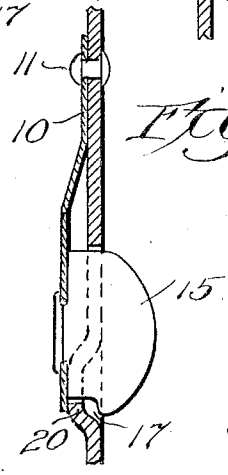


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CATCH FOR CASES AND THE LIKE.

Application filed January 18, 1926. Serial No. 81,946.

This invention has to do with a spring catch suitable for holding closed the cover of my small container—a vanity case for example. In its construction and assembly it is simple, inexpensive and compact; in operation it is dependable and easy; and in appearance it is no more visible than other like devices which have heretofore been used. It is advantageous over other constructions in that I combine with a spring having a light and easy action, a stop means which definitely limits the distance of its movement necessary for release of the cover or lid which is to be opened. In this connection, I may add that it is common practice for spring catches to become broken or bent because of (1) the design which requires application of a considerable operating force, often enough to damage the parts, and (2) failure to provide a stop which determines the extent to which it is necessary to move the catch in order to obtain the desired release. I have incorporated in the catch device herein shown and described features which overcome the difficulties just noted, and without expense, complication, or space greater than has heretofore been required.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, I have illustrated therein certain preferred embodiments of this invention in the manner following:

Figure 1 is a transverse section through a conventional case, together with catch provided for releasably holding the cover thereof;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view through the case, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a detail in section, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Figs. 4 and 5 are similar views of a slightly modified construction;

Fig. 6 is a sectional detail, taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7, which is a view similar to Fig. 3, shows a further modification; and

Fig. 8, which is a view similar to Figs. 3, 4, and 5, shows a still further modified construction.

The illustrative case A may, as shown, be equipped with a hinged lid or cover B. To hold this cover normally in closed position upon the case a spring catch C is provided. According to my invention, this may take the form of a light flat bar 10 of spring material which at one end may be secured, as with a rivet 11, to the inner case side, its tension being such that the spring is normally held against the case side. From the spring bar extends a lateral portion 12 with bent finger 13 which is adapted to engage with a shoulder 14 provided adjacent a notch in the cover B. Connected to the free end of the spring is an operating button 15 which extends through a closely fitting opening or slot 16 in the case so as to be accessible for manipulation upon the exterior thereof.

The construction thus far described provides a catch which may be conveniently operated by pressure upon the button. My invention goes further, however, in that it embodies a stop means by which to limit the spring movement when its catch finger 13 is disengaged from the shoulder 14. Beyond this point any spring movement would be useless, would require unnecessary space for its accommodation, and would endanger the spring itself, as experience has demonstrated. The exact form or shape of the stop may be varied considerably, as will appear in Figs. 3 to 8 inclusive, wherein five alternative constructions are suggested.

The stop of Fig. 3 consists of an overhanging shoulder 17 on one end of the button which, however, need lose none of its symmetry on this account. This shoulder normally stands out from the proximate wall of the case a short distance only—scarcely greater than the overhang of the catch finger 13 upon the shoulder 14. When the button is pushed in its shoulder 17 quickly engages the case to arrest further spring movement. Further pressure upon the spring is unnecessary as the cover is then no longer held by the catch. It should be observed that the shape and contour of the spring button may be variously modified; it may be provided with an eye 18, as in Fig. 3; it may be flattened as in Fig. 4; or it may be otherwise designed and ornamented, if desired.

In Fig. 4 the button is provided with a pair of oppositely disposed overhanging shoulders 17 both of which are engageable with the case wall to stop inward movement of the spring when the catch has released its hold upon the cover. According to Figs. 5 and 6, a lug 19 may be laterally bent out from the body of the button whereby to engage with the case, as above specified, when

the button is pushed in for the purpose of releasing the catch. Also, as suggested in Fig. 7, the button may be provided with a pair of oppositely disposed overhanging shoulders 17, both adapted to engage with the case wall when the spring is inwardly pushed to the limit determined by these stops.

In each of the constructions just described, the stop shoulder or lug lies exteriorly of the case. To meet any possible objection arising from this, the arrangement shown in Fig. 8 may be resorted to. Here the button shoulder 17 may lie substantially flush with the outer face of the case whose wall adjacent thereto is inset slightly as at 20 whereby to afford to the button a sufficient movement range to permit release of the catch.

From the preceding description it will be noted that the present spring catch is simple in the extreme. The stop which I have provided lies upon the case exterior, but, even so, is scarcely visible under close inspection. No additional parts are required, only a modification of the form and shape of certain of them sufficient to endow the catch with the added stop function already explained at length.

I claim:

The combination with a case and cover therefor of a spring bar fastened at one end to a wall of the case, there being a finger catch extended from the bar to releasably hold the cover upon the case, a flat button connected to the bar at a point remote from its fastened end and extended through the case wall wherein is a closely surrounding aperture for this purpose, the case wall adjacent said aperture being inset at one point and the button having an overhanging shoulder adapted to engage with said inset wall portion when a push-in pressure is applied thereto, the button shoulder being normally substantially flush with the outer face of the case wall and serving as a stop, when engaged therewith, to limit further inward movement of the catch, substantially as described.

GEO. T. BATES.