

SPECIFICATION

A cassette of photographic roll film

The invention relates to a cassette of the kind containing a roll of photographic film, preferably with a layer of protective paper, and including a storage compartment for the unexposed film roll, a winding compartment for the exposed film roll, a wall extending between the compartments and forming a rear support surface for the film, said wall defining respective film slots with the storage compartment and the winding compartment, and a locking arrangement to prevent complete winding of the trailing end of the film into the winding compartment.

Cassettes of the kind specified are already known (i.e. British Patent No. 1416450) in which the locking arrangement is defined by a fixed tooth of complex shape, moulded on one wall of the cassette and engageable with a special perforation at the trailing end of the film. However, the injection moulding of the locking tooth on the cassette requires relatively complex tooling. An object of the present invention is, therefore, to provide a simpler form of locking arrangement and hence to reduce the cost of manufacturing the cassette.

Accordingly, the invention resides in a cassette containing photographic roll film including a storage compartment for the unexposed film roll, a winding compartment for the exposed film roll, a wall extending between the compartments and forming a rear support face for the film, said wall defining with the storage compartment and the winding compartment respective film slots through which the film can be drawn from the storage compartment and introduced into the winding compartment, a locking arm which is formed on said wall adjacent the film slot of the winding compartment, and a locking projection provided on said arm and resiliently urged by the arm against the film so as to be engageable in an aperture in the trailing end of the film or, where the film includes a layer of protective paper, in an aperture provided in the film and/or the paper so as to prevent winding of the trailing end of the film into the winding compartment, the locking projection and said aperture(s) being located outside an area of the film provided with perforations for engagement with a film advance mechanism of a camera.

One example of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view showing a cassette of photographic roll film before the end of the film is reached,

Figure 2 is a sectional view to an enlarged scale showing part of the cassette of Figure 1 when the end of the film has been reached, and

Figure 3 is a rear view of the cassette.

Referring to the drawings, the cassette contains a roll of photographic film 1 having a layer of protective paper 2. Defined within the cassette are a storage compartment 3 for the unexposed film roll and a winding compartment 4 for the

exposed film roll. Extending between the compartments 3, 4 is a wall 5 which provides a rear support surface for the film and which defines film slots 6, 7 with the compartments 3, 4 respectively. Moreover, the wall of each film slot 6, 7 presented to the front surface of the film defines a curved film apron 9 which extends towards the associated film roll.

The protective paper 2 is longer than the film 1, and extends from the trailing end of the film. Thus, when the film 1 has been almost completely wound into the compartment 4, the projecting end of the protective paper still remains in the picture window and thus serves as a light seal and also to allow withdrawal of the film 1 from the winding compartment 4 through the picture window. The cassette is therefore provided with a locking arrangement to prevent the film end from being drawn so far into the winding compartment 4 that it can no longer be withdrawn.

To provide the locking arrangement, the film 1 and the protective paper 2 are formed adjacent the trailing end of the film 1 with mutually aligned locking apertures 10, 11 respectively. The apertures 10, 11 are located outside the area of the perforations (not shown) normally provided in the film for engagement with the film advance mechanism of a camera. Urged under its own resilience against the paper 2 and film 1 is a locking arm 12 which is formed on the wall 5 adjacent the film slot 7 and is provided with a projection 12a. The arrangement of the projection 12a is such that the locking apertures 10, 11 are moved past the projection as the end portion of the film is withdrawn from the compartment 3.

The projection 12a is thereby urged by the resilience of the arm 12 into the apertures 10, 11 as the trailing end of the film 1 approaches the winding compartment 4 so that the film is prevented from being completely drawn into the winding compartment.

As an alternative to the arrangement described above the locking aperture 10 can be omitted, in which case locking of the trailing end of the film 1 is achieved solely by the aperture 11 in the paper 2. Moreover, in a roll of film in which the layer of protective paper 2 is absent, locking of the trailing end of the film can be achieved by the aperture 10 alone.

CLAIMS

1. A cassette containing photographic roll film including a storage compartment for the unexposed film roll, a winding compartment for the exposed film roll, a wall extending between the compartments and forming a rear support face for the film, said wall defining with the storage compartment and the winding compartment respective film slots through which the film can be drawn from the storage compartment and introduced into the winding compartment, a resilient locking arm which is formed on said wall adjacent the film slot of the winding compartment, and a locking projection provided on said arm and resiliently urged by the arm against the film so as



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film provided with perforations for engagement with a film advance mechanism of a camera.

10 2. A cassette containing photographic roll film comprising the combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

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