

Nov. 15, 1955

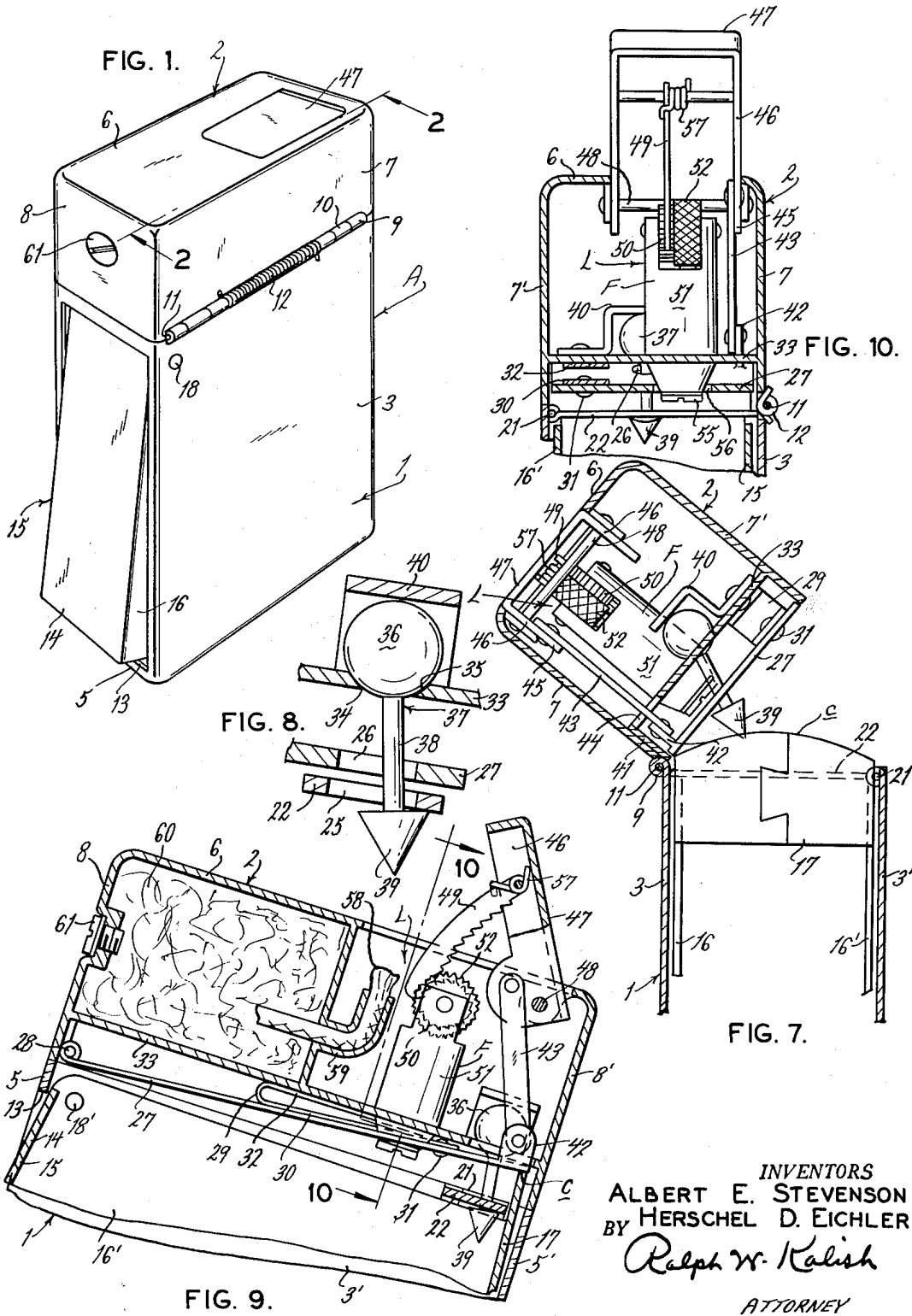
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2,723,746

