Jan. 13, 1953 L. L. SHERWOOD 2,625,191

POCKET KEY CASE

Filed Sept. 11, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

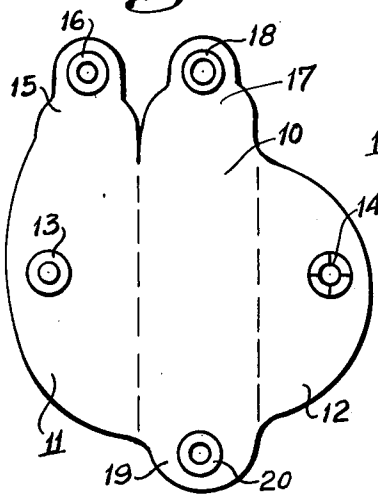


Fig. 2.

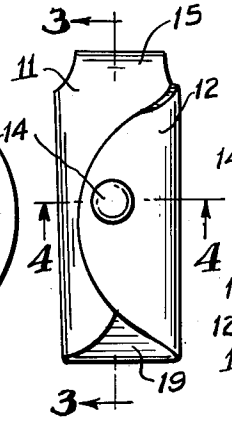


Fig. 3.

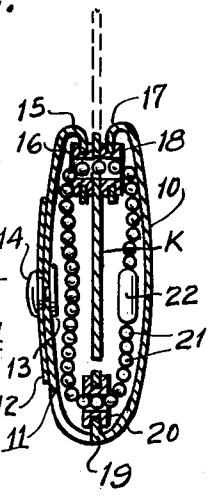
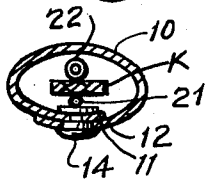


Fig. 4.



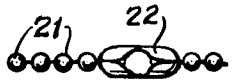


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

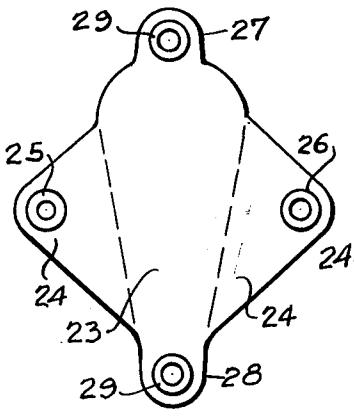


Fig. 8.

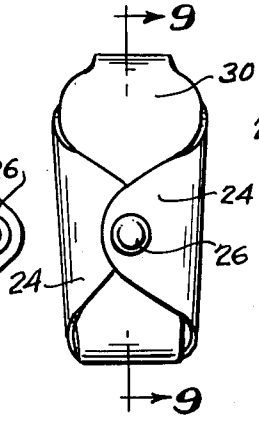


Fig. 9.

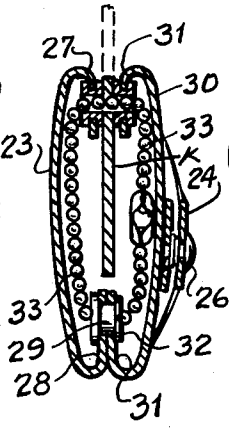
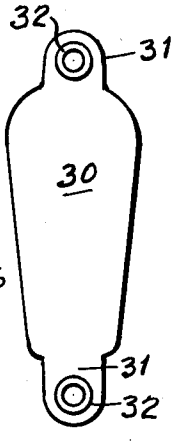


Fig. 7.



INVENTOR.
LESTER L. SHERWOOD
BY
Martin P. Smith
ATTORNEY.

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Filed Sept. 11, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

Fig. 10.

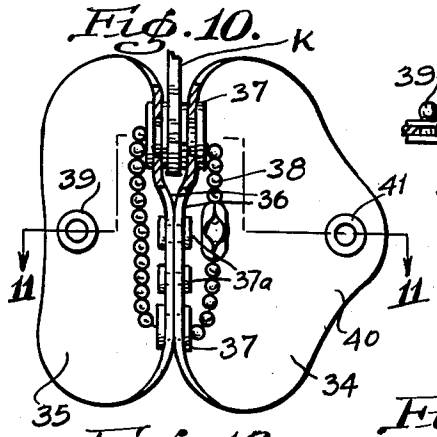


Fig. 11.

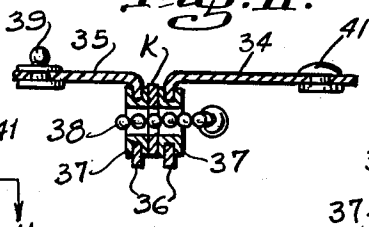


Fig. 12.

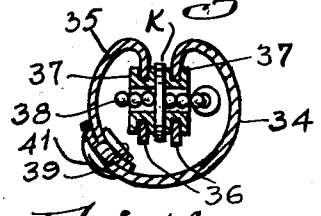


Fig. 13.

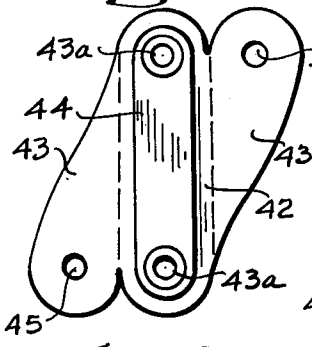


Fig. 15.

