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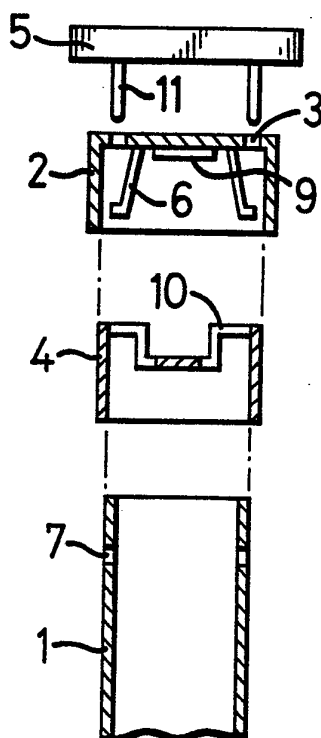
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(54) Title: SECURITY CONTAINER SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A security container which is particularly suitable for holding video cassettes. The container consists of a body member and a lid which is held on by resilient latches, each having an adjacent aperture, the lid being removable by means of a key consisting of a number of probes which can extend into the apertures to disengage the latches.

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SECURITY CONTAINER SYSTEM

This invention relates to security containers.

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In shops, or other retail outlets, there is a considerable problem of theft in relation to video cassettes. In order to overcome this problem, containers are usually displayed without their cassettes inside so that the public can select the container and then the retailer will provide the cassette from a secure store in another part of the shop.

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15 It is, however, unsatisfactory to separate the cassette from its container. There are several reasons for this. One is that the storage area in the shop has to be effectively doubled to take account of the separated items and another problem is organisation of the shop in such a way that the correct cassette video can be married up to its container. It is also possible for the cassette to be damaged when not in its container.

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The present invention is concerned with provision of a container which enables the video cassette or other thief sensitive article to be maintained securely in the container when the
5 container is on display.

Accordingly the invention comprises a security system comprising a body member to contain an article to be protected and a security lid,
10 said security lid comprising a plurality of resilient latches holding the lid irremovably in position on the body member and defining a plurality of apertures one adjacent each latch, and said latches being delatchable by a removal key including
15 a corresponding plurality of probe members which, when the security lid and key are brought together, said probe members enter said apertures and force the latches to delatch and render the security lid removable.

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Since the security lid is virtually impossible to open without use of the removal key, it is difficult for a thief to remove the video cassette from the shop in the absence of its container.

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In a preferred form of the invention, the security lid incorporates an alarm actuating feature. Thus, if the container is taken out of the shop with the security lid still in place, this will actuate an alarm.

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Generally the container body member will be in the form of a sleeve of rectangular cross-section and the security lid will be a telescoping sliding fit on said body member. This makes the container particularly suitable for holding a video cassette, but other shapes to contain other articles are also possible. Generally, in the case of a container of rectangular cross-section, there will be four latches one adjacent each external corner of the security lid.

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In a preferred form of the invention, the container has an inner lid and an outer security lid, the outer security lid comprising the latches and apertures and being removable for sale of the product and the inner lid being for use as a closure after the container has been sold. In such an arrangement, the dimensions of the inner lid will

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normally need to be slightly less than those of the outer security lid so that the inner lid can be encompassed within the outer security lid.

5 In order to enable the system to operate satisfactorily, it is preferable that the inner lid has apertures corresponding in location to the apertures of the outer security lid whereby the latches of the outer security lid can pass through
10 the apertures of the inner lid to latch the outer security lid irremovably in position and whereby the probe members of the key can pass through the apertures of the outer and inner lids to delatch the latches.

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 An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:

20 Figure 1 shows a video cassette container and security lid;

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Figure 2 shows a perspective view of a
delatching key;

5 Figure 3 shows a perspective view of an inner
lid; and

Figure 4 shows an exploded section view of the
container and its lids and key.

10 Figure 1 shows a container body member 1 having
a security lid 2 which comprises four apertures 3
adjacent external corners of this lid.

15 Referring to Figure 4, this is a sectional view
of the container 1 the security lid 2 an inner lid
4 and a removal key 5. The inner lid 4 is sectioned
on the lines 4-4 of Figure 3 (which also shows this
inner lid) and the outer lid and body section are
also sectioned along the same plane.

