June 11, 1940. B. A. LEUE 2,203,830

KEY CASE

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Fig. 1.

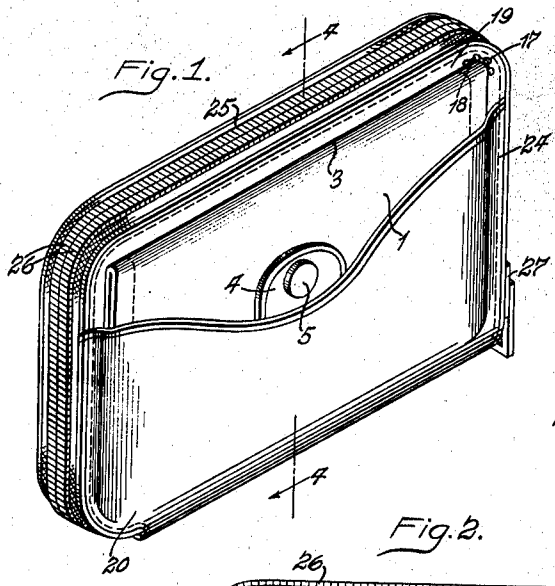


Fig. 3.

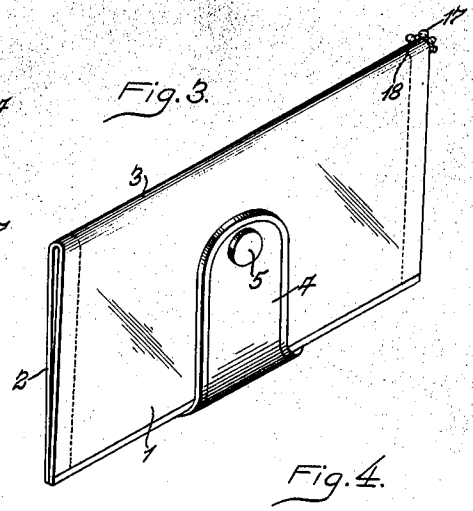


Fig. 2.

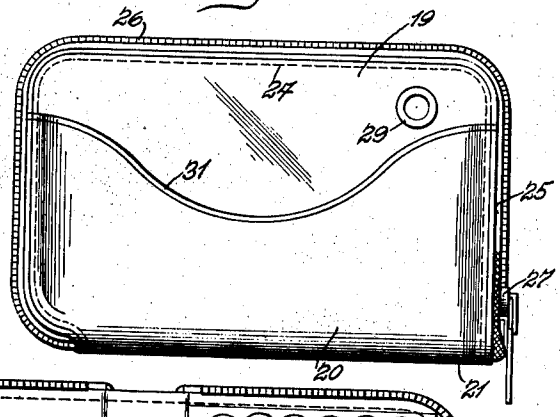


Fig. 4.

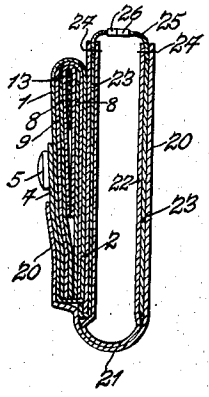
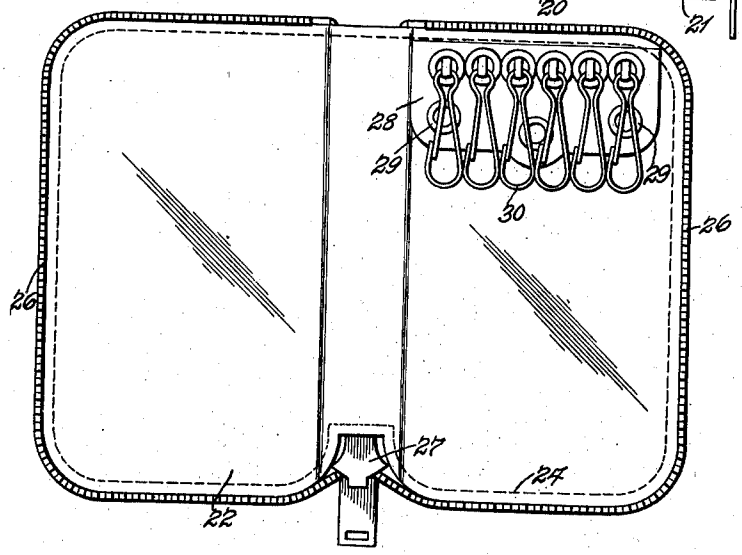


