July 21, 1964 N. LEOPOLDI 3,141,546

COIN AND KEY HOLDER DEVICE

Filed March 14, 1962

Fig. 1.

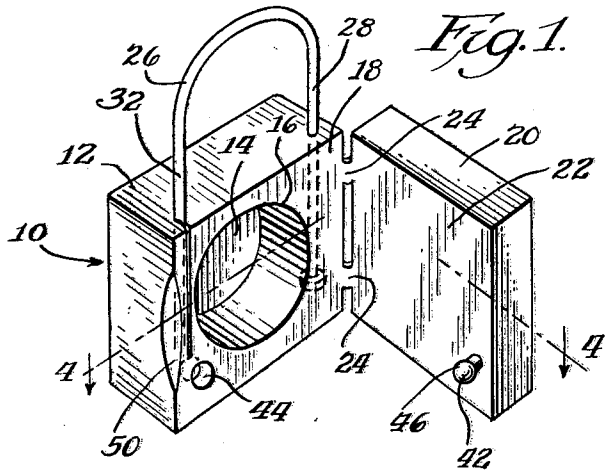
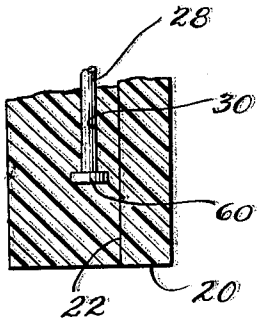


Fig. 5.



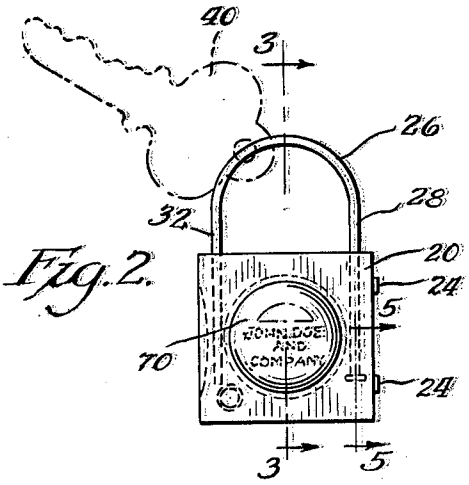
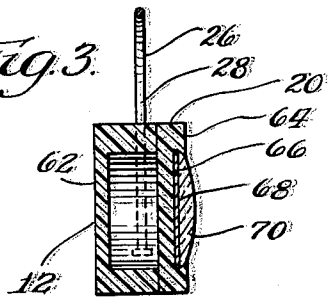


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



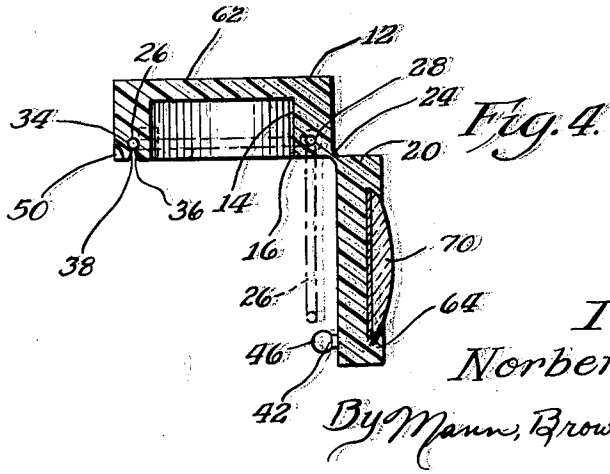


Fig. 4.

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COIN AND KEY HOLDER DEVICE

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My invention relates to a combination coin and key holder device, and more particularly, to a key carrying device that also provides a compartment for carrying coins, such as may be required for parking meters and the like.

A frustrating problem frequently encountered in today's urban centers has to do with the availability of automobile parking space. In many areas, one solution called for is the use of parking meters, which in effect permit one to park one's car for a period of time by inserting one or more coins into the meter, depending upon how much time is necessary.

