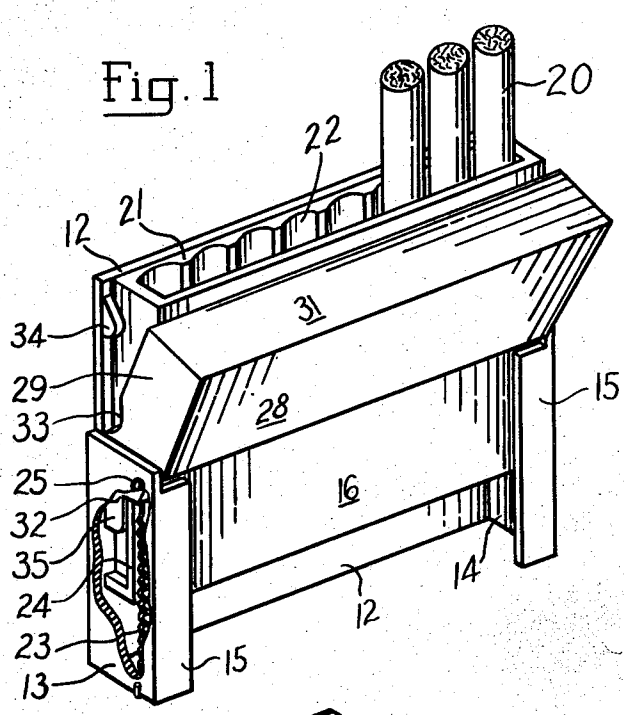
Nov. 7, 1950 E. T. EGGEBRECHT 2,528,743

CIGARETTE CASE

Filed Dec. 12, 1947

Fig. 1



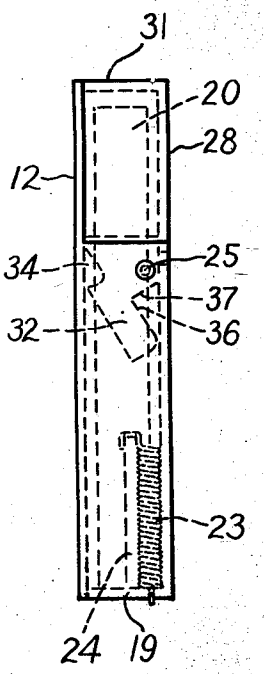


Fig. 2

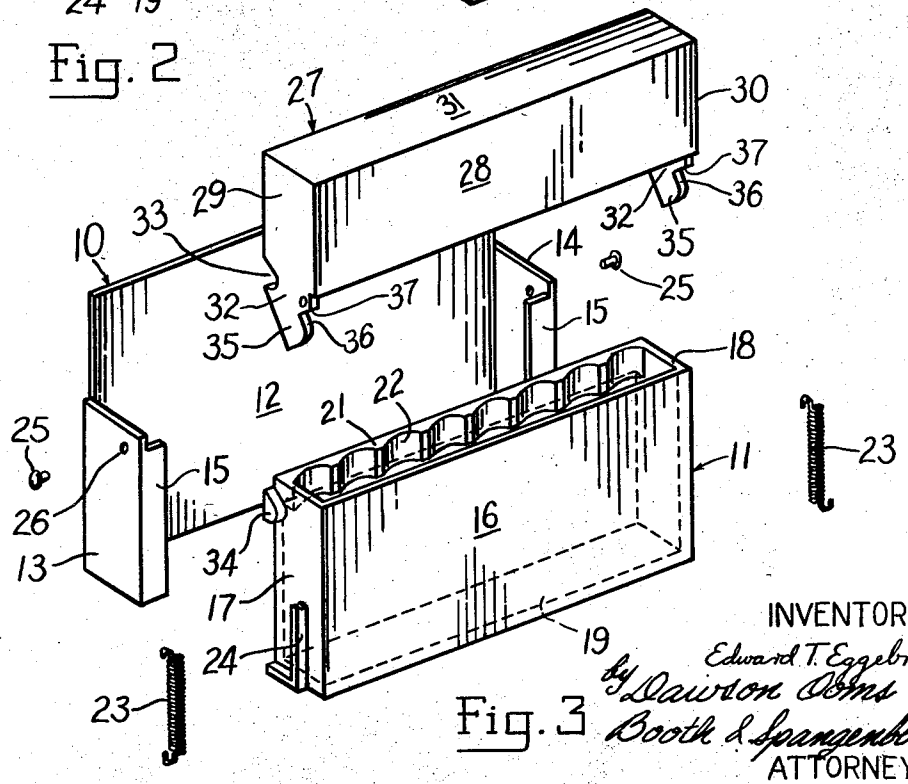


Fig. 3

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CIGARETTE CASE

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This invention relates to a container and more particularly to a cigarette case.

It is an object of this invention to produce a cigarette case which is simple and durable in construction, neat in appearance, and smooth and efficient in operation.

Another object is to produce an improved cigarette case in which the contained cigarettes are caused to assume an accessible position in response to relative movement of the case side walls and which completely incloses the cigarettes therein upon release of the externally applied forces effecting such relative movement.

A further object is to produce a cigarette case of the type described having means to prevent the cigarettes from being covered while the case is opened.

A still further object resides in means for automatically moving the case closure from and into the path of the cigarettes during opening and closing movements respectively of the case and for stopping the relative movement of the side walls when the case is in its opened and closed positions.

These and other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the ensuing description, and for purposes of illustration, but not of limitation, an embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the cigarette case in the open position;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the closed cigarette case illustrated in Fig. 1; and

Figure 3 is a perspective detailed view of the separate parts that comprise the cigarette case, the parts being shown substantially in the position they assume when assembled.

