

June 10, 1941.

W. H. MACHIN

2,245,487

VANITY BOX OR CASE

Filed Sept. 3, 1938

Fig. 1.

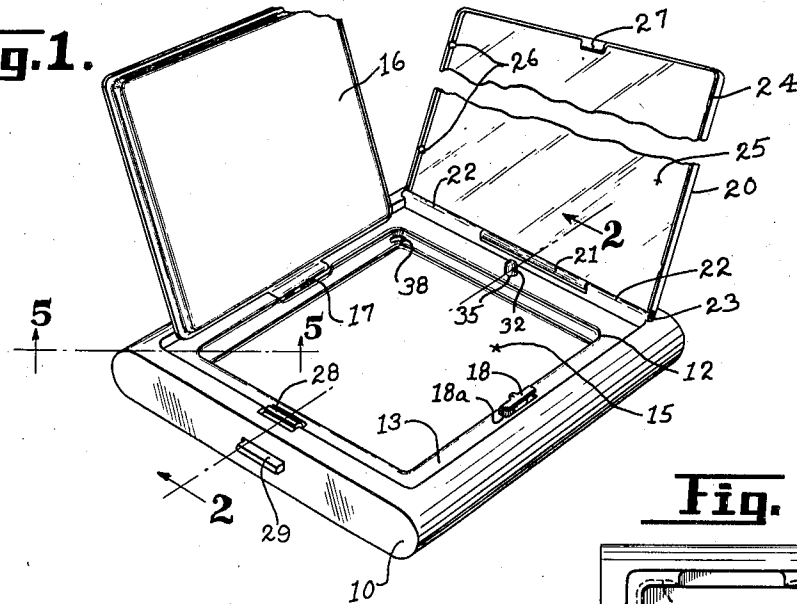


Fig. 2.

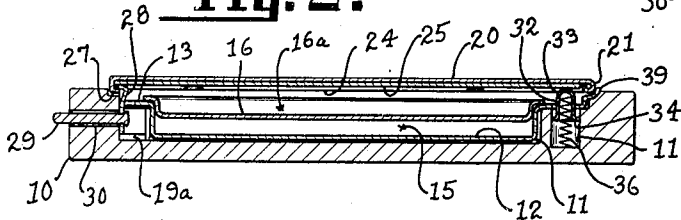


Fig. 4.

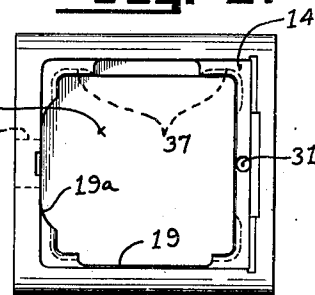


Fig. 3.

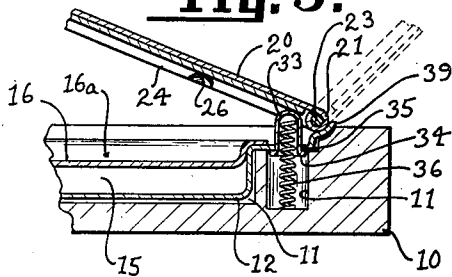
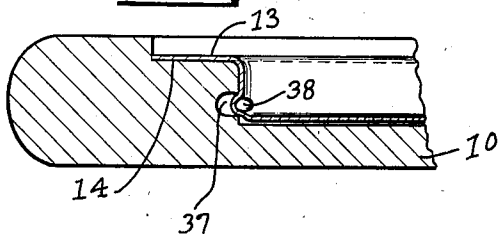


Fig. 5.



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2,245,487

VANITY BOX OR CASE

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Application September 3, 1938, Serial No. 228,419

2 Claims. (Cl. 220—35)

This invention relates to certain improvements in vanity boxes or cases.

The tendency of late is to produce vanity boxes in which the base or the body portion is made of a molded plastic composition or analogous substance and the other parts such as the cover lids, powder well, mirror, spring catches, etc. are preferably made of metal and fitted into this body to complete the box. This type of box calls for a somewhat different constructional design in its fabrication from the conventional boxes made entirely of metal.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a combination plastic body and a metal compartment member fitted into the body in which the body has a top flat plane and a cover of relatively shallow dimension is hinged to the compartment member and designed to rest against the top plane of the body when in closed position.

A further object is to provide a hinge construction for the above type of box, in which the open movement of the cover will be permitted to open only for a predetermined distance so that the mirror carried by the cover shall stand in a position most convenient to the user.

