June 24, 1941. L. MÜLLER 2,247,174

COMBINED CIGARETTE CASE AND LIGHTER

Filed June 6, 1939

Fig. 1

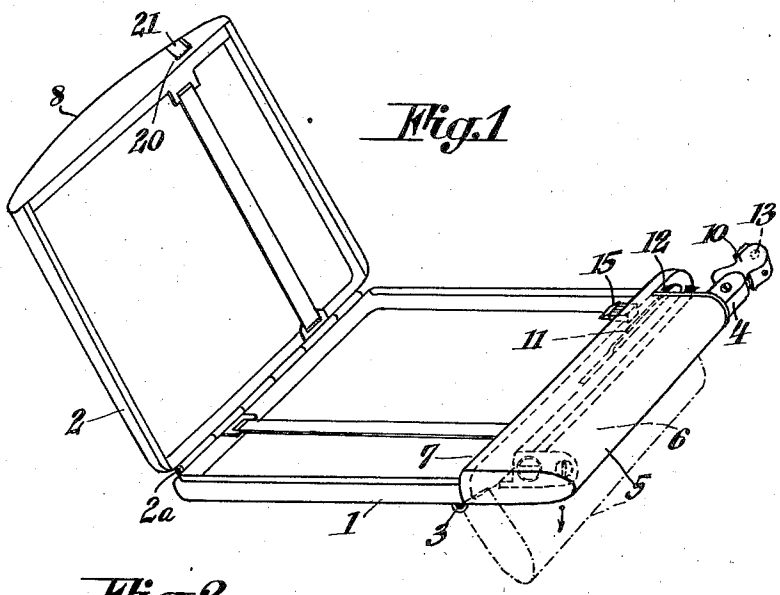


Fig. 2

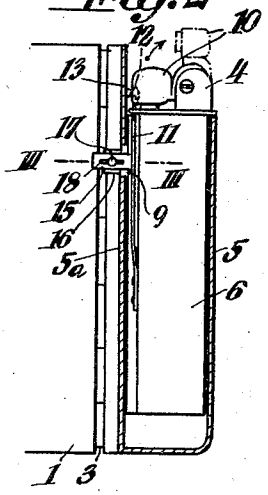


Fig. 3

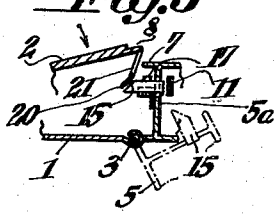
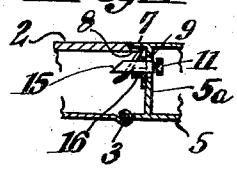


Fig. 4



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Patented June 24, 1941

2,247,174

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,247,174

COMBINED CIGARETTE CASE AND LIGHTER

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Application June 6, 1939, Serial No. 277,722
In Germany December 14, 1938

4 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.4)

This invention relates to a combined cigarette case and lighter, of the type which is automatically ignited by the closing of the cover of the container.

A known lighter of this type combined with a conventional cigarette case is provided with a pin projecting out of the housing of the lighter, this pin being arranged to coact with a tripping member for the spring-cover of the lighter and to be operated, on closing of the container, by a lever mounted on the container cover. This lever is pivoted on the inner side of the cover of the container in a spaced relation to the hinge thereof and is counter-supported, with the interposition of a spring, against an abutment in the cover, in such a manner that it is prevented from rotating in one direction and displaces the pin when the container is closed, whereas on opening of the container the lever is pivotally moved in response to the action of the pin so that the pin is not moved and the lighter therefore remains inoperative. With this known type of cigarette case the lighter is positively operated each time the container is closed.

An object of the invention is to enable the container to be closed without effecting operation of the lighter, if desired, and to provide simplified means for operating the lighter.

According to the invention a lighter resiliently pivoted to a container in a known manner and constituting the fastener for the cover of the container. The lighter is provided with a tripping member for its spring-cover, which can be engaged and actuated by the edge of the cover of the container on the closing thereof, and which can be brought out of the path of movement of the edge by tilting of the lighter relatively to the container, so that if desired, the container may be closed without thereby operating the lighter. The tripping member is preferably formed by a slide mounted in the housing of the lighter and adapted to coact with a spring latch serving to retain the spring-cover in the closed position. The edge of the container cover is provided with a recess into which the slide extends when the container is in the closed condition, whereby the spring latch serving to retain the cover of the lighter in the closed position is liberated.

An embodiment of the invention is shown by way of example in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig 1 is a perspective view of the arrangement according to the invention, showing the container with its cover open, while the tilted position of the lighter is shown in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the end portion of the container and of the lighter hinged thereon, and

Figs. 3 and 4 show a section on the line III—III of Fig. 2 with the container cover in a position just prior to closing and in the closed position, respectively.