COMBINED CIGARETTE CASE AND LIGHTER

Filed June 13, 1952

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

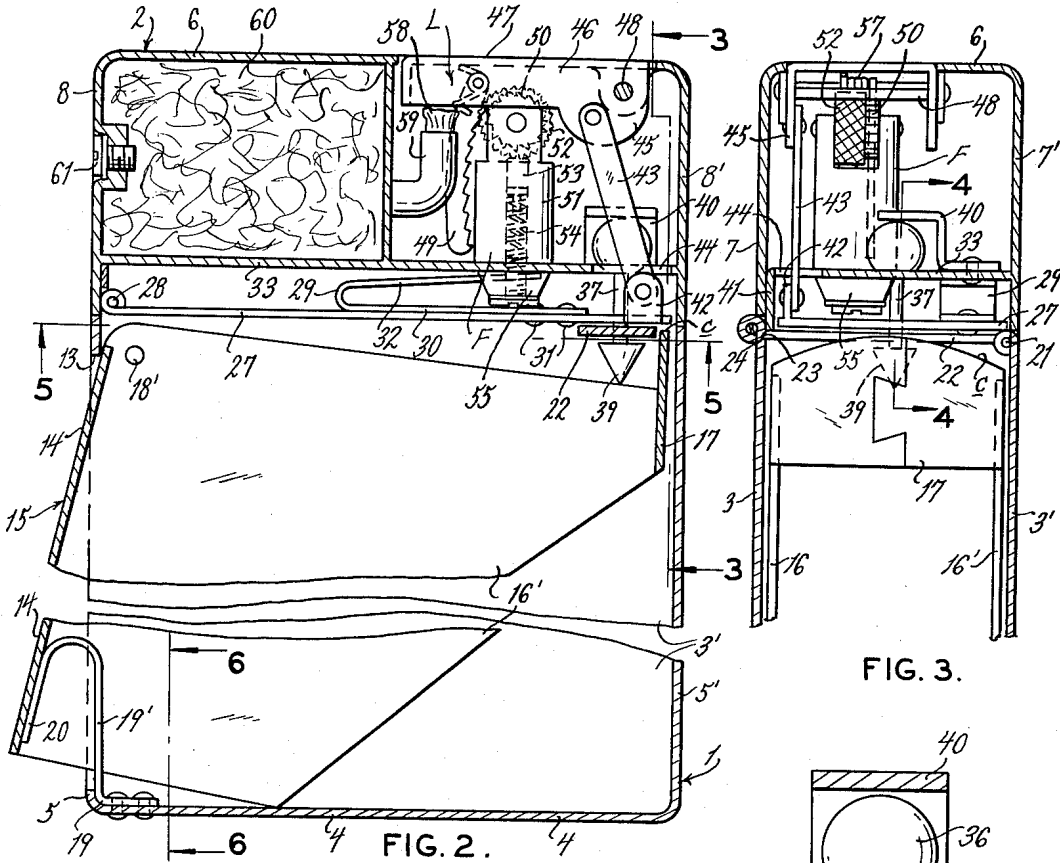


FIG. 3.

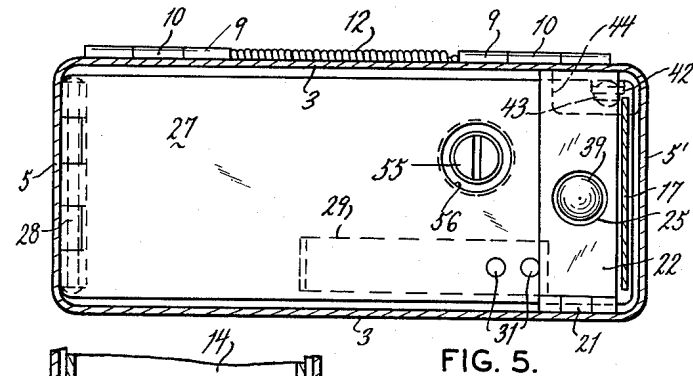


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.

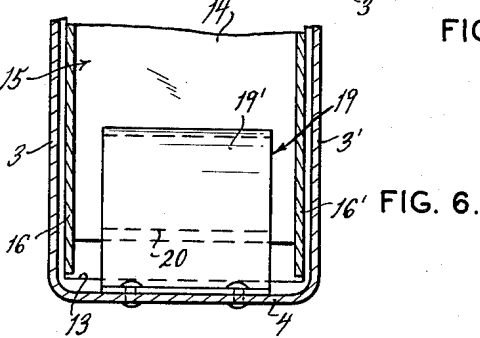


FIG. 6.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

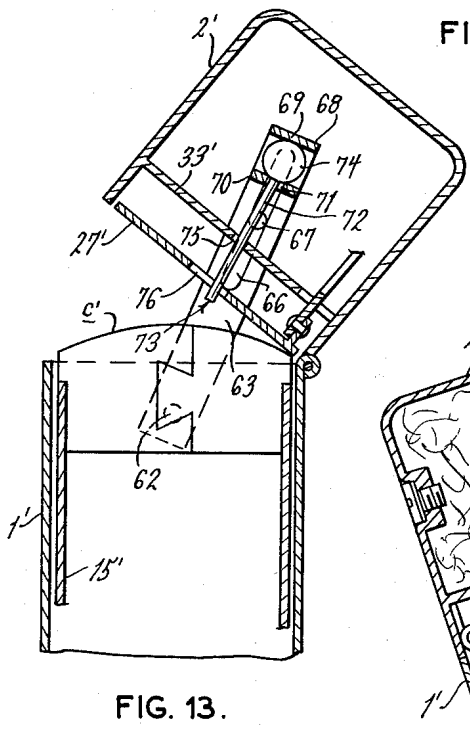
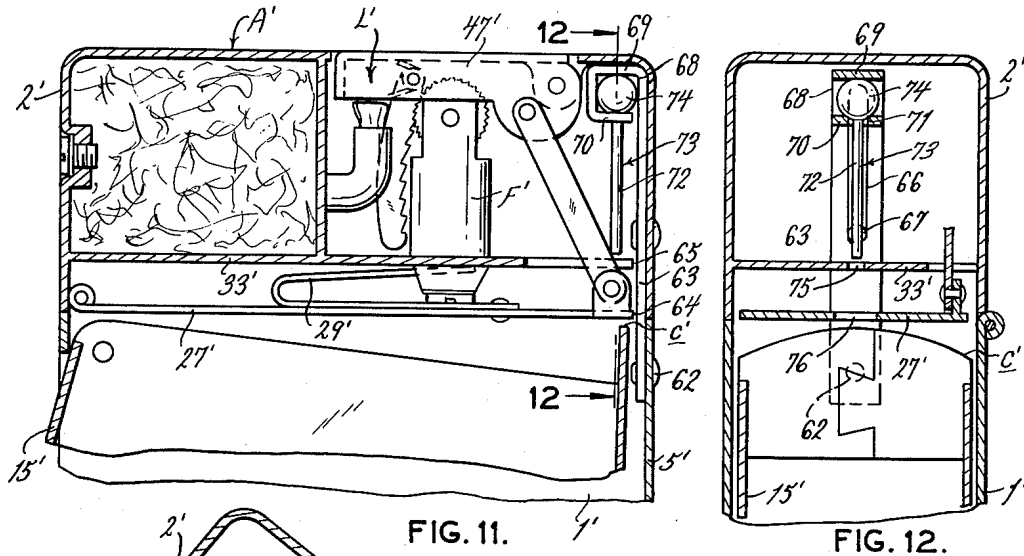


