

Sept. 4, 1928.

1,682,755

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KEY ENVELOPE

Filed Aug. 3, 1926

FIG. I.

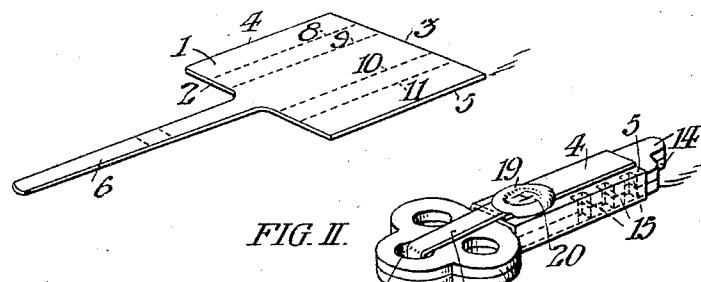


FIG. II.

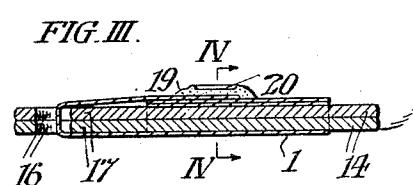


FIG. III.

FIG. IV.

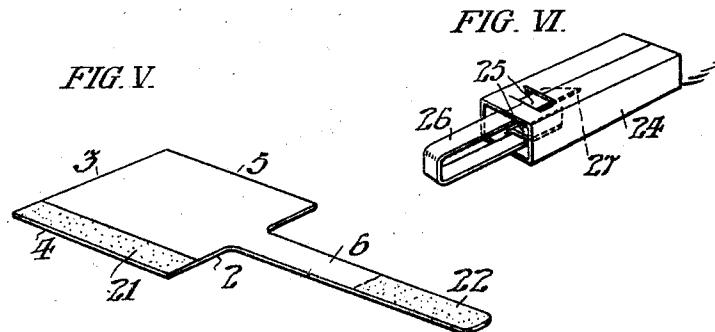


FIG. VI.

FIG. V.

FIG. VII.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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KEY ENVELOPE.

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It is the present practice for banking institutions to lease what are termed "deposit boxes," to wit, small drawers provided with locks, which may be opened by keys furnished to the lessees. Despite the usual precautions; it is possible that such boxes may be fraudulently opened by any employee of the lessor who has had access to the keys before the delivery of the same to the lessee, and thus had an opportunity of making, or having made, a duplicate or duplicates of the same.

Therefore, the principal object and effect of our invention is to provide an envelope with means so constructed and arranged that it may be utilized to seclude any such original key, from the time of its manufacture until its delivery to the lessee. In the form of our invention hereinafter described, such an envelope includes a sheet of flexible material which may be wrapped around the shank portions of the keys which are provided with the bitting notches for the lock tumblers. Said sheet includes a tongue which may be extended through a hole in the handle of a key and have its end sealed in connection with the envelope. Preferably, said sheet is formed of ductile metal, such as annealed copper or brass; so that the tongue may be sealed with solder. Although such key secluding means is in no sense "burglar proof," it is of such character as to manifest if any attempt has been made to open it, and the fact that it has not been tampered with, affords assurance to the lessee that no unauthorized person has had an opportunity of making a duplicate of the key or keys thus secluded.

Our invention includes the various novel features of construction and arrangement hereinafter more definitely specified.

In said drawings; Fig. I is a perspective view of an envelope embodying our invention, in its initial form and condition, before use. Fig. II is a perspective view of said envelope secluding two keys and in its normal sealed condition. Fig. III is a longitudinal sectional view of the structure shown in Fig. II. Fig. IV is a transverse sectional view of said structure shown in Figs. II and III. Fig. V is a perspective view of a modified form of envelope, with attached coatings of adhesive. Fig. VI is a perspective view of a modified form of envelope, including a seamless metal tube.

Fig. VII is an elevation of a strip of metal from which tongues such as indicated in Fig. VI may be cut.

In said figures; the envelope 1 is conveniently formed of a primarily plane sheet of ductile metal; the rectangular body thereof having opposite end edges 2 and 3 and side edges 4 and 5; said edge 2 being provided with a tongue 6 projecting from said body, in unitary relation therewith.

Said envelope may be bent upon the four lines 8, 9, 10, and 11 indicated by dots in Fig. I, to the tubular form shown in Fig. IV; wherein the edge 4 overlaps the edge 5.

Said tube is adapted to receive and seclude the shanks 14 of duplicate keys provided with the bitting 15, and said tongue 6 is extended through the registered holes 16 in the bow handles 17 of said keys, and the end of said tongue returned parallel and in contact with said edge 4 of the envelope body. Said tongue may then be connected with both of the edge portions 4 and 5 of said envelope body, by any suitable sealing means 19, for instance, a drop of solder, fused in engagement with said elements 4, 5 and 6 and distinctively marked at 20.

