

# SPECIFICATION

## Container for Pictures to be Displayed, for Example, Photographic Prints

The invention relates to a container for pictures, such as photographic prints, preferably of the same format.

It has been proposed to produce photographic positives in only a single width, that is 90 mm, and in three lengths 90, 115, 130 mm. At present the owner stores the positives in loose form or glues them into a photograph album. The former is extremely unsatisfactory owing to the unavoidable disarrangement, and the latter is troublesome and involves a lot of work and the price of photograph albums means a not inconsiderable increase in the total price of a "photograph library". The printing firms send the prints to photographic shops, chemists, etc. in paper bags or cardboard envelopes in which the prints are exposed to damage as a result of bending, knocking or folding, for example.

An object of the invention is to provide a container for pictures, such as photographic prints (positives) which is suitable both for despatching photographs, for example from printing firms, and for storing the same and which in one embodiment may be so assembled that an aesthetically attractive photograph library can be constructed from several similar containers. In other embodiments an individual container can also form a useful hanging frame or stand-up frame.

According to the present invention there is provided a container for pictures to be displayed, including a box able to accommodate a stack of pictures with a viewing window through which a picture can be viewed; closure means and a backing device by means of which, when the container is closed, the top picture of the stack is held adjacent to the viewing window irrespective of the total number of pictures in the stack, and in which, when the container is open, in order to remove all of the prints the backing device is disabled. Each container has space for a certain maximum number of prints, preferably corresponding to the number of negatives per negative film, and one print is visible from the outside, the container acting as a frame. It is therefore not possible to see from the outside whether the container is completely or only partially filled or whether it contains only the picture behind the viewing window. A number of individual containers of the same or, if desired, of differing formats, may be combined to form a compact unit which can be conveniently stored. To change a pile of photographs, when the container is opened all of the photographs, including the one displayed at the window, can easily be removed.

With clever design the container can be produced at a price far below that of an album of the same capacity, and not only saves the user a substantial amount of space but has the additional advantage that it involves practically no

work to put in the pictures: with careful selection of the photograph visible in the window as characteristic of the contents of the container even the small effort of labelling the contents is saved.

If desired, however, the container may be made flat enough to be used as a hanging frame or stand-up frame.

The containers shown in the drawings, which for reasons concerning cost consist of plastics material, have special features which are described herein.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:—

Figures 1 to 6 show a first embodiment in which Figure 1 is a perspective view of a single container, Figure 2 shows four containers joined together, Figure 3 is a section parallel to a side wall of the container, Figure 4 is a section perpendicular to Figure 3, Figure 5 is a plan view of the container and Figure 6 is a section similar to Figure 3 but at a different stage of operation; Figures 3a, 4a and 5a show details on a larger scale.

Figure 7 and 8 show a second embodiment, in perspective in Figure 7 and in cross-section in Figure 8, closed at the top and open at the bottom;

Figures 9 to 13 show a third embodiment, with a perspective view in Figure 9, sections along the line 10—10 in Figure 10 and 11—11 in Figure 11, a plan view in Figure 12 and a section similar to Figure 10 in Figure 13 but with a slider member drawn out;

Figures 14 to 18 show a fourth embodiment; Figure 14 is a plan view, Figures 15 and 16 are sections along the lines 15—15 and 16—16 in Figure 14, whereas Figure 17 is a similar view to that in Figure 15 but with a slider member drawn out, and Figure 18 is a detail in perspective and broken away;

Figure 19 is a perspective view of a fifth embodiment;

Figures 20 and 21 show a sixth embodiment; Figure 20 is a perspective view broken away and Figure 21 is a sectional view, broken away, but in a position different from that in Figure 20;

Figures 22 and 23 show in perspective view and in section respectively a seventh embodiment;

Figure 24 is a perspective view of an eighth embodiment;

Figures 25 to 27 relate to a ninth embodiment with a perspective view in Figure 25, a sectional representation in Figure 26 and a schematicised inside view in outline in Figure 27;

Figures 28 and 29 relate to a tenth embodiment with a perspective view in Figure 28 and a longitudinal section in Figure 29;

Figure 30 is a perspective view of an eleventh embodiment; and

Figure 31 is a perspective view of a variation of the possible ways of stacking containers.