FIG. 13.

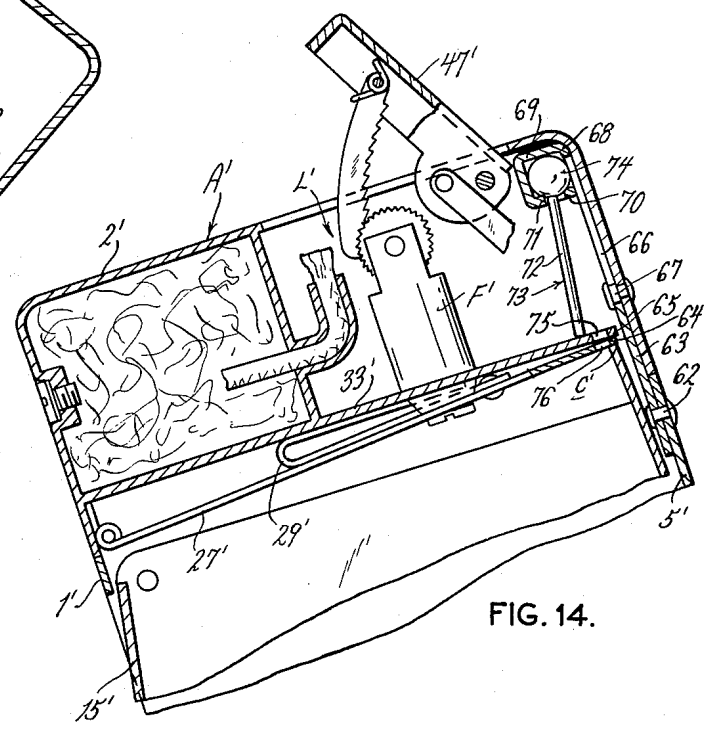


FIG. 14.

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2,723,746

COMBINED CIGARETTE CASE AND LIGHTER

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Application June 13, 1952, Serial No. 293,380

17 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.4)

This invention relates to a combined cigarette case and lighter and, more particularly, to novel actuating means for selectively opening the case or operating the lighter.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a case of the character stated incorporating a gravity-actuated locking member which selectively permits opening of the cigarette compartment or operation of the lighter in response to the attitude of the case to the vertical.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a case of the character stated having a single operating lever for both the cigarette compartment and the lighter which is disposed for facile operation by a pressure-producing gripping of the case, so that the case may be easily manipulated by one hand.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a combined cigarette case and lighter having resilient members with a predetermined differential in resistance whereby the lighter will not be inadvertently ignited upon opening of the cigarette compartment.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a combined cigarette case and lighter having a cigarette compartment designed to hold a full package of cigarettes; which combined case is compact and of smooth, regular outline; which may be economically manufactured; and which is durable and reliable in usage.

With the above and other objects in view, our invention resides in the novel features of form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts presently described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings (three sheets)—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a combined cigarette case and lighter constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figures 5 and 6 are transverse sectional views taken along lines 5—5 and 6—6 of Figure 2;

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially along line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing the case in opened condition;

Figure 8 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially along line 4—4 of Figure 3 showing the locking member in locked position;

Figure 9 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken substantially along line 2—2 of Figure 1 showing the lighter in opened position;

Figure 10 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 10—10 of Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of a modified type of combined cigarette case and lighter

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constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention;

Figure 12 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 12—12 of Figure 11;

Figure 13 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially along line 12—12 of Figure 11 showing the case in opened condition; and

Figure 14 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view showing the lighter in opened position.

Referring now to the drawings which illustrate practical embodiments of the present invention, A designates a case for cigarettes and a lighter which may be manufactured of metal or plastic and comprises a lower compartment 1 for cigarettes and an upper compartment 2 for a lighter designated L. The cigarette compartment 1, being normally open at its upper end, is provided with side walls 3, 3', a bottom wall 4, and end walls 5, 5', with the lighter compartment 2 having a top wall 6 and side walls 7, 7', and end walls 8, 8', which are respectively co-planar with the side walls 3, 3', and end walls 5, 5', of the cigarette compartment 1 whereby the exterior surfaces of the case A will be substantially continuous, when the case A is in closed condition as shown in Figure 1, to present a finished and compact appearance.

