Sept. 29, 1942. G. G. McMILLAN 2,297,008

HOLSTER LOCK

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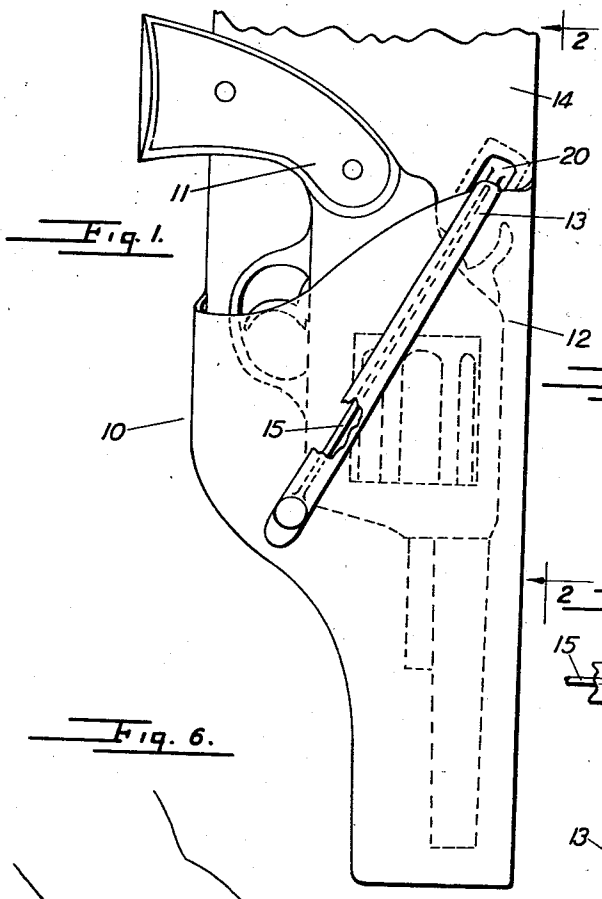


Fig. 1.

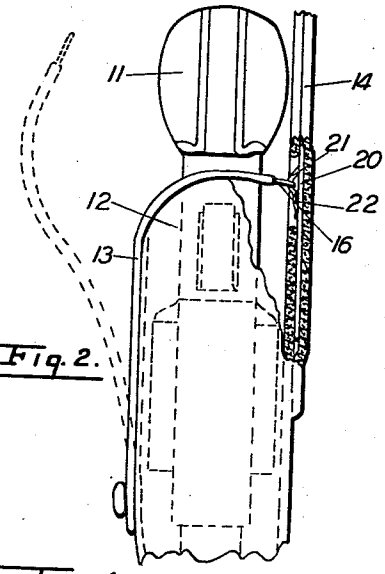


Fig. 2.

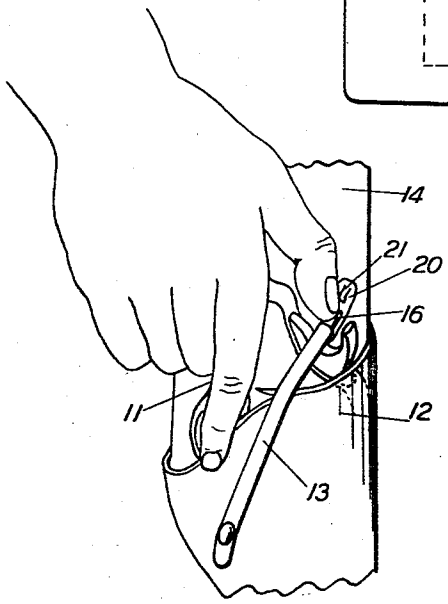


Fig. 6.

Fig. 4.