It not infrequently happens that one desiring to park his car at a parking space regulated by a parking meter finds at the last minute that he does not have any coins that will fit the parking meter, which means that he must either risk being served with a police ticket for violating the parking laws, or he must move his car.

Since the modern automobile also universally requires a car key to operate one's car, it has occurred to me that a key holder arrangement that provided also a means for carrying the necessary parking meter coins would be a very useful thing to have.

It is therefore a principal object of my invention to provide a combination key and coin holder arrangement which will insure that the operator of an automobile will always have on hand the necessary parking meter coins when he needs them.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a combination coin key holder device that is economical of manufacture, convenient in use, and readily adapted to a wide variety of applications.

Other objects, uses and advantages will be obvious or become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description and the application drawings.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a combination coin key holder in accordance with the principles of my invention, showing the holder device opened up as it would be to receive coins, or to remove coins therefrom;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of the device of FIGURE 1, showing the device in closed position, with a key applied thereto illustrated in phantom;

FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view substantially along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view substantially along line 4—4 of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view substantially along line 5—5 of FIGURE 2.

However, it is to be understood that the specific drawing illustrations provided are supplied solely for the purposes of complying with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, and that the invention may take other equivalent forms which will be obvious to those skilled in the art.

Reference numeral **10** of FIGURE 1 generally indicates a preferred embodiment of the invention which comprises a body **12** formed to define a rounded recess **14** that is proportioned to receive the usual coins required for parking meters, such as pennies, nickels and dimes, though obviously, the recess could be proportioned to receive quarters, fifty cent pieces, etc. The body **12** is also formed to define in circumambient relation about the open end **16** of recess **14** a planar surface **18**, the mouth of which opens at surface **18**.

Hinged to one side of the body **12** is a cover member

20, and the cover member **20** is formed with a planar surface **22** that is adapted to be positioned adjacent to or engage against surface **18**.

The cover member **20** is hingedly connected to body **12** by appropriate hinge elements **24**.

A generally U-shaped key receiving member **26** is carried by the body **12** and has one leg **28** thereof swingably mounted in a bore **30** of the body, with the leg **28** and bore **30** being so disposed with respect to surface **18** that the leg at **28** swings or pivots about an axis that is substantially parallel to the surface **18**.

The other leg **32** of the key receiving member **26** is adapted to be received in a locking recess **34** formed in the body **12**, which recess preferably has its mouth **36** opening at said surface or face **18**.

Preferably, the groove **34** is formed so that it defines oppositely opposed locking shoulders **38** past which leg **32** must be forced to apply it to the bottom of groove **34**, for the purpose of locking the key receiving member in its closed position. It is contemplated that the key receiving member will swing between the two extreme positions indicated by the dashed line showing of FIGURE 4, and when the key receiving member is positioned in the downwardly extending position of FIGURE 4, the leg **32** will be disposed to receive keys, such as key **40** shown in phantom in FIGURE 2.

Preferably, the cover member **20** and the body **12** are provided with a suitable releasable locking arrangement for releasably securing these members against separation, and in the embodiment illustrated, this arrangement comprises a bulbous projection **42** that is positioned to frictionally engage within recess **44** formed in the body **12**. Preferably, the projection or protuberance **42** has an enlarged end portion **46** that is somewhat greater in size than the width of the recess **44** so that there will be substantial frictional engagement between the projection **42** and the recess **44**.

Preferably, the body **12** is formed with a fingernail receiving slot **50** to permit one to insert one's finger-nail or thumb-nail between the body **12** and its cover member, when they are in their closed relation of FIGURES 2, 3 and 5, to move these members to their open relation of FIGURES 1 and 4.