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

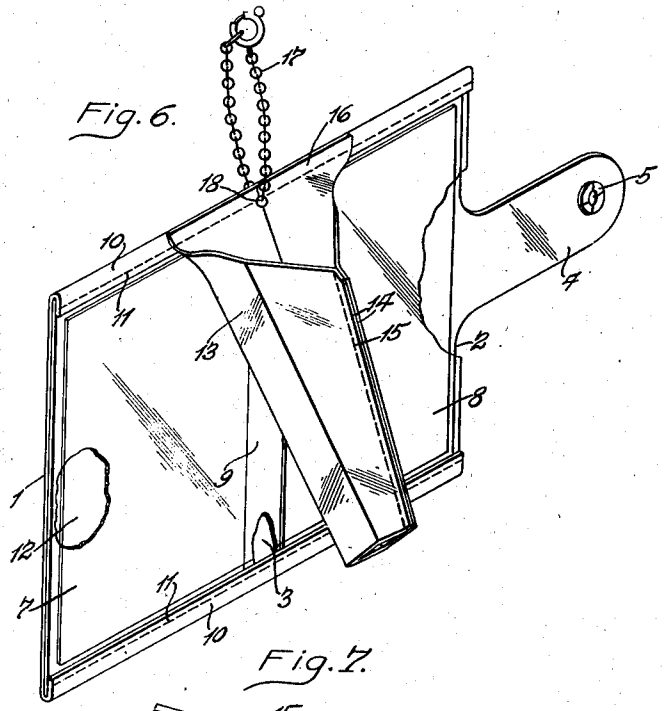


Fig. 7.

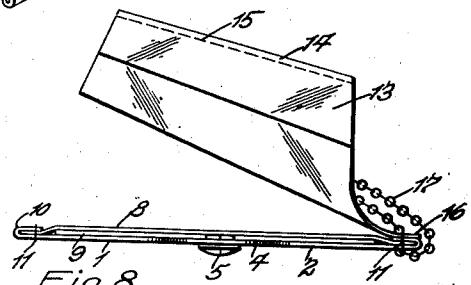


Fig. 8.

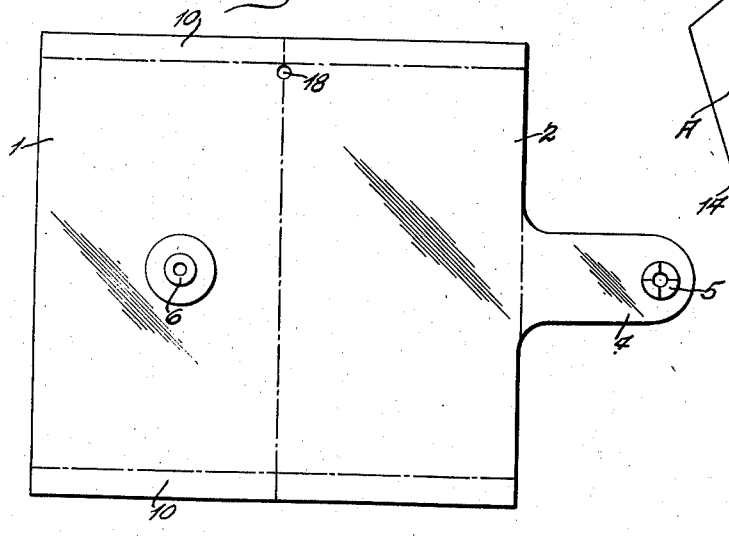
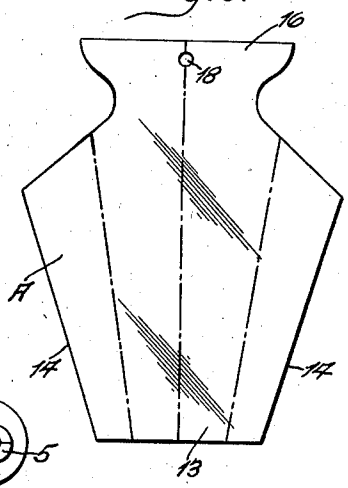


Fig. 9.



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Patented June 11, 1940 2,203,830

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,203,830

KEY CASE

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Application February 4, 1939, Serial No. 254,579

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—35)

This invention relates to key cases; and has special reference to a key case having therein a pocket open at at least one end for receiving a key or the like, and flexible means in connection with the key case for engaging and holding the key and permitting easy insertion of the key into and withdrawal of the same from the pocket.

Objects of the invention are to provide an improved key case comprising two walls connected together by a flexible hinge or the like and permitting the walls to be moved from closed position to open position; a pocket within and attached to one end of the key case and open toward its attached end to receive and permit withdrawal of a key; means attached to the key case for engaging and holding a key in connection therewith and for supporting the case when the key is within the lock for which it is intended; to provide transparent stiffening walls attached to the inner sides of the respective walls of the key case and having their adjacent edges separated by a longitudinal space along which the connected walls of the key case may operate when the key case is opened or closed, and also cooperating with the walls of the key case to form a holder or frame for an automobile registration certificate or driver's license, or the like.

