

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERAS

(71) We, **BALDA-WERKE PHOTOGRAPHISCHE GERÄTE UND KUNSTSTOFF GMBH & CO. KG**, of 4980 Bünde 1, Steinmeisterstr. 16—20 Germany, a company organised under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to photographic cameras and particularly to the rear cover of such cameras and the locking means therefor. Another particular aspect of the invention relates to concomitant means for releasably securing a battery cell to the rear cover of a camera.

It is known to provide roll-film cameras with a rear cover hinged at one end to the camera housing and releasably connected to the camera housing at the free end. These rear covers are conveniently provided with a film-backing viewing window, for indicating the advancement of the film. Conventionally, expensive and discrete releasable locks have been employed for releasably connecting the connectable end of the rear cover to the camera housing. The releasable lock permits of access to the housing interior, for instance, for changing the film-load therein and permits of locking the rear cover against the camera housing to place the camera in light-tight operative condition.

The object of the present invention is to provide a film camera having an opening back provided with improved locking means.

It is now found that improved locking means may be provided which are integrally connected to the film viewing window, less expensive than prior locks and of relatively simple construction as compared with the conventional discreet locks.

Accordingly, the invention provides a photographic camera having a housing

accommodating the camera objective at the front thereof and with a rear opening cover providing access to the camera housing, said cover being apertured and having a film-viewing window secured in the cover aperture, latching means for releasably locking the cover to the housing in a closed position of the cover, and resilient biasing means formed integrally with the film-viewing window and biasing the latching means to its locking position.

In order that the invention may readily be carried into practice, several embodiments thereof will now be described in detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a fragmented sectional view taken through the camera housing, showing one embodiment of camera constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 1a is a perspective view of the film viewing window and biasing means integrally connected thereto, as represented in Figure 1;

Figure 2 is a fragmented sectional view taken through the camera housing and showing another embodiment of camera constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2a is a detail view of the abutment for the latch as more generally shown in the improved locking means depicted in Figure 2;

Figure 3 is a fragmented sectional view taken through the camera housing which shows still another embodiment of camera constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 3a is a detail view of a lug provided in connection with the locking means shown in Figure 3 taken along line 3a—3a thereof;

Figure 3b is a detail view showing the operation of the lug shown in Figure 3a.

Figure 3c is a detail sectional view further showing the operation of the lug more generally shown in Figure 3a;

Figure 4 is a fragmented sectional view taken through the camera housing showing

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yet another embodiment of camera constructed in accordance with the invention;

5 Figure 4a is a sectional view of the embodiment shown in Figure 4, taken along line 4a—4a thereof;

10 Figure 5 is a fragmented sectional view taken through the camera housing, showing an embodiment of an improved battery cell securing means integrally connected to the film viewing window located in the rear cover of the camera casing;

15 Figure 5a is a sectional view of the embodiment shown in Figure 5, taken along line 5a—5a thereof;

Figure 6 is a detail view of a battery cell securing means which may be employed in connection with the invention;

20 Figure 7 is a detail view of another embodiment of a battery cell securing means which may be employed in connection with the invention; and

25 Figure 8 is a perspective view of a camera housing and rear cover therefor, including a film-viewing window provided with an integrally connected improved locking means and concomitant battery securing means.

30 Generally referring to the Figures, an apertured rear cover for a film camera of the type including a camera housing for an objective, a viewer and a film-load is provided. The rear cover is provided with a film viewing window secured in the rear cover aperture and the viewing window is substantially flat in the plane of the rear cover. The rear cover is of the general type which is fitted to the camera housing and has an end pivotably connected to the housing and another end connectable to the camera housing.

35 With particular reference to Figures 1 to 4a and 8, the type of film viewing window which may be employed is of the type disclosed in Patent No. 1,159,446. The film viewing window 2 is snap-fitted into an aperture 2' provided in rear cover 1 of the camera. A pair of spring members 3 are formed integrally with the film viewing window 2 for applying pressure to a film cartridge loaded within the camera housing 7. In all but Figure 8, only a fragment of the camera housing is shown. The rear cover may be of the type pivotably connected at one end to the camera housing and releasably connectable thereto as at an end 1'. In Figures 1 to 4a, only the releasably connectable end of the rear cover is shown, while, in Figure 8, a full view of rear cover 1 is depicted. The particular construction of the rear cover and its connection to the camera housing is not critical to the invention, as the invention may have application to numerous film viewing windows and rear cover constructions

which are releasably connected to a camera housing 7.

