SHOCK ABSORBING COSMETIC COMPACT

BACKGROUND

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a cosmetic compact comprising a shock absorbing member to protect against damage from shocks.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Hinged cosmetic containers such as cosmetic compacts are commonly used to hold various cosmetics or make-up including face powder, blush, eye shadow, lip color, and the like. Indeed, virtually every type of make-up can be provided in a form suitable for being contained in a cosmetic compact. Cosmetic compacts allow one or more cosmetics in quantities sufficient for multiple applications to be conveniently stored and/or transported, particularly in receptacles such as cosmetic carriers, handbags or purses, for access and use on demand. Accordingly, cosmetic compacts are very prevalent and highly popular.

[0003] Conventional cosmetic compacts typically include a housing a lid pivotally mounted to a base for movement between closed and open positions, and one or more cosmetics contained in the interior of the base. The housings of conventional cosmetic compacts are ordinarily made of substantially rigid or brittle materials, such as plastics and/or metals. Since it is not unusual for cosmetic compacts to be subjected to shocks, such as impacts, vibrations or jarring forces, during use, storage and/or transport, the contents thereof often sustain irreparable damage. The cosmetics within the housings may crack, fracture, chip or crumble. Cosmetics may leak out of damaged housings, and damaged cosmetics may leak out of even intact housings. Damaged cosmetic compacts, therefore, are usually disposed of by their users prematurely, thus resulting in economic loss.

[0004] A cosmetic compact having a flexible housing made of a plastic or rubber elastomeric foam to protect against damage from shocks has been proposed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,992 to Skarne. A significant drawback to the proposed cosmetic compact is that the flexible housing must rely for dimensional stability upon a dimensionally sturdy mirror and a dimensionally sturdy cosmetic compartment or tray disposed in the lid and base, respectively, of the housing. The dimensional instability of the housing when the mirror and/or the cosmetic compartment are not installed therein renders the compact unsuitable for use when some of the contents are removed.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 5,135,012 to Kamen et al discloses a cosmetic compact in which the lid and base of the housing are flexible due to being made of a piece of thermoplastic material of nominal thickness. The nominal thickness of the lid and base reduces the structural strength of the housing and provides little protection for the contents against damage from shocks.

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 5,682,910 to Kizawa et al discloses a compact having a soft area along a front wall thereof to define a push button for releasing hooks used to maintain the compact in a closed position. The location and design of the soft area make it ineffective for shock absorption.

[0007] From the foregoing, it can be seen that a need exists for cosmetic compacts which are better protected to absorb shocks.

SUMMARY

[0008] Accordingly, it is a primary object of the present disclosure to provide a cosmetic compact having a shock absorbing member.

[0009] Accordingly, the present disclosure is directed to means for dampening shocks, impacts and vibration transmitted from a base of a cosmetic compact to at least one cosmetic pan supported within the cosmetic compact. The at least one cosmetic pan is adapted to contain solid or semi-solid cosmetic, e.g., a pressed powder, which is susceptible to damage in the form of cracking or crumbling, or in the worst case, release from the pan. The shock absorbing means minimizes or eliminates damage to the cosmetic product caused by external shock, impact or vibration.

[0010] According to an embodiment of the present disclosure, there is provided a cosmetic compact comprising a lid and a base assembly. The base assembly comprising a base, a frame, a shock absorbing member, and at least one cosmetic pan.

[0011] According to an aspect of the present disclosure, the lid can be coupled to the base and configured to operate between a closed position and an open position. The lid covers the base to avoid exposing the cosmetic in the at least one cosmetic pan to accidental contact and preventing use. In the open position, the lid can be configured to expose the at least one cosmetic pan in the base for use.

[0012] According to yet another aspect of the present disclosure, the lid overlies the base to define an interior compartment and is pivotally mounted on the base. Together the base and the lid define a compact casing. The lid has opposed lateral side walls and a front wall which extend generally perpendicular from a top wall of the lid. The front wall of the lid has an extended portion which fits in the recessed portion when the lid is pivoted downward towards the base to close the cosmetic compact.

[0013] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, the base has opposed lateral side walls, a front wall and a rear wall. The front wall of the base has a recessed portion.

[0014] The top wall of the lid has an interior surface which may comprise a mirror (not shown), such as a mirror that is laminated to the interior surface or the interior surface may itself be a mirror.

[0015] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a recess and a tab are provided, respectively, on the extended portion of the base and in the recessed portion of the lid, and cooperate to releasably maintain the cosmetic compact in the closed position when the lid is pivoted to close the cosmetic compact with extended portion engaging recessed portion of the base. Any suitable closure system known in the art, however, may be used.

[0016] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, the frame is coupled to the base and is configured to restrain the at least one cosmetic pan. The frame and the at least one cosmetic pan are disposed inside the base. The base includes a groove that couples to a projection of the frame to help stabilize the frame and prevent movement of the frame within the base. In alternate embodiments of the present disclosure, the frame may be coupled to the base by any other coupling means known in the art.

[0017] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, the shock absorbing member is disposed within the base. The shock absorbing member is coupled to the base and is coupled to the at least one cosmetic pan such that some mechanical shock imparted on the cosmetic compact