

CARD CASE

[Technical Field]

[0001]

The present invention relates to a card case that retrievably houses cards such as, for example, business cards.

[Background Art]

[0002]

Conventionally, as a card case that houses cards such as business cards, there is known one including, at a bottom portion of an inner surface of the card case, a spring member for pressing cards upward and a feed-out member having a claw portion that locks only a topmost card of the cards housed in a stacked state and being slidable along a retrieving direction of the card case, and structured so as to allow easily retrieving housed cards one at a time by sliding the feed-out member (see Patent Document 1, for example.).

[0003]

However, the card case thus structured can accept only cards of substantially the same thickness as an assumed card thickness. Moreover, because the cards come out one at a time from a retrieval opening upon one time of sliding movement of the feed-out member, even when it is wished to retrieve a

plurality of cards simultaneously, the cards need to be retrieved one at a time, so that retrieving work becomes troublesome conversely.

[0004]

Therefore, as a card case that can even house cards of different thicknesses and allows easily retrieving cards regardless of the number of cards, known is a card case for which one side of the interior of a case is cut obliquely and a spring is attached to a bottom portion thereof, and in which, as a result of a card arrangement surface being partly raised by the spring simultaneously with opening a cover of the case, a retrieving side of housed cards is inclined so as to be raised (see Patent Document 2, for example.).

[Patent Document 1] Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. 62-63020 (Pages 1-2, Fig. 2, Fig. 4)

[Patent Document 2] Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. 59-134419 (Page 1, Fig. 1, Fig. 2)

[Disclosure of the Invention]

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

[0005]

However, in the configuration of the card case of Patent Document 2 described above, only a part of the retrieving side of the arrangement surface on which cards are arranged is

inclined by the spring that acts with opening and closing of the cover, and thus when putting in and taking out a card, the card can be bent at a boundary of the arrangement surface to be inclined, so that the card may not be correctly put in and taken out.

[0006]

The present invention has been made in view of such problems, and an object thereof is to provide a card case in which a card can be easily put in and taken out, and which allows correctly putting in and taking out a card without bending the card.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

[0007]

The present invention provides a card case including a case body having a container and a cover attached to the container and formed openably and closably with an opening/closing portion for retrieving a card therethrough, and retrievably housing the card, in which the case body is provided inside with a card housing capable of housing while stacking up a plurality of cards, the card housing has a bottom plate portion on which the cards are stacked, a holding portion provided on the bottom plate portion and for holding the cards in a stacked state, and a push-up piece projecting from the bottom plate portion toward the container and fixedly attached to an inner surface

of the container, and when the opening/closing portion is opened, is inclined at the bottom plate portion thereof with respect to the container so that an opening/closing portion-side of the bottom plate portion is located higher.

[Effects of the Invention]

[0008]

According to the present invention, because the card housing is in an inclined state when the opening/closing portion is opened, a card can be easily put in and taken out.

[0009]

Moreover, in the inclined state of the card housing, because the bottom plate portion is entirely inclined, a card can be correctly put in and taken out without bending the card.

[Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention]

[0010]

Hereinafter, a configuration of an embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Fig. 1 to Fig. 4.

[0011]

As shown in Fig. 1, a card case 1 retrievably houses a plurality of stacked cards such as, for example, business cards indicated by alternate long and two short dashed lines.

[0012]

The card case 1 includes a substantially rectangular box-shaped case body 3 formed openably and closably with an opening/closing portion 2 for retrieving a card therethrough.
[0013]

Moreover, the case body 3 is provided inside with a card housing 4 capable of housing a plurality of cards in a stacked state.
[0014]

