

The invention relates to a container for accommodating a cassette with a tape-like recording medium according to the precharacterising part of the main claim.

Containers for accommodating magnetic-tape cassettes, which comprise a box-like housing into which magnetic-tape cassettes can be introduced using one or more slider members and kept for storage, are known. In order to expose the cassettes the slider member located in the housing is brought out of the housing by a spring and thus leaves the cassette lying on it free for removal.

DE-PS 2 248 408 discloses a container for accommodating a cassette with a tape-like recording medium in which the slider member located in the housing is brought out of the housing by spring force by pressing with a finger a push-button on the end wall of the slider member. The pressure of a finger on the push-button should cause a tooth located on a resilient bar to become disengaged from a recess provided in the housing floor in which the tooth was engaged, and thus bring the slider member into the removal position. The resilient bar with the tooth located on it is formed on the underside of the slider member and connected to the push-button. If the push-button is pressed for a relatively long time, however, the disadvantage arises that the tooth on the resilient bar re-engages in the recess in the housing floor and thus prevents the transport slider member from being brought into the removal position. In order to remove the cassette it is therefore often necessary to actuate the push-button several times, making easy and uncomplicated handling of the cassette-accommodating container more difficult.

The problem on which the invention is based is to provide a container for accommodating a cassette with a tape-like

recording medium in which the removal of the cassette is achieved by a simple manoeuvre, by ensuring reliable unlocking of the transport slider member.

This problem is solved in a container of the generic type mentioned at the beginning by the features indicated in the characterising part of the main claim.

Owing to the arrangement of a snap hook on the side of the push-button facing towards the inside wall of a housing and of a counter-holding member on the inside wall of the housing, unlocking of the slider member is achieved when the push-button is actuated as a result of the fact that the snap hook snaps over the counter-holding member and as a result holds the push-button in an unlocked position and at the same time prevents the tooth located on the leaf spring of the slider member from re-engaging in the recess in the container housing. When the transport slider member is pushed in, the snap hook is deflected by virtue of the oblique surfaces of the hook and of the counter-holding member and as a result snaps under the counter-holding member when the tooth located on the leaf spring engages in the recess in the container housing.

The peg formed in the lower region of the snap hook is preferably so formed that in its rear region facing the housing it has an oblique surface. During the return of the transport slider member into the housing, this oblique surface, together with the oblique surface formed on the underside of the rail forming the counter-holding member, facilitates the engagement of the snap hook under the counter-holding member.

In order to put into practice the principle of the engagement and disengagement thus ensured, the snap hook

may be arranged resiliently on the side of the push-button, while the counter-holding member is attached rigidly to the housing.

In a further embodiment, however, the snap hook may also be arranged in a fixed manner on the side of the push-button and the counter-holding member may be located on a resilient portion of the side wall of the housing, the resilience of the portion in question being made possible in that the side wall of the housing in that region is not rigidly attached to the floor of the housing.

In a further embodiment the principle described can be achieved by arranging the snap hook rigidly on the side of the push-button and attaching the counter-holding member to a resilient tongue which is produced by separating this region of the side wall of the housing from the remaining region of the housing by means of two cut-out portions.

The invention is explained in detail below with reference to the drawings.

- Figure 1 shows a container according to the invention with transport slider member removed, in perspective,
- Figure 2 shows the push-button with the snap hook arranged thereon,
- Figure 3 shows three views of the region of the container according to the invention in which there are a resilient snap hook and a fixed counter-holding member,
- Figure 4 shows two views of the container according to the invention in the region of a rigidly attached snap hook and a resilient counter-holding member, and

Figure 5 shows a container according to the invention in the region of a rigidly attached snap hook and a counter-holding member located on a tongue of the housing.

Figure 1 shows the housing 1 of the container for accommodating a cassette that is not shown in the drawing. Movable in that housing 1 is a transport slider member 2 on which the cassettes are placed. Supported on the housing 1 is a spring 3 by means of which the transport slider member 2 is brought out of the housing 1. Located on the end face of the transport slider member 2 is the outer cover 4 which protects the cassette lying in the container from outside influences. Also arranged in the region of the end face of the transport slider member 2 is the push-button 5 on one lateral outside surface of which the snap hook 6 is arranged. The drawing shows the snap hook 6 as a resilient bar formed on the side of the push-button 5.