Formed at the lower edge of the side wall 7 of the compartment 2 and at the upper edge of the side wall 3 of the compartment 1 are respectively a plurality of aligned knuckles 9, 10, for receiving a pintle 11 in hinge formation to permit lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment 2 in order that the open upper end of the compartment 1 will be exposed for withdrawal thereof, or insertion therein, of cigarettes. Encirclingly disposed about the central portion of the pintle 11 is a spring 12 of the helical twist type, the ends of which bear against the outer faces of the side walls 7, 3, for biasing the compartments 1, 2, into case-closed relation.

The end wall 5 of the lower compartment 1 is substantially cut away to provide an enlarged opening 13 for extension therethrough of the end plate 14 of a frame-forming lever member or so-called "gripper" 15 having side plates 16, 16', which are respectively disposed immediately inwardly of, and parallel to, the side walls 3, 3'. Extending between the side plates 16, 16', adjacent their upper ends remote from the end plate 14 is a relatively narrow connecting strip 17, the upper portion of which projects above the top margins of the side plates 16, 16', and is marginally arcuately contoured to provide a camming surface c. The lever 15 is mounted for rockable movement within the compartment 1 by opposed bearing pins 18, 18', projecting from the inner faces of the side walls 3, 3', respectively, for engagement with suitable apertures provided in the side plates 16, 16', in the upper ends thereof adjacent the end plate 14. Secured, as by rivets, to the inner face of the bottom wall 4 of the compartment 1 is one end of a flat spring 19 which is bent to provide an inner leg 19' and an outwardly and downwardly extending outer leg 20 for surface bearing engagement against the end plate 14 for normally urging the lower end thereof into outwardly rocked position, as may best be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

The application of adequate pressure upon the end plate 14 for overcoming the tension of the spring 19 will cause the lever member 15 to be pivoted about the bearing members 18, 18', for effecting upward movement of the camming surface c for purposes presently to be described.

Release of external pressure upon the end plate 14 will cause the lever 15, under the load upon the spring 19, to be restored to its normal, outwardly rocked position. The case A is of such size as to permit easy manipulation within one hand of the user so that the force for oper-

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ating the lever 15 may be applied by a tight gripping or squeezing action.

The compartment 1 is so dimensioned and designed as to provide interior space for receiving a package of cigarettes of the customary or currently popular size. Thus, the user need only remove the top foil layer from the cigarette package and insert the same bodily within the compartment 1. As may be seen in the drawings, the sides of the lever 15 are in immediate adjacency to the walls of the compartment 1 so that no untoward contact will occur with the cigarettes contained within the compartment 1.

Suitably hinged to the side wall 3' adjacent its inner and upper margin as at 21 is one end of a bar 22 for extension across the top of the compartment 1 between the side walls 3, 3', and being bevelled along its free end, as at 23, for slip locking engagement within a complementary depression 24 formed in the side wall 3. The bar 22 is spaced from the end wall 5 a suitable distance to allow the cam c to move uninhibitedly therethrough upon actuation of the lever 15. Substantially centrally of the bar 22 there is provided an aperture 25 in vertical alignment with an aperture 26 formed in the base plate 27 of the lighter compartment 2. Said base plate 27 is hingedly mounted at one of its ends, as at 28, to the inner face of the end wall 8 and extends transversely across the lower end of the compartment 2 with its opposite or free end terminating immediately adjacent the end wall 3' for presenting the undersurface portion thereof superjacent to the cam c for engagement thereby upon actuation of the lever 15 to cause the base plate 27 to be swung upwardly about the hinge 28. Said base plate 27 is normally biased into supported disposition upon the bar 22 by a generally U-shaped pre-loaded flat spring 29 one leg 30 of which is secured, as by rivets 31, to the upper face of the base plate 27 and bears thereagainst while the other or upper leg 32 bears against the undersurface of a partition 33 fixedly secured within the compartment 2 in upwardly spaced, parallel relation to the base plate 27.

Formed in the partition 33 in registration with the apertures 25, 26, is an opening 34, the wall of which is contoured to provide a seat 35 for the spherically-formed upper end 36 of a pendulum-like locking member or selector 37 having a stem or shank 38 extending downwardly through the apertures 25, 26, 34, with a cone 39 being provided at its lower projecting end, the vertex of said cone 39 being presented downwardly (see Figures 4 and 8). The sphere 36 is disposed within its seat for free universal angular movement so that, upon tilting of the case A from an upright position, the locking member or selector 37 will, through gravity, automatically assume its normal axially vertical position. The locking member or selector 37 is restrained from upward movement by detent member 40 suitably provided upon the partition 33. With reference to Figure 4, it will be seen that the diameter of the base of the cone 39 is less than that of the aperture 25 in the bar 22 whereby the same may be moved therethrough for purposes to be described hereinbelow.

