

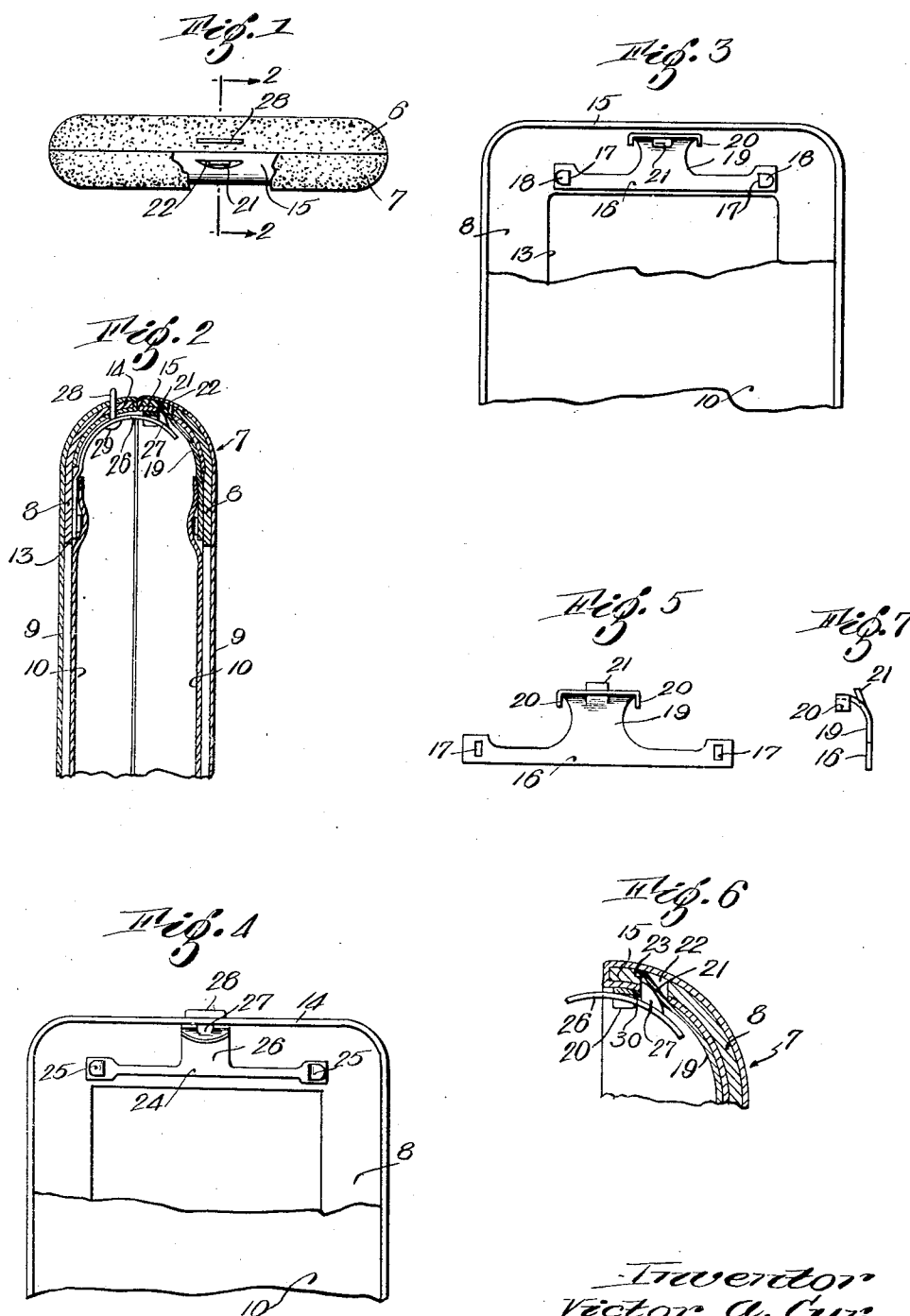
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CLASP FOR CIGARETTE CASES OR THE LIKE

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CLASP FOR CIGARETTE CASES OR THE LIKE

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This invention relates to improvements in clasps for detachably securing the hinged members of foldable containers such as cigarette cases or similar articles; and the principal object of the invention is to provide complementary stud and socket elements on the respective foldable members of the case or container, so constructed and arranged that the members are automatically locked when sprung together and are freely separable upon release of the interlocked elements without weakening or permanently deforming said elements.

More particularly, an important object of the invention is to furnish a container of aforesaid type in which one of the foldable members is equipped with an attached socket member which is secured at its base to the wall of said member and which has its socket portion locked against displacement from said wall by means of a tongue which is struck from the body of said portion and which engages in said wall.

A recommended embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an end view of a closed cigarette case equipped with the improved clasp;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an interior view of one of the case members, showing the socket element of the clasp;

Fig. 4 is a similar view illustrating the complementary stud element;

Fig. 5 is a detail view of the removed socket element;

Fig. 6 is a detail of Fig. 2, to larger scale; and

Fig. 7 is an end view of the socket member shown in Fig. 5.