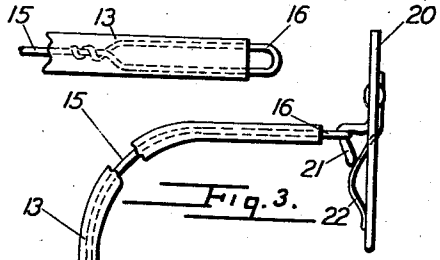
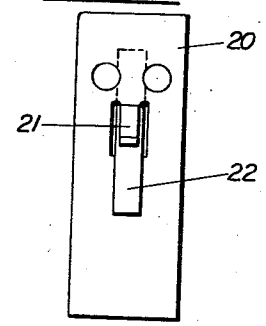


Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.



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HOLSTER LOCK

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4 Claims. (Cl. 224—2)

My invention relates generally to locks and more particularly to holster locks which are designed to prevent the unauthorized removal or accidental loss of the pistol carried therein, yet which will permit the person wearing the holster to remove the pistol as rapidly as ever.

In the performance of his duties, a peace officer often becomes involved in situations where persons may attempt to snatch his pistol from its holster, thus disarming him. Also any person who carries a pistol may accidentally lose the same as the result of falling, running, jumping or physical combat. To prevent such results, holsters have been designed which provide special means for securing the pistol therein, but such holsters have usually prevented the rapid withdrawal of the pistol by the person carrying it, or have required a specially designed holster with complicated mechanisms or metal parts in contact with the gun.

It is a major object of my invention to provide a holster lock which will prevent unauthorized removal or accidental loss of the pistol or revolver but which will permit of its instant access by the wearer of the holster without it being necessary to make any motion with the hand or fingers in addition to those normally used in drawing a pistol or revolver from an open holster without a lock.

It is another object of my invention to provide such a lock that may be quickly and easily applied to existing holsters at a very small cost.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a lock of this type which is simple in its construction and use, but positive in its operation, and which has no metal parts in contact with the pistol.

These and other objects of my invention will become apparent from the following description of a preferred form thereof, and from the drawing illustrating that form, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a holster in which a pistol is shown securely held by my improved lock;

Fig. 2 is an elevational view taken at 2—2 in Fig. 1, showing the resilient strap in both open and closed positions;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged side elevational view of the strap and hook assembly;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the upper end of the strap;

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of the hook assembly; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective utility view of the holster, lock and pistol showing the method of removing the latter.

Referring now to the drawing, and particularly to Fig. 1 thereof, the numeral 10 indicates a holster of leather or other suitable material which is designed to receive a pistol 11. While the holster 10 may be of any suitable design, I prefer to use one having the forward portion of its outer side 12 extending above the hammer of the pistol, as may be seen in Fig. 1. The rearward portion of the side 12 may be cut down to expose the trigger if desired, but this is not necessary if another style is preferred, and any of the conventional forms of holster may be used.

Attached near the middle of the outer side 12 and preferably to the rear thereof, I provide a resilient strap 15 of wire, thin strap metal or other suitable material which extends upwardly and across the holster pocket to the inner side 14 of the holster 10. The metal strap 15 is riveted or otherwise securely anchored to the side 12 and is preferably provided with a relatively soft cover 13 of leather or other suitable material to prevent scratching the holster or gun. At its upper end, the resilient strap 15 is formed into a loop 16, which is of sufficient size to permit a small hook to be readily inserted therein as seen best in Figs. 3 and 4.

To engage the loop 16, I provide the novel catch shown best in Figs. 3 and 5 which preferably consists of a base plate 20 having a struck-out portion 21 which forms a hook-like member open at its bottom. Through the opening thus formed in the base plate 20, I pass a curved leaf spring 22 which is fastened to the inner side of the base plate above the hook 21, and which is curved outwardly to touch the depending end of the hook, and then is curved downwardly to rest on the outer side of the base plate below the hook. The lower end of the spring 22 is not fastened to the base plate 20, and hence is free to slide when the central portion of the spring is flexed. The whole assembly is then attached to the inner side 14 of the holster 10 at a point slightly above the hammer of the pistol.

