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W. A. ANDERSON

2,210,562

KEY FOR COMPUTING AND SIMILAR MACHINES

Filed June 29, 1938

Fig. 1

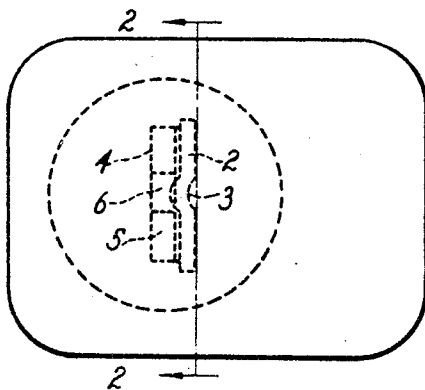


Fig. 2

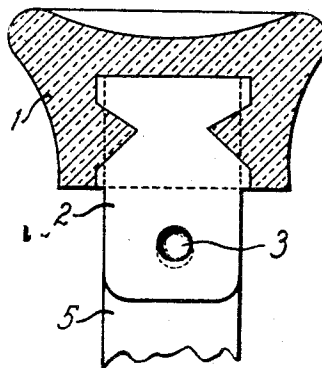


Fig. 4

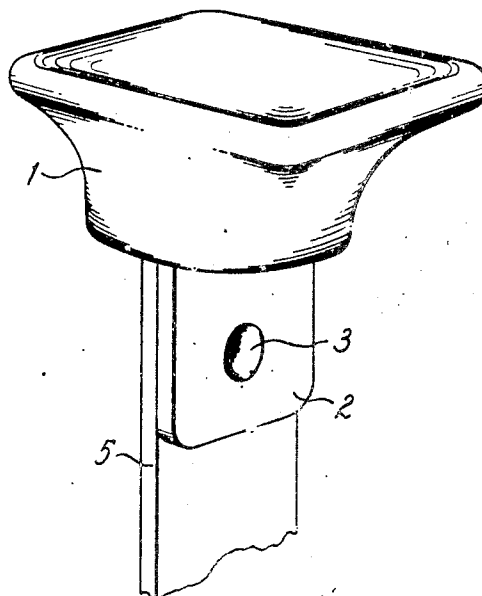
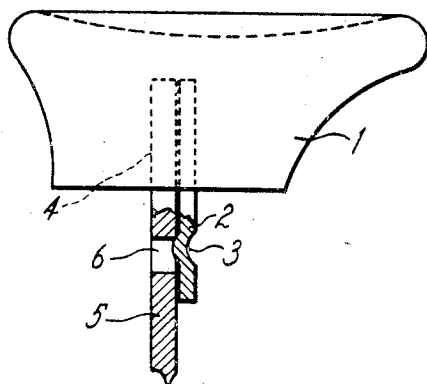


Fig. 3



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KEY FOR COMPUTING AND SIMILAR
MACHINES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 197—102)

This invention relates to keys such as are used on computing machines and the like, and more particularly to a means for securing the key tops to the key stems.

5 Heretofore, key tops have been secured to the key stems by means of a small screw which passed through a depending tab secured in the key top, and threaded into the key stem. This method, in addition to being costly, was not altogether
10 satisfactory because the jar incident to the action of the key restoring spring tended to loosen the screws, frequently causing them to fall out.

15 It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a key top having a simple, efficient, and economical means of securing it to the key stem, and which may be readily removed therefrom when desired.

20 With this and incidental objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts, the essential elements of which are set forth in the appended claim, and a preferred embodiment of which is hereinafter described with reference to the drawing which accompanies and forms part
25 of the specification.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the improved key top and securing means.

30 Figure 2 is a sectional side elevation thereof taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a front view of the key top partly in section to clearly show the securing means, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view thereof.

35 The key top 1 is molded or otherwise suitably formed, preferably of plastic material, with a depending clip 2 anchored therein as shown. Clip 2 is preferably made of suitably tempered metal material and is provided with a boss 3 in that
40 portion which extends below the lower edge of key top 1. A recess 4 (Figure 3) is provided in the key top adjacent one side of clip 2 to receive

the upper end of the key stem 5. Key stem 5 is provided with an aperture 6 to receive boss 3, as shown in Figure 3. The distance between the center of boss 3 and the base of recess 4 is slightly less than the distance between the center of aperture 6 and the base of recess 4. Hence, when the key top is pressed downwardly, clip 2 springing to the right (Figure 3), and the base of recess 4 abuts the top of the key stem, an off center engagement of the boss with the aperture is effected. This slight off center engagement causes a constant tension between the boss and the key stem, and thereby provides a removable but rigid connection between the parts.

45 It is readily seen that this method of attaching a key top obviates the necessity of screws, and yet provides a means of rigidly maintaining the key top in position on the stem, since the impact incident to the restoration of the key in no way affects the rigidity of the connection.

50 While the form of mechanism herein shown and described is admirably adapted to fulfill the objects primarily stated, it is to be understood that it is not intended to confine the invention to the one form of embodiment herein disclosed, for it is susceptible of embodiment in various forms all coming within the scope of the claim which follows.

What is claimed is:

55 A key including a two-piece cap consisting of a body portion of plastic material and a flat flexible strip of metal, the body portion having a recess extending upwardly from its under side, adjacent the flat strip, and the strip having a part thereof imbedded in the body portion and a part extending downwardly below the body portion, the latter part being provided with a boss, and a key stem fitting loosely in the recess and lying adjacent the flat strip, and having an aperture in which the boss extends.

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