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The security lid 2 has four downwardly
projecting resilient latches 6 located in each case
adjacent an aperture 3. Thus, when both the inner
lid and the security lid are in position on the body

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member 1, the probes 6 latch into apertures 7 on the body member.

5 The top surface of the inner lid 4 is slightly recessed so as to enable it to accommodate an alarm actuator 9 incorporated on the inner side of the security lid 2. The inner lid 4 also has apertures 10 to accommodate the probes 6 as they pass through to latch into the apertures in the side walls of the body member 1.

10 The removal key 5 has four upstanding probes 11. These are located so that when the lid and key are brought together the probe members enter the apertures 3 and 10 and then force back the latches 6 so that the security lid 3 can be removed.

20 The removal key 5 can either be a portable hand device to be placed on top of a container when in the location shown in Figure 1, or it can be a permanent feature on a work table where the container itself is inverted and its lid and slot 3 are then placed over the removal key 5.

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Thus, in practice, video containers containing video cassettes can be on display in a shop and customers can take these to a checkout counter where the product will be paid for, after which the security lid will be removed so that the video container and its cassette can be taken out of the shop without setting off the alarm.

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CLAIMS

1. A security container system comprising a body member to contain an article to be protected and a security lid,
5 said security lid comprising a plurality of resilient latches holding the security lid irremovably in position on the body member and defining a plurality of apertures one adjacent each
10 latch, and
said latches being delatchable by a removal key including a corresponding plurality of probe members which, when the security lid and key are brought together said probe members enter said apertures and
15 force the latches to delatch and render the security lid removable.

2. A security container system according to claim 1 in which said container body member is in
20 the form of a sleeve of rectangular cross-section, and the security lid is a telescoping slide fit on said body member.

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3. A security container system according to claim 2 in which the security lid comprises four latches one adjacent each external corner of the lid.

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4. A security container system according to any one of the preceding claims in which the security lid incorporates an alarm actuating feature.

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5. A security container system according to any one of the preceding claims comprising an inner lid and an outer security lid, the outer security lid comprising said latches and said apertures and being removable for sale of the product and the inner lid being for use as a closure after the container has been sold.

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6. A security container system according to claim 5 in which the inner lid has apertures corresponding in location to the apertures of the outer lid, whereby the latches of the outer security lid pass through the apertures of the inner lid to latch the outer security lid irremovably in position, and whereby the probe members of the key

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are able to pass through the apertures of the outer and inner lids to delatch the latches.

5 7. A security container system substantially as
hereinbefore described with reference to the
accompanying drawings.

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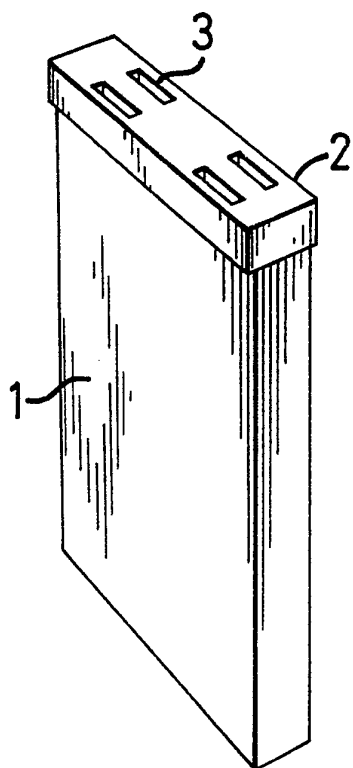


