WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A battery charger, comprising:

a housing defining a battery receptacle area configured to receive a battery therein;

a piston;

a moveable platform, wherein the piston and the platform are positioned within the housing and simultaneously urged in substantially orthogonal directions toward the battery receptacle area; and

prongs configured to extend from the housing and electrically connect a power source to the battery when the battery is received in the battery receptacle area and engaged by the piston and moveable platform.

2. The battery charger of Claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a base portion and a cover secured to the base portion.

3. The battery charger of Claim 2, wherein the base portion comprises an opening that provides communication from an exterior of the battery charger to the battery receptacle area.

4. The battery charger of Claim 1, further comprising a frame member having at least one horizontal slot, wherein the piston comprises at least one guide slidably engaged with the at least one horizontal slot to control a horizontal movement of the piston.

5. The battery charger of Claim 4, wherein the frame member further comprises at least one vertical slot and the platform comprises at least one guide slidably engaged with the at least one vertical slot to control a vertical movement of the platform.

6. The battery charger of Claim 1, further comprising at least one spring in abutment with the piston, the at least one spring providing a force to urge the piston toward the battery receptacle area.

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7. The battery charger of Claim 6, wherein the piston comprises at least one spring seat, and wherein an end of the spring is securely mounted by the spring seat in abutment with the piston.

8. The battery charger of Claim 7, wherein the spring seat comprises a cylindrical bore extending into a side surface of the piston, the cylindrical bore having a diameter slightly greater than or equal to an outside radial diameter of the spring.

9. The battery charger of Claim 1, further comprising at least one bottom spring in abutment with the platform, the at least one bottom spring providing a force to urge the platform toward the battery receptacle area.

10. The battery charger of Claim 9, wherein the platform comprises at least one bottom spring seat, and wherein an end of the bottom spring is securely mounted by the bottom spring seat in abutment with the platform.

11. The battery charger of Claim 10, wherein the bottom spring seat comprises a cylindrical bore formed in a thicker portion of the platform, the cylindrical bore having a diameter slightly greater than or equal to an outside radial diameter of the bottom spring.

12. The battery charger of Claim 10, wherein the housing further comprises a spring securing feature for securely mounting the other end of the bottom spring.

13. The battery charger of Claim 1, further comprising a main circuit board and a display circuit board contained within the housing, wherein the main circuit board controls the display circuit board to display a charge/discharge status of the battery.

14. The battery charger of Claim 13, wherein the housing further comprises a window and the display circuit board is visible through the window.

15. The battery charger of Claim 3, wherein the cover comprises an access slot that expands the opening into the battery receptacle area.

16. A method for charging a battery, comprising:

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connecting a pair of prongs of a battery charger to a power source; and

placing a battery into a battery receptacle area of the battery charger, wherein the battery is simultaneously maintained in a vertical charging position by a platform exerting a substantially uniform vertical pressure against a lower surface of the battery and in a horizontal charging position by a piston exerting a substantially uniform horizontal pressure against a side surface of the battery.

17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

releasing the prongs from a position substantially flush with a lower surface of the battery charger to a position extending substantially orthogonally from the lower surface.

18. A method of manufacturing a battery charger assembly, comprising:

providing a housing configured to define a battery receptacle for receiving a battery therein;

providing a piston internal to the housing, wherein the piston is urged toward the battery receptacle area by a spring; and

providing a moveable platform internal to the housing, wherein the moveable platform is urged toward the battery receptacle are by a spring, and wherein a direction in which the piston is urged is substantially orthogonal to the direction in which the platform is urged.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

integrating a pair of prongs into the assembly so that an electrical current may be delivered from a power source to the battery when the battery is received into the battery receptacle area and engaged simultaneously by the piston and the platform.

