

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CONTAINERS FOR SHAVING UNITS

(71) We, WILKINSON SWORD LIMITED, a British Company, of Sword House, Totteridge Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, formerly of Sword Works, Southfield Road, London W4 5LE, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to containers for shaving units. By the term 'shaving unit' is meant a substantially rigid member, generally of plastics material, in which one or more razor blades is permanently secured with the rigid member providing a guard surface located at a pre-set spacing from the cutting edge of the, or each, blade. One form of such shaving units currently on sale is illustrated and described in British Patent Specification 1 294 666.

According to the present invention there is provided an open-topped tray containing at least two shaving units (as defined herein), each shaving unit being retained in the tray by a respective catch formed in the tray, removal of a shaving unit being achieved by engagement of said shaving unit by a handle which is thereafter tilted to disengage the shaving unit from the catch which retains it in said tray.

The invention also provides a tray housing at least two shaving units (as defined herein) with a portion of each shaving unit which can be engaged by a co-operating handle exposed for such engagement, and means retaining each shaving unit in said tray, said retaining means being movable relative to the shaving unit which it retains to release that shaving unit from the tray by rocking of the shaving unit after it has been engaged by the handle.

One construction of container in the form of a tray, which is in accordance with the invention, will now be described, by

way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the tray with three shaving units in position,

Figure 2 is a part-sectional side view of the tray,

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line III-III in Figure 1,

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line IV-IV in Figure 2 with the shaving units removed,

Figure 5 is a side view of a handle with a shaving unit in position for use, and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary side view of the tray showing the head of the handle in engagement with one shaving unit.

Referring now to the drawings the tray 10 will normally be sold with shaving units 11 in all except that end position which is at the top in the drawing, the shaving units 11 each having their cutting edge 11b adjacent the base of the tray 10 and facing away from the unoccupied end position. The side walls of the tray 10 are formed with spaced projections 10a adapted to engage in a keyway 11a provided at each end of a shaving unit, for the purpose of transversely locating shaving units 11 in the tray 10. The upper end of each projection 10a is topped by a wider transverse key 10b, the latter overhanging a part of the shaving unit and serving to retain the shaving units 11 in the tray 10.

When a shaving unit 11 is to be withdrawn jaws 22, 23 (Figure 6) of a handle 21 are moved into position over the end remote from the cutting edge 11b of that shaving unit 11 which is nearest to the initially unoccupied end position. The space left at the latter end is to allow room for the jaws to be moved into position over the end shaving unit when the tray is holding three shaving units. A spring loaded detent 25 in the handle 21 is depressed by the shaving unit 11 as it enters the jaws 90

22, 23. As movement of the handle 21 is continued, the detent 25 enters a keyway 11c in the upwardly facing surface of the shaving unit to secure the shaving unit between the jaws 22, 23. Thereafter, the handle 21 is tilted sufficiently sideways to lift one end of the shaving unit 11, thereby causing a side wall of the tray 10 to be flexed outwardly to allow both ends of the shaving unit 11 to pass the respective key 10b, freeing the shaving unit 11 for withdrawal from the tray 10 whilst the shaving unit is firmly held between the jaws 22, 23.

When the space occupied by the first-to-be-removed shaving unit 11 is free, a shaving unit can be returned to the initially unoccupied space, but with the cutting edge 11b nearest to the end wall of the tray 10. The shaving unit is placed in this location in the tray whilst still held between the jaws 22, 23. A release button 24 is then depressed which acts to move the shaving unit out of the jaws 22, 23, the shaving unit depressing the detent 25 during this outward movement and thus freeing the shaving unit from the handle. This enables the handle 21 to be withdrawn in a direction towards the centre of the tray 10, leaving the shaving unit in the tray 10. If the shaving unit was returned to the tray with the same orientation as when initially stored, the withdrawal of the head of the handle would be prevented by the end wall. As further shaving units are withdrawn, others can be returned in a similar manner.

It will be understood that the tray must be made of such material and thinness as to give the necessary flexibility to the side walls. Plastics materials are particularly suitable for this purpose in which case the trap may be formed, for example, by a thermo-forming process or by injection moulding.

45 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An open-topped tray containing at least two shaving units (as defined herein),

each shaving unit being retained in the tray by a respective catch formed in the tray, removal of a shaving unit being achieved 50 by engagement of said shaving unit by a handle which is thereafter tilted to disengage the shaving unit from the catch which retains it in said tray.

2. A tray according to claim 1, wherein 55 each catch is provided by a key formed in a wall of said tray.

3. A tray housing at least two shaving units (as defined herein) with a portion of each shaving unit which can be engaged by 60 a co-operating handle exposed for such engagement, and means retaining each shaving unit in said tray, said retaining means being movable relative to the shaving unit which it retains to release that shaving unit 65 from the tray by rocking of the shaving unit after it has been engaged by the handle.

4. A tray according to claim 3, wherein the means for retaining a shaving unit 70 comprises a key which overhangs a part of the shaving unit.

5. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a keyway in each shaving unit is engaged by a respective projection in the inner face of a wall of the tray to effect transverse location of the shaving unit. 75

6. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said tray is of 80 plastics material.

7. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein walls of said tray are flexible.

8. A tray housing at least two shaving 85 units, substantially as herein described.

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2. A tray according to claim 1, wherein each catch is provided by a key formed in a wall of said tray.

3. A tray housing at least two shaving units (as defined herein) with a portion of each shaving unit which can be engaged by a co-operating handle exposed for such engagement, and means retaining each shaving unit in said tray, said retaining means being movable relative to the shaving unit which it retains to release that shaving unit from the tray by rocking of the shaving unit after it has been engaged by the handle.

4. A tray according to claim 3, wherein the means for retaining a shaving unit comprises a key which overhangs a part of the shaving unit.

5. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a keyway in each shaving unit is engaged by a respective projection in the inner face of a wall of the tray to effect transverse location of the shaving unit.

6. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said tray is of plastics material.

7. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein walls of said tray are flexible.

8. A tray housing at least two shaving units, substantially as herein described.

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