With these objects in view and others not specifically referred to, the invention consists in certain novel parts, arrangements and combinations which will be described in connection with the accompanying drawing, and the novel features pointed out in the claims hereunto appended.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the vanity case constructed in accordance with the present invention, with the two cover lids in open position,

Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the same, taken on the line of 2—2, of Fig. 1, with the cover lids in closed position.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view, slightly enlarged, of the right end view of Fig. 2 to show in clearer detail the hinge construction and cover opening mechanism.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the body made of molded plastic composition, per se.

Fig. 5 is a diagonal vertical sectional view through one corner of the box showing the means for holding the metal insert in assembled position, the view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawing in which like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, the numeral 10 refers to a body which in this case is preferably made of plastic composition having its front and back walls cut off in parallel planes and its longitudinal sidewalls curved and merged smoothly into the top and bottom flat planes of said body, and it is within the purview of this invention to make ornamental shape of the box other than that described and illustrated in the drawing. The central por-

tion of the body 10 is arranged with a hollow to provide a compartment 11 into which is fitted a cup shaped container shell 12 having a horizontal integral flange 13 extending outwardly from its upper edge. Within the hollow compartment 11 of the body 10 projecting from the sidewalls thereof, there is provided a ledge 14 extending around substantially the entire inner periphery of the well (see Fig. 4). The horizontal flange 13 is adapted to rest upon this ledge 14 to support the container shell 12 within the compartment 11 and incidentally to conceal the ledge 14 from view when the container shell 12 is in assembled position.

From Fig. 4 it will be noted that the ledge 14 has several cut out portions for the purpose of accommodating various of the mechanical units forming a part of the vanity box, such as the means for holding the parts in closed position, etc., as will be described in detail later.

The container shell 12 provides for a loose powder well 15 and is adapted to be sealed by a loose powder cover lid 16 pivoted to a suitable hinge construction 17, provided in the upper surface of the flange 13. This cover lid 16 is held in closed position by means of a spring catch 18 projected up through suitable opening 18a in the flange 13 and accommodated in a cut-out 19 provided in ledge portion 14 of the body 10. This cover lid 16 is preferably cup shape so as to snugly fit into the upper well portion of the container shell 12 to assure a better seal for the loose powder well 15, and also by this particular formation the lid 16 provides a suitable receptacle or pocket 16a in its upper surface to receive the usual powder puff (not shown) furnished with all vanity boxes.

In order to seal the vanity box when not in use, a cover 20 is provided having a longitudinal hinge barrel 21 integrally formed along one edge. The cover 20 is hinged to the container shell flange 13 by means of a pair of complementary hinge barrels 22—22 formed up from the edge of said flange 13, disposed above the top plane of the body 10 and spaced to receive the cover hinge barrel 21 therebetween. A hinge pin 23 is inserted through the aligned barrels 21 and 22—22 to complete the hinge. The peripheral edge of the cover 20 is formed down with a relatively narrow rim 24 providing a pocket suitable to retain a mirror 25 preferably made of polished metal in order to keep the cover member as thin as possible; the mirror being held in place by several nibs 26 staked inwardly from the free edge of the cover rim 24.

When the cover is closed the free edge portion of the cover rim 24 rests upon the top surface of the body 10 thus extending above the upper plane of the body to the amount only of the cover thickness. The cover 20 is held in closed posi-

tion by means of a catch lug 27 projecting inwardly from the front edge of the cover rim 24 and adapted to be releasably engaged by a spring catch 28 operated by thumb piece 29 projecting through a slot 30 in the front wall of the body. The spring catch is confined within a recess 19a formed in the adjacent ledge portion 14 of the body 10 and closed therein by the bridging effect of the adjacent flange and powder well wall between the ledge 14.

The fact that the cover rests snugly upon the upper plane of the body requires that provision be made to raise the cover 20 upon the release of the spring catch 28 a distance sufficient to allow room to permit the operator to insert a thumb or finger there beneath. This means is provided by a spring mechanism disposed in a socket 31 formed in the ledge portion 14 of the body 10 and operated adjacent the hinge barrel 21 of the cover 20. This spring mechanism comprises essentially a tubular eyelet 32 having its upper exposed end formed into a rounded head 33 to operate as a cam for opening the cover 20 and with the opposite end formed with an outwardly flared flange 34, slidably fitted into the socket 31. The body of the eyelet 32 is adapted to project through a suitable opening 35 pierced through the flanged portion 13 of the container shell 12. The opening 35 is of a smaller diameter than the socket 31 in the body 10 and is coaxially disposed there over providing an overhanging shoulder at the open end of the socket 31 against which as a stop the eyelet flange 34 engages as best shown in Fig. 3. One end of a spring 36 is fitted within the hollow portion of the tubular eyelet 32 while the opposite end rests against the base of the socket 31. The spring 36 normally urges said eyelet 32 upwardly until the flange 34 meets the stop shoulder immediately surrounding the opening 35.

