July 9, 1940. H. LORANT 2,207,593

CASE FOR CIGARETTES OR CIGARS

Filed Jan. 22, 1938

Fig.1

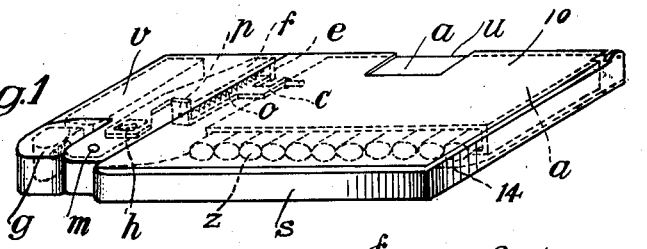


Fig.2

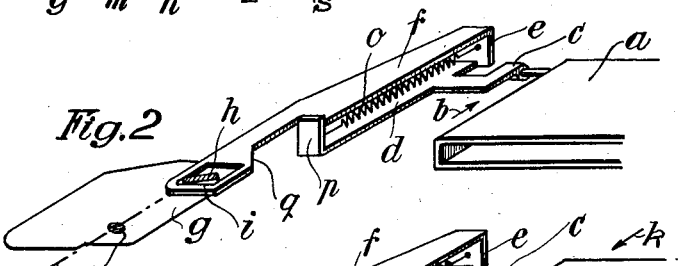


Fig.3

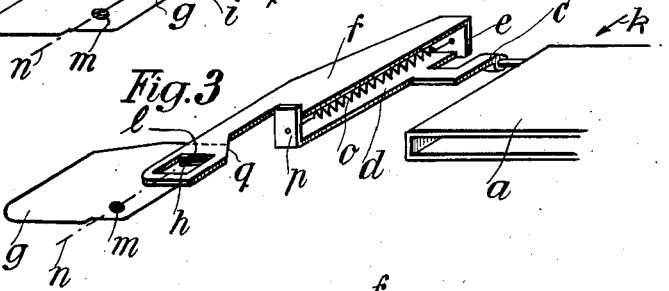


Fig.4

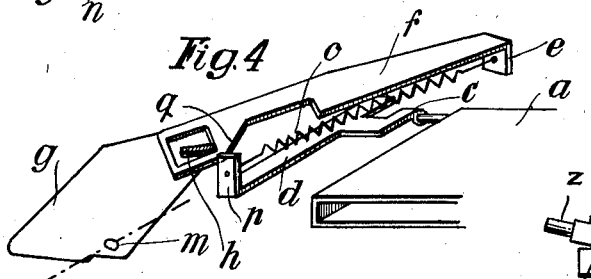


Fig.6.

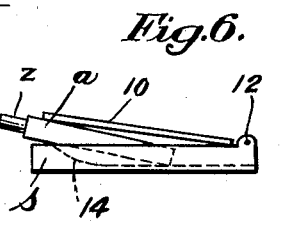
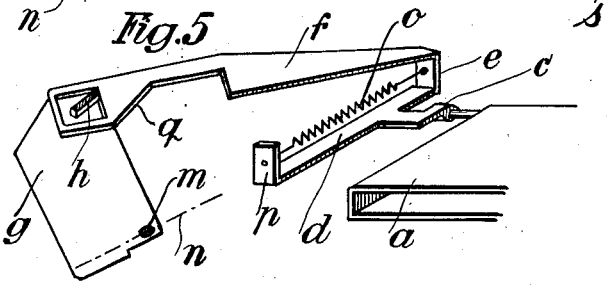


Fig.5



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2,207,593

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,207,593

CASE FOR CIGARETTES OR CIGARS

Hermann Lorant, Vienna, Austria

Application January 22, 1938, Serial No. 186,263
In Austria November 24, 1937

9 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.3)

This invention relates to cigarette- or cigar-cases of the type in which an automatic lighter is associated with the body of the case. In accordance with the invention the case is so constructed that the automatic lighter remains closed during the initial stage of the opening movement of the case, and is only operated when the lid of the case has moved through a certain portion of its opening movement.

