Aug. 2, 1966 G. MARENCHIN 3,263,804

KEY CHAIN ATTACHMENT

Filed Nov. 10 1964

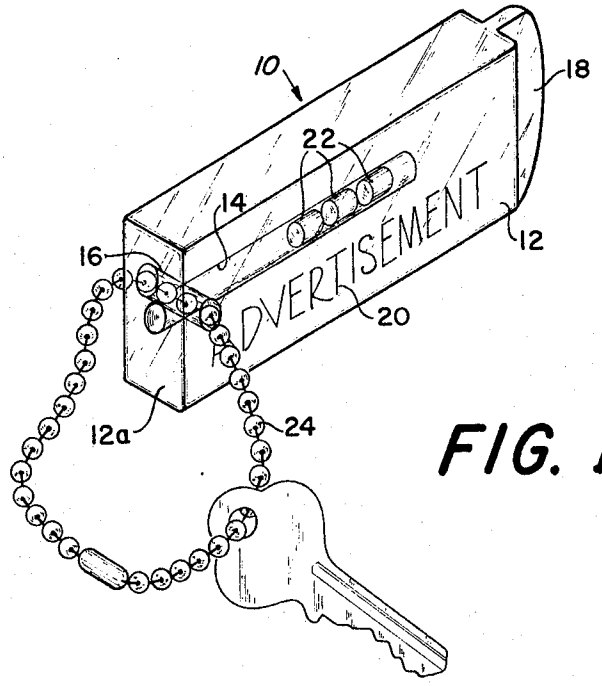


FIG. 1

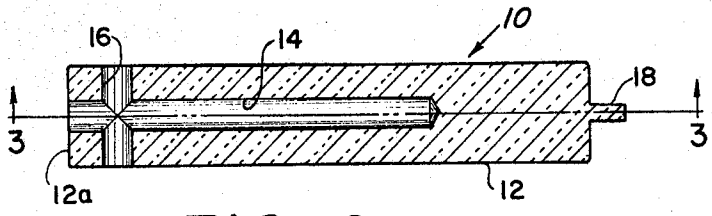


FIG. 2

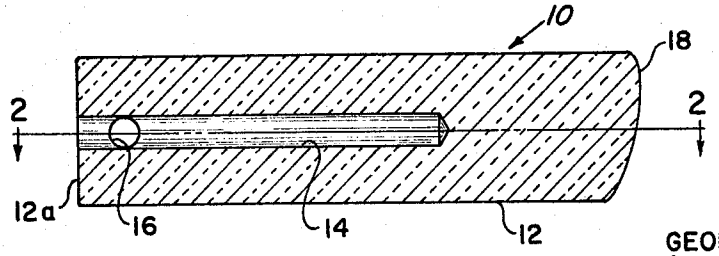


FIG. 3

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KEY CHAIN ATTACHMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—38)

This invention relates to a key chain attachment, and more particularly to a key chain attachment which retains cigarette lighter flints and is shaped to service cigarette lighters.

In the use of modern cigarette lighters, small pieces of flint are positioned in the cigarette lighter to create a spark to ignite the cigarette lighter. The small pieces of flint are expendable in that they become worn and must be replaced periodically. As is well known, it is difficult to retain the small pieces of flint for insertion into the cigarette lighter since they are required only once or twice a month and the small size of the replacement flints causes them to be easily lost or mislaid.

The present invention relates to a key chain attachment which is designed to retain spare cigarette lighter flints until the flints are required for use in the cigarette lighter. In addition to retaining the flints, the key chain attachment of the present invention has a screw-driver-like lighter-opening flange which may be utilized to open the lighter in order to replace the worn cigarette lighter flint. The lighter-opening flange may also be utilized to open the lighter for replenishing the combustible fluid supply.

The present invention contemplates a key chain attachment which has a body portion that is preferably formed from a transparent, thermosetting plastic material. The body portion of the key chain attachment has a longitudinal blind passage formed therein. The blind passage is of such size that it can readily receive a number of spare cigarette lighter flints.

Formed in the body portion to communicate with the longitudinal flint receiving passage is a transverse passage which extends completely through the attachment body portion and intersects the flint receiving passage. The transverse passage is adapted to receive a conventional beaded key chain. If several spare cigarette lighter flints are inserted into the flint receiving passage, and a beaded key chain is thereafter inserted through the transverse passage, the spare cigarette lighter flints are thereby trapped within the longitudinal passage and are securely retained therein until needed for use.

