Dec. 3, 1940. C. TATE 2,224,027

DISPLAY CARD FOR DOOR KEYS

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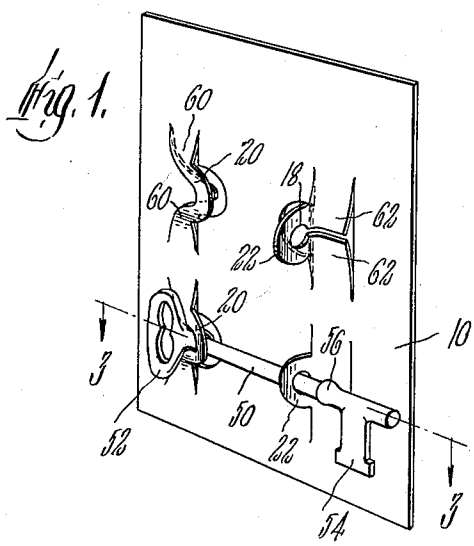


Fig. 1.

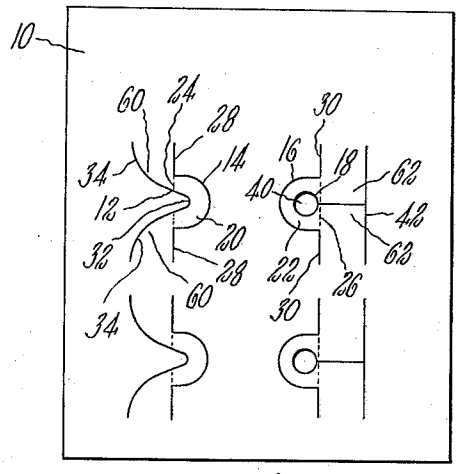


Fig. 2.

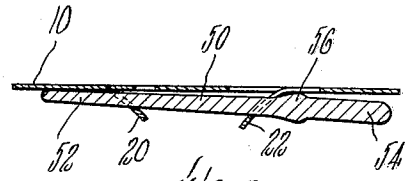


Fig. 3.

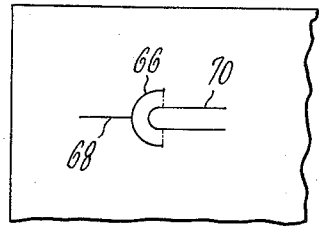


Fig. 4.

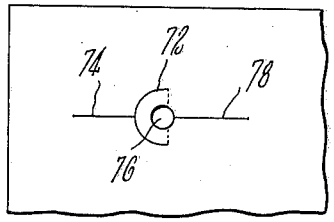


Fig. 5.

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DISPLAY CARD FOR DOOR KEYS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—79)

This invention relates to display cards for small articles such as ordinary door keys which have comparatively large end portions connected by a comparatively small stem or shank portion.

It is an object of the invention to provide a card which is cut in such a way that objects like door keys can be mounted and held without looseness thereon, the securing means being portions of the card itself which are bent up out of the plane of the card and encircle the stem of the key so that the key lies against one face of the card. According to the invention each securing element is made by a pair of cuts one of which defines a semi-circular tab to be bent up out of the plane of the card, the other cut being arranged to form an aperture in the bent-up tab which will fit the stem of a key and will be near the line of bend so as to hold the key against the face of the card. Each of the cuts is extended sufficiently to permit the bow or web of the key to pass through the card. Thus, if two securing elements are formed by two pairs of cuts, the entering end of the key is pushed through the successive cuts to thread the stem through the apertures in the securing elements, the key ultimately lying against the top face of the card, and the bottom face of the card being substantially plane so that the card can lie flat upon a table. The tab-forming and aperture-forming cuts, with their extensions, may obviously be in a great variety of shapes. According to the invention certain shapes, hereinafter described, are found to be particularly convenient and effective not only for holding the key properly in place on the card but also for facilitating the operation of mounting the key on the card.

For a more complete understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following description of certain embodiments thereof, and to the drawing of which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a card embodying the invention, on which a door key is mounted for display.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the card itself.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary plan view of a card showing a modified form of the invention.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary plan view of a card showing another modified form of the invention.

As indicated on the drawing, a suitable card 10 is provided, this card being cut in such a manner as to form securing elements by which one or more door keys can be held against a face of the card. Each group of cuts by which elements are formed for securing a single key against the card consists of two pairs of cuts, each pair forming a strip or band of the material of the card itself adapted to encircle the stem of the key so as to hold the key in position. In the card illustrated in Figure 2, a set of cuts 12, 14, 16 and 18 are provided. These cuts are arranged in succession along the position which is to be occupied by the key. The intermediate cuts 14 and 16 preferably define semicircular tabs 20 and 22 which are bendable up out of the plane of the card along suitable lines of bend 24 and 26 respectiveiy. The cuts 14 and 16, in addition to the semicircular portions thereof, are provided with extensions 28 and 30, respectively, making these cuts of sufficient extent to permit the bow or web of a house key to pass through the card from one side to the other thereof. As shown, the semicircular portions of the cuts 14 and 16 are convex toward each other, but, if preferred, they can be made to point away from each other or in the same direction.

The cut 12, which is adjacent to and paired with the cut 14, is approximately V shape, the apex portion 32 being rounded to form a tongue about the width of a door key stem projecting across the line of bend 24 and into the semicircle defined by the cut 14, so that, when the tab 20 is bent up out of the plane of the card, the tongue at the apex of the cut 12 may remain in the plane of the card, leaving an aperture in the tab 20 of a size to fit the stem of a door key. The cut 12, in addition to the rounded apex portion 32, includes extensions 34 which curve away from each other and are of sufficient extent to permit the bow or web of a key to pass through the card. It is evident from Figure 2 that the semicircular portion of the cut 14 and the rounded apex portion 32 of the cut 12 cooperate to form a semi-annulus or arch-shaped strip of material of the card itself, this arch being bendable up out of the plane of the card to straddle the stem of a key in the manner indicated in Figure 1.

