This invention relates to improvements in key ring holding devices.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a device wherein a key ring may be secured to a flexible element, which flexible element may be drawn away from the supporting point and later retracted when desired.

A further object is to produce a device wherein the key ring may be quickly grasped and pulled to any desired point and held there until manually released.

A still further object is to produce a device which is economical to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of my device,
Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1,
Figure 3 is a cross section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2,
Figure 4 is a rear elevation similar to Figure 1, but showing a different fastening element thereon,
Figure 5 is a fragmentary detail view of a spring clip for holding the release mechanism, and
Figure 6 is a fragmentary detail view showing the key ring attached to the flexible member, upon which flexible member indicia markings have been made.

It is common practice to carry keys upon a ring, which arrangement is cumbersome in that it produces a bulge in the pocket, wears the pocket out and often the ring becomes lost. Applicant has therefore devised an arrangement whereby the key ring is attached to a flexible member which when not in use is coiled within a housing through the medium of a steel spring.

In the accompanying drawings wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numerals 5 and 6 designate two housing portions which are connected together by a screw

7. It is obvious that this housing might be made in any convenient manner. Upon the back of the housing 5 is secured an offset member 8 through which the belt of the wearer may pass, or if desired a pin 9 may be attached to the back as shown in Figure 4. Rotatable on the screw 7 is a drum 11 within which drum is positioned a spring 12, one end of which is connected to the screw 7 and the opposite end is connected to the drum 11. This drum carries ratchet teeth 13 which are adapted to be engaged by the nose 14 of a spring pressed dog. The button 16 projecting beyond the outer surface of the casing permits the actuation of the dog against the tension of the spring 17. A flexible member 18 has one end connected to a key ring 19.

In Figure 5 I have shown a clip 21, which may be fastened on the outside of the casing for the purpose of holding the button 16 depressed, the purpose of which is to prevent the dog engaging the ratchet 13.

The result of this construction is that when the key ring is pulled away from the casing the flexible member 18 will be unwound from the drum 11 and at the same time the spring 12 will be wound up or placed under tension. The nose 14 of the dog will successfully engage the ratchet teeth during the outward movement of the key ring and therefore when outward movement ceases there will be no tendency of the flexible member being drawn back in the housing. Immediately upon pressing the button 16 the spring 12 will function to retract the flexible member, thus returning the parts to the position shown in Figure 3.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes relative to the material, size, shape and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

In a device of the character described, a casing, a drum rotatable in said casing, a spring positioned in said casing and have
one end secured to said casing and having its opposite end secured to said drum, a flexible member wound on said drum and extending through said casing, a key ring secured to said flexible member; ratchets formed on said drum and a spring pressed dog carried in said casing and adapted to engage said ratchets for the purpose specified and a slider secured to said case, and adapted to be moved so as to overlie said dog, whereby said dog may be held out of engagement with said ratchet.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

SYLVANUS C. JACOBIA.