The cigarette case shown in Fig. 1 consists essentially of a container 1, a cover 2, and a casing 5 provided with a lighter 4. The cover 2 is hinged to the container 1 by means of a spring hinge 2a. With the aid of a spring hinge 3 the casing 5 with the lighter 4 is pivoted to the container 1. In or on the casing or housing 5 of the lighter there are assembled a fuel tank 6, an igniting arrangement and a spring-cover 10. The lighter housing 5 forms the fastener for the container cover 2 by virtue of the arrangement that it engages with its edge 7 over the edge 8 of the container cover when the container is closed as shown in Fig. 4.

The lighter is a known type of friction wheel pyrophoric lighter having a spring-loaded cover 10 retained in the closed position by means of a spring latch 11 which engages with a hooked extension 12 in a recess 13 in the spring-cover.

With the latch 11 there coacts a slide 15 adapted to travel through an aperture 9 of the wall 5a of the casing 5. This slide is guided by a keeper 16 and a pin 17 passing through a slot 18 in the slide 15. The slide 15 is actuated, on the closing of the container, by the edge 20 of the container cover owing to the fact that this edge engages the slide 15 as shown in Fig. 3, and displaces the slide until it strikes against and moves the latch 11, with the result that the spring-cover 10 is released. This cover then flies open under the action of its loading spring and operates the lighter in the usual manner.

Above the engaging edge 20 the container cover is provided with a recess 21 into which the slide 15 fits when the container is closed as shown in Fig. 4, so that the spring latch 11 can return into its initial position to retain the spring-cover 10 in closed condition.

To open the container the casing 5 with the lighter 4, acting as a fastener, is tilted about the spring hinge 3 so that the container cover 2 is released and flies open under the action of the spring of the spring hinge 2a. On closing the container the edge 20 of the cover 2 operates the slide 15 to move the latch 11 so that the hooked extension 12 of the latch 11 disengages the recess

18 of the spring cover 10 and releases the same. Thus the spring cover 10 opens to a position shown in dot-dash lines in Fig. 2 and operates the lighter. When the lighter has been used its spring-cover 10 can be closed and will then be retained in the closed position by the extension 12 on the latch 11 which engages the recess 13. Now it may be desirable to close the container without thereby operating the lighter. To obtain this result the casing 5 is tilted about the spring-hinge 3 into the position shown in dot-dash lines in Figs. 1 and 3 while the cover 2 of the container is being closed, so that the slide 15 is moved out of the path of movement of the edge 20 of the container cover, and is consequently not actuated to initiate the operation of the lighter. Then the casing 5 is allowed to swing back to its original position shown in full lines in Fig. 1 in which the edge 7 engages the edge 8 of the container cover 2, and thus maintains the cover 2 in a closed position. As already mentioned above in the closed position of the cigarette case the slide 15 extends into the recess 21 of the edge 20 of the cover 2.

While the invention has been described with reference to specific structural details it will be appreciated that changes may be made therein. Such modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A spring-lid pyrophoric lighter combined with a container, particularly a cigarette-case, of the type which is automatically ignited by the act of closing the lid of the container, in which the lighter is resiliently pivoted to the container with its housing constituting a fastener for the container lid, a tripping member for the spring-lid and formed by a slide adapted to travel in the casing of the lighter, a spring latch serving to hold the lid of the lighter in closed condition and adapted to coact with said slide, the said tripping member being so mounted in the lighter housing that it is engaged and actuated by an edge of the container lid on closing of the container, and being brought out of the path of movement of the said edge by tilting of the lighter relatively to the container, so that, if desired, the container may be closed without thereby operating the lighter.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the edge of the container lid which coacts with the said slide is provided with a recess into which the slide fits when the cover of the container is closed.

3. In a combined cigarette case and lighter having a spring-actuated cover for automatically igniting the lighter, a container having a cover hinged thereto, a housing for the lighter pivoted to said container for engaging said container cover to maintain the same in a closed position, tripping means for retaining said spring-actuated lighter cover in an inoperative position, said tripping means being mounted for movement in said housing and adapted to be engaged and actuated by the container cover upon movement thereof to a closed position whereby said tripping means may be moved out of the path of movement of said container cover by tilting the housing relative to the container.

4. In a combined cigarette case and lighter having a spring-actuated lighter cover for automatically igniting the lighter, a container, a spring-actuated cover for closing the container, a housing for the lighter movably mounted on said container, means carried by the housing for retaining the container cover in a closed position, a latch arranged within said housing for retaining the lighter cover in an inoperative position, a slide member movable with respect to said housing for engaging said latch and adapted to be moved by said container cover for releasing said lighter cover, whereby the slide member may be moved out of the path of movement of said container cover upon movement of the housing with respect to the container.

LEOPOLD MÜLLER.