Figure 2 shows the push-button 5 on which a leaf spring 7 is arranged. Arranged on the underside of the leaf spring 7 is a tooth that is not shown in Figure 2. In the locked position, the tooth 8, which is shown in Figure 3, engages in a recess 9, shown in Figure 1, in the floor of the housing 1. The snap hook 6 comprises a bar 6a in the lower region of which a peg 6b that is angled away from the bar, and that slopes gently downwards and outwards, is formed. Located on the back of the peg 6b is an oblique surface 6c which facilitates the snapping of the snap hook 6 under the counter-holding member as the transport slider member 2 is brought into the housing 1.

Figure 3 is a side view of the push-button 5 and the snap hook 6 located thereon. This Figure also shows the leaf spring 7 attached to the back of the push-button 5,

on the underside of which leaf spring a tooth 8 is arranged which, in the locked position, engages in the recess 9 provided in the floor of the housing 1. The middle drawing of Figure 3 is a partial sectional drawing, in plan view, of the snap hook 6 and a section of the housing 1. In the lower region of the housing 1 opposite the snap hook 6 the counter-holding member 10 is arranged in a fixed manner. The counter-holding member 10 comprising a rail has on its underside a flattened oblique side which when the transport slider member 2 is pushed into the housing 1 facilitates the snapping of the snap hook 6 under the counter-holding member 10. The third view of Figure 3 shows a section of the inside wall of the housing 1 to which the counter-holding member 10 is attached in a fixed manner.

The left-hand drawing of Figure 4 shows a section of the push-button 5 to the side of which facing the side wall of the housing 1 the snap hook 6 is attached in a fixed manner. The counter-holding member 10 is resiliently attached to a portion of the housing 1 which is not connected to the floor 11 of the housing 1. The right-hand drawing shows the portion 13 formed¹ by a cut-out 12 but located on the housing 1, in the lower region of which portion the counter-holding member 10 is arranged. As a result the counter-holding member 10 in this embodiment is in the form of a resilient element.

Figure 5 shows the snap hook 6 rigidly attached to the push-button 5. The counter-holding member 10, which in this embodiment is also mounted resiliently, is arranged on a resilient tongue 14 which is formed in such a manner as to be resilient by two cut-out portions 15a, 15b located in the side wall of the housing 1.

¹ Translator's note: The German word "gebildet" (formed) appears to have been omitted here.



Patent claims

1. Container for accommodating a cassette with a tape-like recording medium, having a rectangular housing (1) in which there is movable a transport slider member (2) that extends along a side wall of the housing and brings a cassette lying on it to the outside by means of a spring (3) supported in the housing, and having a retaining device located in the region of the end wall of the transport slider member (2), which device has a leaf spring (7) secured to one of the two components formed by the slider member (2) and the housing (1) and extending in the direction of movement of the slider member, at the free end of the flat side of which spring a tooth (8) is arranged, and having a push-button (5), actuable by finger pressure, the actuation of which releases the slider member (2), allowing it to move outwards out of the housing (1) under the action of the spring (3), characterised in that arranged on the side of the push-button (5) facing the lateral inside wall of the housing (1) is a snap hook (6) which when the push-button (5) is pressed snaps over a counter-holding member (10) located in the region of the inside wall of the housing (1) opposite the snap hook (6) and holds the push-button (5) in a disengaged position, and that when the transport slider member (2) is pushed in, the snap hook (6) engages under the counter-holding member (10).

2. Container according to claim 1, characterised in that the snap hook (6) comprises a bar (6a) which has in its lower region a peg (6b) that is angled outwards and slopes gently downwards.

3. Container according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the peg (6b) of the snap hook (6) has in its rear region facing the housing (1) an oblique surface (6c).



4. Container according to claim 1, characterised in that the counter-holding member (10) comprises a rail extending along the inside wall of the housing (1).
5. Container according to claim 4, characterised in that the rail has on its underside an oblique surface sloping down towards the inside wall of the housing (1).
6. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the bar forming the snap hook (6) is arranged in a resilient manner on the side of the push-button (5) and the counter-holding member (10) is rigidly attached to the housing (1).
7. Container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the snap hook (6) is arranged in a fixed manner on the side of the push-button (5) and the counter-holding member (10) is located on a resilient portion (13) of the side wall of the housing (1) which is separated by a cut-out portion from the floor (11) of the housing (1).
8. Container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the snap hook (6) is arranged in a fixed manner on the side of the push-button (5) and the counter-holding member (10) is attached to a resilient tongue (14) which is formed by two cut-out portions (15a, 15b) in the side wall of the housing (1).