Figure 1 to 6 relate to a first embodiment. A

single container comprises an outer housing 100 and a slider member 102. Provided on the outer housing are joining projections 104 and 106 and on the sides lying opposite the projections, grooves that are complementary in shape to the projections; these grooves are omitted from Figures 5 and 6, and those complementary to projections 106 from Figure 4, so that it is possible to see the drawings clearly. Each housing 100 has on one of its large faces a viewing aperture 108, and since the slider member 102 is transparent at least in the region of its face 110 facing the viewing aperture, it is possible to see a photograph lying therebeneath through the viewing aperture 108.

Figure 2 shows how the individual containers can be joined to form stacked blocks, so that a photograph library can be assembled.

Figures 3 to 6 show the inside construction of the container. The slider member, made of transparent plastics material, is constructed in the form of a drawer, with an operating pull 112 and a double rear wall 114, 116 lying opposite the pull. The side walls 118 of the slider member have cut away portions 120, which simplify the insertion and removal of the pile of photographs.

Inwardly projecting bearings 124 are formed on rear wall 122 of the housing 100 lying opposite the viewing aperture 108, in which bushes two pressure levers 126 with pins 128 are mounted. When the slider member is in the housing the levers 126 (Figure 3) have their rear arms 130 located in recesses 132 in the rear wall 116 of the slider member and consequently press with their resilient arms 134 on a pile 136 of inserted photographs, so that the lowermost photograph is visible through the transparent base plate 110 of the slider member and the viewing aperture 108 of the housing. Lateral stops 140 in the slider member centre the inserted pictures 136 with respect to the viewing aperture 108.

Formed on the free end of the lever arm 134 is a hook 142 which when the drawer is drawn out rests in the recess 132 in the rear 116 of the slider member and thus prevents the drawer from being pulled out completely. The other free arm 130 of the lever is likewise provided at its rear side with a resilient portion 144 and thus makes the stop 142/116 non-rigid so that it can be released. The cut away portions 120 in the side walls 118 of the slider member continue into the base plate 110 at 146, but end beyond the lateral edge of the inserted photographs, the position of which is defined by the stops 114.

When the slider member is pushed in (Figure 3) the pile of photographs 136 is thus held adjacent to the base plate 110, different pile heights being accommodated by the resilience of the arm 134 of lever 126. When the slider member is pulled out, the same lever acts as a stop against unintentional removal of the slider member.

The housing and slider member are each injection-moulded in one piece from plastics material and, as can be seen, can easily be

removed from the moulds; wobbling of the slider member is prevented on the one hand by the guiding of the slider member side walls 118 in the housing and on the other hand by additional guide rails 148 shaped on the housing. The levers 126 may be simple shaped members of sheet metal or injection-moulded plastics parts. Figure 5 shows that the levers can be, for example, snapped on to the bearings 124. An indentation 150 on the underside of the lever arm 130 rests, in the closed position shown in Figure 3, against the upper edge of the recesses 132 and thus holds the slider member in the housing.

Figures 3a, 4a and 5a show more clearly the design of lever 126 at its bearing portion. The bearing surface 147 is simply a hole in the bars 148 arranged to serve as a bearing, the symmetric journal pins 128 being snapped-in under elastic deformation of the thin and therefore very resilient webs 151 of lever 126. The pins will then rest on the small bridge 149 which remains. Optionally, an auxiliary spring 152 may be provided.

The embodiment according to Figure 7 and 8 comprises a housing 160 with two viewing windows 162 and a common closure 164 in the form of a slider member that can be pulled out. The slider member has a middle wall 166 which lies centrally between the two windows 162 and parallel to these, which middle wall carries a spring pressure arrangement 168 on each side. Photographic prints 172 can stand on the base 170 of the slider member on both sides of the middle wall 166.