Referring now to Figures 1 and 1a, a spring arm 4 is integrally connected at one of its ends to viewing window 2 and is bent so as to abut and apply a constant and continuous pressure against a substantially rigid abutment member 5 which is slidably connected to rear cover 1 and movable thereon between first and second positions which correspond to closed and open positions of said rear cover, for thereby securing and releasing rear cover 1 to and from housing 7. Member 5 is simultaneously releasably connected to camera housing 7 and co-operable with spring arm 4 for locking rear cover 1 against camera housing 7, as hereinafter described in detail. Abutment member 5 includes an abutment surface 5' and a pair of sliding bearings, respectively 8 and 8'. Sliding bearing 8 is slidable through a channel 9 provided in rear cover 1 into an access space 6 provided in housing 7.

Bearing 8' is slidable in a recess 10 provided in rear cover 1 between first and second positions which correspond to first and second positions of abutment member 5.

Spring arm 4 abuts surface 5' of member 5 and urges it into the first position therefor, so as to locate bearing 8' in access space 6 when rear cover 1 is closed against housing 7. Concomitantly therewith, bearing 8 is slid to its first position in slot 10 which is delimited by a pair of steps 11 and 11' provided in rear cover 1.

Access space 6 is defined between camera housing 7 and a lip 12 depending therefrom into the plane of rear cover 1. Lip 12 is generally contiguous with connectable end 1' of rear cover 1. Lip 12 abuts bearing 8' when rear cover 1 is closed against housing 7 for maintaining the rear cover closed. Bearing 8 is slidable from its first position to its second position by a pressure exerted manually on serrated surface 13 thereof, which overrides the force of spring 4 on abutment member 5 for thereby disengaging bearing 8' from access space 6, whereby connectable end 1' of rear cover 1 is disconnected from housing 7 and may be pivoted outwardly for opening cover 1.

Referring now generally to Figures 2 to 4a and 8, the film viewing window employed in connection with the embodiment shown therein is of substantially identical construction with the viewing window set forth in detail in connection with Figures 1 and 1a. The camera housing and rear cover therefor are also substantially of identical construction and therefore, the same general numerical

designations are employed in connection therewith and for the film viewing window.

Referring now to Figures 2 and 2a, a flat leaf spring 20 is provided and has a free end and another end integrally connected to viewing window 2. Leaf spring 20 lies substantially in the plane of viewing window 2 and the free end thereof extends into the interface between connectable end 1' of rear cover 1 and camera housing 7. In connection with this embodiment, rear cover 1 is of the type which overfits housing 7 rather than of the type fitted into a recess of housing 7 as particularly shown in Figure 1.

A lug 21 is mounted on an end wall of camera housing 7 at a perpendicular to rear cover 1 when the rear cover is closed against camera housing 7. Lug 21 is provided with a recessed undersurface 23 and a tapered nose 24 extending into the recessed undersurface 23.

A cam surface 25 is provided on leaf spring 20 in substantial alignment with lug 21 for camming on lug 21 into securement on the undersurface 23 thereof as rear cover 1 is closed against camera housing 7. In the camming action, leaf spring 20 is downwardly displaced.

A release knob 26 is mounted on the free end of leaf spring 20 and extends beyond the releasable joint of connectable end 1' of rear cover 1 and camera housing 7. Leaf spring 20 is responsive to a downward pressure exerted on release knob 26 and a displacement channel 27 is provided in rear cover 1 for accommodating the displacement of leaf spring 20 and release knob 26 while the cam surface 25 is being moved into or out of connection with lug 21. Leaf spring 20 is downwardly displaceable in channel 27 for securing or releasing it to and from lug 21.