The case body 3 is formed of, for example, a metal, a synthetic resin, etc., and consists of a substantially rectangular box-shaped container 6 having one bottom plate 5a and four side plates 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e and opened toward one direction and a cover 9 having one top plate 8a and four side plates 8b, 8c, 8d, and 8e and for covering and uncovering the opening part of the container 6. The side plate 5d being one widthwise end portion of the container 6 is provided with a pivotally attaching portion 7, and the side plate 8d being one widthwise end portion of the cover 9 is pivotally attached to the pivotally attaching portion 7, and the cover 9 is formed so as to be rotatable about the pivotally attaching portion 7 with respect to the container 6. Further, the side plate 5b of the container 6 and the side plate 8b of the cover 9 compose the opening/closing portion 2, and the case body 3, as a result

of the cover 9 rotating, is changeable into an open state where the side plate 5b of the container 6 and the side plate 8b of the cover 9 are separated from each other to open the opening/closing portion 2 shown in Fig. 2 and into a closed state where a part of the side plate 5b of the container 6 and a part of the side plate 8b of the cover 9 contact each other to close the opening/closing portion 2 shown in Fig. 3.

[0015]

On the side plate 5b of the container 6, provided is a push piece 12 having an engaging groove 11 and a spring member (not shown) and movable with respect to the side plate 5b of the container 6 against an urging force of the spring member. Moreover, on the side plate 8b of the cover 9, provided is an engaging hook 13 engageable with an engaging groove 11 of the push piece 12. The case body 3, in a closed state, is retained in the closed state by engagement between the engaging groove 11 of the hook piece 12 and the engaging hook 13. Moreover, the push piece 12 is pushed in toward the inside of the container 6 against urging of the spring member to thereby release the engagement between the engaging groove 11 and the engaging hook 13, so that the cover 9 reaches a rotatable state, that is, the opening/closing portion 2 reaches an openable state.

[0016]

In the pivotally attaching portion 7, provided is a spring member (not shown) that urges the cover 9 so as to rotate with respect to the container 6 in a direction to separate the side plate 8b of the cover 9 from the side plate 5b of the container 6.

[0017]

For the card housing 4, a bottom plate portion 14 on which cards are stacked, a holding portion 15 for holding the cards in a state stacked on the bottom plate portion 14, and a push-up piece 16 fixedly attached to the inner surface of the bottom plate 5a being an inner surface of the container 6 are formed integrally.

[0018]

The bottom plate portion 14 is in a substantially rectangular shape smaller than an inner surface of the bottom plate 5a of the container 6, located on the container 6 side of housed cards, and stacked thereon with a plurality of cards.

[0019]

The holding portion 15 is formed so as to cover a part at the pivotally attaching portion 7 side in the bottom plate portion 14, and composed of a back holding plate 17 integrally connected to a widthwise end portion closer to the pivotally attaching portion 7 of the container 6 in the bottom plate portion

14, side holding plates 18 opposed to each other while being connected to a pair of longitudinal end portions of the bottom plate portion 14, respectively, and a top holding plate 19 integrally connected to the back holding plate 17 and the side holding plates 18 and opposed to the bottom plate portion 14. In addition, the bottom plate portion 14 and the holding portion 15 form a box shape having an opening portion 20. Moreover, a part which is at the widthwise opening/closing portion 2 side in the bottom plate portion 14 and where the holding portion 15 is not disposed forms a card retrieving portion 25.

[0020]

The push-up piece 16 is formed in a projecting manner from the bottom plate portion 14 toward the container 6. Concretely, as shown in Fig. 4, the push-up piece 16 is formed by a part of the bottom plate portion 14, which is a part surrounded by a cut 22 formed in the back holding plate 17 and the bottom plate portion 14, being bent so as to project from the bottom plate portion 14 toward the container 6.

[0021]

Moreover, in the bottom plate portion 14, a substantially rectangular-shaped additional wall portion 23 projecting from a longitudinal end portion toward the cover 9 is integrally formed. The additional wall portion 23 is formed so that the

distance between a tip end portion 23a thereof and a bottom end portion 23b thereof being in contact with the bottom plate portion 14 is larger than that of the top holding plate 19 being an upper end of the holding portion 15 and the bottom plate portion 14. Accordingly, in a closed state of the case body 3, the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 is located closer to the cover 9 side than the top holding plate 19 being an upper end of the holding portion 15, and the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 contacts an inner surface of the cover 9, that is, an inner surface of the top plate 8a.