Adjacent the closure 164, a bottom support 170 is provided with indentations 177 facilitating insertion and removal of photographs.

From the top wall and adjacent the front edge 176, a stop lug 169 depends. With the slider pushed home, this lug does not have any function. Upon the slider being pulled outward, the inclined face 168' of the pressure arrangement 168 engages lug 169 so that the spring is urged against central wall 166 and the pressure on the pile of photo prints is relieved. Further, lug 169 serves as a stop limiting the stroke of the slider member when rear wall 174 abuts it.

In the embodiment according to Figure 9 to 13 the whole housing 180 consists of transparent plastics material and the slider member 182, which can be pulled out, may but does not have to consist of the same material. An integral leaf spring 184 which can best be seen in Figure 9 is provided. It has a central tongue 186 which passes through a bridge 188, injection-moulded on to the base 181 of the housing, and is held by a hook-like bent portion 190 in the bottom 183 of the slider member. Lateral arms 192, curved downwards from the opposite ends and an upper pressure plate 194 complete the spring. If the housing is made of opaque plastics material a window portion, closed if desired by a transparent plate, must be provided.

On pulling out of the slider member, the bridge 188 presses on the central spring arm 186 and

thereby draws the whole spring downwards (cf. Figure 13), so that the spring arrangement is disabled when the slider member is pulled out. On returning the slider member the piled

5 photographs 195 are pressed upwards by the spring once more against the transparent front side 196 of the housing. Slider bottom 183 is provided with a slot 185 through which the bridge 188 extends, serving also as guide means for the slider member.

10 Other details, such as cut-away portions in the slider member to facilitate removal of the photographs, etc. have already been described with reference to Figures 1 to 6 and have the same form in this embodiment.

15 The embodiment of Figures 14 to 18 also has a pressure spring arrangement 200 having two bowed portions 202 attached centrally at 204 to base 206 of the slider member. Formed on housing 208 there are lateral control projections 210 which project into the inside of the slider member and lap over the bowed portions 202 of the spring arrangement 200. On pulling out the slider member the bowed portions 202 slide under the projections 210 and in so doing are pressed downwards (cf. Figure 17). Rear end 216 of a slot 212 finally comes to rest against facing end 218 of the innermost projection 210 and is stopped there. The side walls 214 of the slider member can flex inwards and therefore may be pushed over the projections 210 during assembly, after which they spring back with the projection 210 in the slots. The spring arrangement 200 is completed by transverse arms 220 which connect the bowed portions 202 which lie on both sides of the arrangement. When the slider member is pushed in, therefore, the uppermost picture 222 of an inserted pile is pressed against transparent front plate 224 of the housing 208. In order to save material, base 226 lying opposite the cover plate 224 is cut away.

45 The first four embodiments so far described all have an outer housing and a slider member by which the inserted photographic prints are conveyed into and out of the housing.

It is also possible, of course, to provide the container with a hinged lid and such embodiments are described below.

50 The embodiment according to Figure 19 comprises an integral injection-moulded plastics part. The injection-moulded part comprises a container rear wall 240, two container side walls 242, a narrow lid 244 and a large transparent lid 246. A front lip 248 is also injection-moulded on to the narrow lid 244. At the join between the lid 246 and a base portion, 249 which is joined to the rear wall 240 and to the side portions 242, a weakened strip 250 is injection-moulded to form a hinge and a hinge of the same construction is provided at 252 between the rear wall 240 and the narrow lid 244. A sheet metal or plastics spring 254, supported at the rear wall 240, is placed or glued into the container or is formed on the rear wall 240. When the large lid 246 is open a pile of photographs 256 can be inserted which,

when the lid 246 is pressed between the side portions 242, is pressed against the inside of the transparent lid 246 by a spring 254. The large lid 246 is held in this position by the lip 248 of the narrow lid 244 which engages over the free edge of the lid 246 in a notch 258 provided therein and locks by friction. The large lid 246 may alternatively have a cut-out window portion, in which case the whole container may be injection-moulded from an opaque plastics material, it being possible to seal the window aperture again, if desired, by inserting a plate. These possibilities also exist for almost all the embodiments so far described and also for the embodiments described below. Likewise, the spring arrangements for pressing against the pile of photographs may also consist of metal or plastics material and in the former case may be formed on or glued to, etc., the inner parts of the container.

