

SUPPORTING DEVICE FOR DIVIDABLE PARACHUTE GRENADE

The present invention relates to a supporting device for a payload in a dividable parachute grenade.

BACKGROUND

In order to support a payload in a dividable parachute grenade during the acceleration phase of the grenade and prevent the payload from being pressed against the parachute, which makes division of the grenade more difficult, the parachute is normally arranged in a supporting cylinder which extends from the back of the grenade to the back plane of the payload. The supporting cylinder is usually constituted by two steel tube halves, which, after division of the grenade, are released from the grenade and fall down to the ground, which poses a risk to humans in the area.

AIM OF THE INVENTION AND DISTINGUISHING FEATURES THEREOF

A principal object of the present invention has been a supporting device for a payload in a dividable parachute grenade, configured to prevent the payload from being pressed against the parachute during the acceleration phase of the grenade, at the same time as the supporting device is safe for the environment after the separation of the payload from the grenade.

A further object of the present invention has been a simple supporting device having few parts.

The said object, as well as other aims not enumerated here, are satisfactorily met by that which is stated in the present independent patent claims. Embodiments of the invention are defined in the dependent patent claims.

Thus, according to the present invention, a supporting device for a payload in a dividable parachute grenade comprising a grenade casing, a nose cone, a detonating fuse, a dividing

charge, a payload, a parachute device, a grenade bottom, and a supporting device arranged between the payload and the parachute device.

Characteristic of the invention is that the supporting device is arranged extensibly in the radial direction in a recess on the inner side of the grenade casing behind the payload, wherein the supporting device supports the payload in the extended position during the acceleration phase of the grenade. After muzzle passage and setback, the rotation of the grenade causes the supporting device to open and remain in the grenade after the separation of the payload from the grenade.

According to a second embodiment of the invention, the supporting device is annular and comprises pretensioned sector elements which are fixed to a fixing ring in the recess on the inner side of the grenade casing.

According to a third embodiment of the invention, the sector elements are pretensioned via an elastic tension ring, which is arranged around the annular supporting device via recessed grooves in the sector elements.

According to a fourth embodiment of the invention, the sector elements are curved in the radial direction and conical in the axial direction. The sector elements comprise a rear end face, closest to the parachute device, comprising hollow bushings in the radial direction for fixing of the sector elements via the fixing ring. The front end face of the sector elements, closest to the payload, comprises recessed grooves for application of the resilient tension ring.

According to a fifth embodiment of the invention, the sector elements are pretensioned via torsion springs arranged in the recess on the inner side of the grenade casing.

ADVANTAGES AND EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION

The invention yields a number of advantages and effects, of which the most important are as follows:

By replacing the cylindrical container with an extensible supporting device arranged in a recess on the inner side of the grenade casing behind the payload, a smaller and lighter supporting device, which stays in the grenade after separation of the payload, parachute and grenade bottom of the grenade, is obtained.

Further advantages and effects of the invention will emerge during study and consideration of the following, detailed description of the invention, with simultaneous reference to Figures 1-7 of the drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 shows schematically a longitudinal section of a pretensioned extensible supporting device in the extended position, arranged in a dividable grenade comprising a nose cone, a detonating fuse, a grenade casing, a dividing charge, a payload, a parachute device and a grenade bottom.

Fig. 2 shows schematically a detailed view of a pretensioned annular supporting device in the retracted position during mounting of a payload, according to Figure 1.

Fig. 3 shows schematically a detailed view of a pretensioned annular supporting device in the extended position during the acceleration phase of the grenade, according to Figure 1.

Fig. 4 shows schematically a detailed view of the pretensioned annular supporting device in the retracted position after the acceleration phase of the grenade, according to Figure 1.

Fig. 5 shows schematically a detailed view of a pretensioned annular supporting device comprising sector elements, fixing ring and pretensioning wire in the extended position during the acceleration phase, according to Figure 1.

Fig. 6 shows schematically a detailed view of a pretensioned annular supporting device comprising sector elements, fixing ring and pretensioning wire, in the retracted position during the division phase of the grenade, according to Figure 1.

Fig. 7 shows schematically a detailed view of a sector element, according to Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

In a conventional embodiment of a dividable parachute grenade, the parachute device is arranged in a cylindrical steel container, which supports the payload and prevents it from being pressed against the parachute device during the acceleration phase of the grenade. The cylindrical steel container, which is dividable into two similar halves, is released after the division and falls down to the ground.

By replacing the cylindrical steel container with a supporting device which is mounted in the inner side of the grenade casing, a situation in which this is released upon division and falls down to the ground is avoided. The said supporting device is arranged extensibly in the radial direction in a recess on the inner side of the grenade casing behind the payload, which results in a smaller and lighter supporting device which stays in the grenade after the division of the grenade.

