

April 18, 1939.

G. J. HOWE

2,155,014

KEY HOLDER

Filed Dec. 8, 1937

Fig. 1.

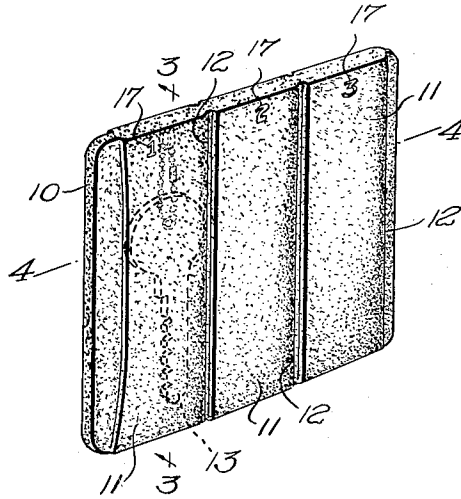


Fig. 2.

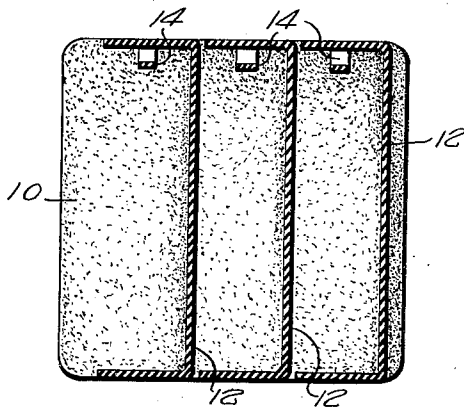


Fig. 3.

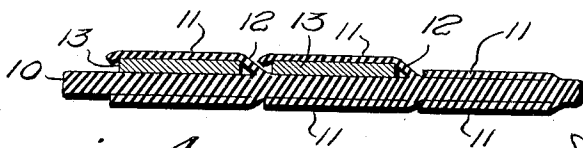
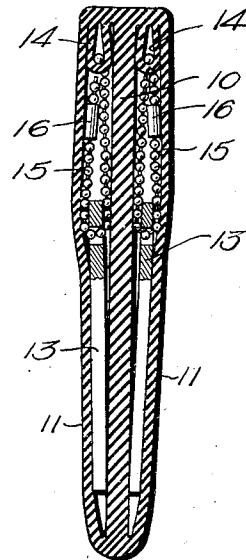


Fig. 4.

Inventor
GEORGE J. HOWE

C. H. Parker
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,155,014

KEY HOLDER

George J. Howe, Grove City, Pa.

Application December 8, 1937, Serial No. 178,807

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—40)

This invention relates to key holders, and more particularly to a holder adapted to contain a plurality of keys and formed of a shape and size which permits it to be readily slipped into the pocket.

There are a number of types of key holders being manufactured and sold, most of which are formed of leather and are provided with hooks or similar members adapted to be secured to the individual keys. Such holders are disadvantageous for a number of reasons. For example, all of the keys are contained in the same compartment, thus making it more difficult to select the proper key, and it frequently occurs that the keys become entangled with each other. Moreover, these devices are commonly made of leather and after a relatively short period of use, the leather loses its elasticity and becomes so soft as to render the use of the holder quite difficult.

An important object of the present invention is to provide a novel key holder formed of rubber or other similar elastic material which retains its original form and condition over long periods of time.

A further object is to provide a device of the character referred to wherein the keys are adapted to be placed in separate pockets, thus facilitating the withdrawal of any single key.

A further object is to provide a key holder formed of elastic material such as rubber and provided with a series of pockets which tend to remain snugly in closed position, thus frictionally engaging the keys and maintaining them in position in the pockets without the necessity for providing fastening means of any kind in the pockets.

A further object is to provide a key holder of the type referred to formed of a relatively heavy rubber or similar body portion and one or more thinner and more highly flexible rubber strips secured to the body and defining in conjunction therewith pockets for receiving the keys, the more highly flexible strips being adapted to be readily pulled outwardly to provide access to the keys.

A further object is to provide in a device of the character referred to a series of elastic pockets arranged with respect to each other so as to permit free access to the individual pockets and numbered so as to permit the user to readily locate the key which he desires to use.

A further object is to eliminate the entangling of the keys with supporting hooks or similar devices, thus rendering each key readily removable from its pocket, and holding the keys in

proper separated relation to minimize the thickness of the holder whereby it may be more readily carried in the pocket.

A further object is to provide a rubber or similar relatively heavy elastic body provided on opposite sides thereof with elastic strips or the like to form pockets, the relatively heavy body having each side thereof cooperating with the adjacent strips to form the pockets referred to.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description.