Referring now to Figures 3 to 3c, an "S"-shaped spring 30, substantially coplanar with rear cover 1, is provided and has an end integrally connected to film viewing window 2 and another end integrally connected to a lug 31. Lug 31 includes a depending stem 32 and a pair of bifurcations 33 and 34 substantially perpendicular to stem 32. A slot 35 is provided in rear cover 1 which extends through connectable end 1' thereof. Lug 31 is slidable in slot 35, which includes a pair of channels 36 and 36', which are each arranged to receive a respective bifurcation 33 and 34. Channel 36' extends to the exterior surface of rear cover 1 and bifurcation 34 is slidable therein and observable on the exterior surface of rear cover 1. Channel 36 is located in the interior of rear cover 1 relative to channel 36' and bifurcation 33 is slidable therein.

A strut 37 of rear cover 1 divides slot 35

into respective channels 36 and 36' and provides a partition against which stem 32 abuts for the purpose hereinafter described. A notch 38 is provided in the side wall of housing 7 and communicates with channel 36, whereby bifurcation 33 of lug 31 locates therein when rear cover 1 is closed against camera housing 7. Spring 30 normally biases lug stem 32 against strut 37 of rear cover 1 for thereby locating bifurcation 33 through channel 36 into notch 38. In the circumstances described rear cover 1 is closed and connectable end 1' thereof is releasably secured to camera housing 7.

To disconnect end 1' of the rear cover from camera housing 7, a pressure is exerted on bifurcation 34, in the direction shown by arrow 39, on the serrated exterior surface of the bifurcation. The force exerted must be in excess of the bias provided by spring 30, for thereby sliding lug 31 through slot 35 and thereby disengaging bifurcation 33 from notch 38, so as to disconnect end 1' of rear cover 1 from camera housing 7. In this condition, rear cover 1 may be outwardly opened.

Referring now to Figures 4 and 4a, viewing window 2 is of substantially the same construction as shown in Figures 1 to 3c, however, it is provided with a beaded edge 2'' received in a recess therefor in the film viewing window aperture 2' in rear cover 1. Tongues 1'' secure viewing window 2 to rear cover 1 and film viewing window 2 is slidable in aperture 2'.

A rigid member 40 is integrally connected film viewing window 2 at one end and is provided with a stepped shoulder 41 which is connected thereto at its other end. Stepped shoulder 41 extends beyond end 1' of rear cover 1, for a purpose hereinafter described. A pair of opposed, substantially coaxial spring arms 42 and 42' are connected to rigid member 40 and are perpendicular thereto. A pair of opposed abutment surfaces 43 and 43' located in rear cover 1 abut respective spring arms 43 and 43' for normally locating stepped shoulder 41 a predetermined distance beyond end 1' of rear cover 1. Concomitantly therewith, window 2 has a predetermined position in aperture 2'.

Stepped shoulder 41 is slidable in a slot 44, of predetermined length, provided in rear cover 1, so as to permit shoulder 41 to retract from its normal position beyond end 1' of rear cover 1. As hereinbefore described in connection with Figure 1, a lip 12 depends from housing 7 and extends into the plane of rear cover 1, when rear cover 1 is closed against housing 7. Lip 12 is generally contiguous with end 1' of rear cover 1. An access space 6 is defined between camera housing 7 and lip 12 and

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slot 44 provided in rear cover 1 for stepped shoulder 41 communicates with access space 6 when cover 1 is closed against housing 7, so as to permit stepped shoulder 41 to, at least partially, located in access space 6 in response to pressure exerted thereon by respective spring arms 42 and 42'. Lip 12 abuts stepped shoulder 41 when rear cover 1 is closed against housing 7.

A slidable release member 45 is respectively connected to viewing window 2 and rigid member 40. Release member 45 is slidable in a recess 46 provided in the exterior surface of rear cover 1 and co-operates with film viewing window 2 and rigid member 40 for disconnecting end 1' from housing 7. Stepped shoulder 41 is responsive to a sliding pressure exerted on release member 45 which exceeds the force of the bias provided by spring arms 42 and 42', so as to retract stepped shoulder 41 from lip 12, for thereby disconnecting end 1' of rear cover 1 from camera housing 7, so as to permit rear cover 1 to be opened.

Referring now to Figure 8, a pair of substantially parallel, co-planar spring arms 80 and 80' are integrally connected to viewing window 2. Respective spring arms 80 and 80' terminate in respective lugs 81 and 81', each lug being provided with a respective abutment surface 82 and 82' substantially perpendicular to its respective spring arm 80 and 80'. Lugs 81 and 81' are located on the exterior of rear cover 1 and are slidable thereon along their respective abutment surfaces 82 and 82'. A pair of slots 83 and 83' are provided in end 1' of rear cover 1 and have respective, predetermined and substantially equal, lengths so as to permit a predetermined displacement of lugs 81 and 81' on end 1' of rear cover 1.