The proposed supporting device can be likened to a locking chuck which opens and closes during the various phases of the grenade, i.e. during the acceleration and division/rotation phase of the grenade. Upon mounting of the payload, the chuck springs apart and admits the payload into the grenade case. Once the payload has passed through the chuck, the pretension in a tension ring causes the chuck to spring/be lowered out of the recess and to close behind the payload.

The acceleration in the barrel and the angle of the contact surface between payload and supporting device has the effect that the chuck supports the back plane of the payload and

prevents this from moving backwards towards the parachute. After muzzle passage and setback, the rotation of the grenade causes the chuck to spring/be lowered into the recess, to open, and to remain thus during the rest of the flight of the grenade.

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section of a dividable parachute grenade 1, comprising a grenade casing 2, a nose cone 3, a detonating fuse 4, a dividing charge 5, a payload 6, a parachute device 7, a grenade bottom 8 and a supporting device 9 which is arranged recessed on the inner side of the grenade case 2 between the payload 6 and the parachute device 7. The payload 6 can be constituted, for example, by a flare or a smoke generator.

Figures 2-7 show a first embodiment of an annular supporting device 9 which is arranged extensibly in the radial direction in a turned-out recess 10 on the inner side of the grenade case 2. The recess 10 is realized such that the cross section corresponds to the cross section of the supporting device 9.

The weight of the supporting device 9 maximally corresponds to the weight of the material from the turned-out recess. The weight of the grenade 1 is therefore reduced at least by a weight corresponding to the weight of the two steel tube halves. The reduced weight can be exploited, for example, for a larger payload or a larger parachute.

The annular supporting device 9, Figures 5-6, is sectioned into a number of sector elements 13, preferably twelve sector elements 13, which are fixed to a fixing ring 14 via radial hollow bushings 18 in the sector elements 13. The fixing ring 14 is preferably made of a resilient steel material, but can also be made of a composite material, such as, for example, a reinforced carbon fibre material.

The sector elements 13 are curved in the radial direction and conical in the axial direction and comprises a rear end face 17, closest to the parachute device 7, and front end face 19,

closest to the payload 6 (Figure 7). The rear end face 17 comprises the hollow bushing 18, in which the fixing ring is arranged for fixing of the sector elements 13. On the front end face 19 there is arranged a recessed groove 16 configured for application of a tension ring 15 around the sector elements 13. The tension ring 15 is preferably made of an elastic/resilient material, for example a metallic material, in the form of a metal spring, or a rubber, plastics or composite material, in the form of a plastics spring.

The resilient characteristics of the supporting device 9 are enabled by the slightly conical shape of the sector elements, which means that, once the tension ring 15 is applied around the sector elements 13, the front parts, end faces 19, of the sector elements 13 strive to spring out in the radial direction, i.e. to fall into the recess 10.

During the various phases of the grenade, the supporting device 9 switches from the extended position from the recess, during the acceleration phase, to the retracted position in the recess, during the division/rotation phase, Figures 2-4. The switch between extended and retracted position is determined by factors such as the spring force of the spring ring 15, the spring force of the sector elements 13 and the rotation force of the grenade 1.

When the grenade 1 is over the intended target area, the detonating fuse 4 initiates the dividing charge 5, either by remote control via GPS or by pre-programming, wherein the bursting pressure from the boosting charge 5 presses the payload 6, the parachute device 7 and the grenade bottom 8 backwards in the grenade 1, so that break pins holding the grenade bottom 8 to the grenade case 2 break and the payload 6 is released from the grenade 1 (not shown).

The parachute device 7 is connected to the payload 6 via parachute cords which are arranged in the parachute 7 (not shown). The parachute cords are connected to the payload 6 via

a ball-bearing-controlled 11 pivot 12 arranged on the rear end face of the payload 6 (Figure 1).

The invention is not limited to shown embodiments, but can be varied in different ways within the scope of the patent claims.

CLAIMS

1. Dividable parachute grenade comprising a grenade casing, a nose cone, a detonating fuse, a dividing charge, a payload, a parachute device, a grenade bottom, and a supporting device, wherein the supporting device is annular and comprises pretensioned sector elements fixed to a fixing ring in a recess on the inner side of the grenade casing, the sector elements are pretensioned with a tension ring arranged around the annular supporting device via recessed grooves in the sector elements, whereby the supporting device is arranged extensibly in the radial direction in a recess on the inner side of the grenade casing behind the payload and supports the payload in the extended position during the acceleration phase of the grenade, and stays in the grenade after the separation of the payload from the grenade.

2. Dividable parachute grenade according to claim 1, wherein the sector elements are curved in tangential direction and conical in the axial direction, wherein the sector elements comprise a rear end face, closest to the parachute device, comprising radial hollow bushings for fixing of the sector elements to the fixing ring, and a front end face, closest to the payload, comprising the recessed grooves for application of the tension ring.

3. Dividable parachute grenade according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the sector elements are pretensioned with torsion springs arranged in the recess on the inner side of the grenade casing.