Feb. 9, 1954 P. M. PEASE 2,668,645

LOCKING GUN HOLDER

Filed June 19, 1950

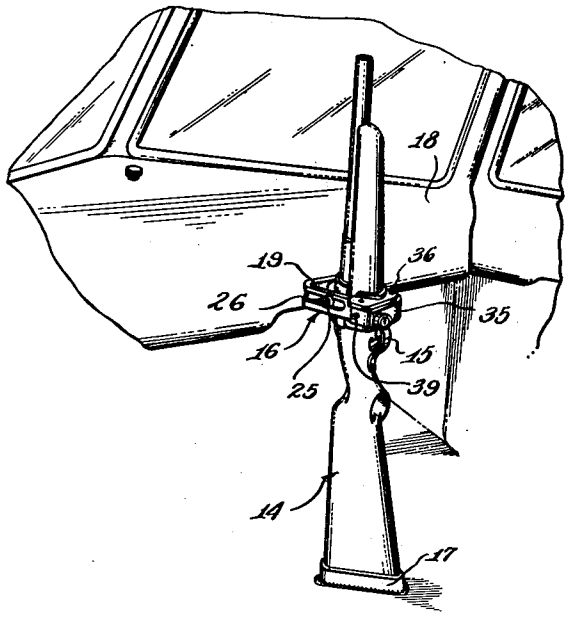


Fig. 1

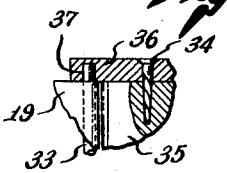


Fig. 5

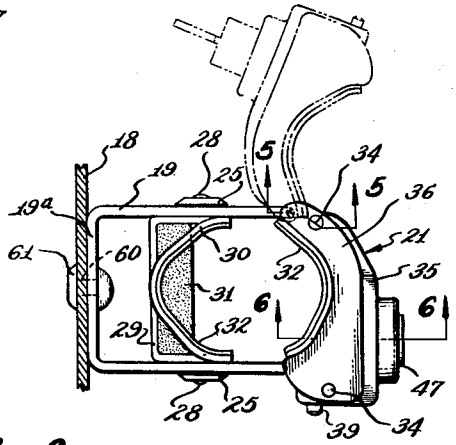


Fig. 3

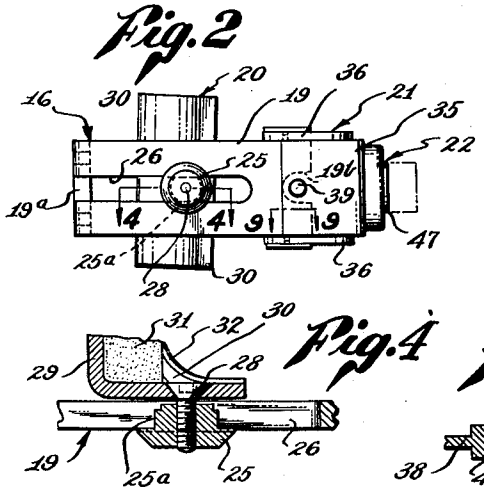


Fig. 2

Fig. 4

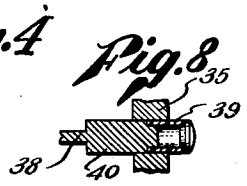


Fig. 8

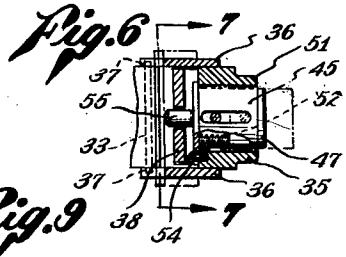


Fig. 6

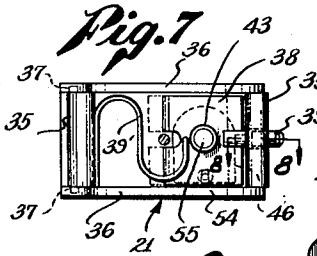


Fig. 7

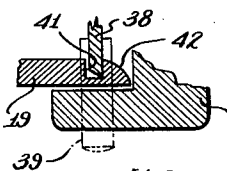


Fig. 9

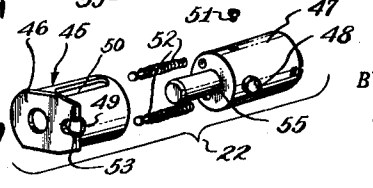


Fig. 10

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LOCKING GUN HOLDER

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Application June 19, 1950, Serial No. 168,991

10 Claims. (Cl. 224—1)

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The present invention relates generally to holders and racks for firearms, such as rifles, shotguns, and the like, and more particularly, to a holder of this type which is adapted for use by police officers in police cars or other places where it is desired to lock the gun into its rack or holder to prevent removal by unauthorized persons.