In the particular embodiment chosen for the purpose of illustration, the clasp elements are attached to the upper and lower sections 6 and 7 respectively of a cigarette case; but it will be understood that the invention is applicable to many other types of foldable containers, such as jewelry boxes or the like. The sections 6 and 7 may be similar in construction, and each preferably com-

prises a rigid frame 8 formed of thin sheet metal, having a flexible covering 9 applied on its outer side and a lining 10 affixed to its interior surface over the central opening 13 of the frame. The margins of the respective frame are preferably transversely dished, bowed or otherwise shaped to form inwardly directed walls 14 and 15, and the edges of said walls abut each other when the two sections are swung together. A suitable hinge (not shown) may be provided at one end of the box for pivotally connecting the case members, and a spring member may be associated with the hinge normally to urge the sections apart, all in accordance with common practice. The improved clasp elements are applied to the respective sections at the separable ends of the case for releasably interlocking said ends together when the case is closed.

The socket element of the clasp is attached to the frame of the lower section of Fig. 1 and includes a metal bar 16 having openings 17 receiving fastening tongues 18 struck from the metal frame, and a curved central tab 19 having opposite upstanding lips 20 near its outer end and an outwardly struck tongue 21 engaging within an opening 22 in the frame wall 15. The attachment is thus affixed to the frame by the frame tongues 18, and the tab is secured against displacement by the tongue 21 which preferably extends diagonally across the opening 22 and has its outer edge engaging against the forward wall 23 of said opening, as best shown in Fig. 6, to lock the tab in fixed position.

The cooperating stud element comprises a thin, elongate base or bar 24 attached at its opposite ends to the frame of the opposite case section, as by tongues 25, a resilient central tab or extension 26 having a stud or hook 27 near its outer end, and an actuator 28 fixed to the spring tab as at 29 and extending outwardly of the section through suitable openings in the frame and covering, whereby the spring tab and its stud may be forced inwardly by depressing the outer end of the actuator. The thin bar 24 is sufficiently resilient so that the depression of the actuator flexes said bar and thereby relieves ex-

cessive strain upon the spring tab 26. As the case members are swung together, the end of the tab 26 is received between the outstanding guides 20 of the opposite attachment, and the stud 27 snaps into the frame recess 22 through the socket or opening 30 formed in tab 19 by the struck-out tongue 21, thereby separably to interlock the case members.

As the end of the tab 19 is thus secured by tongue 21 against the end wall 15 of the case section 7, the tab will not be displaced or deformed during use, either upon opening or closing the case or by accidental contact with other articles. This feature is of cardinal importance, for the operation of a clasp of this type is substantially impaired if the socket element becomes bent inwardly of the case or transversely out of the normal path of the locking stud.

A clasp or catch constructed as above described may be employed to fasten the separable ends of various types of hinged boxes, and is especially adapted for use with containers having transversely bowed or curved walls at the meeting ends of the foldable sections, as herein illustrated. The complementary fastening devices are simple and economical to manufacture, easy to install, and efficient in use. The attachments occupy very little space and may be substantially concealed by the case lining, if desired.

I claim:

1. In a container comprising a pair of members, movable relatively to each other from open to closed position, complementary clasp elements attached to the respective members for releasably locking said members together, one of said elements having a base portion affixed to said member, and a tab portion extending toward the edge of the member, the tab portion having a socket therein and a tongue entering the wall of said member thereby to prevent lateral displacement of the tab portion, and the other element having a stud engageable in said socket.

2. In a container comprising a pair of members movable relatively to each other from open to closed position, complementary clasp elements attached to the respective members for releasably locking said members together, one of said elements having a base portion affixed to said member, and a tab portion extending toward the edge of the member, the tab portion having a struck-out tongue providing an opening in the tab, said tongue being locked in the wall of said member thereby to prevent displacement of the tab portion, and the other element having a stud engageable in said opening.

3. In a container comprising a pair of members angularly movable relatively to each other from open to closed position, and having oppositely directed, rigid walls at the separable ends thereof, complementary clasp elements attached to the respective end walls

for releasably interlocking the said separable ends, one of said elements comprising a metal plate shaped to conform to the inner side of one of said end walls and having a base portion affixed to said wall and a tab portion extending toward the edge thereof, said wall having an opening therein and said tab portion having a struck-out tongue providing a recess in the tab, the tongue extending into the wall opening and engaging therein thereby to prevent displacement of the tab portion, and the other clasp element having a stud receivable in said recess.

4. In a container having a pair of hinged members having opposed walls at the separable ends thereof, fastening means for detachably connecting said ends, comprising a socket element having a base affixed to one of said members and a tab disposed against the end wall, the tab having a struck-out tongue providing an opening therein and said tongue extending into the end wall and engaging therein to lock the tab against displacement, and a complementary element carried by the opposite member, comprising a flexible base affixed at its opposite ends to said member, and a depressible central extension having a stud releasably engageable in said tab opening.

5. In a container having a pair of hinged members having opposed walls at the separable ends thereof, fastening means for detachably connecting said ends, comprising a socket element having a base affixed to one of said members and a tab disposed against the end wall, the tab having a socket therein, and a complementary element carried by the opposite member, comprising an elongate flexible base, a depressible central extension fixed transversely to said base and having a stud releasably engageable in said tab opening, and a projection extending through said member for depressing said extension and flexing said base to move the stud out of said opening.

Signed by me at Attleboro Falls, Mass., Bristol County, this 14th day of June, 1929.

VICTOR A. CYR.