Aug. 14, 1956 D. E. REID 2,758,708

MATCH BOX WITH COMBINED LATCH AND DISAPPEARING STRIKING SURFACE

Filed Aug. 2, 1955

Fig. 1

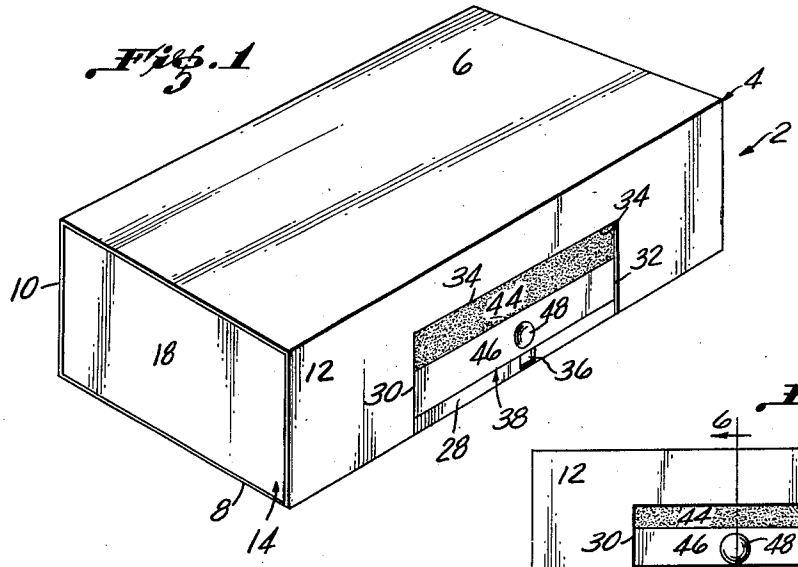
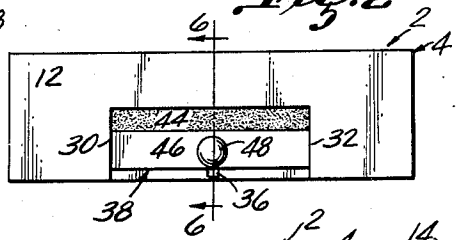


Fig. 2



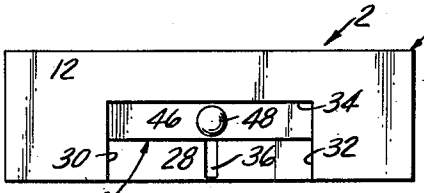


Fig. 3

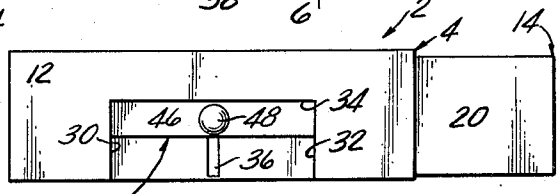


Fig. 4

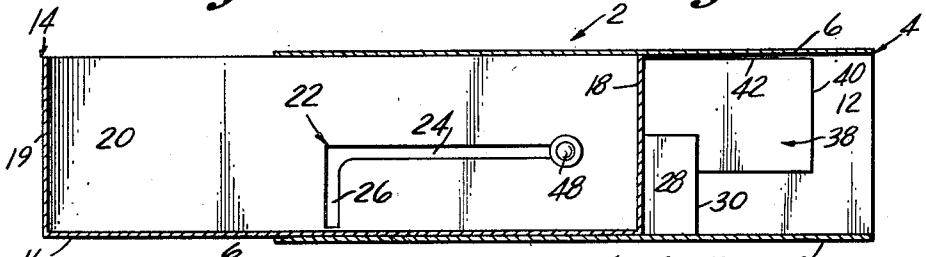


Fig. 5

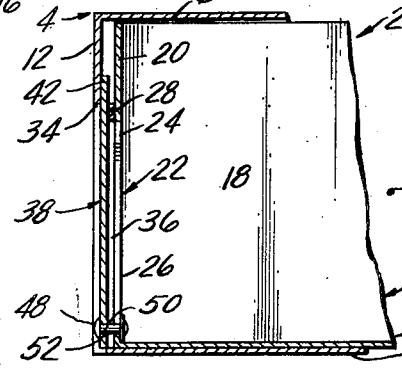


Fig. 6

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MATCH BOX WITH COMBINED LATCH AND DISAPPEARING STRIKING SURFACE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 206—20)

This invention relates to a match box with a combined latch and disappearing striking surface and, more particularly, to a match box which cannot be opened so long as the striking surface is exposed, which must be closed before the striking surface becomes accessible.

