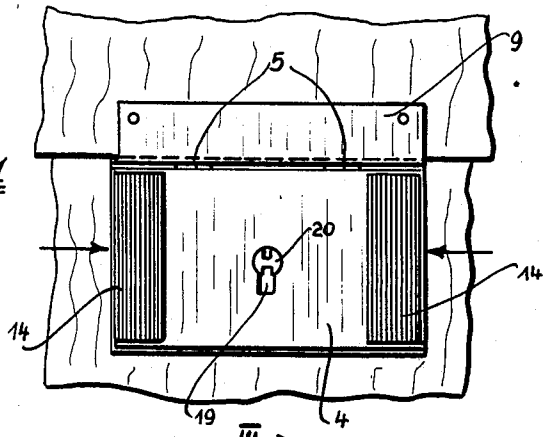
Oct. 6, 1959 A. DUTTINE 2,907,196

LOCKING DEVICE FOR BRIEF CASES

Filed June 3, 1957

Fig. 1



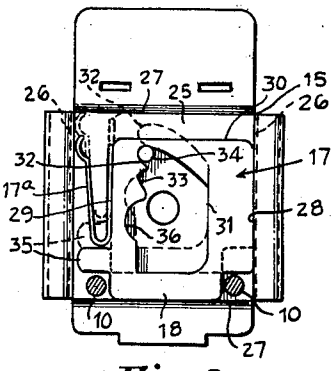




Fig. 5

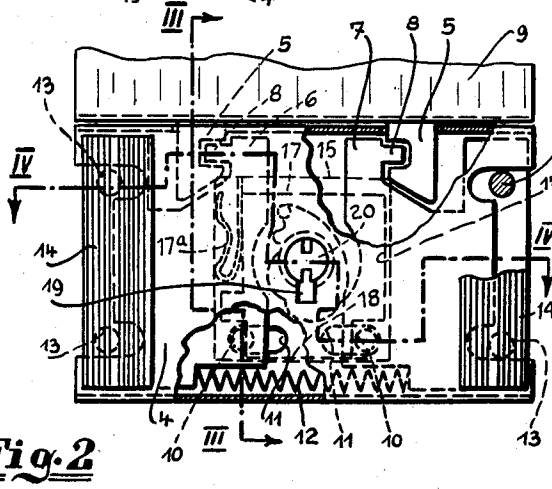



Fig. 2

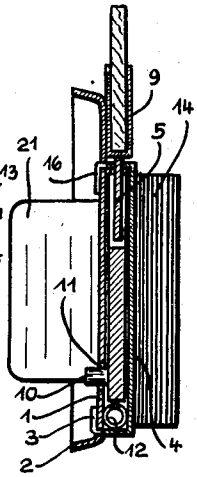



Fig. 3

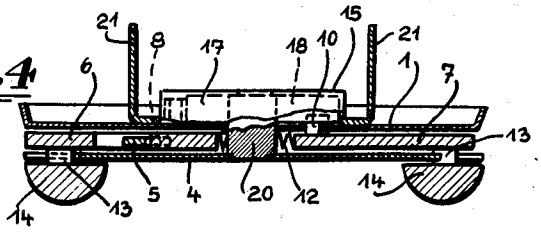



Fig. 4

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# LOCKING DEVICE FOR BRIEF CASES

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Application June 3, 1957, Serial No. 663,024

3 Claims. (Cl. 70—67)

This invention relates to latching and locking means for holding the flap of a briefcase or cover of a valise to the body of the piece of luggage in whatever form it may be.

According to the present invention the flap or cover of the briefcase or the like is provided with a pair of hook-shaped keeper elements mounted a fixed distance apart and intended to cooperate with a pair of latch members which are normally spring urged to their outward latching or holding position. These latch elements may be manually compressed or moved toward each other simultaneously to effect the release of the keeper elements from the latch members, thereby to open the briefcase when desired. The keeper elements are actuated together against the force of a spring by external finger engaging grips to release the keepers from the hook-shaped latches.

The outwardly urged keeper elements may be locked in their outward position so that the exposed finger elements are ineffective by means of a conventional form of locking mechanism utilizing a key.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the locking device in closed position;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the locking mechanism with the cover plate partly removed;

Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional views taken on lines III—III and IV—IV, respectively, in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an outer plan view of the lock casing.

The base plate **1** is provided at its edges with an offset rim **2**, and supports, by means of lugs **3**, a bridge-shaped housing **4**. This housing has slots or holes cut out in its upper flange to admit keepers **5** of the upper or flap portion **9** of the piece of luggage.

