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G. F. COUCH

DRAFT KEY RETAINER

Filed Sept. 22, 1925

Fig. 1

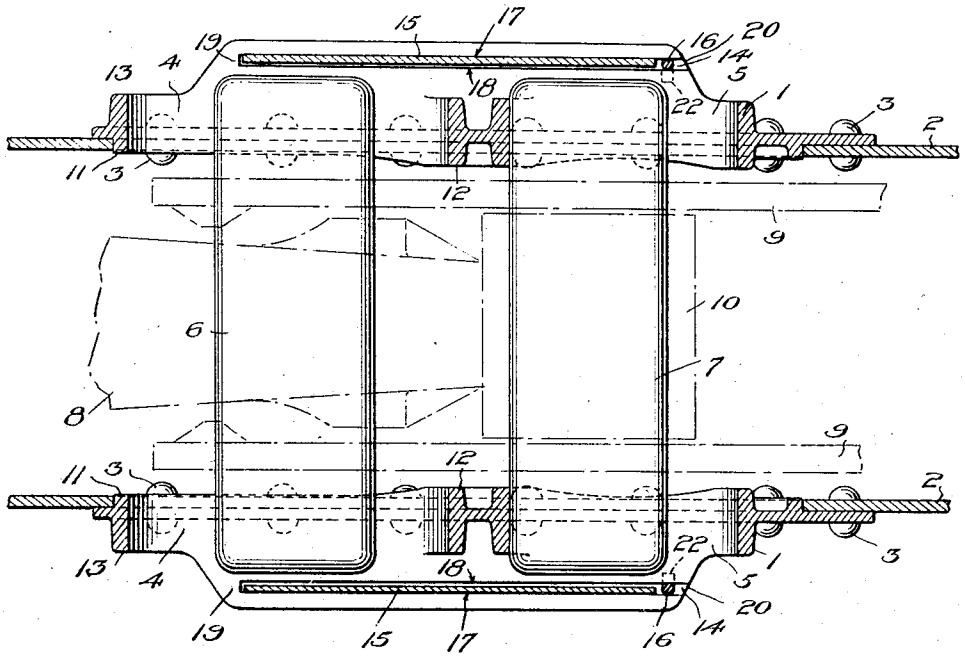
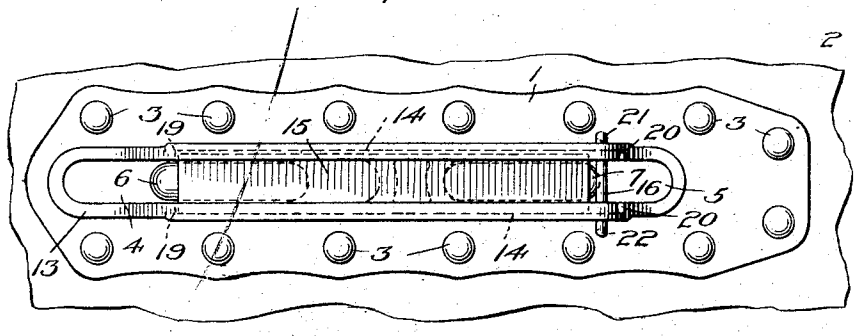


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GLENN F. COUCH, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO THE SYMINGTON COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF MARYLAND.

DRAFT-KEY RETAINER.

Application filed September 22, 1925. Serial No. 57,911.

This invention relates to draft rigging, and more particularly to a modification of the cheek plates associated with said draft rigging for retaining draft rigging keys in position.

The principal object of my invention, generally considered, is the provision of a special form of cheek plate adapted for the reception of headless and cotterless draft keys therein, said cheek plates being instead provided with key retaining means thereon.

An object of my invention is the provision of cheek plates with slots therethrough especially adapted for the reception of headless draft keys, said slots being framed by flanges with portions of said flanges extended outwardly beyond the ends of said keys for supporting removable key retaining means.

Another object of my invention is the provision of cheek plates especially constructed for retaining draft key securing means, whereby the simplest form of draft keys without heads or other motion limiting means may be used in connection therewith.

A further object of my invention is the provision of cheek plates slotted, in the usual manner, for the reception of cooperating draft keys, provided with flange portions extending outwardly from the edges of said slots and longitudinally grooved for the reception of slidable closure strips for retaining the cooperating draft keys in place.

A still further object of my invention is the provision of cheek plates connected to associated sills and formed with slotted portions for the reception of an associated draft key, said slotted portions being framed by flanges with portions of said flanges extended outwardly beyond the ends of the key and grooved longitudinally for receiving slidable closure strips for retaining said key in place, said closure strips being prevented from undesired removal by retaining means closing the open ends of the grooves in said flanges.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent as the description proceeds.

Referring to the drawings illustrating my invention, the scope whereof is defined by the claims:

Figure 1 is a horizontal sectional view through the slotted portions of cheek plates connected with associated sills and embodying features of my invention, draft keys being shown supporting other portions of the associated draft rigging which are indicated diagrammatically by dot and dash lines.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the construction illustrated in Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, like parts being designated by like reference characters, cheek plates 1 are illustrated connected with the webs of draft or center sills 2, portions only of which are shown. Rivets 3, or other connecting means, may serve for securing said cheek plates, to said sills, in the usual manner. In the embodiment illustrated, the cheek plates are shown applied to the outer sides of the sills but, if desired, cheek plates embodying features of my invention may be applied to the inner sides of said sills. Each cheek plate 1, in the present embodiment, is shown provided with slots 4 and 5 for the reception of draft keys 6 and 7, respectively, but it is obvious that I do not wish to be restricted to the embodiment of my invention in double slotted cheek plates as the same may be employed with cheek plates involving only one slot in each plate. A coupler 8, yoke 9 and front follower 10 supported and held in alinement by means of said keys 6 and 7, are illustrated diagrammatically in Figure 1 by dot and dash lines.