The partition 33 is provided with a depending flange 41 attached to the side wall 7 so that the bottom face of said flange 41 is disposed immediately above the free end of the bar 22 for detaining abutment thereagainst to prevent unauthorized upward movement of the bar 22, should the free end thereof become inadvertently dislodged from the depression 24 (see Figure 3).

Struck up from the base plate 27 at one side of its unsecured end is a lug 42 for securement thereto of the lower end of a link 43 which projects upwardly through an enlarged opening 44 in the partition 33 for pivotal connection at its upper end to a boss 45 provided in the skirt 46 of a closure or cover 47, hingedly mounted, as at 48, in the top wall 6 of the compartment 2 for upward swinging movement into open position for exposing the

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lighter L for use. Said closure or cover 47 will normally be maintained in closed position by the base plate 27 being urged into resting disposition upon the bar 22 by the pre-loaded spring 29.

Secured at its upper end to the under surface of the closure 47 for movement therewith is an arcuate rack 49 for meshing engagement with the ratchet wheel 50 of a flint assembly generally denoted F and comprising a housing 51 for suitably supporting a spark wheel 52, flint 53, and flint spring 54. Said housing 51 is rigidly held within an opening (not shown) in the partition 33 through which projects the lower cap-forming end 55 thereof. The said lower end 55 of the housing 51 terminates above the base plate 27, within which is cut a relatively large aperture 56 for relative uninhibited movement therethrough of the said lower end 55 when the base plate 27 is swung upwardly, as shown in Figure 9. The rack 49 is yieldably held in engagement with the ratchet wheel 50 by a spring 57 so that spark-producing operation of the flint assembly F is assured when the rack 49 is carried upwardly upon opening of the closure 47. Located proximate the spark wheel 52 is a wick 58 borne by a wick holder 59 projecting from one wall of a lighter fuel chamber 60 provided in one end of the compartment 2 and having a screw cap 61 threadedly engaged in the end wall 8 to allow easy access to its interior for filling and cleaning purposes.

In usage, with the case A held by the user in an upright or vertical position, the longitudinal axis of the locking member or selector 37 will, through gravity, be parallel to the vertical axis of the case A (see Figure 2). In this disposition of the case A, the bar 22 will be in normal relation to the locking member 37 with the aperture 25 presented for unimpeded movement therethrough of the cone 39. Actuation of the lever 15 by the application of inwardly directed pressure on the end plate 14 will cause the cam c to engage the base plate 27 and to effect upward swinging thereof in compression of the spring 29. This upward force upon the base plate 27 will also cause a torque to be applied to the hinge spring 12. The resistance of the hinge spring 12 to twisting is designedly considerably less than that of the spring 29 to compression so that adequate torque will have been developed by but limited upward movement of the base plate 27. Thereupon, the upper compartment 2 will be swung laterally outwardly to expose the open upper end of the cigarette compartment 1. The locking member or selector 37 will be perforce carried with the compartment 1 as it swings into case-open position, with the cone 39 moving unimpededly through the aperture 25.

The upward rocking of the base plate 27 will have been completed, by the opening of the case A, before the link 43 has been displaced sufficiently upwardly to cause opening of the lighter closure 47, so that the lighter L will be inoperative when the compartment 1 is in opened condition. The requisite differential in the resistance of the springs 12 and 29 is effected by the pre-loading of the flat spring 29. With the lighter compartment 2 in outwardly swung position, the bar 22 may then be slipped from engagement in the depression 24 and swung upwardly about the hinge 21 to allow full access to the cigarette compartment 1. To maintain the lighter compartment 1 in case-open position, the user must retain pressure upon the lever 15 so that premature closing of the case A is prevented by abutment of the end of the cam c against the adjacent portion of the base plate 27 (see Figure 7). Release of pressure on the lever 15 will permit the lighter compartment 2 to return to case-closed position by the hinge spring 12.

The conical contour of the lower end of the selector 37 will assure positive return thereof through the aperture 25 when the case A is restored to closed condition upon release of the lever 15.

Should the user desire to operate the lighter L, the case A is held in a position tilted from the vertical in any direction, as shown in Figure 9, whereby the locking member or selector 37 will, through gravity, swing toward vertical position. Potentially, the arc of swing would be commensurate with the degree of tilt of the case A. However, the limit of such pendulum-like action of the locking member 37 will be determined by the surface abutting engagement of the upwardly presented face of the cone 39 with the under face of the bar 22 adjacent the aperture 25 (see Figures 8 and 9) thereby locking the lighter compartment 2 to the bar 22, and hence to the cigarette compartment 1. Upon actuation of the lever 15 with consequent upward pivoting of the base plate 27, the lighter compartment 2 will now be prevented from outward swinging despite the torque developed upon the hinge spring 12. Thus, the continuous pressure upon the lever 15 will effect full upward movement of the base plate 27 with resulting full compression of the spring 29 with the link 43 being carried upwardly to cause the closure 47 to be swung about its hinge 43 into open position. The rack 49 will be carried upwardly by the closure 47 and thereby cause rotation of the ratchet wheel 50 for spark production by the flint assembly F to ignite the wick 58. Therefore, opening of the closure 47 will automatically cause the lighter L to be ignited for ready use.