85 The window front 246 must be cut out if the plastics material used is not itself transparent. The container according to Figure 20 and 21 comprises an inner frame 260 made from transparent plastics material having a flat viewing plate from which lateral bars 262 are formed at right-angles on all four edges. The inner faces of the bars 262 are provided with serrated elements 264 parallel to the edges joined to the viewing plate.

95 An inserted pile 266 of photographs is pressed against the viewing plate by an outer frame 268 which fits in a complementary manner into the space enclosed by the lateral bars 262 and has serrated elements 274, complementary in shape to the serrated elements 264, provided on the outside of inner sides 270 which are formed on a pressure plate 272 of the frame 268. As a result of the resilience of the materials used the serrated elements 264, 274 engage with one another and secure the photographs in position pressed against the viewing plate, but may be disengaged by removing the outer frame from the inner frame. For aesthetic reasons, covering outer sides 276 are formed on the inner sides 270, also covering the bars 262 on the outside. The covering sides 276 have at least two finger recesses 278 so that the inner frame 260 can be gripped when pulling the parts apart.

115 This embodiment can be used not only as a container but also as a hanging frame or stand-up frame for a single photograph.

120 A lateral slot (not shown) may also be provided in the inner frame, if desired, for facilitating removal of the pile of photographs. If desired, securing springs may be fitted as an alternative or in addition to the serrated elements 264, 274, to hold the parts together.

125 In the seventh embodiment which is shown in Figure 22 and 23 a lid 286 is pivotally mounted at 284 on a housing 282 provided with a viewing window 280 (optionally closed by a window which lid can be locked in the closed position by means of co-operating locking elements 288, 290 inside of the housing. The inner side of the lid 286, facing the viewing aperture 280, bears a

spring arrangement 292 which presses a pile 294 of photographs towards the viewing aperture 280 when the lid 286 is closed; on opening the lid, however, the spring arrangement is flattened by sliding movement of the lid, against the edges 295 of the housing 282. The lid 286 cannot be completely opened but stops when the locking member 288 strikes against the inside of the housing; the photographs can however be easily inserted or removed in this position.

The container shown in Figure 24, the eighth embodiment, comprises a four-sided housing 300 in which a lid portion 302 consisting of transparent plastics material is hinged about pins 304. The lid portion 302 has a support ledge 306 on which a pile 308 of photographic prints rests, and a grip member 310 is formed on the lid portion 302 opposite the support face 306. A locking rib 312 extends along the free edge of the grip member 310, complementary to which rib there is a locking groove 318 constructed near upper edge 314 of rear wall 316 of the housing 300. Reinforcing gussets 320 join the support ledge 306 and transparent front plate 320 of the lid portion 302. Springs 322 glued in, formed on or inserted in the housing press the pile 308 against the inner side of the viewing plate 320 when the lid portion 302 is pivoted into the housing 300 and locked therein by the rib 312 in the groove 318. To open the container, the grip member 310 is pressed, the material of the lid portion 302 undergoing elastic deformation. It is generally sufficient for this grip to be constructed only on a part of the length of the lid portion 302, but the embodiment shown in the drawing is aesthetically more pleasing. When the grip member 310 is pressed the springs 322 assist the opening operation. The photographs can be inserted when the lid portion 302 is pivoted outwards through about 90°.

