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Davis

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(54) **BOX CUTTER WITH DEFLECTABLE SAFETY SHIELD**

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(58) **Field of Search** **30/2, 151, 162, 30/286, 295, 293, 294, 335**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A deflectable safety shield extends transversely across a cutting plane in a protective guard position completely overlying the cutting edge of a utility knife. A portion of the shield extends over-center with respect to the cutting edge, thereby tending to hold the shield in the guard position in response to contact of the shield against the operator at the normal angle of engagement during follow-through that accompanies rapid slicing hand movements. The shield is resiliently biased for movement to the guard position by a torsion spring. An outwardly-turned flange portion of the shield provides an angularly offset leverage point for reacting the torsion spring when the operator desires to perform a cutting operation. The shield swings away from the cutting plane automatically in response to pressure engagement of the offset flange portion against the box surface, thus exposing the cutting edge.

19 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

