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KEY RETAINER

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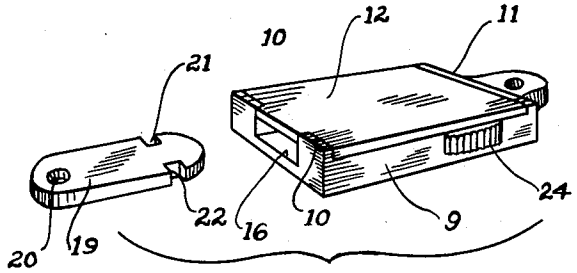


Fig. 1

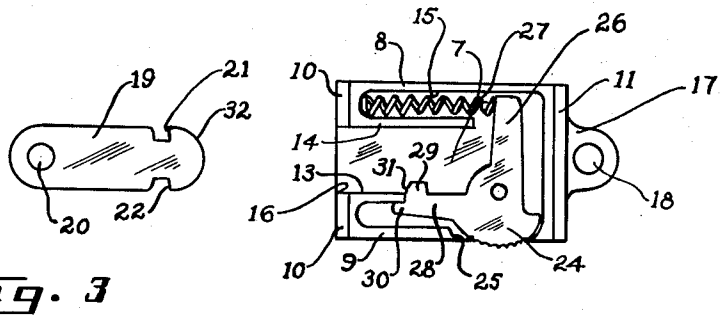


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

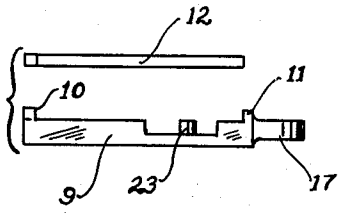


Fig. 4

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KEY RETAINER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 24—230)

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in a key retainer. It is an object of the present invention to provide a key retainer having an attachment member at both ends thereof, to each of which a key ring or chain may be attached, one of the ends being detachable from the main body so that a part of the keys may be removed from the retainer at will.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a key retainer of this class, comprising a housing into which one of the retaining members may be slipped and releasably locked in position on the housing.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a key retainer of this class having a housing provided with an actuating spring positioned in a compartment, the wall of which will form one of the guide walls of a guide passage into which a key retainer may be inserted. Other objects will appear hereinafter.

It is recognized that various modifications and changes may be made in the detail of the structure illustrated without departing from the invention, and it is to be understood that the disclosure herein is but the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Forming a part of this application are drawings in which,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention showing one of the retainers removed from the housing.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the housing with one of the side walls removed.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the detachable retainer.

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the housing with the upper wall removed and positioned in spaced relation thereto.

As shown in the drawings, the invention comprises a housing **7**, having side walls **8** and **9** and end walls **10** and **11**, the end walls **10** and **11** projecting upwardly beyond the side walls **8** and **9** the thickness of a cover **12** which is adapted to rest upon the side walls **8** and **9** and terminate with its upper face flush with the faces of the end walls **10** and **11**.

Projecting inwardly of the housing is a partition **13** spaced from a partition **14**. This partition **14** forms with the side wall **8** a compartment **15**. Formed in the end wall **10** is an opening **16**.

Secured to the housing **9** and projecting outwardly from one end thereof is a lug **17** having an opening **18** formed therein to provide a key retainer, a key chain or ring being projectable through the opening **18**.

A key retainer **19** which constitutes an elongated object having an opening **20** formed at one end thereof is adapted for insertion between the partitions **13** and **14**. Formed at opposite sides of this retainer **19** are the recesses **21** and **22**.

Rockable on a stud **23** which projects upwardly from the bottom of the housing is a ratchet member **24**, a portion of which projects outwardly through the opening **25** formed in the side wall **9**. Extending outwardly from this body **24** is an arm **26**, bearing against which is one end of a coil spring **27** which is positioned in the compartment **15**. Projecting from the body **24** is a dog **28**, having a nose **29**, and provided with a heel **30** which underlies the end of the partition **13**. This nose **29** is provided with the inclined end face **31**. The construction is such that as the retainer **19** is slid inwardly of the housing through the opening **16**, it will be guided in these movements by the partitions **13** and **14**, against which the opposite sides of the retainer **19** engage. The inner end face **32** of this retainer is formed curvilinear,

so that as the retainer **19** is inserted inwardly of the housing, the curvilinear face **32** will engage the inclined face **31** of the nose **29** and serve to rock the arm **28** downwardly from the position shown in Fig. 2. This downward rocking will be against the compression of the spring **27**, and as soon as the nose **29** registers with either of the notches **21** or **22**, the nose will snap into these notches and serve to latch the retainer **19** in position in the housing.

The invention is particularly adapted for use as a retainer for the keys of an automobile. Frequently one is required to park an automobile in a parking lot and leave the ignition keys in the vehicle. Often one does not want to have others have access to the trunk of the vehicle, and if the ignition key and the trunk key are on the same retainer, this cannot be avoided. By having the ignition key mounted on the lug **17** and the other keys on the retainer **19**, one may rock the body **24** against the compression of the spring **26** and remove the retainer **19**, thus leaving the ignition key in the vehicle.

