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KEYLOCK FOR ELECTRICAL PLUGS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A locking device comprising a housing having a compartment for enclosing an electrical plug, such as an appliance plug. A socket is mounted in the housing adjacent the compartment and is connected to a line cord which in turn is connected to a conventional electrical power source. The socket is adapted to receive the electrical plug. A key-actuated switch is mounted in the housing and interposed between the socket and power source for opening or closing the electrical circuit. The device is provided with means for permanently sealing the electrical plug within the housing compartment after the plug is inserted into the socket.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to electrical connectors and circuit breakers with unauthorized-use preventing means. In particular, this invention pertains to a locking device for use with electrical appliance plug to prevent the unauthorized use of the appliances.

The closest prior art includes many devices for preventing the unauthorized use of appliances. These devices fall generally into two groups: (1) keylock receptacles for appliance cord plugs; and (2) plugs which contain key-operated disabling means. The devices of the first group have the disadvantage of being too cumbersome to use because whenever the appliance is to be operated, the plug must be removed from the receptacle and inserted into an electrical outlet. The second group of articles have the disadvantage of having to be substituted for the conventional plug normally found on the appliance, by either the manufacturer or the consumer of the appliance.

Therefore, an object of this invention is to provide a locking device which can be permanently connected to existing electrical plugs and which is easy to install and operate. A further object of this invention is to provide a locking device which can be economically manufactured and sold to the consuming public at a relatively low price. Additional objects of this invention will become manifest from the description, drawings, and claims.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The device of this invention includes a housing containing a compartment for retaining a conventional electrical appliance plug and a socket mounted in the housing adjacent the compartment. The socket is electrically connected to a line cord which terminates in a conventional plug, and a key-actuated switch is interposed in the line between the socket and the cord. The switch is mounted in the housing with the keyhole being externally accessible. The appliance plug is inserted into the socket and is enclosed within the compartment provided for it. A cover is permanently secured to the compartment by drive screws or like means so that the appliance plug cannot be removed without destroying the locking device.

When the device is connected to a appliance, the appliance can be controlled by the key-operated switch so that the appliance can be secured against unauthorized use.
the following claims any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A locking device for an electrical plug comprising:

   (1) a housing;
   (2) a compartment in said housing for enclosing said electrical plug, said compartment having an opening in one side to insert said plug;
   (3) a socket in said housing adjacent said compartment adapted to receive said electrical plug;
   (4) means disposed in said housing for supporting said socket;
   (5) an electric line cord connected to said socket, said cord extending out of said housing through an opening therein and terminating in a plug which is adapted to be inserted into a conventional electrical outlet;
   (6) a key-actuated switch in said line intermediate said socket and said line cord plug, said switch being movable between open and closed positions and being mounted in said housing with the keyhole externally accessible;
   (7) means for electrically connecting said socket with said switch so that when said switch is open said socket will be disabled;
   (8) means for permanently sealing said electrical plug within said housing, said means including a cover which fits over the opening in said compartment for said appliance plug and at least one fastening means which is adapted to permanently fasten said cover to said housing.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the housing has a top portion which extends part way across the top; the means for supporting said socket is a wall located intermediate the ends of said housing and under said housing top portion so that a part of said housing top portion overhangs said wall, said wall supporting said socket so that the apertures in said socket for receiving the appliance plug face the plug enclosing compartment; and the cover which fits over the opening in said compartment has one end which extends under the overhanging part of said housing top portion and has an aperture adjacent the opposite end thereof, said housing having an aperture which corresponds to the aperture in said cover, both of said apertures being adapted to receive said permanent fastening means.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said housing and said compartment cover each have a plurality of corresponding apertures which are adapted to receive a plurality of fastening means.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said housing and said compartment cover each have two corresponding apertures which are adapted to receive the fastening means and said fastening means comprises two drive screws.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the wall located in the housing describes a second compartment in said housing, said second compartment containing said key-actuated switch and the means for electrically connecting said socket to said switch, said second compartment also containing that part of said electric line cord which is connected to said socket.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the wall has an opening through which the electric line cord passes into the plug enclosing compartment, said line cord passing out of said plug enclosing compartment through said opening in said housing for said line cord.

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