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(54) **Device for protecting car radio's or such appliances from theft in a shop**

(57) A device for protecting a car radio or similar appliance having an operating panel with removable element from theft in a shop or the like, comprises a mounting plate having a mounting hole in which the car radio can be mounted with the operating panel accessible. The mounting plate comprises means extending in front of a small portion of the operating panel of an appliance positioned in the mounting hole such that removal of the removable element thereof is prevented.

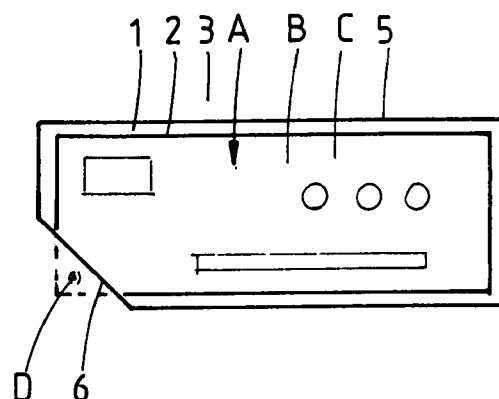


fig. 4

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Description

The present invention relates to a device for protecting a car radio or similar appliance having an operating panel with removable elements from theft in a shop or the like, comprising a mounting plate having a mounting hole in which the car radio can be mounted with the operating panel accessible

In many car radios it is customary these days that the anti-theft system includes a removable front panel or security card as removable element without which the appliance does not work. In practice this system is satisfactory. There is a problem, however that in a shop where the appliances are preferably displayed in a working condition, the removable elements should be installed. It now turns out that thieves steal the removable elements from the appliances in the shop and then steal the appliances without removable element, from the user, i.e. in case of a car radio from the car, whereafter they combine the appliance and removable elements into an operating unit.

The object of the present invention is to provide a device mentioned in the preamble in which this problem is removed in an effective way.

For this purpose, the device according to the invention is characterised that the mounting plate comprises means extending in front of a small portion of the operating panel of an appliance positioned in the mounting hole such that removal of the removable element thereof is prevented.

In this manner the theft of the removable element is effectively prevented whereas on the other hand the operating panel of the appliance remains operable so that the customers may continue to try out the appliance without assistance of personnel in the shop or the like.

In case a removable element is removable by or after activating an unlocking button or the like it is favourable according to the invention that the means protrudes in front of the unlocking button or the like. In that case the operation of the appliance is in no way hampered by the means because it protrudes in front of a portion that has no function for operating the appliance. Particularly with car radios this is an advantage since the removable element mostly consist of a portion of the operating panel which is covered completely with buttons.

According to the invention it is favourable if the means is provided on a preferably transparent plate part to be positioned in front of the mounting plate and having a recess for access to the operating panel, whereas in case the removable element or the unlocking button is positioned near a corner of the operating element, it is advantageously to make the recess smaller in a corresponding corner.

In this manner the device is hardly noticeable and may be arranged without further adaptations over existing mounting plates. If the means consists of the material in a beveled corner of the recess, it is not possible to break off the means in order to try to steal the remova-

ble element. Consequently, this embodiment is extra safe and simple to manufacture.

The device according to the invention may be provided for each appliance or for a plurality of appliances mounted on a mounting plate.

The invention will hereafter be further explained with reference to the drawing showing an embodiment of the device according to the invention, by way of example and in a very schematic way.

Fig. 1 is a front view of a mounting plate for car radios including a plurality of car radios therein.

Fig. 2 is a front view of a plate part for use with the mounting plate for forming the device according to the invention.

Fig. 3 is a front view corresponding to that of figure 1 having the plate part mounted in front.

Fig. 4 shows detail IV of Fig. 3 on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 1 shows a mounting plate 1 forming part of a display for demonstrating car radios in a shop. The mounting plate comprises a plurality of rectangular mounting holes 2, in each of which a car radio A may be fixed in a way which is similar to the way of mounting in a car. There is provided a security to prevent the radios from being removed.

The car radios A include on their front side an operating panel B which, in the embodiment shown, is provided with a removable part C without which the radio does not work. Consequently, in practice, the removable part operates as a theft protection by removing it and taking it out of the car when the car is left. It is also possible that almost the complete operating panel B is removable. To remove the removable part C there is arranged an unlocking button D on the operating panel B, which releases the removable part C up on its operation.

Fig. 2 shows a plate part 3 which is made from a transparent plastic such as acrylate. The dimensions of this plate part 3 may for example be equal to or slightly smaller than that of the mounting plate 1. In this case, the plate part 3 is attached to the mounting plate by pivots 4 but of course also other attaching means such as screws are conceivable although pivots have the advantage that the plate part 3 permits an easy rotation away from the mounting plate 1 in order to mount or demount a car radio. The plate part 3 comprises a plurality of recesses 5 coinciding with the mounting holes 2 in the mounting plate 1, such as shown in Fig. 3 and 4. The size of the recesses 5 may be substantially equal to or slightly larger than that of the mounting holes 2. According to the invention, the recesses 5 include in one corner an inwardly protruding bevel 6 so that the additional material created there serves as safety means covering the unlocking button D of the respective car radio A in use and making the operation of this button D and consequently removal of the removable part C impossible whereas the other operating buttons of the operating panel B are normally accessible and operable. The invention therefore provides an excellent protection

against theft of removable parts from car radios without hampering the use of the display.

The invention is not restricted to the embodiment shown in the drawing and it is for example also possible that the protecting means covers a portion of the removable element or part thereof in order to prevent removal thereof. The shape and position of the protecting means, of course, depends on the appliance to be protected. It could also be formed on or attached to the mounting hole proper. In stead of car radios the invention is also suitable for protecting other appliances such as audio equipment for home use or the like. Furthermore the invention is not only intended for shops but also for other demonstrating rooms such as fairs, exhibitions etc.