The cigarette case, as shown in the drawing, is formed with a casing 10 and a carrier or tray 11 which is vertically slidable in the casing. The casing is open at both the upper and lower ends and consists only of a front wall 12, which constitutes the front wall of the cigarette case, integral end walls 13 and 14 of considerably less lengthwise dimension than that of the front wall, and still shorter guide flanges 15 integral with the respective free edges of the end walls. The flanges 15 extend in spaced parallel relation with the front wall 12. The bottom edges of the flanges, end walls, and the front wall are flush so that the end walls do not extend upwardly the full length of the front wall, and a recess is provided between the upper edges of the end walls and the flanges.

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The carrier 11 is formed with a rear wall 16 and integral end walls 17 and 18. A shelf 19 which closes the lower end of the carrier supports cigarettes 20 which are arranged to extend beyond the upper end of the carrier, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The cigarettes are held vertically in a spaced-apart, side by side relation in the carrier by a cross arm 21 which, having a series of cigarette receiving grooves 22 arranged in predetermined spaced relation, cooperates with the rear wall 16 for positioning purposes. The width of the carrier is selected slidably to fit between the guide flanges 15 and the front wall 12 of the casing, the rear wall of the carrier constituting a part of the rear wall of the cigarette case. Coil springs 23, hooked at one end over upright ribs 24 extending laterally from each of the carrier end walls 17 and 18 respectively and anchored at their other ends about the lower edges of each of the casing end walls 13 and 14 respectively, constantly urge the carrier 11 downward relative to the casing 10. The over-all width of the carrier with its attached ribs 24 is selected slidably to engage the end walls 13 and 14 respectively of the casing.

Pivoted on horizontally disposed pins 25 extending through apertures 26 in the upper rearward portion of the casing end walls 13 and 14 is a closure 27 formed with a rear wall section 28, integral end wall sections 29 and 30, and an upper wall 31. The described closure wall sections are dimensionally selected to cooperate with the rear wall 16 of the carrier and the described casing walls to form a completely inclosed container when the closure is rocked about its pivot to its closed position of adjustment.

