Oct. 5, 1965 S. R. MANZARDO 3,209,479

IDENTIFICATION MEANS FOR KEYS

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Fig. 1

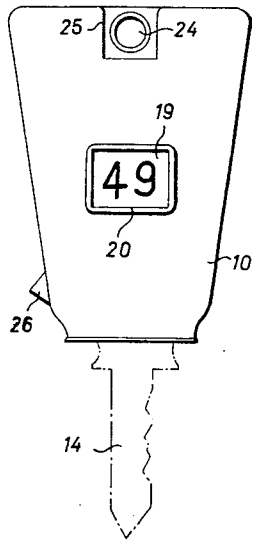


Fig. 2

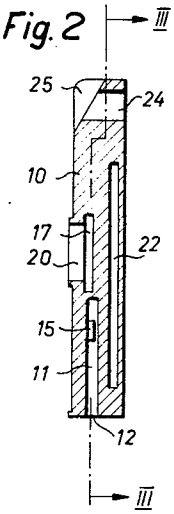


Fig. 3

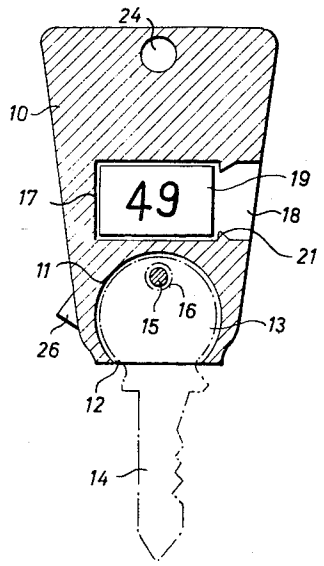


Fig. 4

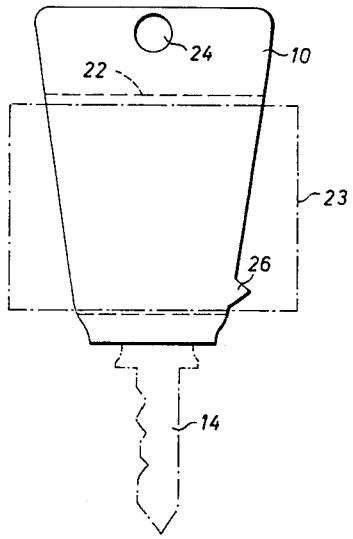


Fig. 5

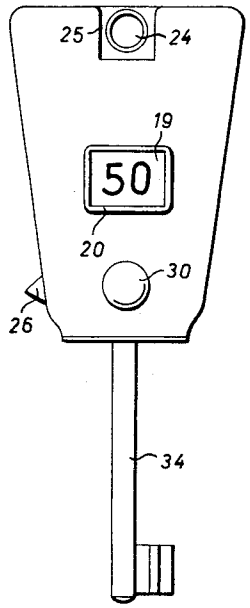
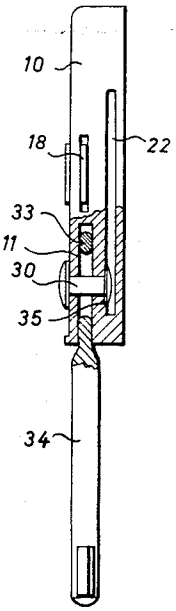


Fig. 6



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Fig. 7

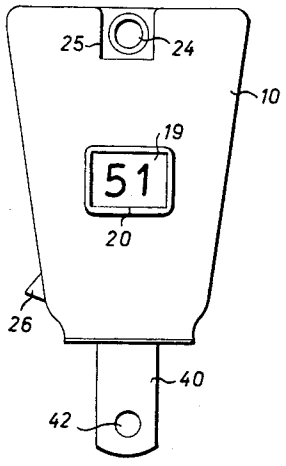


Fig. 8

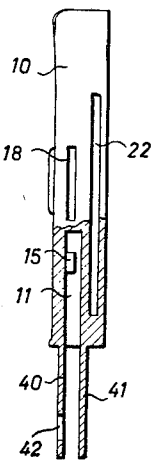


Fig. 9

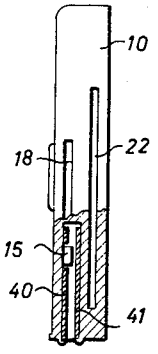
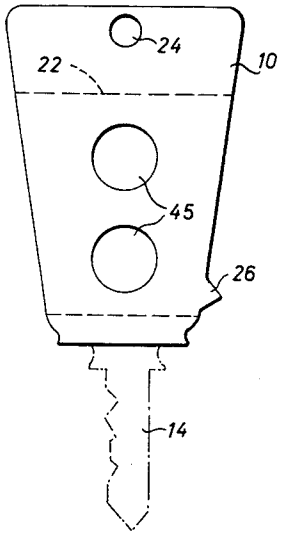


Fig. 10



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IDENTIFICATION MEANS FOR KEYS

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Claims priority, application Switzerland, Apr. 2, 1962, 4,058/62
5 Claims. (Cl. 40—330)

For keys, identification means have been made known which consists of a rubber-elastic body having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to take the handle of a key to be marked, and a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the last-mentioned pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate.