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What is claimed is:

1. A battery charger, comprising:

a housing defining a battery receptacle area configured to receive a battery therein;

a piston;

a moveable platform, wherein the piston and the platform are positioned within the housing and simultaneously urged in substantially orthogonal directions toward the battery receptacle area; and

prongs configured to extend from the housing and electrically connect a power source to the battery when the battery is received in the battery receptacle area and engaged by the piston and moveable platform.

2. The battery charger of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a base portion and a cover secured to the base portion.

3. The battery charger of claim 2, wherein the base portion comprises an opening that provides communication from an exterior of the battery charger to the battery receptacle area.

4. The battery charger of claim 1, further comprising a frame member having at least one horizontal slot, wherein the piston comprises at least one guide slidably engaged with the at least one horizontal slot to control a horizontal movement of the piston.

5. The battery charger of claim 4, wherein the frame member further comprises at least one vertical slot and the platform comprises at least one guide slidably engaged with the at least one vertical slot to control a vertical movement of the platform.

6. The battery charger of claim 1, further comprising at least one spring in abutment with the piston, the at least one spring providing a force to urge the piston toward the battery receptacle area.

7. The battery charger of claim 6, wherein the piston comprises at least one spring seat, and wherein an end of the spring is securely mounted by the spring seat in abutment with the piston.

8. The battery charger of claim 7, wherein the spring seat comprises a cylindrical bore extending into a side surface of the piston, the cylindrical bore having a diameter slightly greater than or equal to an outside radial diameter of the spring.

9. The battery charger of claim 1, further comprising at least one bottom spring in abutment with the platform, the at least one bottom spring providing a force to urge the platform toward the battery receptacle area.

10. The battery charger of claim 9, wherein the platform comprises at least one bottom spring seat, and wherein an end of the bottom spring is securely mounted by the bottom spring seat in abutment with the platform.

11. The battery charger of claim 10, wherein the bottom spring seat comprises a cylindrical bore formed in a thicker portion of the platform, the cylindrical bore having a diameter slightly greater than or equal to an outside radial diameter of the bottom spring.

12. The battery charger of claim 10, wherein the housing further comprises a spring securing feature for securely mounting the other end of the bottom spring.

13. The battery charger of claim 1, further comprising a main circuit board and a display circuit board contained within the housing, wherein the main circuit board controls the display circuit board to display a charge/discharge status of the battery.

14. The battery charger of claim 13, wherein the housing further comprises a window and the display circuit board is visible through the window.

15. The battery charger of claim 3, wherein the cover comprises an access slot that expands the opening into the battery receptacle area.

16. A method for charging a battery, comprising:

connecting a pair of prongs of a battery charger to a power source; and

placing a battery into a battery receptacle area of the battery charger, wherein the battery is simultaneously maintained in a vertical charging position by a movable platform exerting a substantially uniform vertical pressure against a lower surface of the battery and in a horizontal charging position by a piston exerting a substantially uniform horizontal pressure against a side surface of the battery.

17. A method for charging a battery, comprising:

connecting a pair of prongs of a battery charger to a power source;

placing a battery into a battery receptacle area of the battery charger, wherein the battery is simultaneously maintained in a vertical charging position by a platform exerting a substantially uniform vertical pressure against a lower surface of the battery and in a horizontal charging position by a piston exerting a substantially uniform horizontal pressure against a side surface of the battery; and

releasing the prongs from a position substantially flush with a lower surface of the battery charger to a position extending substantially orthogonally from the lower surface.

18. A method of manufacturing a battery charger assembly, comprising:

providing a housing configured to define a battery receptacle for receiving a battery therein;

providing a piston internal to the housing, wherein the piston is urged toward the battery receptacle area by a spring; and

providing a moveable platform internal to the housing, wherein the moveable platform is urged toward the battery receptacle by a spring, and wherein a direction in which the piston is urged is substantially orthogonal to the direction in which the platform is urged.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

integrating a pair of prongs into the assembly so that an electrical current may be delivered from a power source to the battery when the battery is received into the battery receptacle area and engaged simultaneously by the piston and the platform.