Said key shanks 14 are thus secluded so that neither of them, nor the bitting 15 thereof, can be copied upon another key blank, without opening said envelope 1; by breaking either said sealing means 19 or said tongue 6. Consequently, any attempt to use said keys in any fraudulent manner above contemplated is manifested by the damaged condition of their inclosure, and, if the envelope and seal are intact when delivered to the lessee, the latter is assured that no unauthorized person has had the opportunity of making a duplicate of the keys thus secluded. However, the tongue 6 may be easily cut to release said keys for legitimate use.

Although, as above described, we prefer to form the envelope 1 of sheet metal and to seal it with fused metal adherent thereto; such envelopes may be made of any suitable material. For instance, envelopes of the precise configuration shown in Fig. I may be made of stiff paper or other fabric and be sealed, as at 19, by any suitable means; for instance, ordinary sealing wax or other frangible adhesive material, adapted to receive a distinctive impression from a die or other means for marking it;

which impression must be destroyed or, at least, damaged before the envelope can be opened.

However, as shown in Fig. V, the inner face of the edge portion 4 of the paper envelope may be provided with a coating 21 of glue or other adhesive which may be caused to adhere to the edge portion 5 when in the position shown in Fig. IV. The inner surface of the tongue 6 may be similarly provided with a coating of adhesive 22 which is caused to adhere to both said envelope edge portions 4 and 5 when in the position shown in Fig. IV.

15 The form of our invention shown in Fig. VI includes an envelope 24 which is an oblate tube adapted to slip over the shanks of one or more keys as above described. Such envelopes 24 may be formed of primarily flat sheet metal or of seamless tubing. Such tubes 24 have loops 25 pressed from opposite side walls thereof, to receive tongues 26. Such tongues may be cut from a long strip as indicated in Fig. VII, 25 so as to have pointed ends 27 for ready engagement with said loops. Such tongues 26 may be sealed in connection with the envelopes 24 by any suitable means such as above described.

30 Therefore, we do not desire to limit ourselves to the precise details of construction and arrangement herein set forth, as it is obvious that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the 35 essential features of our invention, as defined in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. An envelope formed of a primarily flat sheet of flexible material adapted to be wrapped around a key and conceal the biting thereof, and having a member, in unitary relation therewith, adapted to extend in a hole in said key.

40 2. An envelope formed of flexible sheet material adapted to be wrapped around a shank of a key provided with a biting and conceal said biting, and having a tongue member in integral relation therewith, adapted to extend through a hole in said key.

50 3. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet material adapted to be wrapped around a key and having a tongue in integral relation therewith, adapted to extend in a hole in said key; of sealing means adapted to connect said tongue with the body of said envelope; whereby a key may be secluded in said envelope until the latter is disrupted or said sealing means displaced.

60 4. The combination with an envelope

formed of flexible sheet material adapted to be wrapped around the bitted shank of a key and having a marginal tongue, in unitary relation therewith, adapted to extend through a hole in said key; of fusible sealing means adapted to connect said tongue with the body of said envelope; whereby a key may be secluded in said envelope until the latter is disrupted or said sealing means displaced.

65 5. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet metal adapted to be wrapped around a key and having a member in integral relation therewith, adapted to extend in a hole in said key; of sealing means; including solder, connecting said member with the body of said envelope; whereby a key may be secluded in said envelope until the latter is disrupted or said sealing means displaced.

70 6. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet metal adapted to be wrapped around the bitted shank of a key and having a marginal tongue, in unitary relation therewith, adapted to extend through a hole in said key; and sealing means, including solder, connecting said tongue with the body of said envelope; whereby a key may be secluded in said envelope until the latter is disrupted or said sealing means displaced.

75 7. The combination with an envelope of sheet metal forming a tube adapted to receive a key; of a tongue of metal adapted to extend through a hole in the key and connected with said envelope at its opposite ends.

80 8. The combination with an envelope of sheet metal forming a tube adapted to receive a key; of a tongue of metal adapted to extend through a hole in the key and connected with said envelope at its opposite end; said envelope having loops, in unitary relation therewith, to receive the ends of said tongue; and sealing means connecting said tongue with said envelope at the region of said loops.

85 9. The combination with an envelope forming an inclosure for a key; of a member adapted to extend thru a hole in the key and thru openings in opposite walls of said envelope and connected with said envelope at its opposite ends.

90 In testimony whereof, we have hereunto signed our names at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this twenty-fourth day of July, 1926.

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