In view of the foregoing, it will be seen that the case A is adapted to be easily and effectively handled within one hand of the user and that by the unique gravity-actuated locking means therein provided, a mere twist of the wrist will selectively permit the upper compartment 2 to be swung outwardly to allow access to the cigarette compartment 1 or cause the compartments to be maintained in closed relation with the lighter L being ignited for ready use.

Referring now to Figures 11, 12, 13, and 14, a modified type of combined cigarette case and lighter is presented comprising a case A', hinged compartments 1', 2', lever 15', cam c', hinged base plate 27', spring 29', partition 33', lighter L', flint assembly F', and link-actuated closure 47', all being similar in every respect to the corresponding parts of the case A above described.

Pivotaly mounted at its lower end as at 62, to the central portion of the inner face of the end wall 5', near the upper end thereof of the compartment 1', is a vertically presented flat bar 63 extending upwardly into the compartment 2' through aligned openings 64, 65, provided in the base plate 27' and partition 33', respectively. In the upper portion of the bar 63 there is formed an elongated vertical aperture 66 for relative movement therealong of a pin 67 fixed in the side wall 7' in upwardly spaced relation to the partition 33'. At its upper extremity, which is proximate the top wall 6, the bar 63 is suitably bent to define a generally four-sided, open-ended receptacle 68 having parallel top and bottom sides 69, 70, respectively. Formed centrally in the bottom side 70 is an aperture 71 through which freely projects downwardly the stem portion 72 of a pendulum-like locking member or selector 73 having a spherical head portion 74 disposed within the receptacle 68 and being free for rockable movement. The top side 69 of the receptacle 68 serves as a detent to prevent untoward upward movement of the locking member 73, the lower end of which terminates immediately upwardly of the partition 33' (see Figure 11) and is normally axially aligned with registering apertures 75, 76, provided in the partition 33' and base plate 27', respectively, each of said apertures 75, 76, being of greater diameter than the stem portion 72 and with that of the aperture 76 being relatively increased.

In usage, when the case A' is held in an upright or truly vertical position, as indicated in Figure 11, the stem portion 72 of the locking member 73 will be axially aligned with the apertures 75, 76, in the base plate 27' and partition 33', so that upon swinging of the upper compartment 2' into case-open position, responsive to oper-

ation of the lever 15', the stem portion 72 will be moved relatively through the aforesaid apertures 75, 76, since the base 63 will pivot about its lower end 62 with the pin 67 rising relatively upwardly within the slot-like aperture 66, as shown in Figure 13.

When the case A' is held in a position which is tilted with respect to the vertical (see Figure 14) the locking-member 73 will be swung, through gravity, to attempt to recover its vertical position of rest, which swinging movement will cause it to move out of alignment with the apertures 76, 75, and abuttingly engage at its lower end against the upper face of the partition 33'. Thus, upon actuation of the lever 15', the bar 63 will be prevented from pivotal action about the point 62 by the locking engagement between the locking member 73 and the upper face of the partition 33', so that the upper compartment 2' is held against outward swinging movement by upward pivotal movement of the base plate 27'. Consequently, the base plate 27' may be moved fully upwardly under action of the lever 15' to thereby cause opening of the closure 47' of the compartment 2' with attendant operation of the lighter L'.

It should be understood that changes and modifications in the form, construction, arrangement, and combination of the several parts of the combined cigarette case and lighter may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of the present invention.

Having thus described our invention what we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, a pendulum-like locking member suspended in said upper compartment for movement responsive to gravity and being normally axially parallel to the case, and means for engaging said locking member when the case is presented so that the longitudinal axis of said locking member and that of the case are in angular relation whereby the upper compartment is prevented from being swung into case-open position.

2. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, a pendulum-like locking member supported at its upper end within said upper compartment and having a depending portion for extension into said lower compartment, said locking member being normally longitudinally axially parallel to the case and being so supported that it is free for swinging movement responsive to gravity, and a cooperative locking member disposed in said lower compartment and adapted for engagement with said locking member to lock said upper and lower compartments together when the case is so presented as to cause its longitudinal axis to be angularly related to that of the locking member whereby outward swinging of the upper compartment is prevented.

3. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, a pendulum-like locking member supported at its upper end within said upper compartment and having a depending portion for extension into said lower compartment, said locking member being normally longitudinally axially parallel to the case and being so supported that it is free for swinging movement responsive to gravity, and a member secured to said lower compartment and having an opening through which the locking member extends, said opening being normally axially aligned with said locking member whereby upon presenting the case so that the longitudinal axis thereof is angularly related to that of the locking member said locking member will abuttingly engage the member adjacent the opening to thereby cause the upper and lower compartments to be locked together

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for preventing outward swinging of the upper compartment.

4. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, an operating lever rockably mounted in the lower compartment and having one end projecting outwardly through an opening therein for convenient operation, a plate member forming the lower end of said upper compartment and engageable on its undersurface with the other end of said lever, said plate member being pivotally mounted at one of its ends for upward swinging movement responsive to operation of said lever, a closure provided for said upper compartment and being hingedly mounted for upward swinging movement in a direction opposite to that of the plate member, linkage means connecting said closure and said plate whereby upon operation of said lever said closure will be swung open, and a resilient member urging said plate downwardly for normally maintaining the closure in closed relation and restoring said plate in downward position upon release of the lever with consequent closing of the closure.

5. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, spring means for biasing said upper and lower compartments into case closed relation, an operating member disposed in said lower compartment for rockable movement, a plate pivotally mounted in the lower end of said upper compartment, and a resilient member for normally biasing said plate downwardly in position for abutment by said operating member upon operative rocking of the same whereby said plate is swung upwardly in compression of said resilient member and in applying a torque on said spring means, said resilient member being pre-loaded a predetermined amount so that the resistance of the spring means will be overcome for swinging of the upper compartment into case-open position before said resilient member is fully compressed.

6. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for outward laterally swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to the lower compartment, a lever mounted in said lower compartment for rockable movement, a plate normally defining the bottom of said upper compartment hingedly mounted in the lower end thereof for upward swinging movement responsive to operation of the lever, spring means associated with the hinged connection of said compartments for biasing same into case-closed relation, a compressive resilient member disposed in said upper compartment for normally biasing said plate downwardly, said resilient member being pre-loaded a predetermined amount so that upon upward pivotal movement of said plate the torque applied to said spring means will be adequate for effecting opening swinging of said upper compartment before said resilient member is fully compressed, a locking member suspended at its upper end in the upper compartment for swinging movement responsive to gravity, and cooperative means for engaging said locking member when the case is presented in a position at an angle to the vertical to prevent outward swinging of the upper compartment upon operation of the lever and which is adapted to be out of engagement with said locking member when the case is held in upright position so that said upper compartment may swing outwardly upon operation of said lever.

7. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for outward laterally swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to the lower compartment, a lever mounted in said lower compartment for rockable movement, a plate normally defining the bottom of said upper compartment hingedly mounted in the lower end thereof for upward swinging movement responsive to operation of the lever, a closure member hingedly mounted in said upper com-

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partment, means connecting said closure and plate for effecting opening of said closure when said plate is swung to the upper limit of its pivotal movement, a resilient member bearing against said plate for urging same downwardly to maintain the closure in normally closed position, a locking member suspended at its upper end in said upper compartment for swinging movement responsive to gravity, and cooperative locking means adapted to be in disengaged relation to said locking member when the case is presented in an upright position to permit outward swinging of the upper compartment before the plate has been moved to its upper limit and being further adapted to engage said locking member when said case is presented in tilted relation to the vertical for preventing outward swinging of said upper compartment and allowing full upward movement of said plate to cause the closure to be opened.

8. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for outward swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to said lower compartment, a lever mounted in said lower compartment for rockable movement, a plate pivotally mounted in the upper compartment for pivotal movement responsive to operation of the lever, a partition member fixedly mounted in the upper compartment in normally spaced relation to said plate, said plate and said partition having registering openings, a support member engaged to said lower compartment and projecting into said upper compartment, and an elongated locking member suspended at its upper end to the upper portion of said support member for swinging movement responsive to gravity, said locking member being axially aligned with said registering openings when the case is in upright position to permit relative movement therethrough when the upper compartment is swung into case-open position and being adapted to engage said partition when the case is maintained in tilted relation to the vertical to prevent swinging of said upper compartment.

9. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for outward swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to said lower compartment, a lever mounted in said lower compartment for rockable movement, a plate pivotally mounted in the upper compartment for pivotal movement responsive to operation of the lever, means for effecting outward swinging of the upper compartment upon operation of the lever, a partition member fixedly mounted in the upper compartment in spaced relation to said plate, a bar member mounted on said lower compartment, said plate, partition, and bar member having registering openings, a pendulum-like locking member seated for free angular movement at its upper end in said partition for projection through said registering openings whereby when the case is presented in upright position said locking member may be carried through the opening in said bar upon outward swinging of said upper compartment responsive to operation of the lever, and means provided on said locking member for engaging said bar when the case is presented at an angle to the vertical for preventing outward swinging of said upper compartment upon operation of the lever.

10. A container for cigarettes and a lighter comprising a case having a normally lower compartment for receiving cigarettes and a normally upper compartment for a lighter, said compartments being hinged together for outward lateral swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to the lower compartment, a closure hingedly mounted in said upper compartment for normal vertical swinging movement, a pyrophoric lighter mounted in said upper compartment, means connecting said lighter and said closure whereby upon opening of said closure said lighter will be ignited, a member mounted in the said upper compartment for pivotal movement for effecting outward swinging of said upper compartment, link means connecting said member and said closure, an operating lever

mounted in the lower compartment adapted to effect pivotal movement of said member upon operation, and gravity-actuated locking means adapted upon operation of the lever to selectively permit outward swinging of the upper compartment when the case is in an upright position and lighter-operating opening of said closure when the case is in angular relation to upright position.