[0022]

Further, at a widthwise opening/closing portion 2-side end portion in the bottom plate portion 14, a cut-away portion 24 cut away in a substantially arcuate shape is formed.

[0023]

Here, the card housing 4 is formed of a flexible material such as, for example, a metal or a synthetic resin, and changeable between an inclined state where a card retrieving portion 25 side being a widthwise opening/closing portion 2 side in the bottom plate portion 14 is inclined with respect to the container 6 so as to be located relatively higher than the holding portion 15 side and a fallen down state where the bottom plate portion

14 is substantially parallel to the bottom plate 5a of the container 6.

[0024]

Accordingly, the card housing 4 reaches an inclined state when the case body 3 with no external force acting thereon is in an open state, and is plastically deformed to reach a fallen down state when the case body 3 with external force acting thereon is in a closed state.

[0025]

Also, when the card housing 4 is in an inclined state, the widthwise opening/closing portion 2-side end portion in the bottom plate portion 14 is located higher than an upper end of the side plate 5b of the container 6.

[0026]

Next, actions of the above-mentioned embodiment will be described.

[0027]

When housing a card in the card case 1, first, the push piece 12 is pushed inside the container 6 to release the engagement between the engaging groove 11 and the engaging hook 13 so as to release the retainment of a closed state of the case body 3.

[0028]

Moreover, as a result of releasing the engagement between the engaging groove 11 and the engaging hook 13, the cover 9 is rotated with respect to the container 6 by the urging force of the spring member of the pivotally attaching portion 7, so that the case body 3 reaches an open state as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 where the opening/closing portion 2 is opened.

[0029]

When the case body 3 reaches the open state, the card housing 4 reaches an inclined state, a part of the card is inserted along the bottom plate portion 14 from the opening portion 20 toward the back holding plate 17, and the card is stacked on the bottom plate portion 14 to house the card in the card housing 4.

[0030]

After housing the card, the cover 9 is rotated with respect to the container 6 so that the case body 3 reaches a closed state. As a result of thus rotating the cover 9, the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 contacts the inner surface of the cover 9, that is, the inner surface of the top plate 8a.

[0031]

With the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 remaining in contact with the inner surface of the top plate

8a of the cover 9, by rotating the cover 9 with respect to the container 6 so as to close the case body 3, the bottom plate portion 14 of the card housing 4 is pushed in toward the bottom plate 5a of the container 6, and the card housing 4 warps at a part thereof to change from the inclined state into a fallen down state and bring the case body 3 into a closed state as shown in Fig. 3 where the opening/closing portion 2 is closed.

[0032]

With the closing of the case body 3, the engaging hook 13 is inserted in the engaging groove 11 of the push piece 12 and engaged to retain the closed state of the case body 3.

[0033]

When retrieving the card housed in the card case 1, the push piece 12 is pushed inside the container 6 to release the engagement between the engaging groove 11 and the engaging hook 13 so as to bring the case body 3 into an open state.

[0034]

Here, in the closed state of the case body 3, as shown in Fig. 3, the card housing 4 is in a fallen down state where the bottom plate portion 14 has been pushed in while the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 is in contact with the inner surface of the top plate 8a of the cover 9, however, with the switching of the case body 3 from the closed state

into an open state, the card housing 4 is released from the state where the card housing 4 has been pushed into a fallen down state while the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 is in contact with the inner surface of the top plate 8a of the cover 9, so that the card housing 4 changes from the fallen down state into an inclined state due to restoring force of the flexible card housing 4.

[0035]

The card is pulled out of the card housing 4 in an inclined state to retrieve the card from the case body 3.