In the drawing I have shown one embodiment of the invention. In this showing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device,

Figure 2 is a face view of the device showing the pockets at one side of the device in section,

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view on line 3—3 of Figure 1, and,

Figure 4 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view on line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 10 designates the body of the device which is preferably formed of relatively heavy flexible rubber, the body preferably being substantially rectangular in shape as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Each side of the body is provided with a plurality of highly flexible rubber strips 11, which are substantially thinner than the body 10 to provide a relatively high degree of elasticity. These strips are arranged substantially in edge to edge relation as shown in Figure 1 and each cooperates with the adjacent face of the body 10 to form a pocket for receiving the key in a manner to be described.

Each strip 11 may be secured only at its upper and lower ends to the body 10 and may be initially molded integral with the body or may be vulcanized thereto to form an integral construction. Each strip 11, however, preferably has one vertical edge portion 12 molded integral with or vulcanized to the body 10, whereby each strip 11 forms a pocket which is open only at one vertical edge. It will be apparent that the body 10 has opposite faces thereof cooperating with the opposite strips 11 to form the key receiving pockets.

As shown in the drawing, each pocket is adapted to receive a key 13. Since the strips 11 normally lie flat against the adjacent faces of the body 10, the insertion of a key 13 in one of the pockets stretches the associated strip 11 sufficiently to cause the inner surfaces of the strip to frictionally engage the key and hold it in the

pocket in the absence of any other holding means.

If it is desired to fasten the keys with respect to the holder to eliminate completely detaching the keys therefrom, each pocket may be provided with a loop 14 arranged therein as shown in Figure 3. Each loop may be molded integral with or vulcanized to the holder and is adapted to receive a chain 15, preferably in the form of a conventional ball chain having a socket member 16 for securing the ends of the chain to each other.

The pockets may be provided with suitable indicia 17, such as the numbers shown in Figure 1, whereby the individual key pockets may be identified. The indicia may be raised to permit them to be read by day and to permit them to be identified by the sense of feel at night.

The operation of the device will be apparent from the foregoing description. Each key may be entirely free of positive connection with the holder and held in frictional engagement with the inner surfaces of its pocket. This frictional engagement prevents accidental loss of the key from the pocket, but the nature of the holder permits the key to be readily removed when desired. Removal of the key is effected merely by slipping one finger under the free edge of the pocket strip 11, pulling outwardly thereon, and then engaging the key with the finger and removing it from the pocket.

As previously stated, attaching means may be employed for preventing complete disconnection of the keys from the holder. Since the keys are arranged in individual pockets, it will be apparent that the keys and chains of the different pockets cannot become entangled with each other. Moreover, since each key will remain in the position in which it is placed in its associated pocket due to the frictional engagement of the surface of the pocket with the key, it is impossible for any key to become entangled with its chain 15.

The indicia 17 permits identification of the key contained in each pocket, either by day or night, whereby the user is readily permitted to withdraw the proper key. The indicia may be molded directly onto the strips 11 if desired, but it will be apparent that any other suitable form of indicia may be used.

The body portion 10 is not sufficiently thick to

render the device excessively thick but is sufficiently thick to maintain the normal shape of the device to facilitate its being placed in and removed from the pocket. In the form of the device illustrated, six keys may be held in a container of relatively small size. It will be apparent that any number of key pockets may be provided, as desired. It also will be apparent that the device is adapted to be manufactured without the use of metal, or of any other material except rubber or similar elastic material, thus greatly simplifying the device and permitting it to be economically manufactured.

It is to be understood that the form of the invention herewith shown and described may be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

I claim:

1. A key holder comprising a relatively thick elastic body and a relatively thin elastic closure element formed integral with each other at spaced edge portions of said elastic element whereby said element forms with said body a key receiving pocket, said elastic element having one edge free of said body to permit it to be pulled away from said body whereby a key may be inserted into and removed from said pocket, and an elastic key securing loop arranged in said pocket and formed integral with said body and said elastic element.

2. A key holder comprising a relatively thick elastic body, a plurality of relatively thin elastic elements arranged approximately in edge to edge relation against each face of said body, each elastic member being formed integral with said body and secured thereto along at least two spaced edges and cooperating with the adjacent face of said body to form a key receiving pocket, a free edge of each elastic element being adapted to be pulled outwardly away from said body whereby a key may be inserted into and removed from the associated pocket and an elastic key securing loop arranged in each pocket and formed integral with said body and with the associated elastic element.

GEORGE J. HOWE.