It is desirable that a gun holder or rack of the type just described be adapted for quick removal of the firearm in case of need, and that such removal be relatively simple in operation, requiring one hand only. It is also desirable that the rack or holder be adjustable to receive various types of firearms, such for example, as a rifle, a submachine gun, a so-called riot gun or sawed-off shotgun, or other similar weapon.

Still further, the adjustable feature should be such that when a weapon is locked in place in the holder, it is impossible, or at least extremely difficult to remove the same either by changing the aforesaid adjustment or by forcing the lock.

Bearing in mind the foregoing desiderata, it is a major object of the present invention to provide a locking gun holder adapted for quick operation to remove the gun held thereby.

It is another object of the invention to provide a holder of the class described which may be adjusted to receive various types of guns.

A further object of the invention is to provide a holder of the class described in which the weapon may not be removed by changing the adjustment while a gun is locked in place.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a locking gun holder in which the lock includes a frangible member such that an attempted forcing of the lock will destroy such member, but will not disengage the lock so as to permit removal of the weapon.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a holder of the class described adapted for use in motor vehicles and the like, and which prevents the weapon from rattling therein so as to mar the finish or disturb the occupants of the vehicle.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide means in an article of the class described for preventing damage to the gun during placement in or removal from the holder.

The foregoing and additional objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from a consideration of the following description of a presently preferred embodiment thereof, such consideration being given likewise to the attached drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a gun holder embodying the present invention mounted in the operator's compartment of a motor vehicle, and showing a gun held therein;

Figure 2 is an enlarged side elevational view of the device shown in Figure 1 as seen from the left;

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Figure 3 is a top plan view of the device of Figure 2, an alternate or open position being indicated in phantom line;

Figure 4 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary elevational section taken on the line 5—5 in Figure 3;

Figure 6 is an elevational section taken on the line 6—6 in Figure 3;

Figure 7 is an elevational view taken on the line 7—7 in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 8—8 in Figure 7;

Figure 9 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 9—9 in Figure 2; and

Figure 10 is a perspective exploded view of the plunger lock employed in the device of Figure 1.

In Figure 1, a gun 14 is shown supported in the operator's compartment of a police car, being held in a locking gun rack 16 embodying the present invention, the latter being secured to the dashboard 18 of the vehicle. The stock of the gun 14 is received in a butt socket 17, secured to the floor of the vehicle. The holder 16 closely embraces the gun 14 immediately above the trigger guard 15 thereof, wherefore the gun may not be removed from its position without unlocking the holder 16, as will hereinafter be described. Any attempt to remove the gun by raising the same so as to release the stock from the butt socket 17 is prevented by the engagement of the trigger guard 15 with the underside of the holding device 16.

Turning now to a discussion of the holder member 16, reference should be had to Figure 2. Here it will be seen that the holder 16 is adapted to grip the gun 14 between a rear clamp member 20 and a forward clamp or jaw member 21, the latter being pivotally supported, as will hereinafter be described. The rear clamp member 20 is, in turn, adjustably supported in a horizontal U-shaped bracket 19, such support being given by a pair of clamp screws 23 received in internally threaded bushing members 25, the latter being held in longitudinal slots 26 in the bracket 19. The bracket 19 comprises the downwardly extending arms in which the slots 26 are formed and an interconnecting cross member 19a at the rearward ends of the arms.

The clamping screws 23 are of the internal hexhead or other similar socket headed variety, and as shown in Figure 4, the heads thereof are disposed at the inner side of the bracket 19 so that when a gun 14 is held in the holding fixture 16, it is impossible to operate the screws 23. The bushing members 25 are round, beveled, and formed with a shoulder 25a having slot-engaging flats thereon, as shown in Figures 2 and 4, so that they may not be rotated from outside of the clamp 19 by the application of a wrench or other means.

When it is desired to readjust the device to

provide, for example, greater space between the clamp member and jaw 20—21, the gun being out of the device 16, the screws 28 are accessible whereby they may be loosened and the entire clamp member 20 moved rearwardly along the slot 26.

Before tightening the screws 28 to position the rear clamp member 20, the latter may be tilted to an appropriate slope to match the slope of the stock or barrel of the gun 14 at the point where it engages the clamp member 20. For example, in Figure 2, the clamp member is shown tilted forwardly slightly.

