relative to the housing, an inner pawl and outer pawl that interacts with the slide detent for adjusting between a release position and a latched position relative to the inner hub and outer hub respectively so that in the latched position the respective inner hub or outer hub is prevented from rotating, an adjuster including a cam that is rotatable proximate the front of the housing and a cam detent means for interacting with the cam to facilitate retaining the cam in one of a plurality of selected positions, the adjuster including an inner follower and an outer follower each interacting between the cam, the inner pawl and outer pawl respectively, whereby the adjuster is operable to adjust the inner pawl and/or outer pawl between the release position and a deactivated position so as to permit or prevent respectively said interaction of the inner pawl and/or outer pawl with the slide detent.

[0008] The adjuster preferably includes biasing means for biasing the inner follower and outer follower towards the cam. It is preferred that the cam includes a cam surface whereby the inner follower and or outer follower engages the cam surface when their respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl are in the release condition or the deactivated condition. The inner follower and/or outer follower preferably disengage from the cam surface when their respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl are in the latch condition. It is preferred that the cam rotates about a cam axis which is substantially aligned with a direction in which the bolt moves, and the cam surface extends radially from the cam axis.

[0009] It is preferred that when the inner pawl and/or outer pawl is retained in the latched position by the lock means the respective inner follower and/or outer follower interacts with the cam to prevent its operation. The inner follower and outer follower preferably each include a tab that interacts with a formation of the cam to prevent rotation of the cam when the respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl is in the latch condition. It is further preferred that the formation on the cam includes a plurality of lugs projecting radially from the cam which align with and abut the tab of the inner follower or outer follower so as to prevent rotation.

[0010] It is preferred that the detent slide moves linearly relative to the housing when adjusting the inner pawl and/or outer pawl between the latch position and the release position. The detent slide is preferably spaced from the inner pawl and/or outer pawl when in the release position. It is preferred that the inner pawl and the outer pawl include an engaging surface configured to facilitate the detent slide sliding

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A mortice lock assembly for installation in a door including, a housing, a bolt movable relative to a front of the housing between an extended position and a retracted portion, an actuator including an inner hub and an outer hub that in use are rotatable from an inner side and an outer side of the door respectively to move the bolt from the extended position towards the retracted position, a lock means including a slide detent that is movable relative to the housing, an inner pawl and outer pawl that interacts with the slide detent for adjusting between a release position and a latched position relative to the inner hub and outer hub respectively so that in the latched position the respective inner hub or outer hub is prevented from rotating, an adjuster including a cam that is rotatable proximate the front of the housing and a cam detent means for interacting with the cam to facilitate retaining the cam in one of a plurality of selected positions, the adjuster including an inner follower and an outer follower each interacting between the cam, the inner pawl and outer pawl respectively, whereby the adjuster is operable to adjust the inner pawl and/or outer pawl between the release position and a deactivated position so as to permit or prevent respectively said interaction of the inner pawl and/or outer pawl with the slide detent.

2. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 1 wherein the adjuster includes biasing means for biasing the inner follower and outer follower towards the cam.

3. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the cam includes a cam surface whereby the inner follower and or outer follower engages the cam surface when their respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl are in the release condition or the deactivated condition.

4. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 3 wherein the inner follower and/or outer follower disengage from the cam surface when their respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl are in the latch condition.

5. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the cam rotates about a cam axis which is substantially aligned with a direction in which the bolt moves, and the cam surface extends radially from the cam axis.

6. A mortice lock assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein when the inner pawl and/or outer pawl is retained in the latched position by the lock means the respective inner follower and/or outer follower interacts with the cam to prevent its operation.

7. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 6 wherein the inner follower and outer follower each include a tab that interacts with a formation of the cam to prevent rotation of the cam when the respective inner pawl and/or outer pawl is in the latch condition.

8. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 7 wherein the formation on the cam includes a plurality of lugs projecting radially from the cam which align with and abut the tab of the inner follower or outer follower so as to prevent rotation.

9. A mortice lock assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the detent slide moves linearly relative to the housing when adjusting the inner pawl and/or outer pawl between the latch position and the release position.

10. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 9 wherein the detent slide is spaced from the inner pawl and/or outer pawl when in the release position.

11. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 9 or 10 wherein and the inner pawl and the outer pawl include an engaging surface configured to facilitate the detent slide sliding over the inner pawl and/or outer pawl when adjusting between the release condition and the latch condition.

12. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 11 wherein the engaging surface of the inner pawl and the outer pawl is a ramp surface that is substantially aligned transverse to a direction in which the detent slide moves.

13. A mortice lock assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the cam detent means includes a ball and the cam is formed with a plurality of recesses that interact with the ball to retain the cam in the selected position.

14. A mortice lock assembly according to claim 13 wherein the cam includes four recesses which are at 90° spacing's around a periphery of the cam.