CLAIMS

1. A slide and shell container comprising:

an outer shell comprising a shell front wall, a shell back wall, ~~a shell bottom wall,~~ a first shell side wall, ~~and~~ a second shell side wall and a shell bottom wall formed of a shell inner bottom wall panel comprising a cut out portion and a shell outer bottom wall panel; and

an inner slide, wherein the inner slide is mounted within the outer shell and comprises a slide front wall, a slide back wall, a first slide side wall, ~~and~~ a second slide side wall and a slide bottom wall formed of a slide inner bottom wall panel and a slide outer bottom wall panel,

wherein the outer shell and the inner slide are detachably connected to each other along one or more lines of weakness and wherein upon separation of the outer shell and inner slide along the one or more lines of weakness, the inner slide becomes moveable within the outer shell between a closed slide position and an open slide position; and

wherein the slide outer bottom wall panel is shaped such that upon assembly of the container, the slide outer bottom wall panel passes through the cut out portion of the shell inner bottom wall panel.

2. A slide and shell container according to claim 1 wherein the slide outer bottom wall panel is smaller than the cut out portion in the shell inner bottom wall panel.

~~2~~3. A slide and shell container according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the outer shell and inner slide are detachably connected to each other along two or more lines of weakness defining an integral opening strip which is separable from the container in order to separate the outer shell and the inner slide.

~~3~~4. A slide and shell container according to any of claims 1 ~~or 2~~to 3 wherein the inner slide comprises a box and a hinge lid connected to the box about a hinge line wherein in the closed slide position the hinge lid is retained in a closed position by the outer shell and in the open slide position the hinge lid is moveable to an open position.

~~4~~5. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim where prior to separation of the outer shell and the inner slide along the one or more lines of weakness, the inner slide is held in the closed slide position.

~~5. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim wherein the inner slide further comprises a bottom slide wall.~~

6. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim further comprising retention means for preventing removal of the inner slide from the outer shell.

7. A slide and shell container according to claim 6 wherein the retention means comprises at least one retention tab provided on the inner slide which is capable of engaging with the outer sleeve to prevent movement of the inner slide beyond the open slide position.

8. A slide and shell container according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the one or more lines of weakness are located between the slide front wall and a shell side wall.

9. A slide and shell container according to any of the claims 1 to 8 wherein at least one wall of the slide comprises an image area and wherein the overlying shell wall comprises at least one opening such that relative movement between the shell and the slide at least partially aligns the image area on the slide wall with the at least one opening in the corresponding shell wall.

10. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim wherein the outer shell and inner slide are formed together of a single laminar blank comprising the one or more lines of weakness.

11. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim wherein an opening tab is provided along the one or more lines of weakness.

12. A slide and shell container according to any preceding claim wherein the inner slide is adapted to houses a plurality of smoking articles.

13. A laminar blank for forming a slide and shell container according to any preceding claim comprising a slide-defining portion for forming the inner slide and a shell-defining portion for forming the outer shell,

wherein the slide-defining portion and the shell-defining portion are connected to each other along one or more lines of weakness, wherein the inner slide defining portion comprises a slide front wall panel, a slide back wall panel, a first slide side wall panel, and a second slide side wall panel, a slide outer bottom wall panel and a slide inner bottom wall panel, and

wherein the outer shell- defining portion comprises a shell front wall panel, a shell back wall panel, a shell bottom wall panel, a first shell side wall panel, and a second shell

side wall panel, a shell outer bottom wall panel and a shell inner bottom wall panel comprising a cut out portion, and

wherein .

14. A laminar blank according to claim 13 comprising an shell inner bottom wall panel and a shell outer bottom wall panel and further comprising a slide inner bottom wall panel and a slide outer bottom wall panel wherein the shell inner bottom wall panel comprises a cut out portion and wherein the slide outer bottom wall panel is shaped such that upon assembly of the laminar blank to form a container, the slide outer bottom wall panel passes through the cut out portion of the shell inner bottom wall panel.

1514. A method for forming a slide and shell container from the laminar blank according to claim 13, comprising the steps of:

partially assembling the container by folding the inner slide defining portion and the outer shell defining portion along the longitudinal fold lines provided therein;

inserting consumer goods into the inner slide defining portion through an open end thereof;

folding the slide inner bottom wall panel and the shell inner bottom wall panel inwards;

applying adhesive to the slide inner bottom wall panel and the shell inner bottom wall panel; and

folding the slide outer bottom wall panel and the shell outer bottom wall panel inwards such that the slide outer bottom wall panel passes through the cut out portion in the shell inner bottom wall panel to adhere to the slide inner bottom wall panel and the shell outer bottom wall panel adheres to the shell inner bottom wall panel.