In order to provide a flat bearing surface on the clamp member 20 to bear against the inner surface of the bracket 19, the clamp member 20 is made in three sections, an upper and lower section 30, each of which is rounded as best seen in Figure 3 to fit around the barrel or stock of the gun 14, and a central section 29 which is rectangular in cross-section so as to fit flat against the interior surfaces of the bracket 19. The three sections 29—30—30 are welded, brazed, or otherwise secured together to form a continuous channel-like member forming the rear clamp member 20.

The rectangular section 29 also provides a recess to receive a block of sponge rubber 31, or similar resilient material, which must be deformed as the gun is placed in the clamp, thus to prevent rattling thereof due to motion of the vehicle. The interior surfaces of the sections 30 and the forward clamp member 21 are lined with felt 32, or other cushioning material to prevent scratching or otherwise marring the surface of the stock or barrel of the gun 14.

The forward clamping jaw 21 is comprised of three sections, a central body 35 substantially equal in its vertical dimension to the vertical width of the bracket 19, and a pair of upper and lower plates 36 fixed to the body 35 and projecting therebeyond at one end (the left in Figure 7), whereby to form pivot lugs projecting above and below one end of the bracket 19 (the upper in Figure 3). As shown in Figure 5, a vertical pivot pin 33 is carried in a vertical bore in an end of the bracket 19, and projects upwardly and downwardly (lower end not shown) into blind sockets 37 in the plates 36. Thus, the pivot pin 33 is inaccessible for removal to open the holder 16.

For similar reasons, the plates 36 are secured to the upper and lower surfaces of the body 35 by means of slotless drive screws 34 of conventional design, and of the type which may not be removed once they are driven home.

As thus far described, it will be seen that the jaw member 21 may swing about the pivot 33 from closed position across the ends of the bracket 19 to an open position such as that shown in phantom line in Figure 3. For a description of the catch and locking means for holding the jaw member 21 in the closed position shown in full line in Figure 3, reference should now be had to Figures 6 through 10. Referring particularly to Figure 9, it will be seen that the jaw 21 carries a movable latch member 38 and that the free end of the bracket 19 is formed with a notch 41 and a beveled striking edge 42 whereby the latch member 38 is moved back when the jaw 21 is closed and may thereafter engage the notch 41 to hold the jaw member 21 in closed position. An S-shaped compression spring 39' is connected between the latch member 38 and a suitable anchorage in the body 35, and adapted to urge the latch member outwardly (to the right in Figure 7) so as to force the same into the notch 41 when the jaw 21 reaches the closed position shown in Figure 3. The free end of the bracket 19 is centrally notched, as at 19b, whereby to clear the button 39 and the rod 40 when the jaw 21 is in closed position.

The latch member 38 may be released from the notch 41 by pressing inwardly on an operating button 39 secured to the outer end of the latch member 38 and projecting through a suitable aperture in the body 35, as shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9. The button member 39 is constructed of plastic tube or similarly frangible material and is mounted on a short section of rod 40 which is brazed, welded, or otherwise secured to the latch member 38. The rod section 40 also serves to guide the latch member 38 in a sliding movement in the jaw member 21.

Due to the frangible nature of the button 39, if it were attempted to release the lock by hammering or otherwise forcing the button 39 inwardly, such operations would result only in destroying the button 39 without moving the latch member 38, which is otherwise held as will be hereinafter described.

Means for locking the latch member 38 securely in its outward limit of movement wherein the end thereof is engaged in the notch 41 comprises a lock 22 having a plunger 47 with a forwardly projecting bolt 55 thereon which is adapted upon forward movement of the lock plunger 47 to enter a central aperture 43 in the latch member 38 to hold the latter against lateral movement.

The movable plunger 47 is slidably carried in a tubular fixed support 45, and is urged outwardly of said tubular support by a pair of compression springs 52 carried by the plunger 47 and projecting forwardly therefrom. A mounting flange 46 is provided at the forward end of the tubular member 45 and notched at one side, as shown at 53, to provide for a mounting screw 54 which, as shown in Figure 6, is screwed into the body member 35 to hold the tubular lock portion 45 in place in the body 35. Forward and rearward movement of the plunger 47 in the tubular support 45 is limited by a short fillister-headed screw 51 carried in the plunger 47 and moving in a longitudinal slot 50 in the tubular member 45.