The invention is primarily, although not exclusively, intended for match boxes of the case and sliding drawer type, in which wood-stick matches are kept. One of the hazards in using such matches when they are taken from conventional boxes arises when the matches in the drawer are exposed to a burning match, or even the flying meteoric fragment of a struck match. The object of this invention is to provide a latch which must be operated in a predetermined manner before the box drawer can be opened and in which, as the result of the unlatching of the drawer, a movable striking surface is concealed. Then, before the striking surface can be re-exposed, the drawer must be closed and re-latched.

These and other objects will be apparent from the following specification and drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the match box in closed, latched condition with the striking surface exposed;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the match box as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the match box in closed, unlatched condition with the striking surface concealed;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the match box in open, unlatched condition with the striking surface concealed;

Fig. 5 is a vertical cross-section taken longitudinally of the match box in open, unlatched condition showing the inner sides of the parts shown in Figs. 1–4; and,

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary vertical cross-section taken transversely of the match box along the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Referring now to the drawing in which like reference numerals denote similar elements, the match box denoted generally at 2 comprises a generally oblong case 4 having relatively wide top and bottom walls 6 and 8 and relatively narrow side walls 10 and 12, the ends of the case being open. Slidable inwardly and outwardly through one of the open ends of case 4 is an open top drawer 14 for containing matches. The drawer has a bottom wall 16, end walls 18 and 19, and opposite side walls 20. It should be noted that the side wall 20 shown in the drawings is provided with an L-shaped slot denoted generally at 22 in Fig. 5, having a stem portion 24 extending longitudinally of the drawer length and a foot portion 26 extending transversely to the length of the drawer. The case side wall 12 which overlies the slotted side wall 20 of drawer 14 is provided with a tongue 28 defined by end slits 30, 32 and a longitudinal slit 34 which connects the end slits. A slot 36 in tongue 28 extends transversely to the length of the case 4.

A plate denoted generally at 38 is slidable over tongue 28, the opposite end portions 40 of the plate extending through end slits 30 and 32 and the longitudinal edge portion 42 of the plate extending through longitudinal slit 34 at the top of tongue 28. A striking surface 44 is arranged

on the upper portion of plate 38 so that when the plate is slid upwardly, the striking surface is concealed behind the wall 12 of case 4 and only a blank surface 46 of plate 38 is exposed. However, when plate 38 is moved downwardly so as to overlap substantially all of tongue 28, striking surface 44 is exposed.

A headed latch pin 48 has a shank 50 extending through an opening 52 in plate 38, shank 50 also slidably engaging through straight slot 36 in tongue 28 and being selectively engageable in either the stem portion 24 or the foot portion 26 of L-shaped slot 22 in the drawer side wall 20.

In operation, latching pin 48 is normally engaged in the lower portion of straight slot 36 in tongue 28, in which position plate 38, which moves with the latching pin, is disposed downwardly so that striking surface 44 is exposed. When latch pin 48 lies in the lower portion of straight slot 36, it is also necessarily engaged in the foot portion 26 of L-shaped slot 22 and is out of registry with the stem portion 24 of the L-shaped slot. Thus, drawer 14 is blocked so that it cannot be opened. However, when latching pin 48 is moved upwardly, plate 38 moves upwardly with it so as to conceal striking surface 44 behind casing side wall 12. Pin shank 50 then lies in registry with the stem portion 24 of L-shaped slot 22 and can move therein longitudinally of the case so that drawer 14 may be opened and closed at will. It should be noted, however, that so long as drawer 14 is open, latching pin 48 is blocked by engagement of shank 50 in the stem portion 24 of L-shaped slot 22 so that the latching pin and plate 38, which moves with the latching pin, cannot be moved downwardly so as to expose striking surface 44. Thus, a match removed from the open drawer cannot be ignited on the striking surface until the drawer is closed so as to enable the striking surface to be re-exposed.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the box, illustrated herein as it is formed of cardboard, may be made of wood, metal or plastic and suitably decorated as a novelty gift box, and that the principle of the invention may be incorporated in book matches having sliding match carriers, the invention being intended to cover all substitutions, modifications and equivalents within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A match container comprising a case, a match holder slidable in said case between an inner position in which the matches are enclosed within the case and an outer position in which the matches are accessible; a latch supported on the case for movement between first and second positions for respectively latching and unlatching said holder; striking surface means; and means movable with said latch for respectively exposing said striking surface means when said latch is in said first position and for masking said striking surface means when said latch is in said second position.

2. A match container comprising a case; a match drawer slidable in said case between an inner position in which the drawer is enclosed within the case and an outer position in which the drawer is open; a latch supported on the case for movement between first and second positions for respectively latching and unlatching said drawer; striking surface means; means movable with said latch for respectively exposing said striking surface means when said latch is in said first position and for masking said striking surface means when said latch is in said second position; and means for preventing movement of said latch from said second position to the first so long as said drawer is open.