Depending from each of the end walls 29 and 30 respectively is an integral extension 32 having an aperture which receives the pin 25 on which the closure in pivoted. A notch 33 in the forward edge portion of each extension cooperates with a cam 34 fixed to the upper forward portion of each carrier end wall 17 and 18 respectively positively to rock the closure in one direction or the other in response to upward and downward movement of the carrier. Below the notch 33, each extension is in the form of a rearwardly inclined rectangular leg 35, the forward edge of which is in parallelism with and abuts the rear face of the side wall 12 when the closure is in its open position of adjustment, thereby to stop the closure when it is in its open position of adjustment. The rearward edge 36 of the leg also is substantially vertically disposed when the closure is rocked toward its open position and, dur-

ing such movement, it is engaged by the rib 24 which, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing, prevents the return movement of the closure until the carrier is lowered. When in the desired open position, continued upper movement of the carrier is stopped upon engagement of the rib 24 with a shoulder 37 in the extension.

In operation, the carrier is actuated upwardly relative to the casing by the application of pressure to the underside of the carrier. As the carrier is upwardly displaced, further tensioning the the coil springs 23, the closure is cammed toward the open position by interaction between the cams 34 and notches 33. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the cam need not be in engagement with the respective notch throughout the entire opening movement. Initially, the cam operating in the cam notch swings the cover to its full open position. After the cam leaves the notch, the rib 24 engages the surface 36 of leg 35 positively to hold the cover open. The cam reengages the respective notch during downward movement of the carrier, thereby to rock the closure toward its closed position of adjustment. Such downward movement is effected by the tensioned coil spring and it is stopped when in the closed position by interaction between the relatively horizontally disposed lower edge of the notch and the cam coincident with the abutment of the closure with the side wall 12.

It will be evident from the description that I have produced a new and improved cigarette case embodying the features of causing the contained cigarettes to assume an accessible position merely in response to relative movement of one side wall with respect to another. It will be manifest that such relative movement may be effected while grasping the case with one hand to position the cigarettes for removal directly by the mouth, enabling full use of the other hand for other purposes, such, for example, as steering an automotive vehicle while driving. The various features include means for positively rocking the closure to and from the path of the cigarettes, means for holding the closure in the open position when the cigarette case is opened, and means stopping the relative movement of parts when the case is in its open or closed position.

While description has been made specifically to a rectangular case or container, the many features of this invention may also be embodied in cases or containers of other symmetrical designs. Thus, my invention lends itself readily to the production of cigarette cases in a great variety of ornamental and attractive forms.

It will be further understood that numerous changes in the details of construction, arrangement and operation, as well as design, may be effected without departing from the spirit of the invention, especially as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A cigarette case comprising interfitting relatively slidable carrier and housing parts each providing the respective opposite side walls of the cigarette case, a closure pivotally mounted on said housing for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, and an operative connection between the carrier and closure for positively actuating the closure toward the open and closed position of adjustment responsive to movement of the carrier to raised and to retracted positions of adjustment.

2. A cigarette case comprising interfitting relatively slidable carrier and housing parts each constituting the respective side walls of the cigarette case, a closure pivotally mounted on said housing for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, and cam means responsive to the relative movement of said carrier and housing parts for positively rocking the closure toward the open and closed positions of adjustment, said cam means functioning also stopping the relative movement in one direction of said carrier and housing parts when the closure is in its closed position of adjustment.

3. A cigarette case comprising interfitting relatively slidable carrier and housing parts each constituting the respective side walls of the cigarette case, a closure pivotally mounted on said housing for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, cams on one of the parts including the closure and carrier cooperating with slots on the other of said parts for positively rocking the closure toward the open and closed positions of adjustment responsive to movement of the carrier to raised and retracted positions of adjustment, said cam means also stopping the relative movement in one direction of said carrier and housing parts when the closure is in its retracted position of adjustment, and a stop for preventing relative movement in the opposite direction of said carrier and housing parts when the closure is in its open position of adjustment.

4. A cigarette case comprising interfitting relatively slidable carrier and housing parts each constituting the respective side walls of the cigarette case, a closure pivotally mounted on said housing for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, cams on said carrier cooperating with notches in said closure for positively rocking the closure toward the open and closed positions of adjustment in response to relative movement of said carrier and housing parts.

5. A cigarette case comprising a casing having a single side wall which constitutes one wall of the cigarette case, an interfitting carrier having a single side wall which constitutes the opposite side wall of the cigarette case, said carrier being slidable relative of the casing to raised and lowered positions of adjustment wherein the cigarettes arranged in the carrier are respectively exposed and concealed, a closure pivoted from the upper end portion of said carrier for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, and cooperating cam and slot means for positively rocking the closure toward open and to the closed positions of adjustment responsive to the actuation of the carrier to the raised and to the lowered positions of adjustment respectively.