The cut 16 may be substantially identical in shape with the cut 14, as indicated in Figure 2. The cut 18, which cooperates with the cut 16, has a circular portion substantially concentric with the semicircle 16, resulting in a circular aperture 40 which is of a size to fit around the stem of a door key and is substantially tangent to the line of bend 26. The cut 18 also has a T-shaped extension 42 extending from the aperture 40 a sufficient distance to permit the bow or web

of a door key to pass through the card. The aperture **40** in the tab **22** results in the tab being substantially in the form of a semi-annulus which is bendable from the plane of the card on the line **26**.

A door key can be mounted on a card made as indicated in Figure 2 by inserting either end of the key into either of the end cuts of a series and pushing the key through the other cuts in succession so that the leading end of the key passes back and forth from one side of the card to the other through one cut after another. For ease and convenience, keys are preferably mounted as indicated in Figure 1. This figure shows a house key having a stem **50** with a bow **52** at one end and a web **54** near the other end, there being the usual collar **56** between the web and the stem. In mounting a key of this kind upon a card as illustrated, the web end of the key is first pushed down through the card from the top face thereof, the end of the key passing through the cut **12** on one side of the tab **20**, and then up through the cut **14** on the other side of the tab **20** which is bent up from the plane of the card in the process. The leading end of the key is then pushed along to the cut **16** through which it is pushed down through the card and up again through the extension **42** of the cut **18**. This results in the bending up of the tab **22**, the stem of the key then slipping into the aperture **40** which fits the stem approximately. The pair of cuts are spaced so that, when the key is in place on the card, the tab **22** encircles the stem of the key near the collar **56**, thus preventing retraction of the key toward the left. The bow **52** of the key catches on rounded shoulders **60** formed by the curved extensions **34** of the cut **12**. These shoulders prevent the bow from following the stem through the cut **12** and thus limit the longitudinal movement of the key toward the right. The T-shaped extension **42** of the cut **18** forms a pair of tabs **62** which are pushed down under the web of the key after the web end of the key has come up through the cut extension **42**. These tabs then underlie the web portion of the key so that this end of the key lies against the top face of the card as indicated in Figure 1. By the use of cards with cuts as illustrated in Figure 2, door keys may quickly and easily be mounted thereon as shown.

Many variations can be made in the shape of the cuts illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. For example, as shown in Figure 4, a semicircular cut **66** may be provided with an extension **68** disposed lengthwise of the key instead of transversely thereto after the manner of the extensions **28** and **30**. Cooperating with the cut **66** a U-shaped cut **70** may be provided, this cut projecting into the semicircle of the tab formed by the cut **66** to provide a central aperture for the stem of the key when the tab is bent up from the plane of the card. The cut **70** is somewhat similar to the cut **12** except that its extensions are substantially parallel instead of curving away from each other as do the extensions **34**.

A variant of the cuts **16** and **18** is illustrated in Figure 5. As shown, a semicircular cut **72** with an extension **74** may be employed, this cut being similar to the cut **66** shown in Figure 4. A circular aperture **76** may be formed with the semicircle formed by the cut **72**, this aperture having a single extension **78** alined with the extension **74** and of sufficient extent to permit the web end portion of the key to pass through, the straight extension **78** being used instead of the T-shaped extension **42**.

Various other modifications of shape can be employed for the purpose of holding door keys and similar objects against the face of the display card. It is to be understood that the particular shapes and cuts herein shown and described are by way of illustration only and not of limitation.

I claim:

1. A display card for a door key, having a pair of cuts each of sufficient extent to permit the web of a key to pass through the card, one of said cuts having a portion defining a semi-circular tab bendable up out of the plane of the card, the other cut including a circular aperture through said tab approximately tangent to the line of bend, said aperture being of a size to fit the stem of a key.

2. A display card for a door-key, having two pairs of cuts, each cut being of sufficient extent to permit the web of a door key to pass through the card, portions of each said pair of cuts being shaped to define an approximate semi-annulus bendable up out of the plane of the card to fit around the stem of a key lying against one face of the card.

3. A display card for a door key, said card having a pair of spaced tabs bent up from the plane of the card on parallel lines of bend, said tabs having alined apertures adapted to fit the stem of a door key, said card having cuts extending respectively from said apertures and the openings left in the card by the tabs when bent up therefrom, said cuts being of sufficient extent to permit the web of a door key to pass through the card on both sides of each tab, whereby a key may be mounted on said card to lie against one face thereof with the stem extending through said apertures.

4. A display card for a door key, having four cuts in a row, each cut being of sufficient extent to permit the web of a door key to pass through the card, one of said cuts having a V shape with a rounded apex forming a tongue the tip of which is approximately as wide as the stem of a key, the sides of said cut curving away from each other, the second of said cuts having a semicircular portion extending around the apex of the first cut to form therewith a semi-circular tab, said second cut having end portions extending in opposite directions from the ends of the semicircular portion, the third cut being similar in size and shape to the second cut, the semicircular portions of the second and third cuts being convex toward each other, the fourth cut having a portion forming an aperture through said card within the semicircle of the third cut adapted to fit around the stem of a key, said fourth cut also having a T-shaped portion extending from said aperture.

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