The working principle of the above construction is well illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, wherein when the cover lid 16 is closed the eyelet 32 will be forced downwardly in the socket 31 causing the spring 36 to be compressed and remain under tension until upon the release of the spring catch 28 the cover will automatically be forced open to a position indicated in Fig. 3. This will allow sufficient room for the operator to insert a thumb or finger underneath and open the cover 20 the remaining distance.

In order to retain all the metal parts within the compartment 11 of the body 10 when in assembled position, the following construction is provided. The vertical wall of the ledge 14 in each corner is formed with an undercut slot 37, see Figs. 4 and 5. After the container shell 12 is inserted into place within the compartment 11, each corner wall of the powder well 15 is forced outwardly to form external nibs 38 which enter into permanent engagement within the undercut slots 37, see Fig. 5. It is here to be understood that in this assembly of the vanity box, before the nibbing operation, the spring catch 28 and attached thumb piece 29 are first assembled in their respective positions in the body 10, and then the container shell 12 assembled with the hinge lid 16, the cover 20 and the hinge lid spring catch 18 are as a unit assembled into the plastic body 10. This construction affords a permanent assembly of all the metal parts to the plastic base and prevents any subsequent tampering with the mechanical arrangements of the box.

In order to restrict the cover opening to a pre-

determined limit and thus to hold it at the desired angle relatively to the upper plane of the body 10, the metal stock of the flange 13 between the hinge barrels 22, 22 is formed up into a longitudinal arcuate lip 39 which is adapted to embrace a portion of the cover hinge barrel 21, see Fig. 3. The free edge of the lip 39 extends a sufficient distance above the upper plane of the body 10, to bring the cover 20 to rest as the back of the cover strikes against the edge of the lip, at a position substantially as represented in dotted outline in Fig. 3. By thus serving as a stop for the cover 20, the lip also prevents the cover at all times from coming into direct contact with the body 10, such as to act as a lever to pry the container shell 12 out of its compartment 11, or to put any undue strain upon the assembly nibs 38.

While the form of invention herein shown and described embraces a preferred embodiment of the same, it is to be understood that the construction may be varied as to mechanical details without departing from the spirit of the invention and the scope of what is claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. In a vanity box, a body made of a molded product and having a hollow compartment opening in from the top plane of said body, a ledge portion disposed below the top plane of said body and projecting inwardly from the walls of said compartment, a container shell fitted into said compartment and having a peripheral flange resting upon said ledge portion, a pair of spaced rolled hinge barrels formed at the rear edge of said flange, a cover for closing said compartment having a complementary hinge barrel rolled from the cover material and fitted between said spaced barrels, a hinge pin connecting said barrels together, and a lug formed and bent outwardly from the edge of said flange between said container shell barrels, said lug being of an arcuate shape in conformity with the cover barrel and extended to a distance slightly above the top plane of said body, the edge of said lug adapted to be engaged by the top surface of said cover adjacent the hinge to limit the opening movement of the cover and prevent the latter from engaging the top surface of the body and act in the manner of a lever.

2. In a vanity box, a body made of a molded product and having a hollow compartment opening in from the top plane of said body, a ledge portion disposed below the top plane of said body and projecting inwardly from the walls of said compartment, a container shell fitted into said compartment and having a peripheral flange resting upon said ledge portion, one edge of said flange having an upstanding wall with opposite ends formed into spaced rolled hinge barrels disposed with their axes above the top plane of said body a distance substantially one half the diameter of said barrels, a shallow cup-shaped cover for closing said compartment and when closed designed to have its cupped edge rest upon the top plane of said body, a complementary hinge barrel rolled from the cover material and fitted between said spaced barrels, a hinge pin connecting said barrels together, and a lug formed from said upstanding wall between said spaced barrels and arced outwardly about said cover hinge barrel to a position where the lug edge is disposed slightly above the top plane of said body and coacts with said cover to limit the opening movement of the latter.

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