Preferably, the body **12** and its cover member **20** as well as hinging elements **24** are all formed from the same material by a suitable molding process. For this purpose I prefer the well-known plastic substance polypropylene, and in particular, the form thereof that is suitable for flexing, since this chemical compound provides hinging elements **24** that will withstand the flexing action required by this invention. The leg **28** of key receiving member **26** is mounted in position by having the material that forms body **12** injection molded about it, with the leg **28** being provided with a suitable film so that it may be readily freed from body **12** to perform its swinging function. Leg **28** thus will form its own bore **30**, and leg **28** is preferably provided with an integrally united enlarged base member **60** to prevent withdrawal of the key retaining member **26** from the body **12**.

In use, one's keys, including one's automobile keys or key, may be applied to the key receiving device **26** by swinging leg **32** out of groove **34** and slipping the keys over the freed end of leg **32**, after which the leg **32** is pressed back into recess **34**. A suitable number of appropriate coins, such as pennies, nickels or dimes, are applied to the recess **14**, and then the cover member **20** is closed against surface **18** to press the protuberance **42** into recess **44**.

This will retain the keys and coins within the holder device **10**. The keys can be used when needed in the usual manner, and if it is desired to use one of the coins in recess **14**, it is merely necessary to swing cover mem-

ber **20** away from surface **18** to expose the coins within recess **14**. If it is desired to remove one or more keys from member **26**, the leg **32** of such member is exposed for freeing its embedded end from body **12**, by so opening cover member **20**. And, of course, when the cover member **20** is pressed against the face **18** of body **12**, the coins and keys are safely secured to device **10**.

While the generally parallelepiped shape of the body **12** and cover member **20** is preferred, these members could be round if so desired. Also, the cover member **20** could be connected to body **12** by a single hinging element **24** which was formed to permit the cover member to swing or hinge in a plane parallel to the plane of surface **18**, rather than swing toward and away from the surface **18**, as specifically illustrated.

It will be observed that the face **62** of body **12** and the face **64** of cover member **20** provide a relatively wide expanse of area for application of appropriate advertising indicia. In accordance with the embodiment of the invention illustrated, the face **64** is formed with an undercut circular recess **66** proportioned to receive a printed disk **68** bearing appropriate advertising indicia, and a superposed glass or plastic protective disc-like member **70**. The elements **68** and **70** may be applied to the recess **66** by suitably distorting the cover member **20**.

It will therefore be seen that I have provided an exceedingly useful combination coin key holder that fully meets the objects of the invention.

The foregoing description and the drawings are given merely to explain and illustrate my invention and the invention is not to be limited thereto, except insofar as the appended claims are so limited, since those skilled in the art who have my disclosure before them will be able to make modifications and variations therein without departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A combination coin and key holder comprising:
a flat planar body member defining a generally planar surface on one side of said body member,
said surface being parallel to the plane of said body member,
said body member being formed to define a cylindrical recess having its mouth terminating at said surface,
said recess being proportioned to receive one or more coins,
and said surface being in circumambient relation about said mouth of said recess,
a cover member,

means for hinging said cover member to said body member to one side of said recess and adjacent one edge portion of said surface to swing toward and away from said surface about an axis that extends parallel to the plane of said surface,
a substantially U-shaped key receiving element having one of its legs pivotally connected to said body member adjacent another edge portion of said surface to swing about an axis that extends parallel to the plane of said surface and parallel to the first mentioned axis,
said body member being further formed in said surface to define an elongate rectilinear groove in said surface extending parallel to said axes and proportioned to receive the other leg of said key receiving element,
said groove being positioned between said recess and the edge portion of said surface that is diametrically opposite said one edge portion across said recess,
said groove being formed to define snap lock means for releasably locking said key receiving element other leg in said groove,
said key receiving element defining intermediate said legs thereof a key receiving portion that projects away from said body member,
said cover member being proportioned to overlie said recess and said groove when said cover member is swung adjacent thereto,
and releasable lock means for releasably securing said cover member to said body member in the last mentioned position of said cover member,
said releasable lock means comprising a bulbous projection formed in one of said members and a recess formed in the other of said members positioned and proportioned to frictionally receive said bulbous projection,
said hinge means comprising flexible members, said members being of one piece construction.

2. The holder set forth in claim 1 wherein said members are formed from polypropylene.

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