A form of construction embodying the invention is shown by way of example in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 shows, in perspective view, a case constructed in accordance with the present invention,

Figs. 2 to 5 show means for operating the attached automatic lighter, likewise in perspective view, and

Fig. 6 is a side end view of the case, the lid of the case being in lifted position.

In the constructional example shown the invention is applied to that type of case in which the cigarettes or cigars are disposed in an inner case or lining which can be so displaced in the main body of the case that it lifts the lid until a gap is formed between the lid and the front of the case, while becoming itself tilted up at an angle, so that the ends of the cigarettes or cigars may extend through the said gap. It will be clear however that the invention may equally well be appropriately applied to cigarette or cigar cases of any other type.

Referring now to Fig. 1, *a* indicates a housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes *z* or the like which is slidably arranged in the casing *s*. Said casing is provided with an opening at its rear portion which permits access to said housing element *a*. The housing element *a* may be moved in the casing *s* in the direction of the arrow *k* if the user of the case presses with his finger against the side *u* of the housing element being accessible through the above mentioned opening of the casing *s*. A lid **10** normally closing the case is hinged to the casing *s* at **12**. Suitable guiding means, for example inclined surfaces **14** or the like (see Figs. 1 and 6) arranged in the casing *s*, are adapted to cooperate with the housing element *a*, in order to cause a lifting of the front portion of said housing element *a*, if the latter is advanced in the direction of the arrow *k*. When the front portion of the housing element *a* is lifted, the upper surface of the latter engages the lid **10** of the case, so that the housing element *a* in turn lifts said lid for opening the case, as shown in Fig. 6. During the elevation of the lid **10** of the case, a gap is formed between the lid and the upper edge of the casing *s*, and the housing element or holder *a* is brought into an advanced position, in which the ends of the cigarettes *z* projecting from the lifted front portion of the housing element *a* extend through said gap and may be easily grasped.

An automatic lighter *v* is attached to the left hand side of the casing *s* in any suitable manner. The case is constructed in such a way, that the operation of the actuating member or lid *g* of the lighter is retarded until the housing element *a* has been moved into a predetermined advanced position past the intermediate position shown in Fig. 6. Figs. 2–5 illustrate the mechanism, by means of which a time interval or lag may be obtained between the opening of the case and the operation of the lighter.

Fig. 2 shows the lighter actuating means in the position of rest. Springs disposed in the case and not shown in the drawing draw the inserted holder *a* in the direction indicated by the arrow *b*, and in this manner the inserted holder is kept pressed against the rear wall of the body of the case. By means of a linkage *c*, the inserted holder *a* is connected with a slide *d*. The right-hand end of the slide *d* bears against a lug portion *e* of a lever *f*, so that the above mentioned spring action is also brought to bear against the lever *f*. The left-hand end of the lever *f* is provided with a preferably rectangular aperture in which there engages a lug *h* obliquely attached to the lid *g* of the lighter. Owing to the pull exerted in the direction of the arrow the edge *i* of the aperture in the lever *f* bears against the left-hand end of the lug *h* and holds the lid *g* fast in the position of closure. To a lug *p* on the slide *d* there is secured one end of a spring *o* the other end of which is attached to the lug *e* on the lever *f*.

When the inserted holder *a* cooperating with the lid **10** of the case is moved in the direction of the arrow *k* (Fig. 3) the connecting piece *c* causes the slide *d*, and therefore through the intermediary of the spring *o* the lever *f* also, to be shifted in the same direction, at first to such an extent that the edge *l* of the aperture in the lever *f* comes in contact with the right-hand end of the lug *h*. The lid *g* of the lighter remains still in the closed position. If the inserted holder *a* be still further pushed in the direction of the arrow *k* the tension spring *o* is stressed until at the end of the first step of the movement of the holder *a* and the lid **10**, the lug *p* touches the sloping surface *q* on the lever *f*, whereby the movement of the holder *a* is interrupted. Now,