When the plunger 47 is pushed inwardly in the tubular member 45 against the urging of the springs 52, it is held in its innermost position therein by a spring-urged button 48 positioned and adapted to engage an aperture 49 in the wall of the tubular member 45. When in this innermost position, the bolt 55 projects inwardly into the central aperture 43 of the latch member 38, as aforesaid. The lock plunger 47 is adapted to receive a key of conventional design and contains a conventional plunger lock mechanism adapted to retract the button 48 upon rotation of the key and permit the springs 52 to urge the plunger 47 outwardly to withdraw the bolt 55 from the aperture 43. Thus, after the lock 22 has been unlocked in the usual manner, the jaw member 21 may be opened by depressing the button 39, as previously described.

Thus it will be seen that a relatively simple, and quickly operated gun holding fixture is provided in which the gun is securely held against unauthorized removal, and in which adjustment is provided to receive various sizes of guns. When a gun is locked in place in the fixture 16, the adjustment screws 28 are inaccessible for loosening and other fastening screws, such as

54 and the vertical pivot 33, are also inaccessible or incapable of removal.

The bracket 19 may be secured not only to the dashboard 18 of a motor vehicle, but to any other vertical surface, such for example, as the wall of an armory, gun room, cabinet, or the like. To permit securing of the bracket 19 to such surfaces, the rear cross member 19a thereof is formed with apertures 60 to receive a rivet bolt or other similar member 61, and it will be noted that the head of the securing member 61 is also inaccessible, or at least extremely difficult of access when a gun 14 is locked in place in the fixture 16.

While the device shown and described herein is fully capable of achieving the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it will be realized that it is capable of modification without departure from the spirit of the invention. For this reason, I do not mean to be limited to the form shown and described, but rather to the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to embrace said gun and hold the same in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: a horizontal U-shaped bracket having a pair of longitudinally slotted arms connected at their rearward ends by an integral cross piece; rear clamp means including a forwardly facing substantially vertical channel-shaped member adapted to receive a gun in clamping engagement therein mounted between said arms and secured thereto by a pair of horizontally aligned screw-threaded attachment members extending through said arm slots whereby said clamp member may be adjusted forwardly or rearwardly along said arms and may be tilted about the axis of said attachment members; tool-receiving tightening means for said attachment member disposed adjacent the inner surfaces of said channel member whereby to be accessible only when there is no gun in said channel member; a vertical pivot mounted in the forward end of one of said arms; means forming a latch-receiving recess in the other of said arms; a jaw mounted on said pivot for swinging movement from closed position across the ends of said arms to an open position, said jaw being adapted when in said closed position to secure a gun against said rear clamp means; a movable latch member on said jaw adapted to engage said recess when said jaw is in said closed position; a spring connected to said latch member and anchored on said jaw to urge said latch member in a direction to engage said recess; a manually operable frangible member on said latch member for disengaging the latter from said recess; and a lock mounted on said jaw and adapted to engage said latch member to hold the same in said recess whereby to lock said jaw in said closed position.

2. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to embrace said gun and hold the same in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: a horizontal bracket having a pair of substantially parallel forwardly extending arms; rear clamp means supported between said arms for sliding adjustment forwardly or rearwardly therealong, said clamp means having a surface formed to receive a gun in clamping engagement therewith; releasable fastening means connected between said clamp means and arms to secure said clamp means in an adjusted position thereof, said fastening means including a tool-receiving portion disposed entirely within said bracket and adjacent said gun-receiving surface whereby to be inaccessible for release when a gun is against said surface; and a jaw pivoted on one of said arms and swingable to engage the other thereof to lock a gun in place against said clamping means.

3. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to embrace said gun and hold the same in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: a horizontal bracket having a pair of substantially parallel forwardly extending arms; rear clamp means supported between said arms for sliding adjustment forwardly or rearwardly therealong, said clamp means having a concave surface disposed to receive a gun in clamping engagement therewith; releasable fastening means connected between said clamp means and arms to secure said clamp means to said arms in an adjusted position of said clamp means, said fastening means including a tool-receiving portion disposed entirely within said bracket and adjacent said concave surface whereby to be inaccessible for release when a gun is against said clamping means; a vertical pivot bearing member fixed to a forward end of one of said arms; a jaw having second pivot bearing members complemental to said first member and engaged therewith, said jaw being swingable on said pivot bearing from an open position to a closed position across the free ends of said arms; and a manually operable spring-urged latch adapted to engage the other of said arms adjacent the forward end thereof to releasably hold said jaw in said closed position thereof.

4. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to embrace said gun and hold the same in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: a bracket having a pair of laterally spaced, parallel, horizontal arms; a clamp member slidably supported on said arms for movement therealong, said clamp member being adapted to receive a gun in engagement therewith; fastening means connected between said clamp member and said arms to secure said clamp member to said bracket in an adjusted position of said clamp member, said fastening means including tool receiving portions disposed against adjacent interior surfaces of said arms whereby to be inaccessible when a gun is engaged in said clamp; and movable jaw means carried by said bracket and adapted to lock a gun against said clamp means.

5. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to embrace said gun and hold the same in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: a bracket having a pair of horizontal arms with free forward ends laterally

spaced to receive a gun therebetween; a rear clamp member slidably supported on said arms for movement therealong, said clamp member being adapted to receive said gun in clamping engagement therewith; fastening means connected between said arms and clamping member to lock the latter in any adjusted position thereof; a vertical pivot pin mounted in the forward end of one of said arms, said pin projecting above and below the upper and lower surfaces respectively of said arm; a jaw mounted on said pivot pin for swinging movement from a closed position across the ends of said arms to an open position, said jaw comprising a body portion substantially equal in width to said pivot-carrying arm and a pair of upper and lower plates irremovably secured to said body and having portions extending therebeyond at points above and below the ends of said pin-carrying arm, each of said extending plate portions having a blind socket therein engaged with an end of said pin whereby said pin is inaccessible when said plates are secured to said body as aforesaid; and lockable and manually releasable latch means on said jaw adapted to engage said recess to lock said jaw in said closed position thereof.

6. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to hold said gun in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: open-sided bracket means adapted to embrace a gun standing in said socket; a clamp member mounted in said bracket and movable therein to adjust the size of said bracket means for guns of various sizes, said clamp member having a concave, gun-receiving surface; releasable fastening members connected between said clamp member and bracket to lock said clamp member in an adjusted position thereof, said fastening members having tool receiving portions disposed within said bracket and exposed only at said concave surface whereby said securing members are inaccessible to release the same when a gun is in said bracket; and movable jaw means carried by said bracket means to close the latter and clamp a gun therein against said clamp member.

7. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to hold said gun in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: open-sided bracket means adapted to embrace a gun standing in said socket; a clamp member mounted in said bracket and movable therein toward and away from the open side of said bracket to adjust the size of said bracket means for guns of various sizes; releasable fastening members connected between said clamp member and bracket to lock said clamp member in an adjusted position thereof, said fastening members having tool receiving portions disposed entirely within said bracket whereby said securing members are inaccessible to release the same when a gun is in said bracket; movable jaw means carried by said bracket means to close the latter and clamp a gun therein against said clamp member; manually operable spring-urged latch means carried by said jaw means and adapted to engage said bracket to releasably hold said jaw means in said closed position thereof; and a key-operated lock carried by said jaw means and adapted to selectively engage said latch means to lock the same against release.

8. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a flat horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun, a clamping fixture adapted to be mounted above said socket to hold said gun in a vertical position, said fixture comprising in combination: open-sided bracket means adapted to embrace a gun standing in said socket; a clamp member mounted in said bracket and movable therein to adjust the size of said bracket means for guns of various sizes; securing means to immovably secure said clamp member to said bracket means in an adjusted relative position thereof; movable jaw means carried by said bracket means to close the latter and clamp a gun therein firmly against said clamp member; a spring-urged releasable latch member carried by said jaw means and adapted to engage said bracket to releasably hold said jaw means in said closed position thereof; a key-operated lock carried by said jaw means and adapted to selectively engage said latch member to lock the same against release; and an operating member mounted on said latch member for manual operation to release said latch member, said operating member being constructed of a relatively destructible material whereby an attempt to force said lock when the latter is engaged with said latch member will destroy said operating member without releasing said latch member.

9. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun; a clamp including a fixed jaw assembly secured above said socket and a movable jaw assembly hinged and lockable to said fixed assembly whereby to embrace a gun standing in said socket; an adjustable clamping member in one of said jaw assemblies having a concave surface to engage said gun; and releasable securing means to lock said member in fixed adjusted position in said last-mentioned jaw assembly, said securing means having the only tool-receiving portion thereof exposed only at said concave surface whereby said tool-receiving portion is inaccessible to loosen said securing means with a gun in said clamp.

10. For use in a gun holder of the type having a butt socket secured to a horizontal surface to receive the stock butt of an upstanding gun and a clamp including a fixed jaw assembly secured above said socket and a movable jaw assembly hinged to said fixed assembly whereby to embrace a gun standing in said socket, a lock assembly to hold said jaws closed around said gun comprising: latch means to hold said jaw assemblies closed; a key-operated retainer to lock said latch means in closed position; and a manually operable member to release said latch means when said retainer is unlocked, said releasing member being constructed of a frangible material whereby an attempt to force said lock by manipulation of said releasing member alone destroys said member without unlatching said jaw members.

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