A pair of hook members 84 and 84' are located within rear cover 1, in proximity to end 1' thereof. Each hook member is connected to a respective spring arm 80 and 80' at a perpendicular and hook members 84 and 84' are substantially parallel. A pair of recesses (not shown) are located in camera housing 7 and are arranged to receive respective hooked ends of hook members 84 and 84' when rear cover 1 is closed against camera housing 7.

Hooked ends of respective hook members 84 and 84' are retractable from their respective recesses in housing 7 by substantially equal and opposite sliding pressures exerted respectively and simultaneously upon lugs 81 and 81', whereby end 1' may be disconnected from housing 7. By the application of pressure to lugs 81 and 81', simultaneously, each lug is displaced on end 1' when the pressure exerted thereon exceeds the force of spring arms 80 and 80'. Upon application of such

excess pressure, hook members 84 and 84' disconnected from their respective recesses in housing 7 and cover 1 may be opened.

To the opposite end of viewing window 2, a leaf spring 85 is integrally connected. Leaf spring 85 extends towards pivotably connected end 1'' of rear cover 1 and is provided with a raised portion 86 for locating a battery cell 87 thereunder. Spring 85 exerts sufficient pressure against cell 87 to secure it to rear cover 1. To remove battery 87 therefrom, raised portion 86 of spring 85 may be deformed temporarily.

In the manner shown and described in connection with Figure 8, camera locking means and battery biasing and securing means may both be integrally connected to the film viewing window in the camera. In a similar manner, the embodiments shown in Figures 1 to 4a may be modified to include the same, or similar, battery securing means, for instance, of the type particularly shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Two additional examples of battery biasing and securing means which may be employed in connection with the invention are best seen in Figures 6 and 7. In Figure 7, a leaf spring 70 is integrally connected to film viewing window 72 and extends toward the pivotably connected end of rear cover 73. Leaf spring 70 is provided with a raised portion for locating a battery thereunder and biasing the battery against rear cover 73 and abutment member 71 provided therein.

Figure 6 depicts another biasing and securing means embodiment and shows a modification which may be made to the film viewing window. In this embodiment, the film viewing window and battery biasing and securing means are releasably connected to rear cover 67. A resilient tongue 60 is integrally connected to a viewing window 61 and extends in the plane thereof, for instance, towards the pivotably connected end of rear cover 67. Tongue 60 is provided with a hooked end 62 which releasably connects behind a fixed shoulder 63 provided in rear cover 67. A release means 64 comprising a serrated surface is provided in tongue 60 and sliding pressure may be exerted thereon to resiliently deform hooked end 62, to dislocate it from securement with fixed shoulder 63. Flange 65 is integrally connected to tongue 60 and angularly disposed relative thereto. When tongue 60 is connected to rear cover 67, flange 65 secures a cell (not shown) against rear cover 67 and abutment 66. The cell may be released by dislocating tongue 60 from fixed shoulder 63.

Referring now to Figures 5 and 5a, an improved viewing window 50 is provided which is slidably connected in the rear cover 51 of a film camera. Retaining means

52 for one or more electrical cells is connected to viewing window 50. A plurality of cells 53 is removably mounted in a corresponding plurality of recesses 54 provided in cover 51. Recesses 54 are preferably configured to prevent improper insertion of the cells therein. Viewing window 50 is arranged for sliding, for instance, by well-known means, and is urged by an integrally connected spring 55 towards the left for clamping and retaining cells 53 in position. The leftward bias is provided by the angular disposition of spring 55 against abutment 56.

Spring loaded conductors (not shown) may be provided in the camera housing which contact cells 53 when rear cover 51 is closed. The contacts will, therefore, be moved and "cleaned" every time the camera is loaded with film.