The instant invention relates to a further form of an identification means of the type described. The novelty is principally that the body has, in addition to the said two pockets, at least one rather large recess which goes through from one outer surface of the body to the opposite one and is particularly adapted for the temporary reception of message slips.

The identification means according to the invention are especially suitable for use in hotels, boarding houses, swimming pools, businesses, etc. as they permit of inserting in the identification means itself any message addressed to the user of the key and of being certain that it will reach him. Thereby it may be a question of a message of the management or of private news which had possibly been transmitted by telephone.

Further features of the invention will appear from the following description and claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein there are shown, purely by way of example, some forms of embodiment of the object of invention.

In said annexed drawing:

FIG. 1 shows a front view of a first form of embodiment of the identification means, a flat key distinguished by the identification means being indicated in chain-dotted lines;

FIG. 2 shows a longitudinal section of the identification means;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line III—III of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a rear view of the identification means, with key and message slips indicated chain-dotted;

FIG. 5 shows a front view of a second form of the identification means as attached to a bit key;

FIG. 6 shows the same objects from the side and partially in longitudinal section;

FIG. 7 is a front view of a third form of the identification means;

FIGS. 8 and 9 each represent a side view and a part-longitudinal section of the same form in different conditions;

FIG. 10 shows a rear view of a fourth form of the identification means.

Referring to FIGS. 1–4, the identification means shown consists of a flat rubber-elastic body **10** of, say, plastic material or natural rubber. In body **10** there is provided a first pocket **11** which, at the lower marginal surface of the body **10**, terminates in a slot-like opening **12** and is intended to receive the handle **13** of a key **14**, especially a flat key. On one of the two opposite wall faces of pocket **11** there is provided a cam **15** which consists together with the body **10** of the same piece of material. Cam **15** is intended to be inserted into the usual hole **16** in the key handle **13**. When the key handle **13** is inserted into pocket **11**, the body **10** must be stretched according to the size of the key handle. Although the inserted key handle **13** is usually held in the pocket **11** by the elasticity of body **10**, the cam **15** inserted into the hole **16** of the key handle **13** means additional security of the key **14** on body **10**.

Substantially in the same plane as the pocket **11** in body **10** there is provided a second pocket **17** which terminates on a lateral edge surface of body **10** by means of a slot-like opening **18**. Pocket **17** serves for inserting a designation plate **19** whose lettering or printing is visible through an opening **20** provided in the front wall of pocket **17**. To prevent the designation plate **19** from slipping out of pocket **17** unintentionally, the latter has formed thereon two wedge-shaped locking cams **21**; but only one might be provided.

Additionally to the two pockets **11** and **17**, the body **10** has also a larger recess **22** designed as slot, which extends from one lateral edge surface of body **10** to the opposite one. The additional recess **22** runs in a plane parallel to the front and rear sides of body **10**, which plane also lies parallel to the aforementioned plane containing the pockets **11** and **17**. Recess **22** is disposed between the rear side of body **10** and the two pockets **11** and **17** and serves especially for taking message slips **23** or other objects. Because of the rubber-elastic stretching of body **10**, the recess **22** may therefore be enlarged if need be for inserting a slip **23** or the like.

Near the upper edge of body **10**, i.e. at the marginal portion turned away from the opening **12** of pocket **11** there is an aperture **24** for letting a suspension means through, say a hook. In order to facilitate introduction of a hook into aperture **24**, adjacent the aperture **24** the body is less thick, this being ensured by an obliquely running groove **25**.

In order easily to recognize the proper position of insertion of the key **14** even in the dark, the body **10** includes a feeler projection **26**.

The aforedescribed identification means may be put not only on the handle of a flat key **14**, but if necessary also on the ring-shaped handle of a bit key. For this, however, the form according to FIGS. 5 and 6 is more convenient.

The difference between the embodiment according to FIGS. 5 and 6 and the first form is that cam **15** is omitted and instead the two walls opposite each other of pocket **11** have each an aperture for sticking a fastening means **30** therethrough. One of said apertures opens into recess **22**. The fastening means **30** may, for instance, be a one-part or two-part rivet which is applied only when the handle **33** of the key **34** to be identified is inserted into pocket **11**. One rivet head is at the forward outer side of body **10**. while the other rivet head is lodged in a depression **35** in the inner wall of recess **22**. By the fastening means **30**, the ring-shaped handle **33** of the bit key **35** may be firmly secured in pocket **11** so that the user of the key cannot detach it from the identification means.

Obviously, it is also possible to have a flat key secured in the last-described manner to an identification means according to FIGS. 5 and 6.

FIGS. 7–9 show a modification to the form illustrated in FIGS. 1–4. The difference consists only in that each of the two edges opposite each other in opening **12** of the pocket **11** serving for taking a key handle, has provided thereon a flexible lobe **40** and **41** respectively consisting of the same piece of material as the body **10**. At least one lobe **40** is provided with an aperture **42**. If need be, the two lobes **40** and **41** permit of the pocket **11** being narrowed, if the identification means has to be placed on a particularly thin or small key handle. To that effect the lobes **40** and **41** are tucked inside the pocket **11**, the cam **15** being thus caused to engage the aperture **42** (FIG. 9). The handle of the flat key to be identified is then inserted in the space left between the two inwardly tucked

lobes **40** and **41** and secured by inserting the cam **15** into the usual hole in the key handle.