Fig. 1

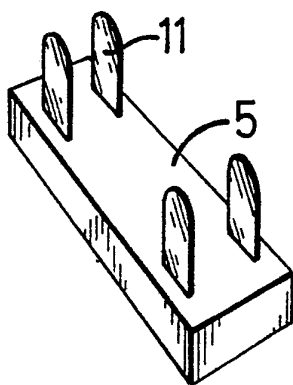
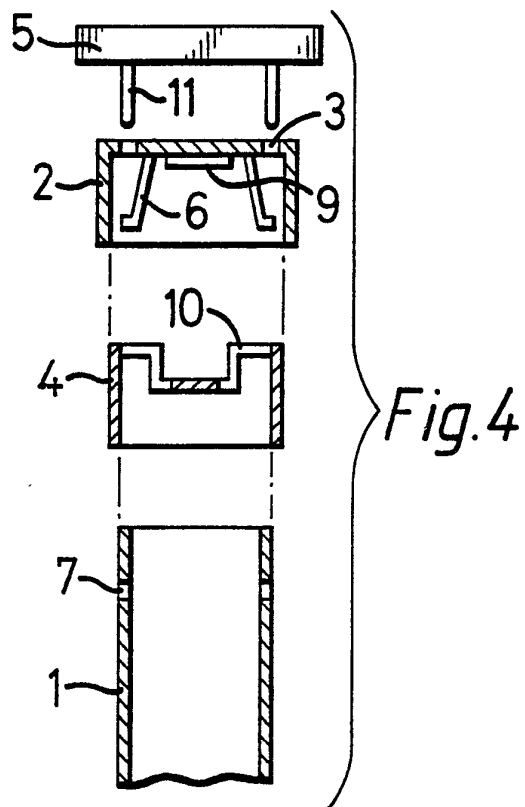


Fig. 2

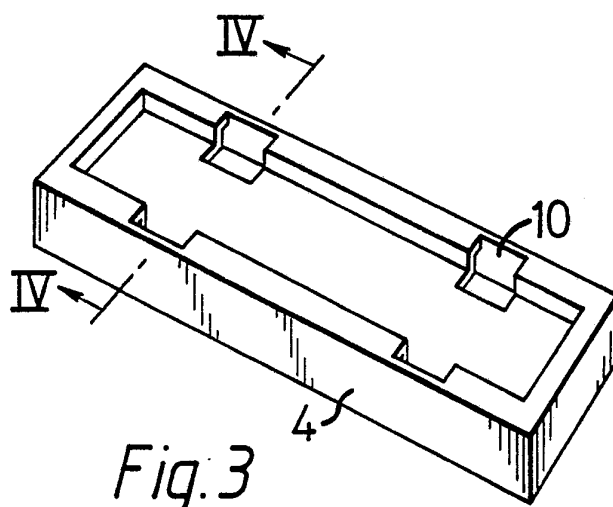
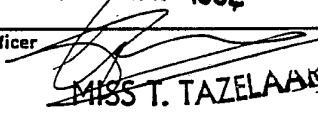


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 92/00173

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
IPC5: B 65 D 55/10, 85/575, A 47 F 7/024, G 11 B 23/28, 33/10 E 05 B 73/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC5	B 65 D, A 47 F, G 11 B, E 05 B	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	EP, A2, 0400423 (PATACO AG) 5 December 1990, see column 3, line 44 - column 4, line 1	1
Y	--	2,3
Y	US, A, 4567983 (MORRIS) 4 February 1986, see figure 9	2,3
	--	
P,X	WO, A1, 9112612 (PATACO AG) 22 August 1991, see page 6, line 34 - page 7, line 6	1
	--	
A	GB, A, 2211820 (ALPHA ENTERPRISES INC) 12 July 1989, see page 6, line 10 - line 21; figure 25	1
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* Special categories of cited documents:¹⁰ "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
21st April 1992	08 MAY 1992	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	 MISS T. TAZELAAR	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
A	EP, A1, 0223760 (M W TRADING APS) 27 May 1987, see page 5, line 26 - line 30 --	1
A	US, A, 4716745 (HEHN) 5 January 1988, see the whole document -- -----	1

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. ☒ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE¹

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers....., because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claim numbers.....⁷, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Claims refer to description or drawing, see rule 6.2 (a).

3. ☐ Claim numbers....., because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING²

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the the claims. It is covered by claim numbers:

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB 92/00173

SA 55920

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A2- 0400423	05/12/90	JP-A- 3040198 US-A- 5039982	20/02/91 13/08/91
US-A- 4567983	04/02/86	US-A- 4572369	25/02/86
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EP-A1- 0223760	27/05/87	CA-A- 1270215 JP-A- 62241187 SE-B-C- 449936 US-A- 4819797	12/06/90 21/10/87 25/05/87 11/04/89
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European patent Office, No. 12/82