In the ninth embodiment which is shown in Figures 25 to 27 a housing 330, having a glued-in transparent window 332, can be opened by a side lid 334, hinged at 336. Notches 338, 340 in the housing and in the lid respectively, provide a grip for opening the lid. On the side of the housing remote from the plate 332 there is a spring arrangement 342 which, apart from its dimensions, is in principle of the same construction as the spring arrangement in the embodiment shown in Figures 9 to 13. In this embodiment also the housing has a guide bridge 344 in which a central tongue 346 of the spring arrangement is slidably displaceable and by means of which it can be either enabled or disabled. However in this embodiment a hook-like extension 348 on the spring arrangement is not anchored in the housing but is curved away from the housing and lies facing a hook 350 formed on the lid 334. In the closed state (Figure 26) the hook 350 engages behind the hooked extension 348 and in this manner is held locked. If the lid is pulled at 340 it opens and the hook 350 draws the hook 348 and thus also the whole spring arrangement 342 a little to the left (in Figure 27),

so that the spring is drawn into the bridge 244 and thus held back against rear face 352 of the housing. As a result of the arc-shaped travel of the lid 334 the hooks 350, 348 disengage after a certain distance, so that lid can be completely opened (through about 90°) and a pile of photographs 354 can be inserted or removed. When closing the lid the hook 350 first pushes back the hook 348 so that the spring arrangement 342 once again presses the photographs against the viewing plate 332, then trips over the hooked extension 348 and holds the lid locked again.

In this embodiment the arrangement can also be such that the spring arrangement 342 in the rest position lies closely against the rear face 352 and is pressed inwards only by a stop on the lid corresponding to the hook 350 and is thus arched forwards towards the viewing plate 332. The lid would then be locked by a latching button or the like located approximately where the notches 338, 340 are indicated.

The tenth embodiment, shown in Figures 28 and 29, comprises a housing 360 which is open at a large face opposite a viewing aperture 362. Parallel to this aperture guide grooves 364 for a slider member 366 are recessed into the housing, to which slider member a pressure spring 368 is attached. A pull 370 is formed on the slider member. On the inside of the slider member, in front of the spring, there is a stop projection 372. After pulling the slider member out (Figure 29) the spring 368 lies outside the housing and a pile of photographs 374 can be inserted or removed. The complete removal of the slider member is prevented by the projection 372 which strikes against the edge of the housing. Sufficient clearance is left between the slider member and the edge of the housing to permit the spring 368 to pass through in a flattened state.

Upon and after closing the lid the spring rises again and presses the pile 374 of photographs against the viewing aperture 362.

The eleventh embodiment shown in Figure 30, is similar to the embodiment shown in Figure 24. Here, however, lid 380 pivotable at 379 is locked by means of resiliently engaging projections 382 on side bars 384 of the lid and a complementary recess 386 in side walls 388 of housing 390. To open the container it is pulled at notches 392 and 394 in the housing and the lid respectively.

In contrast to the embodiment shown in Figure 24, this embodiment has the advantage that not only can joining elements 396 be fitted to sides 398 but joining elements 399 can also be fitted to sides 388 of the housing so that this embodiment is more favourable with regard to possible ways of joining containers together than the embodiment shown in Figure 24 which can be joined at the sides only. In the other embodiments too, it is obvious to which faces or sides of the containers joining elements can be fitted. Instead of direct joining by means of interlocking tongue and groove elements on the containers, additional stacking housings can alternatively be used into

which, for example, five or ten individual containers, for example, those shown in Figures 20 or 19, can be inserted and these approximately cubic containers may themselves be provided with tongue and groove elements to enable them to be stacked. Such an embodiment is shown in Figure 31.

Reference is made to six co-pending British patent applications filed concurrently with this application by the same applicant, which disclose arrangements which may be within one or more of the claims of this application and which have claims which may be infringed by the embodiments described herein. The co-pending applications are as follows 78.37449, 78.37452, 78.37453, 78.37454, 78.37455, and 78.37536.