If, by tucking in the two lobes **40** and **41**, the space for the key handle should become too narrow, only one of the lobes may be tucked in. The other lobe, then not required, may be readily detached from the rest of the body **10** by means of scissors. In case neither of the lobes **40** and **41** is needed, both may be detached by means of scissors, whereupon the identification means assumes the form as in FIGS. 1–4.

In the form shown in FIG. 10, the wall of the recess **22** facing the back of body **10** is provided with two apertures **45**, through which an object inserted in the recess **22** may be easily recognized, even if it should not protrude laterally from the openings of recess **22**, as in the form shown in FIG. 4. It is understood that the number of apertures **45** might also be smaller or larger.

In a form of embodiment (not shown) of the identification means, the body **10** may, in addition to the two pockets **11** and **17**, have more than one additional recess **22**; for instance a second additional recess in the form of a throughgoing slot might be arranged above the pocket **17** for the designation plate **19**.

In many cases it is of advantage to have the back and/or front of the body **10** provided with embossed or engraved lettering, for instance the name of the hotel, business, etc.

The described identification means may be made in different colors in order to obtain, in addition to the markings on the designation plate **19**, further possibilities of distinction. Thus, it is for instance possible in a hotel to provide the keys to the rooms of the different floors with differently colored identification means.

The identification means placed on the keys always form a rigid extension thereof. This has the advantage that the doors are not injured or damaged by suspended labels, plates, balls, etc. as they were usually heretofore, with the keys to hotel rooms. If the keys are hung by the identification means in a key depositary by means of hooks on a board or in a cupboard, the designation plates **19** can at any time be clearly seen from the front. The size of the described identification means contributes also to prevent the keys from being put into one's pocket unintentionally and carried away.

In all businesses where the keys are marked with the small-dimensioned identification means known heretofore, the large identification means herein disclosed according to the invention may serve to distinguish more clearly the keys urgently needed in an emergency, thus for instance the keys of the fire brigade station, medical boxes, first-aid room, garage, ambulance, etc.

What I claim is:

1. Identification means for keys, consisting of a flat rubber-elastic body having side edge surfaces and having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to receive the handle of a key to be marked, and a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the second pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate, the body having in addition to the said two pockets at least one rather large recess therein which extends through from one outer edge surface of the body to the opposite outer edge and is particularly intended to receive message slips, the openings for the insertion of the plate and the message slips being provided in the side edge surfaces, the rather large recess having the shape of a slot which can be opened by an elastic deformation of at least a portion of the body so that in the unstressed rest position the width of the slot is a small fraction of the length and the height of the slot, and the length and the height of the slot have substantially equal dimensions.

2. Identification means for keys, consisting of a flat rubber-elastic body having side edge surfaces and having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to receive the handle of a key to be marked, a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the second pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate, the body having in addition to the said two pockets at least one rather large recess therein which extends through from one outer edge surface of the body to the opposite outer edge and is particularly intended to receive message slips, the openings for the insertion of the plate and the message slips being provided in the side edge surfaces, and the pockets for receiving the key handle and designation plate are arranged substantially in the same plane, while the additional recess is a slot which extends parallel to said plane between the back side of the body and the pockets.

3. Identification means for keys, consisting of a flat rubber-elastic body having side edge surfaces and having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to receive the handle of a key to be marked, a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the second pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate, the body having in addition to the said two pockets at least one rather large recess therein which extends through from one outer edge surface of the body to the opposite outer edge and is particularly intended to receive message slips, the openings for the insertion of the plate and the message slips being provided in the side edge surfaces, and a flexible lobe at the edge of the insertion opening of the pocket for receiving the key handle and which consists together with the body of the same piece of material and may be selectively tucked into the pocket beside a thin key handle.

4. Identification means for keys, consisting of a flat rubber-elastic body having side edge surfaces and having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to receive the handle of a key to be marked, a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the second pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate, the body having in addition to the said two pockets at least one rather large recess therein which extends through from one outer edge surface of the body to the opposite outer edge and is particularly intended to receive message slips, the openings for the insertion of the plate and the message slips being provided in the side edge surfaces, and a lobe at each of two edges of the insertion opening for the key handle and opposite each other.

5. Identification means for keys, consisting of a flat rubber-elastic body having side edge surfaces and having a pocket accessible from an outer surface of the body to receive the handle of a key to be marked, a second pocket for insertion of a designation plate, the front wall of the second pocket being provided with an opening for making visible the inserted designation plate, the body having in addition to the said two pockets at least one rather large recess therein which extends through from one outer edge surface of the body to the opposite outer edge and is particularly intended to receive message slips, the openings for the insertion of the plate and the message slips being provided in the side edge surfaces, and at the back of the body, away from the (window) opening, there is provided at least one aperture opening into the additional recess.

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