[0036]

And, in the card case 1 described above, because the card housing 4 is in an inclined state when opening the opening/closing portion 2 to bring the case body 3 into an open state and putting in and taking out a card, it is easy to put in and take out the card. Particularly, in either case of retrieving one card or a plurality of cards, the card or cards can be easily retrieved by only pulling out the same along the bottom plate portion 14. Further, because the widthwise opening/closing portion 2-side end portion in the bottom plate portion 14 is located higher than the side plate 5b of the container 6 in the inclined state, the side plate 5b of the container 6 does not become an obstacle when pulling out a card,

and thus the card can be easily pulled out.

[0037]

Moreover, because the holding portion 15 is located lowermost in the card housing 4 when the card housing 4 is in an inclined state, the card goes toward the holding portion 15 due to gravity, so that the card is reliably held by the holding portion 15.

[0038]

Further, in the inclined state of the card housing 4, the bottom plate portion 14 is entirely inclined to maintain a plane, so that a boundary of inclination does not exist as in, for example, the conventional configuration where only a part of the card arrangement surface is inclined, and a card can be correctly put in and taken out without bending the card by putting in and taking out the card along the bottom plate portion 14.

[0039]

The card housing 4 is formed of a flexible material, and thus the card housing 4 can be warped at a part thereof to switch over between an inclined state and a fallen down state, and as a result of the card housing 4 reaching a fallen down state when the case body 3 is in a closed state, as large a housing space of cards as possible can be secured.

[0040]

The bottom plate portion 14 is provided with the additional wall portion 23, and the additional wall portion 23 is formed so that the distance between the tip end portion 23a thereof and the bottom end portion 23b thereof being in contact with the bottom plate portion 14 is larger than that of the top holding plate 19 being an upper end of the holding portion 15 and the bottom plate portion 14, and thus when bringing the card housing 4 into a fallen down state as a result of bringing the case body 3 into a closed state, only the tip end portion 23a of the additional wall portion 23 contacts the inner surface of the top plate 8a of the cover 9, and a housed card does not contact the inner surface of the top plate 8a, that is, the inner surface of the cover 9, so that defacement of the card due to contact with the cover 9 can be prevented.

[0041]

Because the card housing 4 is molded by integrally forming the bottom plate portion 14, the holding portion 15, the push-up piece 16, and the additional wall portion 23, the number of components can be reduced, and further, because a process for joining the components is not necessary, manufacturing can be performed easily at low cost.

[0042]

The case body 3, as a result of the cover 9 being pivotally attached to the container 6, allows securing a large opening area of the opening/closing portion 2 in an open state, so that a card can be easily put in and taken out.

[0043]

Moreover, as a result of providing the push piece 12 on the side plate 5b of the container 6 and providing the engaging hook 13 on the side plate 8b of the cover 9, a closed state of the case body 3 can be retained, and a state where the closed state is retained and a state where the retainment has been released can be easily switched over.

[0044]

Further, as a result of providing the spring member in the pivotally attaching portion 7, the cover 9 is rotated by urging force of the spring member to bring the case body 3 into an open state simultaneously with the retainment of a closed state being released, so that the case body 3 can be easily brought into an open state.

[0045]

In the above-mentioned embodiment, for the case body 3, the container 6 and the cover 9 are pivotally attached, and the opening/closing portion 2 is opened and closed by rotating the cover 9 with respect to the container 6, however, without

limitation to such a construction, for example, the container 6 and the cover 9 may be slid to open and close the opening/closing portion 2, as long as the opening/closing portion 2 can be opened and closed.

[0046]

Moreover, the case body 3, as a result of the push piece 12 being provided on the container 6 and the engaging hook 13 being provided in the cover 9, can easily retain a closed state and can easily release the retainment thereof, which is thus preferable, however, the case body 3 is not limited to such a construction. For example, retaining means different from the push piece 12 and the engaging hook 13 may be provided, or retaining means may not be provided.

[0047]

The case body 3, as a result of the spring member for urging the cover 9 in a direction to open the opening/closing portion 2 being provided in the pivotally attaching portion 7 of the container 6, allows easily opening the opening/closing portion 2, which is thus preferable, however, without limitation to such a construction, a spring member may not be provided in the fixedly attaching portion 7.