With this arrangement, it is a simple matter to engage the loop 16 in the hook 21 by placing the end of the loop against the leaf spring 22 and pressing inwardly, thus moving the spring inwardly away from the lower end of the hook so that the resilience of the strap will cause the loop to move upwardly and engage the hook. The spring 22 then snaps back into place against the lower end of the hook 21 yieldably closing the aperture and thus retaining the loop 16 in place,

To remove the loop 16, it is only necessary to press the loop downwardly so that it bears against the spring 22 and forces it away from the lower end of the hook 21.

In use, the pistol 11 is placed in the holster 10 in conventional manner, the resilient strap 15 with its cover 13 is bent across the top of the holster and pistol, and the loop 16 is engaged with the hook 21. The pistol is thus securely retained in the holster, and any attempt to remove it without first disengaging the strap 15 will merely force the loop 16 more tightly against the upper portion of the hook 21. However, when the person wearing the holster wishes to draw the pistol from the holster, he grasps the pistol as usual, simultaneously pushing down on the loop end of the strap 15 with his thumb, which is a usual and normal motion of the thumb in being extended along the left side of the pistol frame. This disengages the loop 16 from the hook 21, and the pistol 11 may then be withdrawn in normal fashion. With very little practice the pistol may be drawn as quickly as from a holster not having my improved lock.

To prevent the loop 16 from catching on the lower end of the hook 21 when the pistol 11 is being withdrawn, I preferably curve the spring 22 so that its outermost point is in line with or beyond the end of the hook 21, as shown in Fig. 3, so that the end of the loop will be allowed to spring outwardly away from the hook when it is released. With the strap 15 made of resilient material it will normally seek a position away from the holster 10 as shown in dotted outline in Fig. 2, and the possibility of accidental re-engagement of the loop 16 is reduced to a minimum. In addition, this resilience keeps the disengaged strap clear of the holster pocket so that the pistol 11 may be easily reinserted therein. By forming the strap 15 in this manner, and by extending it across the holster pocket, a minimum of opportunity is provided for the strap to be caught on extraneous objects, while at the same time, the high portion of the side 12 provides ample room to disengage the loop 16 with the thumb.

Although this description has been predicated on the basis of a right-handed holster, it will be apparent that my invention will work equally well with a left-handed holster; and while I have shown and described a preferred form of my invention, I do not wish to be limited to the particular form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown, except insofar as I am limited by my appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A holster lock of the class described, which includes: a resilient strap adapted to be attached to the outer side of a holster and to extend across the pocket to the opposite side of said holster, the upper end of said strap being provided with a loop and having a natural resilience which urges the upper portion thereof in a direction outwardly from said holster; a base plate adapted to be attached to the inner side of said holster; a hook with its opening facing the pocket and attached to said base plate, said hook being adapted to receive said loop; and a spring attached at one end to said base plate and having its free end extending across said opening and bearing against the lower end of said hook and the outer surface of said base plate whereby said hook is yieldably closed.

2. A holster lock of the class described, which includes: a strap adapted to be attached to the outer side of a holster and to extend across the pocket to the opposite side of said holster, said strap having a loop at its upper end and having a natural resilience which urges the upper portion thereof in a direction outwardly from said holster; and a base plate adapted to be attached to the inner side of said holster and having a downwardly open hook adapted to receive said loop.

3. A holster lock of the class described which includes: a resilient strap adapted to be attached to the outer side of a holster and to extend across the pocket to the opposite side of said holster, the natural resilience of said strap urging the upper portion thereof in a direction outwardly from said holster, said strap having a loop at its upper end; a hook adapted to be attached to the inner side of said holster with its opening facing the pocket to receive said loop; and means for yieldably closing said hook.

4. A holster lock of the character described which includes: a resilient strap adapted to be attached to the outer side of a holster and to extend across the pocket to the opposite side thereof, said strap having a loop at its free end, the natural resilience of said strap urging it away from said pocket; and a downwardly opening hook adapted to be attached to the inner side of said holster to receive said loop.

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