### Claims

1. A container for pictures to be displayed, including a box able to accommodate a stack of pictures with a viewing window through which a picture can be viewed, closure means and a backing device by means of which, when the container is closed, the top picture of the stack is held adjacent to the viewing window irrespective of the total number of pictures in the stack, and in which, when the container is open, in order to remove all of the prints the backing device is disabled.
2. A container according to claim 1 in which the closure means is a lid hinged on the box.
3. A container according to claim 1, in which the closure means is formed by a slider member for accommodating the pictures and the box comprises a frame into which the slider member fits.
4. A container according to claim 1, 2 or 3, having a plurality of viewing windows.
5. A container according to claim 4, wherein the backing device is designed to press respective piles of pictures towards all viewing windows.
6. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the backing device comprises a spring arrangement located inside the container.
7. A container according to claim 6, wherein the spring arrangement comprises leaf springs formed on or attached to the container or its closure.
8. A container according to claim 1 or 2, wherein it is of integral construction and made of plastics material.
9. Container according to claim 8, including one or more weakened sections of plastics material formed to act as hinges.
10. A container according to claim 3, wherein the backing device includes an at least partially resilient pressure lever which is arranged so as to pivot with respect to the viewing window and which is also arranged to act as a locking element for the slider member at two end positions.
11. A container according to claim 3, wherein the slider member is arranged to carry two piles of pictures and the backing device is arranged on the slider member which is movable parallel to two

viewing windows located on opposite faces of the box.

12. A container according to claim 3, wherein the backing device comprises a spring member and there is mounted on the frame a bridge which fits over a portion of the spring member, the tongue portion being anchored in the slider member so that when the slider member is drawn out the tongue portion is drawn through the bridge to pull the backing device away from the viewing window and wherein said spring member includes further spring elements to urge said stack of pictures towards the viewing window.

13. A container according to claim 3, wherein that the backing device is a spring arrangement which is fixed to the slider member, and projections are provided on the frame so that, when the slider member is drawn out, the spring arrangement is pushed away from the viewing window by the projections.

14. A container according to claim 13, wherein the projections also act as a stop preventing the complete withdrawal of the slider member.

15. A container according to claim 1, wherein an inner frame contains the viewing window and an outer frame engages over and/or behind this, the outer frame has a backing wall which is substantially parallel to the viewing window and the inner and outer frame can be locked with respect to one another in several positions with various distances between the viewing window and the backing wall to accommodate piles of pictures of different thickness.

16. A container according to claim 14, wherein parallel serrated elements are provided on both inner and outer frames which engage with one another for locking the frames together and which may be disengaged by resilient deformation of the frames.

17. A container according to claim 2, wherein the lid is lockable when closed by resilient deformation.

18. A container according to claim 2, wherein a bridge is mounted in the box and the backing device comprises a leaf spring arrangement for pressing the pictures against the viewing window, the leaf spring arrangement slidably fitting under the bridge, and there is provided on the lid an actuating member for moving the spring arrangement under the bridge from a pressing position when the lid is closed to a disable position, held against the frame, when the lid is open.

19. A container according to claim 1 wherein the box is open opposite the viewing window and is provided with a lid which can be pivoted or pulled out parallel to this opening, on which lid a spring arrangement is provided to form the backing device which is disabled when the lid is open to release the pictures in the box.

20. A container according to any preceding claim, including means for enabling it to be fitted together positively with at least one further similar container.

21. A container according to any of claims 1 to



which, for example, five or ten individual containers, for example, those shown in Figures 20 or 19, can be inserted and these approximately cubic containers may themselves be provided with tongue and groove elements to enable them to be stacked. Such an embodiment is shown in Figure 31.

Reference is made to six co-pending British patent applications filed concurrently with this application by the same applicant, which disclose arrangements which may be within one or more of the claims of this application and which have claims which may be infringed by the embodiments described herein. The co-pending applications are as follows 78.37449, 78.37452, 78.37453, 78.37454, 78.37455, and 78.37536.