[0048]

The card housing 4, as a result of being changeable between

an inclined state and a fallen down state, allows securing a large housing space when the case body 3 is in a closed state, which is thus preferable, however, without limitation to such a construction, it suffices that the card housing 4 is in an inclined state when the case body 3 is in an open state.

[0049]

When making the card housing 4 be changeable between an inclined state and a fallen down state, as a result of providing the additional wall portion 23 on the bottom plate portion 14 of the card housing 4, the additional wall portion 23 contacts the inner surface of the top plate 8a of the cover 9, so that a housed card can be prevented from contacting the inner surface of the top plate 8a, that is, the inner surface of the cover 9 to be defaced, which is thus preferable, however, without limitation to such a construction, the additional wall portion 23 may not be provided.

[0050]

When the additional wall portion 23 is provided, the additional wall portion 23 is not limited to a substantially rectangular shape, and may be, for example, a circular shape or a triangular shape, as long as the additional wall portion 23 is formed so that the distance between the tip end portion 23a thereof and the bottom end portion 23b thereof being in

contact with the bottom plate portion 14 is larger than that of the top holding plate 19 being an upper end of the holding portion 15 and the bottom plate portion 14.

[0051]

The card housing 4 is not limited to such a construction that the bottom plate portion 14, the holding portion 15, the push-up piece 16, and the additional wall portion 23 are formed integrally, and these may be respectively joined as separate members.

[0052]

The holding portion 15, without limitation to such a construction that this is formed so as to cover a part at the pivotally attaching portion 7 side of the bottom plate portion 14, may cover substantially the entire bottom plate portion 14.

[0053]

Moreover, without limitation to such a construction where a part of the bottom plate portion 14 and the holding portion 15 form a box shape having the opening portion 20, it suffices to be able to retain a stacked state of cards. As the holding portion 15, for example, there may be only the back holding plate 17, only the side holding plate 18, only the back holding plate 17 and the side holding plate 18, or the like.

[0054]

The push-up piece 16 is not limited to such a construction that this is formed by a part of the bottom plate portion 14 and a part of the back holding plate 17, and it suffices to project from the bottom plate portion 14 toward the container 6.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0055]

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an embodiment of a card case of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a partial sectional view showing an opening state of the same card case as the above.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing a closed state of the same card case as the above.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a card housing of the same card case as the above.

[Description of Symbols]

[0056]

- 1 Card case
- 2 Opening/closing portion
- 3 Case body
- 4 Card housing
- 6 Container

9 Cover

14 Bottom plate portion

15 Holding portion

16 Push-up piece

23 Additional wall portion

23b Tip end portion

23b Base end portion

What is claimed is:

1. A card case including a case body having a container and a cover attached to the container and formed openably and closably with an opening/closing portion for retrieving a card therethrough, and retrievably housing the card, wherein

the case body is provided inside with a card housing capable of housing while stacking up a plurality of cards,

the card housing has a bottom plate portion on which the cards are stacked, a holding portion provided on the bottom plate portion and for holding the cards in a stacked state, and a push-up piece projecting from the bottom plate portion toward the container and fixedly attached to an inner surface of the container, and when the opening/closing portion is opened, is inclined at the bottom plate portion thereof with respect to the container so that an opening/closing portion side of the bottom plate portion is located higher.

2. The card case according to claim 1, wherein

the card housing is:

formed at the bottom plate portion, holding portion, and push-up piece thereof integrally of a flexible material; and

deformable between a fallen down state where the bottom plate portion is substantially parallel to the container and an inclined state.

3. The card case according to Claims 1 and 2, wherein
the card housing is provided with an additional side wall
projecting from an end portion of the bottom plate portion toward
the cover, and

the additional side wall is formed so that a distance
between a tip end portion thereof and a bottom end portion being
in contact with the bottom plate portion thereof is larger than
that of an upper end of the holding portion and the bottom plate
portion.