6. A cigarette case comprising a casing having a single side wall which constitutes one wall of the cigarette case, an interfitting carrier having a single side wall which constitutes the opposite side wall of the cigarette case, said carrier being slidable relative of the casing to raised and lowered positions of adjustment wherein the cigarettes arranged in the carrier are respectively exposed and concealed, a closure pivoted from the upper end portion of said carrier for rocking movement between the open and closed positions of adjustment, cooperating cam and notch means for positively rocking the closure toward open and to closed positions of adjustment when the carrier is actuated to raised and to lowered positions of adjustment respectively, and means releasably holding said closure in the open position of adjustment.

7. A cigarette case comprising a casing having a single side wall which constitutes one wall of the cigarette case, an interfitting carrier having a single side wall which constitutes the opposite side wall of the cigarette case, said carrier being slidable relative of the casing to raised and lowered positions of adjustment wherein the cigarettes arranged in the carrier are respectively exposed and concealed, a closure pivoted from the upper end portion of said carrier for rocking movement between open and closed positions of adjustment, cooperating cam and slot means for positively rocking the closure toward open and to closed positions of adjustment when the carrier is actuated to raised and to lowered positions of adjustment respectively, and spring means constantly urging said carrier toward the lowered position of adjustment.

8. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 5 wherein the cooperating cam and slot operate also to stop the relative movement of the carrier in one direction when in its lowered position of adjustment.

9. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 6 in which said last means also includes means for stopping upward relative movement of the carrier beyond the raised position of adjustment.

10. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 9 in which the means for holding the closure in the open position and stopping the upward relative movement of the carrier includes a vertically disposed rib on the carrier adapted slidably to be received in a groove in the closure during opening movement, and a shoulder at the end of said groove which is engaged by said rib to limit upward movement of the carrier.

11. A cigarette case comprising a casing having a single side wall constituting one wall of the cigarette case, an interfitting tray having a single side wall constituting a part of the other side wall of the cigarette case, said tray being relatively slidable longitudinally of the casing toward raised and lowered positions of adjustment whereby the cigarettes arranged in the tray are respectively made available and hidden, a closure pivotally mounted on the casing for rocking movement between open and closed positions, said closure constituting the remainder of the other side wall when in the closed position, cams on said tray cooperating with notches in said closure for positively actuating said closure toward the open position and to the closed position during relative longitudinal movement of said tray and casing, spring means constantly urging the tray toward its lowered position of adjustment, said tray being stopped at its lowered position of adjustment by said cooperating cams and notches, and an upright lateral extension on said tray engageable with said closure for holding the closure in its open position and stopping relative movement of the tray beyond its raised position.

12. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 11 wherein the casing is constituted with channel-shaped end walls between which the tray is slidably arranged.

13. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 11 in which the tray is provided with a cross bar in spaced parallel relation with the side wall, said cross bar having a multiplicity of cigarette receiving grooves in side by side relation.

14. A cigarette case as claimed in claim 11 in which the tray is provided with a cross bar having a multiplicity of cigarette receiving grooves in spaced parallel relation with the side wall for mounting cigarettes therebetween in upright position.

15. A cigarette case comprising a casing having a single side wall which constitutes one wall of the cigarette case, an interfitting carrier having a single side wall which constitutes the opposite side wall of the cigarette case, said carrier being slidable relative of the casing to raised and lowered positions of adjustment wherein the cigarettes arranged in the carrier are respectively exposed and concealed, a closure pivoted from the upper end portion of said carrier for rocking movement between the open and closed positions of adjustment, cooperating cam and notch means for positively rocking the closure toward open and to closed positions of adjustment when the carrier is actuated to raised and to lowered positions of adjustment respectively, a vertically disposed rib on the closure adapted slidably to be received in a groove in the closure during opening movement, and a shoulder defining the end of the groove which becomes engaged by the rib to limit opening movement of the closure.

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