if the holder *a* is further advanced and carries out the second step of its movement, the left-hand end of the lever *f*, and with it the lid *g*, is lifted or rotated about the fixed pivot *m* by the action of the lug *p* on the sloping surface *q* until the right-hand end of *h* traverses the dead centre line *n* (Fig. 4). From this moment on the lever *f* becomes subject to the action of the spring *o* and is able to bring the lid *g* into the completely opened position. During the pivotal opening movement the lid *g* operates the remaining parts of the lighter in a known manner for the production of the igniting flame. Fig. 5 shows the position of the parts when the lid *g* is opened. The spring *o* is then relieved of tension and the lug *e* on the lever *f* comes to the right-hand end of the slide *d*. If the inserted holder *a*, and with it the slide *d*, be then allowed to return, under the action of the springs acting upon the holder and not shown in the drawing, into the original position by discontinuance of the pressure exerted upon the holder *a* by the user of the case the slide *d* retracts the lever *f* which in its turn closes or restores the lid *g* into the initial position shown in Fig. 2.

In using the case the inserted holder is thus first of all pushed in only to such an extent that the cigarette ends protrude through the gap formed between the lid and the front wall of the case. Only after a cigarette or cigar has been taken is the holder further pressed in to operate the automatic lighter.

I claim:

1. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing having a storage compartment for cigarettes, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, actuating means movably arranged in said casing for lifting said lid in two steps, said actuating means being in operative connection with said lid, means for interrupting the movement of said actuating means in an intermediate position at the end of the first step of the lifting movement of the lid, connecting means disposed between said actuating means and the lighter, and means provided in conjunction with said connecting means for retarding the operation of said lighter until said actuating means has been moved into a predetermined advanced position past said intermediate position.

2. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing having a storage compartment for cigarettes, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, actuating means movably arranged in said casing for lifting said lid, a movable arm, resilient means arranged between said actuating means and one end of said arm, an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, said actuating member being movably connected with the other end of said arm, means for locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said resilient means to tension when said actuting means is advanced for lifting the lid, and means for unlocking said arm and releasing said resilient means to swing the actuating member of the lighter about its pivot when said actuating means has been moved into a predetermined position.

3. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing having a storage compartment for cigarettes, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, actuating means movably arranged in said casing for lifting said lid, a movable arm, resilient means arranged between said actuating means and one end of said arm, the other end of said arm being provided with a polygonal opening, an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, a lug arranged on said actuating member, said lug being in engagement with said opening and being adapted to slide therein, said lug locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said resilient means to tension when said actuating means is advanced for lifting said lid and an edge of said opening abuts against said lug, and means for unlocking said arm and releasing said resilient means to swing the actuating member of the lighter about its pivot when said actuating means has been moved into a predetermined position.

4. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing having a storage compartment for cigarettes, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, actuating means movably arranged in said casing for lifting said lid, connecting means disposed between said actuating means and the lighter, said connecting means including an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, a slide member connected to said actuating means, an arm and a spring, said slide member having a projecting portion, said spring being arranged between said projecting portion and one end of said arm, the other end of said arm being provided with a polygonal opening, a lug arranged on said actuating member, said lug being in engagement with said opening and being adapted to slide therein, one corner of said polygonal opening being substantially in line with the pivot point of said actuating member in the lighter and the longitudinal axis of said spring when the connecting means are in normal position, said lug locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said spring to tension when said actuating means is advanced for lifting said lid and said corner of said polygonal opening abuts against an edge of said lug, a cam arranged on said connecting means, said cam having an inclined surface, said projecting portion of said slide member contacting said inclined surface of said cam to move said corner out of line with said pivot point and the longitudinal axis of said spring when said actuating means has been moved into a predetermined position, whereby the arm is unlocked and the spring is released to swing said actuating member of the lighter about its pivot for operating the lighter.

5. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing, a movable housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes slidably arranged in said casing, said movable housing element forming an ejecting means for ejecting a plurality of cigarettes at the same time and being adapted to be advanced in two steps, means for interrupting the movement of said ejecting means in an intermediate position at the end of the first step, connecting means disposed between said ejecting means and the lighter, and means provided in conjunction with said connecting means for retarding the operation of the lighter until said ejecting means has been moved into a predetermined advanced position past said intermediate position.

6. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, a movable housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes slidably arranged in said casing, means adapted to guide said movable housing element into a predetermined advanced position with its front part protruding from the uper edge of said cas-

ing, said housing element being adapted to lift said lid during its movement into said predetermined advanced position for an extent sufficient to permit the passage of the front portion of said plurality of cigarettes, said casing being provided with an opening permitting access to said housing element, connecting means disposed between said housing element and said lighter, and means provided in connection with said connecting means for retarding the operation of said lighter until said housing element has been moved into said predetermined advanced position.

7. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, a movable housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes slidably arranged in said casing, means adapted to guide said movable housing element into a predetermined advanced position with its front part protruding from the upper edge of said casing, said housing element being adapted to lift said lid during its movement into said predetermined advanced position for an extent sufficient to permit the passage of the front portion of said plurality of cigarettes, said casing being provided with an opening permitting access to said housing element, a movable arm, resilient means arranged between said housing element and one end of said arm, an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, said actuating member being movably connected with the other end of said arm, means for locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said resilient means to tension when said housing element is advanced for lifting the lid, and means for unlocking said arm and releasing said resilient means to swing the actuating member of the lighter about its pivot when said housing element has been moved into said predetermined position.

8. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, a movable housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes slidably arranged in said casing, means adapted to guide said movable housing element into a predetermined advanced position with its front part protruding from the upper edge of said casing, said housing element being adapted to lift said lid during its movement into said predetermined advanced position for an extent sufficient to permit the passage of the front portion of said plurality of cigarettes, said casing being provided with an opening permitting access to said housing element, a movable arm, resilient means arranged between said housing element and one end of said arm, the other end of said arm being provided with a polygonal opening, an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, a lug arranged on said actuating member, said lug being in engagement with said opening and being adapted to slide therein, said lug locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said resilient means to tension when said housing element is advanced for lifting said lid and an edge of said opening abuts against said lug, and means for unlocking said arm and releasing said resilient means to swing the actuating member of the lighter about its pivot when said housing element has been moved into said predetermined position.

9. A combined cigarette case and lighter comprising: a casing, a lid hinged to said casing and normally closing same, a movable housing element for the reception of a plurality of cigarettes slidably arranged in said casing, means adapted to guide said movable housing element into a predetermined advanced position with its front part protruding from the upper edge of said casing, said housing element being adapted to lift said lid during its movement into said predetermined advanced position for an extent sufficient to permit the passage of the front portion of said plurality of cigarettes, said casing being provided with an opening permitting access to said housing element, connecting means disposed between said housing element and said lighter, said connecting means including an actuating member pivotally arranged in said lighter for operating same, a slide member connected to said housing element, an arm and a spring, said slide member having a projecting portion, said spring being arranged between said projecting portion and one end of said arm, the other end of said arm being provided with a polygonal opening, a lug arranged on said actuating member, said lug being in engagement with said opening and being adapted to slide therein, one corner of said polygonal opening being substantially in line with the pivot point of said actuating member in the lighter and the longitudinal axis of said spring when the connecting means are in normal position, said lug locking the arm in a predetermined position so as to subject said spring to tension when said housing element is advanced for lifting said lid and said corner of said polygonal opening abuts against an edge of said lug, a cam arranged on said connecting means, said cam having an inclined surface, said projecting portion of said slide member contacting said inclined surface of said cam to move said corner out of line with said pivot point and the longitudinal axis of said spring when said housing element has been moved into said predetermined position, whereby the arm is unlocked and the spring is released to swing said actuating member of the lighter about its pivot for operating the lighter.

HERMANN LORANT.