Biasing and securing means constructed in accordance with the invention perform reliably and are easy to fabricate. Moreover, if said means wears through use, it may be replaced by mere replacement of the film viewing window to which it is connected. When this means is integrally moulded with the rear cover or camera housing, then replacement requires a new rear cover or housing, as may be the case.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A photographic camera having a housing accommodating the camera objective at the front thereof and with a rear opening cover providing access to the camera housing, said cover being apertured and having a film-viewing window secured in the cover aperture, latching means for releasably locking the cover to the housing in a closed position of the cover, and resilient biasing means formed integrally with the film-viewing window and biasing the latching means to its locking position.

2. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said latching means is a latch which resiliently engages the camera housing in said closed position of the cover.

3. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the latch is slidable in a channel formed in the rear cover, between the open position and the locked position, a fixed abutment for the latch being provided in said camera housing, the latch normally being biased against said abutment in the locked position when the rear cover is in said closed position.

4. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 further including release means operatively associated with said latch for slidably displacing said latch along said channel away from said abutment by application thereto of a pressure which overrides said bias for thereby releasing said connectable end of said rear cover

from said camera housing to permit pivoting said rear cover about an end thereof which is pivotably connected to the camera housing for thereby opening said rear cover for access into the interior of said camera housing.

5. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said abutment includes a lip depending from the camera housing, said lip extending into the plane of the rear cover in the closed position thereof and being contiguous with the connectable end thereof, and an access space being provided between said lip and said housing, said channel provided in said rear cover communicating with said access space in said closed condition of said rear cover, so as to permit said latch to at least partially locate in said access space in response to pressure exerted thereon by said biasing means, the lip abutting said latch in a closed condition of the rear cover.

6. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said fixed abutment comprises a lug mounted on the camera housing at a perpendicular to the rear cover in the closed position thereof, said lug having a recessed undersurface and a tapered nose extending into said undersurface, and said latch includes a cam surface which co-operates with the undersurface of said lug as the rear cover closes against said camera housing.

7. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said biasing means include a spring integrally connected at one of its ends to said viewing window, and said latch comprises a substantially rigid abutment member slidably connected to said rear cover for movement between first and second positions thereon, releasably connected to said camera housing and co-operable with said spring for locking said rear cover against said camera housing, said abutment member including an abutment surface and a pair of sliding bearings, one of said bearings being slidable through a channel provided in said rear cover into an access space provided in said housing, said other bearing being slidable in a recess provided in said rear cover between first and second positions which define said first and second positions of said abutment member, said spring abutting said abutment surface of said member for urging said abutment member into said first position thereof so as to permit said first bearing to locate in said access space when said rear cover is closed against said housing, said second bearing being slid to its concomitant first position, said access space being defined between said camera housing and a lip depending therefrom into the plane of said rear cover and being contiguous with said connectable end thereof, said lip



52 for one or more electrical cells is connected to viewing window 50. A plurality of cells 53 is removably mounted in a corresponding plurality of recesses 54 provided in cover 51. Recesses 54 are preferably configured to prevent improper insertion of the cells therein. Viewing window 50 is arranged for sliding, for instance, by well-known means, and is urged by an integrally connected spring 55 towards the left for clamping and retaining cells 53 in position. The leftward bias is provided by the angular disposition of spring 55 against abutment 56.

Spring loaded conductors (not shown) may be provided in the camera housing which contact cells 53 when rear cover 51 is closed. The contacts will, therefore, be moved and "cleaned" every time the camera is loaded with film.

Biasing and securing means constructed in accordance with the invention perform reliably and are easy to fabricate. Moreover, if said means wears through use, it may be replaced by mere replacement of the film viewing window to which it is connected. When this means is integrally moulded with the rear cover or camera housing, then replacement requires a new rear cover or housing, as may be the case.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A photographic camera having a housing accommodating the camera objective at the front thereof and with a rear opening cover providing access to the camera housing, said cover being apertured and having a film-viewing window secured in the cover aperture, latching means for releasably locking the cover to the housing in a closed position of the cover, and resilient biasing means formed integrally with the film-viewing window and biasing the latching means to its locking position.

2. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said latching means is a latch which resiliently engages the camera housing in said closed position of the cover.

3. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the latch is slidable in a channel formed in the rear cover, between the open position and the locked position, a fixed abutment for the latch being provided in said camera housing, the latch normally being biased against said abutment in the locked position when the rear cover is in said closed position.

4. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 further including release means operatively associated with said latch for slidably displacing said latch along said channel away from said abutment by application thereto of a pressure which overrides said bias for thereby releasing said connectable end of said rear cover

from said camera housing to permit pivoting said rear cover about an end thereof which is pivotably connected to the camera housing for thereby opening said rear cover for access into the interior of said camera housing.

5. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said abutment includes a lip depending from the camera housing, said lip extending into the plane of the rear cover in the closed position thereof and being contiguous with the connectable end thereof, and an access space being provided between said lip and said housing, said channel provided in said rear cover communicating with said access space in said closed condition of said rear cover, so as to permit said latch to at least partially locate in said access space in response to pressure exerted thereon by said biasing means, the lip abutting said latch in a closed condition of the rear cover.

6. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said fixed abutment comprises a lug mounted on the camera housing at a perpendicular to the rear cover in the closed position thereof, said lug having a recessed undersurface and a tapered nose extending into said undersurface, and said latch includes a cam surface which co-operates with the undersurface of said lug as the rear cover closes against said camera housing.

7. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said biasing means include a spring integrally connected at one of its ends to said viewing window, and said latch comprises a substantially rigid abutment member slidably connected to said rear cover for movement between first and second positions thereon, releasably connected to said camera housing and co-operable with said spring for locking said rear cover against said camera housing, said abutment member including an abutment surface and a pair of sliding bearings, one of said bearings being slidable through a channel provided in said rear cover into an access space provided in said housing, said other bearing being slidable in a recess provided in said rear cover between first and second positions which define said first and second positions of said abutment member, said spring abutting said abutment surface of said member for urging said abutment member into said first position thereof so as to permit said first bearing to locate in said access space when said rear cover is closed against said housing, said second bearing being slid to its concomitant first position, said access space being defined between said camera housing and a lip depending therefrom into the plane of said rear cover and being contiguous with said connectable end thereof, said lip

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abutting said first bearing when said rear cover is closed for maintaining said rear cover closed, said second bearing being movable from its first to second positions by a pressure which overrides the force of said spring on said abutment member for thereby dislocating said first bearing from said access space, whereby said rear cover may be opened.

8. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said biasing means includes a substantially flat leaf spring having a free end and another end integrally connected to said viewing window, said leaf spring lying substantially in the plane of said viewing window and said free end thereof extending into interface between said connectable end of said rear cover and said camera housing, and said latch comprises a lug mounted on said camera housing at a perpendicular to said rear cover in the closed position thereof, said lug having a recessed undersurface and a tapered nose extending into said undersurface, a cam surface provided on said biasing means alignable with said lug for camming thereon into securement on said recessed undersurface of said lug as said rear cover closes against said camera housing, a release knob mounted on said free end of said flat leaf spring extending beyond the releasable joint of said connectable end of said rear cover and camera housing, said biasing means being displaceable by a downward pressure exerted on said release knob, and a displacement channel provided in said rear cover, said biasing means being downwardly displaceable in said channel for securing or releasing it to and from said lug.

9. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said biasing means include an "S"-shaped spring substantially coplanar with said rear cover and having opposed ends, one of said ends being integrally connected to said viewing window, and said latch comprises a lug integrally connected to said other end of said spring and slidably connected to said rear cover said lug including a depending stem and a pair of bifurcations substantially perpendicular thereto, a slot being provided in said rear cover which extends through said connectable end thereof, said lug being slidable in said slot, said slot including a pair of channels, each channel being arranged to receive a bifurcation of said lug, one of said channels communicating with the exterior surface of said rear cover, said first bifurcation slidable in said first channel being observable on the exterior surface of said rear cover relative to said first channel and said second bifurcation being slidable

therein, a strut of said rear cover defining a partition which divides said slot into said respective first and second channels, and a notch provided in said housing which communicates with said second channel for locating said second bifurcation of said lug therein when said rear cover is closed against said camera housing, said spring normally biasing said lug stem against said strut in said rear cover for locating said second bifurcation through said second channel into said notch provided in said housing, said lug being responsive to a pressure exerted on said first bifurcation which overrides the force of said bias for sliding said lug through said slot for thereby dislocating said second bifurcation from said notch so as to disconnect said connectable end of said rear cover from said camera housing for thereby opening said rear cover.

10. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said viewing window is slidably connected to said rear cover, and said biasing means includes a rigid member having an end integrally connected to said viewing window and another end having a stepped shoulder connected thereto which extends beyond said connectable end of said rear cover, a pair of opposed substantially coaxial spring arms connected substantially at a perpendicular to said rigid member, a pair of opposed abutment surfaces located in said rear cover which abut respective spring arms of said biasing means for normally locating said stepped shoulder a predetermined distance beyond said connectable end of said rear cover, said stepped shoulder being slidable in a slot of predetermined length provided in said rear cover wherein said stepped shoulder may be retracted from its normal position beyond said connectable end of said rear cover, and said latch including a lip depending from said camera housing, said lip extending into the plane of said rear cover in a closed condition thereof and being contiguous with said connectable end thereof, and access space between said lip and said housing, said slot provided in said rear cover for said stepped shoulder communicating with said access space in said closed condition of said rear cover so as to permit said stepped shoulder to at least partially locate in said access space in response to pressure exerted thereon by said spring arms, said lip abutting said stepped shoulder in a closed condition of said rear cover, and a slidable release member connected respectively to said viewing window and rigid member which is slidable in a recess provided in the exterior surface of said rear cover, said stepped shoulder being responsive to a sliding pressure exerted on said release member



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which exceeds the force of said bias so as to retract said stepped shoulder from said lip for thereby disconnecting said connectable end of said rear cover from said camera housing so as to permit said rear cover to be opened.

11. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said biasing means includes a pair of substantially parallel, coplanar spring arms integrally connected to said viewing window, each spring arm terminating in a lug provided with an abutment surface substantially perpendicular to its said respective spring arm, said lugs being located exteriorly of said rear cover and being slidable along their abutment surfaces thereon, and said latch comprises a pair of hook members located within said rear cover in proximity to said connectable end thereof, each hook member being connected to a respective spring arm at a perpendicular and said hook members being substantially parallel, a pair of slots provided in said rear cover of predetermined length so as to permit a predetermined displacement of said lugs on said rear cover in response to a pressure thereon which exceeds the force of said biasing spring arms, a pair of recesses located in said camera housing arranged to receive respective hooked ends of said hook members when said rear cover is closed against said camera housing, said hooked ends of said respective hook members being dislocatable from said respective recesses therefore by equal and opposite sliding pressures exerted respectively and simultaneously upon said lugs so as to disconnect said connectable end of said rear cover from said camera housing for thereby opening said rear cover.

12. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said biasing means further includes a leaf spring integrally connected to said viewing window and extending towards an end of said rear cover which is pivotably connected to said camera housing, said leaf spring having a raised portion for locating an electric cell thereunder and biasing said battery into securement with said rear cover.

13. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 1 including means adapted to bias and secure an electric cell against said rear cover.

14. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said cell biasing means is in the form of a leaf spring integrally connected to said viewing window and extending towards an end of said rear cover which is pivotably connected to said camera housing, said leaf spring having a raised portion for locating an electric cell thereunder.

15. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 13 or Claim 14 wherein said viewing window is slidably mounted in said rear cover to permit a cell secured by said biasing means to be removed.

16. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 13 or Claim 14 wherein said film viewing window is releasably connected to said rear cover, said releasable connection comprising a resilient tongue integrally connected to said viewing window and extending in the plane thereof, said tongue having a hooked end locatable behind a fixed shoulder provided in said rear cover.

17. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 15 including release means mounted on said tongue actuable by pressure exerted thereon for deforming said hooked end and dislocating it from securement with said fixed shoulder.

18. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 17 wherein said cell biasing means is integrally connected to said tongue, and secures the cell to said rear cover when the hooked end of said tongue is located behind said fixed shoulder, the cell being released by said biasing means when said tongue is removed from said fixed shoulder.

19. A photographic camera as claimed in Claim 1, having a body and opening cover substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 and 1a; Figures 2 and 2a; Figures 3, 3a, 3b and 3c; Figures 4 and 4a; or as described in any of the foregoing together with Figures 5 and 5a or Figure 6 or Figure 7; or Figure 8 of the accompanying drawings.

SWANN, ELT & CO.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
31, Beaumont Street,
Oxford, OX1 2NP.

and
P.O. Box 202,
148, Holborn,
London, EC1P 1JD.
Agents for the Applicants.