Another object of the invention is to provide a main key case or receptacle including a wall having a stiffening member attached to the inner side thereof and a wall attached to the outer side of said first named wall and cooperating therewith to form a pocket adapted to receive and partially enclose an auxiliary or supplemental key case and to retain the same closed.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved key case that may be opened and closed, in combination with a pocket having one end flexibly attached to the inside of one end thereof and adapted to receive the ignition key of an automobile or the like, and having its attached end open, and means for engaging and holding said adjacent key or the like in connection with the key case and permitting the same to be easily inserted into and withdrawn from said pocket, and functioning to support the key case when the ignition key or the like is within the lock for which it is intended.

Other objects will appear from the following description, reference being made to the annexed drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a key case device made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the main key case having a pocket for receiving an auxiliary or supplemantal key case.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the auxiliary or supplemental key case detached from the main key case.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an inside plan view of the main key case.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the auxiliary or supplemental key case and the pocket therein.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the auxiliary or supplemental key case.

Fig. 8 is an open outside plan view of the same.

Fig. 9 is a plan view of the blank from which the pocket that is in connection with the auxiliary or supplemental key case is formed.

The auxiliary or supplemental key case comprises a wall 1 and a wall 2 made of leather or other appropriate material. These walls are of approximately uniform dimensions and are integrally or otherwise connected along one longitudinal edge of each wall by a flexible portion or hinge 3 which permits the walls to be closed as shown in Fig. 3, or opened as shown in Fig. 6. One of these walls, in this instance the wall 2, has in permanent connection with the edge thereof that is opposite from the hinge 3 an extended tab 4 equipped with a snap or glove fastener element 5 so that, when the key case is closed and the tab 4 is placed against the outer side of the wall 1, the fastener element 5 may be engaged with a cooperating fastener element 6 permanently attached to said wall 1.

Transparent stiffening walls 7 and 8 are attached to the inner side of the respective walls 1 and 2 of the key case and have their adjacent edges separated by a longitudinal space 9 (Fig. 6) along which the flexible portion or hinge 3 may operate when the key case is opened or closed. These transparent walls are preferably of resilient material, such as celluloid or isinglass, or other substance possessing the characteristics of transparency and resiliency, so that, when they are bent, they will normally resume their original straight or flat condition when permitted to do so. The ends of the walls 7 and 8 are enclosed by folded margins 10 of the outer walls, and are secured thereto by transverse lines of stitches 11 passing through said outer walls and through the walls 7 and 8 and the folded margins 10. This prevents relative sliding movements of any of the walls of this key case. The intermediate portions of the walls 7 and 8 are unattached

to the walls 1 and 2 and cooperate therewith to form a holder or frame adapted to receive and retain an automobile registration certificate, driver's license, or other device 12. As shown, the device 12, which may be a registration certificate, or driver's license, or the like, extends almost the full length and full width of the auxiliary or supplemental key case and across the hinged space, and is flexible, so as not to interfere with the opening and closing of the case. The device 12 may be slipped into position between the outer walls 1 and 2 and the inner walls 7 and 8 from either side edge of the key case; and, in like manner, may be withdrawn therefrom. Cards or the like may also be slipped into the key case, if desired, between the device 12 and the outer walls 1 and 2, and retained therein so long as they do not interfere with the facility of opening and closing the key case.

A pocket 13 has one end open and attached to one end of the key case at the inner side thereof. This pocket may be made from a tapered blank A (Fig. 9) having its tapered edges 14 attached by a longitudinal row of stitches 15. The blank includes a relatively wide extended flexible tab 16 attached to one end of the key case by the longitudinal line of stitches 11. This tab 16 extends entirely across the flexible hinge portion 3 and the space 9 and substantially along each of the walls 1 and 2 so that, when said walls 1 and 2 are closed, the pocket 13 will be closed; and, when said walls are spread apart to open position, the pocket 13 will be opened, thereby permitting easy insertion of the key into the pocket and withdrawal of the same therefrom.

A flexible attaching device 17 in the form of a chain or the like may be extended through a hole 18 formed through the tab 16, the hinge portion 3 and the folded margin 10 to which the tab is secured and connected in the form of a loop to engage and hold a key in connection with the key case. The walls of the pocket 13 containing the key when the key case is closed prevent the key from marring the surfaces of the flexible walls 7 and 8, and hold the key in proper position within the key case. When the key case is open and the key is removed from the pocket 13, said pocket may be again closed and secured in closed position by attaching the tab 4 as described. When the key is inserted in the lock for which it is intended, it will support the key case in closed adjustment; and, since the key case is composed of leather or the like, it will not rattle or deface the surface of the instrument panel, or other adjacent parts.