By having the notches **21** and **22** at opposite sides of the body **19**, and by having the guide partitions **13** and **14**, the retainer **19** may be easily and quickly thrust into the housing with a minimum of inconvenience. When the retainer **19** is mounted in position on the housing **7**, both sets of keys are consequently secured by a common retainer. By having the opening **16** of a size to conform to the shape of the body **19** so as to allow a snug fit, a person, even in the dark, may easily and quickly place the body **19** in position in the housing.

What I claim is:

1. A key retainer of the class described, comprising: a housing having a pair of spaced apart partitions formed therein, one of said partitions being shorter than the other, and each of said partitions being spaced apart from an adjoining side wall of the housing, one of said partitions forming with a side wall of the housing a compartment; a spring positioned in said compartment and engaging at one end of the bottom of said compartment; a body in said housing and rockably mounted therein and projecting at one end through an opening in a wall of said housing; an arm on said body engaging the opposite end of said spring; a dog projecting outwardly from said body; a heel on said dog underlying the shorter partition and engageable therewith upon rocking of said body in one direction in response to the pressure of said spring; a nose carried by said dog and projectable into the space between said partitions; and an elongated key retainer insertable through an opening formed is an end wall of said housing and slideable between said partitions and having a notch formed in its side for reception of said nose upon registration therewith.

2. A key retainer of the class described, comprising: a housing having a pair of spaced apart partitions formed therein, one of said partitions being shorter than the other, and each of said partitions being spaced apart from an adjoining side wall of the housing, one of said partitions forming with a side wall of the housing a compartment; a spring positioned in said compartment and engaging at one end the bottom of said compartment; a body in said housing and rockably mounted therein and projecting at one end through an opening in a wall of said housing; an arm on said body engaging the opposite end of said spring; a dog projecting outwardly from said body; a heel on said dog underlying the shorter partition and engageable therewith upon rocking of said body in one direction in response to the pressure of said spring; a nose carried by said dog and projectable into the space between said partitions; and an elongated key retainer insertable through an opening formed in an end wall of said housing and slideable between said partitions and having a notch formed in its side for reception of said nose upon registration therewith, the inner end of said retainer having a curvilinear surface for engaging said nose and rocking the same downwardly out of the space between said partitions for passage of said retainer therethrough until a notch in said retainer registers with said nose.

3. A key retainer of the class described, comprising: a housing having a pair of spaced apart partitions formed

therein, one of said partitions being shorter than the other, and each of said partitions being spaced apart from an adjoining side wall of the housing, one of said partitions forming with a side wall of the housing a compartment; a spring positioned in said compartment and engaging at one end the bottom of said compartment; a body in said housing and rockably mounted therein and projecting at one end through an opening in a wall of said housing; an arm on said body engaging the opposite end of said spring; a dog projecting outwardly from said body; a heel on said dog underlying the shorter partition and engageable therewith upon rocking of said body in one direction in response to the pressure of said spring; a nose carried by said dog and projectable into the space between said partitions; and an elongated key retainer insertable through an opening formed in an end wall of said housing and slideable between said partitions and having a notch formed in its side for reception of said nose upon registration therewith, the inner end of said retainer having a curvilinear surface for engaging said nose and rocking the same downwardly out of the space between said partitions for passage of said retainer therethrough until said notch in said retainer registers with said nose, there being a notch formed in each of the opposite sides of said retainer and said retainer having an opening formed in its outer end for reception of a key holder.

4. A key retainer of the class described, comprising: a housing having a pair of spaced apart partitions formed therein, one of said partitions being shorter than the other, and each of said partitions being spaced apart from an adjoining side wall of the housing, one of said partitions forming with a side wall of the housing a compartment; a spring positioned in said compartment and engaging at one end the bottom of said compartment; a body in said housing and rockably mounted therein and projecting at one end through an opening in a wall of said housing; an arm on said body engaging the opposite end of said spring; a dog projecting outwardly from said body; a heel on said dog underlying the shorter partition and engageable therewith upon rocking of said body in one direction in response to the pressure of said spring; a nose carried by said dog and projectable into the space between said partitions; an elongated key retainer insertable through an opening formed in an end wall of said housing and slideable between said partitions and having a notch formed in its side for reception of said nose upon registration therewith, the inner end of said retainer having a curvilinear surface for engaging said nose and rocking the same downwardly out of the space between said partitions for passage of said retainer therethrough until said notch in said retainer registers with said nose, there being a notch formed in each of the opposite sides of said retainer and said retainer having an opening formed in its outer end for reception of a key holder; and a lug projecting outwardly from one end of said housing and having an opening formed therein for reception of a key holder.

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