When a flint is required in the cigarette lighter, the key chain may be removed from the attachment and a flint removed from the flint retaining passage. Thereafter, the key chain can be replaced within the attachment so that the remainder of the flints are trapped by the chain.

On the end of the key chain attachment body portion is formed a flange which can be utilized as a screw driver to open the threaded portions of a cigarette lighter such as the cap which retains the flint and the cap through which additional combustible fluid is added to the cigarette lighter.

The key chain attachment of the present invention may be utilized as an advertising medium since advertisements may be imprinted or formed in the key chain attachment body portion. When used as an advertising medium, the key chain attachment of the present invention is a "give away" item. Because of the low cost of manufacturing the present invention, and because of the novel and useful service which the present invention performs, the present invention has the attributes of a popular "give away" advertising item.

With the foregoing considerations in mind, it is an

object of the present invention to provide a flint-carrying key chain attachment.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a key chain attachment which carries spare flints and can be utilized to service a cigarette lighter.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a key chain attachment which has a cigarette lighter opening flange for servicing cigarette lighters.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel and useful "give away" advertising item.

These and other objects of the present invention will become apparent as this description proceeds in conjunction with the accompanying drawings:

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the key chain attachment of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view of the body portion of the key chain attachment of the present invention taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view of the body portion of the key chain attachment of the present invention taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

Referring to the drawings, a flint carrying key chain attachment **10** has a body portion **12** preferably formed of transparent, thermosetting plastic material. The body portion **12** is preferably rectangular in shape, although the shape of the outer surface of the body portion is not critical to the present invention.

A blind flint receiving passage **14** is formed longitudinally within the body portion **12** and communicates with surface **12***a* of body portion **12**. The flint receiving passage **14** is preferably cylindrical in cross section and is of sufficient depth to receive several standard cigarette lighter flints. The diameter of passage **14** is sufficient to receive the standard flints.

A transverse passage **16** is formed to intersect with flint receiving passage **14** as is best shown in FIGURES 2 and 3. The transverse passage **16** extends completely through the body portion **12** and is of sufficient diameter to receive a standard, beaded key chain. The transverse passage **16** extends generally perpendicularly to flint receiving passage **14**.

Formed on one end of the body portion **12** is a screw-driver-like cigarette lighter opening flange **18**. The opening flange **18** is of such thickness that it may be inserted into the scored cap portion of a cigarette lighter to turn the cap portion and thereby remove it or adjust it.

An advertising imprint **20** may be placed on the outer surface of the key chain attachment body portion **12**. In some instances, the advertisement might be embedded in the clear plastic of the body portion **12**.

A number of standard cigarette lighter flints **22** may be inserted in the passage **14** of key chain attachment body portion **12**. When so inserted, the lighter flints **22** are held captive by the beaded key chain **24** that extends through the transverse passage **16**.

In order to remove a flint **22** from the passage **14**, the key chain **24** is removed from transverse passage **16**. There is then an open passage to remove flint **22**.

With the attachment of the present invention, spare flints for a cigarette lighter may be carried on the person with little difficulty. The key chain attachment, when imprinted with an advertisement, is a useful and novel "give away" item to be utilized in advertising.

According to the provisions of the patent statutes, I have explained the principle, preferred construction and mode of operation of my invention and have illustrated and described what I now consider to represent its best embodiment. However, I desire to have it understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically illustrated and described.

I claim:

1. In combination, a beaded key chain and attachment comprising:

(a) a generally rectangular body portion;

(b) a flint receiving cylindrical blind passage containing at least one standard-sized cigarette lighter flint, said cylindrical blind passage being formed longitudinally in said body portion and communicating with one end surface thereof;

(c) a transverse passage with said beaded key chain positioned therethrough, said transverse passage being formed in said body portion in communication with said flint receiving passage and extending perpendicularly thereto;

(d) said transverse passage and said flint receiving passage being so inter-related that said beaded key chain holds captive said standard-sized cigarette lighter flints within said flint receiving passage.

2. The key chain attachment of claim 1 wherein said body portion is formed of transparent, thermosetting plastic material.

3. The key chain attachment of claim 1 wherein said body portion carries advertising material thereon.

4. The key chain attachment of claim 1 wherein said body portion has a lighter-opening flange formed thereon.

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