Claims

1. Device for protecting a car radio (A) or similar appliance having an operating panel (B) with removable elements (C) from theft in a shop or the like, comprising a mounting plate (1) having a mounting hole (2) in which the car radio can be mounted with the operating panel accessible, **characterised in that** the mounting plate (1) comprises means (6) extending in front of a small portion of the operating panel (B) of an appliance (A) positioned in the mounting hole (2) such that removal of the removable element (C) thereof is prevented.
2. Device according to claim 1, wherein the means (6) protrudes in the front of an unlocking button (D) or the like for releasing the removable element (C).
3. Device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the means (6) is provided on a plate part (3) to be positioned in front of the mounting plate (1) and having a recess (5) for getting access to the operating panel (B).
4. Device according to claim 2 or 3, for use with appliances (A) of which the removable element (C) or the unlocking button (B) is positioned near a corner of the operating panel (B) and wherein the recess (5) in the plate part (3) is made smaller in a corresponding corner for example by a bevel.
5. Device according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the plate part is transparent.
6. Device according to one of the claims 3 - 5 wherein the plate part (3) is pivotally connected to the mounting plate (1).
7. Device according to claim 5 or 6, wherein a plurality of car radios (A) or such appliances is mounted to the mounting plate (1), whereas the plate part (3) has a size to frame this plurality of appliances, there being provided a corresponding number of

recesses (5) in the plate part (3).

8. Plate part (3) for use in the device according to one of the claims 3 - 7.

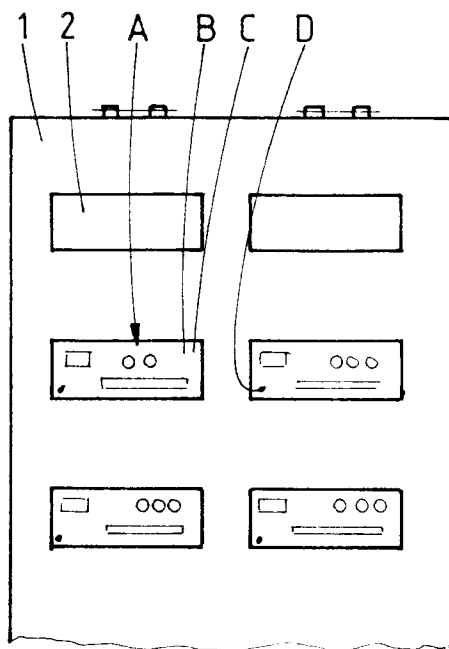


fig.1

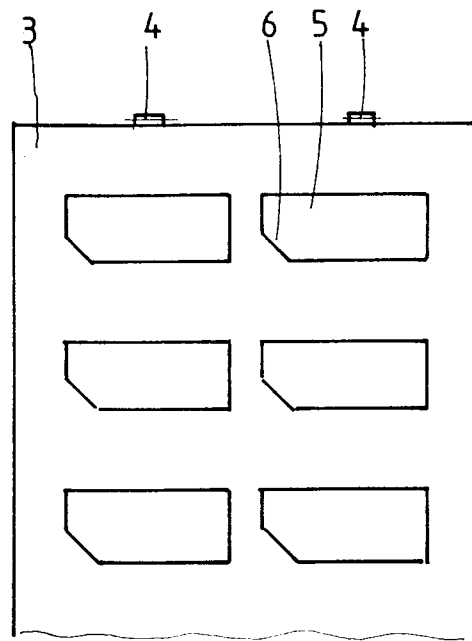


fig. 2

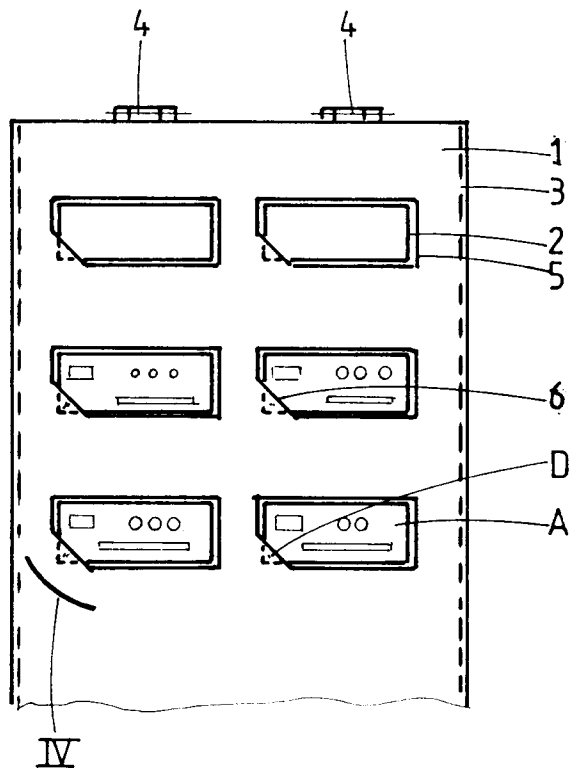


fig.3

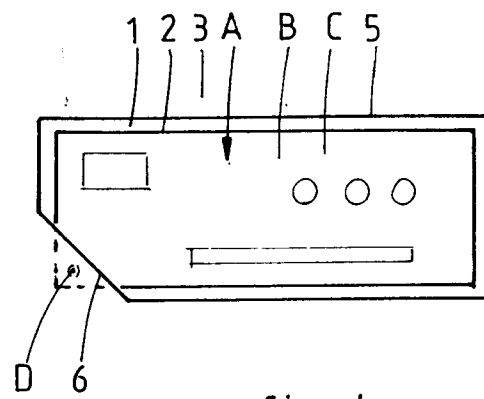


fig. 4