In the illustrated embodiment, the slots 4 and 5 in the cheek plates 1 are framed by flanges 11, the inwardly extending portions 12 of which extend into and cooperate with slots, of suitable size, in the webs of sills 2, and the outwardly extending portions 13 of which serve to increase the bearing area between said flanges and associated draft keys 6 and 7 as well as provide means for removably securing said draft keys in assembled position. In the present instance, portions of the horizontally extending sections of the flange portions 13 are continued, as indicated particularly in Figure 1, beyond the normal positions of the ends of the draft keys and are grooved, as indicated at 14, for the re-

ception of longitudinally slidable closure strips 15 held in said slots 14 and prevented from undesired removal therefrom by means of retaining members 16. Although, in the present embodiment, the grooves 14 are shown cut into the flange portions 13 with the lug or shoulder portions 17 and 18 on either side thereof in the same planes with the surfaces of the flanges 13, yet I do not wish to be limited to such a construction as the lug or shoulder portions 17 and 18 may be raised above or extended beyond the corresponding surfaces of the flanges 13. Likewise said slots 14, although illustrated as being discontinued adjacent one end of the flange portions 13, as indicated particularly at 19, said slots may, if desired, be continued the full length of the flange portions 13, as indicated at 20, and retaining means 16 may be provided at both ends instead of only one end of the slidable slot closure members 15.

Although said slot closure members 16, in the present instance, are illustrated as formed by pins with heads 21 constructed by merely bending over an end of a rod for limiting downward movement of said retaining members 16 through corresponding apertures in the flange portions 13 yet, if desired, said retaining members may be headed in any desired fashion. Although said retaining members are shown held in position after insertion by bending over the lower ends thereof, as indicated at 22, yet, if desired, cotter or other well known locking means therefor may be employed. Although longitudinally slidable closure strips are shown at both ends of the keys 6 and 7, it is obvious that I do not wish to be limited to such a construction as movable closure strips may be employed at one end only with permanent closure or different closure means at the ends of said keys 6 and 7.

As will be apparent from a consideration of Figure 2, particularly, the grooves 14 are formed in the surfaces of the flange portions 13 which face each other and the upper and lower grooves register one with the other so that after the keys 6 and 7 are properly positioned, the closure members 15 are inserted in place by merely sliding them from the open ends 20 of the grooves 14 until they abut against the closed ends 19 of said grooves. After insertion, as illustrated, they are retained in such position by inserting the locking means 16 in place, as will be understood.

It will be clear that as retaining means are provided on the cheek plates themselves, according to my invention, it is unnecessary and undesirable to provide either heads on the key or keys used with said cheek plates or other motion restraining means thereon, it merely being preferable to round or bevel the ends of said key or keys, as illustrated in the drawing, to permit application with oversize draft gears.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates provided with slotted portions engaging said key, said slotted portions being framed by flanges, with portions of said flanges extending outwardly beyond the ends of the key and provided with longitudinal grooves for receiving key retaining means.

2. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates provided with slotted portions engaging said key, said slotted portions being framed by flanges, with portions of said flanges extending outwardly beyond the ends of the key and provided with longitudinal grooves, and plates slidably movable in said grooves beyond said key for preventing undesired removal thereof.

3. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates provided with slotted portions engaging said key, said slotted portions being framed by flanges, with portions of said flanges extending outwardly beyond the ends of the key and provided with longitudinal grooves, plates slidably movable in said grooves beyond said key for preventing undesired removal thereof, and means for securing said plates in position.

4. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates formed with key guiding and supporting flanges, portions of said flanges being extended beyond the ends of the key and formed with lugs for the reception of key retaining means.

5. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates formed with key guiding and supporting flanges, portions of said flanges being extended beyond the ends of the key and grooved for the reception of key retaining means, and plates slidably movable in said grooves beyond the ends of said key for preventing undesired removal thereof.

6. In a railway draft rigging, the combination with a draft key, of cheek plates provided with key guiding and supporting ledges, portions of said ledges being extended beyond the ends of the key, provided with grooves for receiving key retaining means, plates slidable in said grooves beyond the ends of said key for preventing undesired removal thereof, and means for securing said plates in position.

7. A cheek plate for railway draft rigging comprising portions adapted for connection with an associated sill and slotted portions for engaging an associated draft key, said slotted portions being framed by flanges with parts of said flanges extending outwardly

beyond the normal position of the end of the key and provided with longitudinal grooves for receiving key retaining means.

8. A cheek plate for railway draft rigging comprising a portion formed for connection with an associated sill and flange portions formed for guiding and supporting an associated draft key, parts of said flange portions being extended beyond the normal position of the adjacent end of said key and grooved for the reception of key retaining means, and plates slidably movable in said grooves for preventing undesired removal of said key.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GLENN F. COUCH.