3. A match container comprising a case; a match holder slidable in said case between an inner position in which the matches are enclosed within the case and an outer position in which the matches are accessible; a latch supported on the case for movement between first

and second positions for respectively latching and unlatching said holder; a plate having a striking surface thereon, said plate being movable on said case between a first position in which said striking surface is exposed and a second position in which said striking surface is concealed; and means coupling said plate and said latch for moving said plate to said first position so as to expose said striking surface when said latch is in said first position and for moving said plate to said second position so as to mask said striking surface when said latch is in said second position.

4. A match box comprising an elongate open case member having top, bottom and side walls and an open end; an elongate drawer member slidable endwise in said case being closed and open positions and having bottom, end and side walls respectively adjacent the corresponding walls of the case member; one of the side walls of one of said members having an L-shaped slot therein with the stem portion thereof extending longitudinally thereof and the foot portion thereof extending transversely thereto; an adjacent side wall of the other member having a straight slot therein extending parallel to the foot portion of the L-shaped slot and registering therewith when said drawer is closed, one end of the straight slot registering with the stem portion of the L-shaped slot when the drawer is open; a latch slidably engaging through said slots and movable between a latching position in which the same engages in the foot portion of the slot, whereby the drawer is prevented from being opened, and an unlatching position in which the same engages in the stem portion of the L-shaped slot, whereby said drawer may be opened and latch is prevented from being moved to said latching position so long as said drawer is open; a plate having a striking surface thereon, said plate being movable inwardly and outwardly of said case through an opening therethrough for respectively masking and exposing said striking surface; said latch being connected to said plate whereby, upon movement of said latch from latching to unlatching position said plate moves inwardly through said opening to conceal said striking surface and whereby, upon movement of said latch to latching position, said plate moves outwardly through said opening to expose the striking surface.

5. A match box comprising an elongate case having top, bottom and side walls and an open end; an elongate drawer slidable endwise in said case between closed and open positions and having bottom, end and side walls; one of said drawer side walls having an L-shaped slot therein with the stem portion thereof extending longitudinally of the drawer and the foot portion thereof extending transversely thereto; the side wall of said case overlying the slotted drawer side wall having a slot therein extending parallel to the foot portion of the drawer slot and registering therewith when said drawer is closed, one end of the slot in the case wall registering with the stem portion of the drawer slot when the drawer is open; a latch slidably engaging through said slots and movable between a latching position in which the same engages in the foot portion of the drawer slot and an unlatching position in which the same engages in the stem portion of the drawer slot, whereby said latch is prevented from being moved to said latching position when said drawer is open; a plate having a striking surface thereon, said plate being movable inwardly and outwardly of said case through an opening therethrough for respectively masking and exposing said striking surface; said latch being connected to said plate whereby, upon movement of said latch from latching to unlatching position said plate moves inwardly through said opening to conceal said striking surface and whereby, upon movement of said latch to latching position, said plate moves outwardly through said opening to expose the striking surface.

6. A match case having top, bottom and side walls and an open end; a drawer slidable endwise in said case and having bottom, side and end walls, one side wall of said case having a tongue defined on three sides by two end slits extending transversely of the case length and a side slit connecting the end slits and extending longitudinally of the case, said tongue having a straight slot therein extending transversely of the case length; a plate normally overlying said tongue and having opposite end portions and a side portion respectively extending through said end slits and said side slit; a striking surface on said plate, the end portions of the plate being slidably engaged in said end slits whereby said plate selectively may be slid through said side slits to a concealed striking surface position overlapped by the case side wall or exposed striking surface position overlapping the tongue, the side wall of said drawer lying behind the tongue having an L-shaped slot therein with stem and foot portions respectively extending lengthwise and transversely of the drawer length and respectively registering with the slot in the tongue when the drawer is open and closed, and a headed latch pin having a shank extending through said plate and slidably engaging through said slots whereby to slide the plate so as to conceal the striking surface when the pin is moved in the straight slot so as to register the shank with the stem portion of the L-shaped slot, and to expose the striking surface when the pin is moved out of registry with the stem portion.

7. A match case having top, bottom and side walls and an open end, a drawer slidable endwise in said case and having contiguous bottom, side and end walls, one side wall of said case having a tongue defined on three sides by two end slits extending transversely of the length of the case and a side slit connecting the end slits and extending longitudinally of the case, said tongue having a slot therein extending transversely of the case length; a plate normally overlying said tongue and having opposite end portions and a side portion respectively extending through said end and side slits and being moveable inwardly and outwardly of the case side wall through the end slits and said side slit; said plate having a striking surface thereon, the side wall of said drawer lying behind the tongue case having an L-shaped slot therein with stem and foot portions respectively extending lengthwise and transversely of the drawer length, and a headed latch pin having a shank extending through said plate and slidably engaging through said slots for latching and unlatching said drawer while simultaneously moving the plate so as to expose and conceal the striking surface.

No references cited.