Within the housing comprising base plate **1** and front bridge plate **4** move two symmetrically arranged latch elements or slide followers **6**, **7** which have lugs **8** to catch and hold keepers **5** of the upper or flap portion **9** of the lock. The slidable followers **6**, **7** are fitted near the bottom of their underside with studs **10** which pass through slots **11** of base plate **1**. These limit the travel of slidable followers or latch elements **6**, **7** which are held spread apart by a spring **12** between them, and, in this position, the lugs **8** engage keepers **5**.

Near their outer edges the slidable followers **6**, **7** have mounted on them by means of dowels **13** finger manipulating grips **14**. Cover plate **4** is cut away at its side edges to conform to the travel of dowels **13**. In this way slidable followers or latches **6**, **7** can be individually moved toward each other, but the two keepers **5** will only be disengaged to permit the lock to open when both slides or latches are moved toward each other.

On its underside base plate **1** has mounted a lock casing **15** which is held by lugs **16** fastened to housing **4** and which contains a latch member **17** which is provided with a nose **18** which may be pushed between the two guide studs **10** of latches **6**, **7** when they are in an extended position.



As is more clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5, and particularly the latter, the lock casing **15** comprises an inset housing having a bottom wall **25**, opposed side walls **26**, of which the later referred to anchoring ribs **21** are continuations, and opposite side walls **27**.

The latch member **17** is of generally rectangular form and has opposite edges **28** and **29** and a further edge **30** opposed to the nose **18**. The latch member is slidable within the housing in contact with the bottom wall **25** and is adapted to assume two alternate positions, in one of which the edge of nose **18** engages a wall **27** and in an alternate position thereof the edge **30** engages the opposite wall **27**.

The lacth member **17** is provided with an opening **31** and one side edge of such opening is provided with a pair of recesses **32** and **33** for alternate reception of a pin **34** which is rigid with and projects upwardly from the bottom wall **25**.

The edge **28** of the latch member is yieldably held in engagement with the wall **26** by means of a leaf spring **17a** of elongated U-form with opposed legs thereof engaging a wall **26** and the edge **29** of the latch member **17** and the bight of the spring seats on a lug **35** unitary with the latch member **17**; said edge of the opening **31** is further provided with a key engageable arcuate cam edge portion **36** and upon turning of the key the latch member **17** is alternately moved from the solid line position to the dotted line position, in the latter of which pin **34** is disposed within the recess **33**.

From the above, it will be apparent that when the latch member **17** is in the solid line position, the studs **10** cannot be moved toward each other sufficiently to release the lugs **8** of the followers **6** and **7** from the keepers **5** and accordingly the flap or cover of the briefcase is locked.

Upon key actuation of the latch member **17** to the dotted line position, the studs **10** are free to move toward each other and the lugs **8** may be released from engagement with the keepers **5** whereby the briefcase is unlocked.

It is to be particularly observed that the pin **34** snaps into the recesses **33** and **34** under action of spring **17a** and thereby retains the latch member **17** in either of its two positions.

Parts **4**, **1** and **15** are provided with matching key hole slots **19** to accommodate a latch tumbler **20**. Latch member **17** can be movably positioned in the manner set out above by a key insertable into tumbler **20**. The lock casing **15** also has mounted on it the anchoring ribs **21**.

I claim:

1. A locking device for securing the cover of luggage to the body thereof, comprising, a housing including a rectangular base plate having an inwardly directed rim, said base plate being provided with a pair of spaced slots and a lock tumbler opening intermediate the slots, a front bridge plate secured to said base plate in spaced parallel relation thereto, a pair of followers slidably disposed between said base plate and said bridge plate, one adjacent end thereof, a finger manipulating grip member on each of said followers accessible from the front of said bridge plate, said followers each being provided with an inwardly projecting stud, adjacent the inner end thereof, said bridge plate including an upper flange having a pair of longitudinally spaced slots therein, and a pair of slots in said base plate through which said follower studs extend, a cover engageable member having recessed keepers extending through said pair of slots in said flange,

lugs on said followers engageable with said keepers when same are in outward slidable position, a latch casing secured to the inner wall of said base plate and being provided with a generally rectangular latch plate member slidably disposed therein, and said latch plate member having a lock tumbler engaging cam surface for movement thereof in said casing, and said latch plate member having a nose adapted for disposal between said follower studs for retaining said lugs and keepers in engagement and for disposal out of range of the follower studs for disengagement of said lugs and keepers.

2. A locking device according to claim 1, wherein said latch casing is of rectangular form and having an inset having defined by a bottom wall and opposed side walls, said latch plate member being slidably disposed within said housing with one edge thereof normally engaging one of said side walls, spring means in said housing between a side wall thereof and an opposed edge of said latch



member for yieldably retaining the latch member in either of said two positions thereof relative to said follower studs.

3. A locking device according to claim 2 wherein a pin rigid with said bottom wall projects outwardly therefrom, and a pair of recesses in the wall of said opening in said latch member selectively receiving said pin in either of the two positions of the latch member for retaining same in either position.

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