The main key case, which also performs the function of partially enclosing and supporting the auxiliary or supplemental key case already described comprises an outer side wall member 19, a cooperating side wall member 20 forming the outer portion of the cooperating wall of the key case and provided with a flexible hinge or bendable portion 21 whereby the two walls of the main key case may be swung toward and from each other to close the key case as shown in Fig. 1, or open the same as shown in Fig. 5. A lining 22 is provided for the key case, and stiffening panels 23 are confined between this lining and the walls 19 and 20, respectively, and have their adjacent edges separated along the flexible hinge portion 21. Lines of stitches 24 attach the margin of the lining 22 to the walls 19 and 20 and to the flexible hinge portion 21, and also attach to the edges of the walls of the key case the flexible strips 25 having engageable and releasable fasteners 26 controlled by a slide 27. These fasteners 26 extend from one end of the flexible hinge 21 to the opposite end thereof along the edges of the two walls.

A stiffener plate 28 is attached to the inner side of one end of the wall 19 and its lining by fasteners 29. This stiffener plate 28 extends approximately the width of the wall 19 and supports a number of pivoted key hooks 30, each of which is designed and adapted to be engaged with one or more keys.

The edge 31 of that portion of the wall 20 that covers the wall 19 terminates in an ornamental fashion substantially below the upper or free edge of the wall 19, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This overlapping portion of the wall 20 cooperates with the wall 19 to form a pocket that is designed and adapted to receive the auxiliary key case first herein described. This auxiliary key case is intended to be inserted in this pocket in the manner shown in Fig. 4, in which the free edge of the walls 1 and 2 are confined within the pocket, so that this pocket functions to support the auxiliary key case and to cooperate with the tab 4 to hold the same closed. The auxiliary key case is formed to fit closely within the pocket provided by the walls 19 and 20, so that the frictional contact of the walls of the auxiliary key case with the walls of the pocket within which it is confined will securely hold the auxiliary key case within said pocket. The plate 28 extends across one end of the main key case and functions to prevent improper distortion thereof when the two key cases are assembled together. When the auxiliary key case is properly within the pocket between the walls 19 and 20, the fastener 5 is upwardly beyond the edge of the wall 20 and does not bend or otherwise distort the wall 20.

It should now be apparent that this invention attains all of its intended objects and purposes efficiently and satisfactorily. The construction, arrangement and relationship of the parts may be varied within the scope of equivalent limits without departure from the nature and principle thereof. I contemplate such variations as may be within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A key case comprising two flexible walls, flexible means connecting said walls along adjacent edges and permitting said walls to be moved to closed position toward each other and to open position away from each other, means forming a pocket having an open end, and a flexible connection attaching the open end of said pocket to one end of said walls and crossing said flexible means and substantially closing and opening said open end of said pocket when said walls are moved to closed and to open positions respectively as aforesaid.

2. A key case comprising two walls, a flexible connection uniting said walls along adjacent edges for swinging movements toward and from each other to close and to open the key case, flexible transparent walls attached to the inner sides of said first named walls respectively and having their adjacent edges separated by an intervening space along said flexible connection and leaving said walls free to be moved toward and from each other and cooperating with said first named walls to provide a frame for receiving and holding a flexible card or the like, a flexible device forming a pocket having one end open and adapted to receive a key or the like, and flexible means attaching said open end of said pocket to

one end of said first named walls and said connection holding said pocket extended along said connection and leaving the remaining portion of said pocket unattached to said walls for movement to position to expose said card or the like.

3. A key case comprising two walls, a flexible connection uniting said walls along adjacent edges for swinging movements toward and from each other to close and to open the key case, flexible transparent walls attached to the inner sides of said first named walls respectively and having their adjacent edges separated by an intervening space along said flexible connection and leaving said walls free to be moved toward and from each other and cooperating with said first named walls to provide a frame for receiving and holding a flexible card or the like, a flexible device forming a pocket having one end open and adapted to receive a key or the like, flexible means attaching said open end of said pocket to one end of said first named walls and said connection holding said pocket extended along said connection and leaving the remaining portion of said pocket unattached to said walls for movement to position to expose said card or the like, and a flexible connection secured to one end of said key case and said pocket for engaging a key adapted to be inserted into and withdrawn from said pocket.

BRUNO A. LEUE.