11. A container for cigarettes and a lighter comprising a case having a normally lower compartment for receiving cigarettes and a normally upper compartment for a lighter, said compartments being hinged together for outward lateral swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to the lower compartment, spring means associated with the hinged connection of said compartments for urging same into case closed relation, a closure hingedly mounted in said upper compartment for normal vertical swinging movement, a pyrophoric lighter mounted in said upper compartment, means connecting said lighter and said closure whereby upon opening of said closure said lighter will be ignited, a member mounted in said upper compartment for upward swinging movement for applying a torque to said spring means for outward swinging of said upper compartment, link means connecting said member and said closure, a resilient member disposed for biasing said member downwardly for urging said closure into closed position, an operating lever mounted in the lower compartment adapted upon operation to engage said member for causing upward movement thereof, and gravity-actuated locking means adapted upon operation of the lever to selectively permit outward swinging of the upper compartment when the case is in an upright position and lighter-operating opening of said closure when the case is in angular relation to upright position.

12. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments, an operating lever rockably mounted in the lower compartment and having one end projecting outwardly through an opening therein for convenient operation, a plate member at the lower end of said upper compartment and defining a bottom wall therefor being engageable on its undersurface with the other end of said lever, said plate member being hingedly mounted at one of its ends for upward swinging movement responsive to operation of said lever, a closure provided in the upper end of said upper compartment spacedly from said plate member, said closure being hingedly mounted for upward swinging in a direction opposite to that of the plate member, and linkage means connecting said closure and said plate whereby upon operation of said lever said closure will be swung open.

13. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments, an operating lever rockably mounted in the lower compartment and having one end projecting outwardly through an opening therein for convenient operation, a plate member at the lower end of said upper compartment and defining a bottom wall therefor, said plate member being hingedly mounted at one of its ends with the opposite end being free for upward swinging movement, said plate member being engageable on its undersurface adjacent its free end with the other end of said lever for upward swinging responsive to operation of said lever, a closure in the upper end of said upper compartment in upwardly spaced relation to said plate member, said closure being hingedly mounted for upward swinging movement in a direction opposite to that of the plate member, linkage means connecting said closure and said plate whereby upon operation of said lever said closure will be swung open, and a resilient member urging said plate downwardly for normally maintaining the closure in closed relation and restoring said plate in downward position upon release of the lever with consequent closing of the closure.

14. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments, an operating lever rockably mounted in the lower compartment and having one end projecting outwardly through an opening therein for

convenient operation, a plate member at the lower end of said upper compartment and defining a bottom wall therefor, said plate member being hingedly mounted at one of its ends with the opposite end being free for upward swinging movement, said plate member being engageable on its undersurface adjacent its free end with the other end of said lever for upward swinging responsive to operation of said lever, a closure in the upper end of said upper compartment in upwardly spaced relation to said plate member, said closure being hingedly mounted at one of its ends for upward swinging movement in a direction opposite to that of the plate member, and an upwardly extending link pivotally mounted at its lower end on said plate member adjacent its free end and at its upper end to said closure adjacent its hinged end whereby upon operation of said lever said link will be directed upwardly to effect opening of said closure.

15. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, a pendulum-like locking member supported at its upper end within said upper compartment and having a depending portion for extension into said lower compartment, said locking member being normally longitudinally axially parallel to the case and being so supported that it is free for swinging movement responsive to gravity, and a member secured to one side of, and extending into, said lower compartment and having an opening through which the locking member extends, said locking member having an enlarged lower end having a width less than that of the said opening, said opening being normally axially aligned with said locking member whereby upon presenting the case so that the longitudinal axis thereof is angularly related to that of the locking member the enlarged head of said locking member will abuttingly engage the underface of said member adjacent the opening to thereby cause the upper and lower compartments to be locked together for preventing outward swinging of the upper compartment.

16. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for lateral outward swinging of the upper compartment, a pendulum-like locking member supported at its upper end within said upper compartment and having a depending portion for extension into said lower compartment, said locking member being normally longitudinally axially parallel to the case and being so supported that it is free for swinging movement responsive to gravity, a flat member secured to one side of, and extending into, said lower compartment and having an opening through which the locking member projects, and an enlarged cone member mounted on the projecting lower end of said locking member the base of said cone being presented upwardly and having a diameter less than that of said opening, said opening being normally axially aligned with said locking member whereby upon presenting the case so that the longitudinal axis thereof is angularly related to that of the locking member the cone member will be disposed so that its base surface will be in tight surface abutting engagement with the undersurface of said member adjacent the opening to thereby cause the upper and lower compartments to be locked together for preventing outward swinging of the upper compartment.

17. A container comprising a case having normally upper and lower compartments hinged together for outward swinging of the upper compartment to permit access to said lower compartment, a partition member fixedly mounted in the upper compartment in downwardly spaced relation to the upper end of said compartment, said partition having an opening, a support member swingably engaged at its lower end to one side of said lower compartment and projecting into said upper compartment, and an elongated locking member suspended at its upper end to the upper portion of said support member for swinging movement responsive to gravity, the lower end

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of said locking member terminating upwardly of said partition and being axially aligned with the opening therein when the case is in upright position to permit relative movement therethrough upon swinging of said support member when the upper compartment is swung into case-open position and abuttingly engaging at its lower end the upper surface of said partition when the case is maintained in tilted relation to the vertical to prevent swinging of said upper compartment.

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