

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) LID CATCH FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

(71) We, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, a Company organized under the Laws of the State of New Jersey, United States of America of 343 State Street, Rochester, New York 14650, United States of America 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:—

The present invention relates to a lid catch for photographic equipment, in particular, photographic and cinematographic cameras.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided photographic equipment having a housing and a hinged flexible lid therefor, wherein the axis of the hinge is movable and a catch for securing the lid in a closed condition is rendered inoperative by manually effected consecutive movements of the lid in two angularly displaced directions.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the back of a photographic camera, partly in section, having a lid catch according to one form of the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a modified lid catch in accordance with the present invention.

Referring now to Fig. 1, the housing 1 of a photographic camera is provided with a lid for closing a cartridge receiving compartment within the housing. A rib 1a is provided within the housing to form a seating for the lid 2 in the closed position. The rib 1a is formed with a step 1b having a shoulder 1c and a projection 1d along both longitudinal sides.

The lid 2 is preferably made of a flexible plastics material and at one end 2a has a lip 2b which, when the lid is closed, engages in a groove 5 in the housing. As

illustrated, the lip 2b is hook-shaped in cross-section and the groove 5 is complementary in shape thereto. The other end of the lid 2 is connected by means of a hinge 2f to a tongue 2c which is disposed in a recess 3 in the housing and terminates in a pair of pivots 2d seated in holes 4 in the side walls of the housing. As shown, the lid 2 and tongue 2c may be moulded integrally and the hinge 2f formed by reducing the thickness of the junction of the lid and tongue. A pair of grooves 2e are formed in the underneath surface 2k of the lid 2 and are located so that they receive the projections 1d when the lid is closed. The outer surface of the lid 2 is provided with a mark 2g to indicate a pressure point and with an arrow 2h to indicate the direction in which the lid must be slid before it can be opened.

When the lid 2 is in its closed position, the lip 2b is retained in the groove 5 due to the flexing of the lid about the shoulders 1c, longitudinal movement of the lid being blocked by the engagement of the projection 1d in the grooves 2e and the engagement of the hook-shaped end of the lip 2b in the groove 5.

In order to open the lid 2, the operator applies pressure to the mark 2g so that lip 2b is disengaged from the groove 5, the lid being further flexed about the shoulder 1c so that the grooves 2e are also disengaged from the projections 1d. The lid 2 may now be slid longitudinally in the direction of the arrow A so that the lip 2b is clear of the groove 5. This longitudinal movement of the lid 2 is made possible by the pivotal mounting of the remote end of the tongue 2c. Upon releasing the pressure applied to the mark 2g, the lid is able to flex towards its open position and may then be turned about its hinge 2f to the fully open position.

In Figure 2 there is shown a modified

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structure in which the projections 1*d* and grooves 2*e* are replaced by a pair of projections 1*e* adjacent to the steps 1*b*. These projections 1*e* cause the lid to assume a slight curvature in the closed position so as to maintain the engagement between the lip 2*b* and groove 5. They also serve to ensure the partial opening of the lid upon disengagement of the lip 2*b* from the groove 5 and longitudinal movement of the lid.

In both embodiments, a window 2*i* is provided in the lid 2 for viewing the film frame members of an inserted cartridge.

15 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Photographic equipment having a housing and a hinged flexible lid therefor, wherein the axis of the hinge is movable and a catch for securing the lid in a closed condition is rendered inoperative by manually effected consecutive movements of the lid in two angularly displaced directions.

2. Photographic equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the catch comprises a hook-shaped lip at one end of the lid and a complementary shaped groove in the housing.

3. Photographic equipment according to Claim 2, wherein the other end of the lid is hingedly connected to a tongue which is pivotally mounted in a recess in the housing.

4. Photographic equipment according to

Claim 3, wherein in the closed position, the lid rests on a rib in the housing having a projection which is received in a groove in the underneath surface of the lid.

5. Photographic equipment according to Claim 4, wherein the rib has a lower step on to which the lid is pressed during opening, subsequent sliding movement of the lid removing the lip from the groove in the housing.

6. Photographic equipment according to Claim 5, wherein the sliding movement of the lid over the projection, during the opening movement, flexes the lid so that the lid, upon releasing the pressure applied thereto, springs to a partially opened position.

7. Photographic equipment according to Claim 3, wherein in the closed position, the lid rests on a projection on the housing thereby acquiring a tensioned curvature which brings about the automatic opening of the lid upon releasing the lip from the groove.

8. Photographic equipment according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the lid, tongue and hinge are formed integrally of a plastics material.

9. Photographic equipment having a lid for closing a housing, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawing.

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