### Claims

1. A container for pictures to be displayed, including a box able to accommodate a stack of pictures with a viewing window through which a picture can be viewed, closure means and a backing device by means of which, when the container is closed, the top picture of the stack is held adjacent to the viewing window irrespective of the total number of pictures in the stack, and in which, when the container is open, in order to remove all of the prints the backing device is disabled.

2. A container according to claim 1 in which the closure means is a lid hinged on the box.

3. A container according to claim 1, in which the closure means is formed by a slider member for accommodating the pictures and the box comprises a frame into which the slider member fits.

4. A container according to claim 1, 2 or 3, having a plurality of viewing windows.

5. A container according to claim 4, wherein the backing device is designed to press respective piles of pictures towards all viewing windows.

6. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the backing device comprises a spring arrangement located inside the container.

7. A container according to claim 6, wherein the spring arrangement comprises leaf springs formed on or attached to the container or its closure.

8. A container according to claim 1 or 2, wherein it is of integral construction and made of plastics material.

9. Container according to claim 8, including one or more weakened sections of plastics material formed to act as hinges.

10. A container according to claim 3, wherein the backing device includes an at least partially resilient pressure lever which is arranged so as to pivot with respect to the viewing window and which is also arranged to act as a locking element for the slider member at two end positions.

11. A container according to claim 3, wherein the slider member is arranged to carry two piles of pictures and the backing device is arranged on the slider member which is movable parallel to two

viewing windows located on opposite faces of the box.

12. A container according to claim 3, wherein the backing device comprises a spring member and there is mounted on the frame a bridge which fits over a portion of the spring member, the tongue portion being anchored in the slider member so that when the slider member is drawn out the tongue portion is drawn through the bridge to pull the backing device away from the viewing window and wherein said spring member includes further spring elements to urge said stack of pictures towards the viewing window.

13. A container according to claim 3, wherein that the backing device is a spring arrangement which is fixed to the slider member, and projections are provided on the frame so that, when the slider member is drawn out, the spring arrangement is pushed away from the viewing window by the projections.

14. A container according to claim 13, wherein the projections also act as a stop preventing the complete withdrawal of the slider member.

15. A container according to claim 1, wherein an inner frame contains the viewing window and an outer frame engages over and/or behind this, the outer frame has a backing wall which is substantially parallel to the viewing window and the inner and outer frame can be locked with respect to one another in several positions with various distances between the viewing window and the backing wall to accommodate piles of pictures of different thickness.

16. A container according to claim 14, wherein parallel serrated elements are provided on both inner and outer frames which engage with one another for locking the frames together and which may be disengaged by resilient deformation of the frames.

17. A container according to claim 2, wherein the lid is lockable when closed by resilient deformation.

18. A container according to claim 2, wherein a bridge is mounted in the box and the backing device comprises a leaf spring arrangement for pressing the pictures against the viewing window, the leaf spring arrangement slidably fitting under the bridge, and there is provided on the lid an actuating member for moving the spring arrangement under the bridge from a pressing position when the lid is closed to a disable position, held against the frame, when the lid is open.

19. A container according to claim 1 wherein the box is open opposite the viewing window and is provided with a lid which can be pivoted or pulled out parallel to this opening, on which lid a spring arrangement is provided to form the backing device which is disabled when the lid is open to release the pictures in the box.

20. A container according to any preceding claim, including means for enabling it to be fitted together positively with at least one further similar container.

21. A container according to any of claims 1 to



19, including an additional outer housing means for enabling it to be fitted positively to at least one further such housing to form an assembly.

5 22. A container according to any preceding claim, wherein the viewing window is an aperture closed by a transparent sheet.

23. A container according to any of claims 1 to 21, formed completely of one or more injection-moulded plastics parts.

10 24. A container for pictures to be displayed substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 to 6, Figures 7 and 8, Figures 9 to 13, Figures 14 to 18, Figure 19, Figures 20 and 21, Figures 22 and 23, Figure 24, Figures 25 to 27, 15 Figures 28 and 29, Figure 30 or Figure 31 of the accompanying drawings or modified as herein described.

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