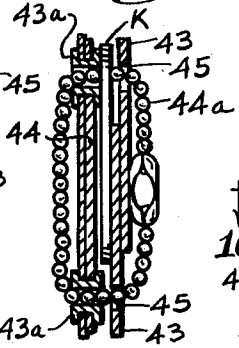


Fig. 14.

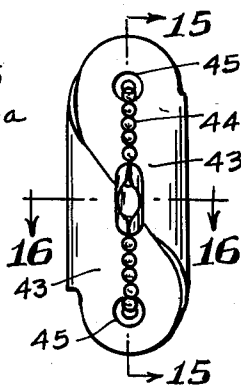


Fig. 16.

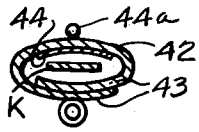


Fig. 17.

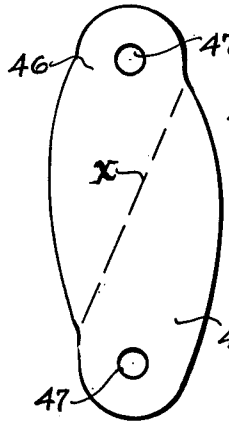


Fig. 18.

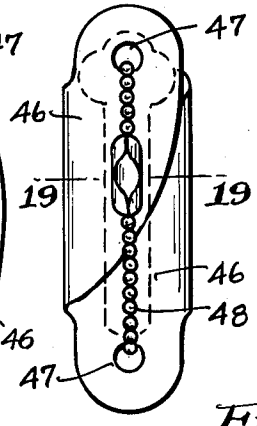


Fig. 20.

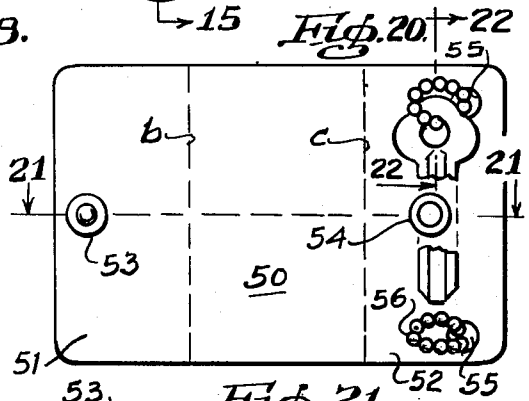


Fig. 21.

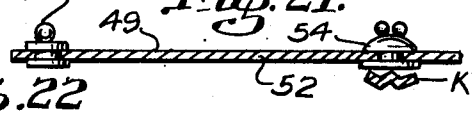


Fig. 19.

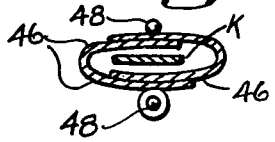
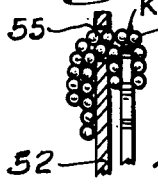


Fig. 22



INVENTOR.
LESTER L. SHERWOOD
BY
Martin P. Smith
ATTORNEY.

Patented Jan. 13, 1953

2,625,191

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,625,191

POCKET KEY CASE

Lester L. Sherwood, Banning, Calif.

Application September 11, 1950, Serial No. 184,211

1 Claim. (Cl. 150—40)

1

My invention relates to small folding cases or envelopes of leather or the like, and which are especially designed for receiving and compactly holding keys, particularly those of relatively small size, which are used for locking and unlocking the doors, ignition switches and storage compartment doors of motor vehicles, in fact, any of the smaller sizes of keys usually carried in the pocket.

The principal objects of my invention are, to provide a key-carrying case, which is simple and compact in structure which, when folded, completely covers the enclosed key or keys; further, to mount within the carrying case a small key chain which serves as a suspension member for the case when a key therefrom is inserted in a lock such as, for instance, a motor vehicle ignition lock on the dash or steering column of the vehicle, under which conditions the case being formed of leather or other fairly soft material will not rattle on the dash or column as a result of vibration developed while the equipped vehicle is being driven.

A further object of my invention is to provide a key case or carrier of the character referred to which requires only a small amount of leather or like material in its production and which requires very little time in assembly, thus reducing manufacturing costs to a minimum.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the body member of a preferred form of my improved key case and showing same in flat condition before being folded.

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the case in folded closed condition.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section, taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a short section of the type of chain used in the case and showing the joint member therein.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the main body member of a modified form of the case, same being shown in flat condition before being folded.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the companion body member which is combined with the member shown in Fig. 6 in producing the case.

Fig. 8 is an elevational view of the form of case produced from the body members shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

Fig. 9 is a vertical section, taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

2

Fig. 10 is an elevational view looking against the inner face of a modified form of the case.

Fig. 11 is a horizontal section, taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a horizontal section, taken on the same plane as Fig. 11, and showing this form of the case in closed position.

Fig. 13 is a view looking against the inner face of a further modified form of the case.

Fig. 14 is an elevational view of the form of case seen in Fig. 13, in closed position.

Fig. 15 is a vertical section, taken on the line 15—15 of Fig. 14.

Fig. 16 is a horizontal section, taken on the line 16—16 of Fig. 14.

Fig. 17 is an elevational view of one of the identical members used in forming a modified form of two-part case.

Fig. 18 is an elevational view of the case, in closed position, that is formed by the two parts of the form shown in Fig. 17.

Fig. 19 is a horizontal section, taken on the line 19—19 of Fig. 18.

Fig. 20 is an elevational view of a further modified form of one piece case in open position.

Fig. 21 is a horizontal section, taken on the line 21—21 of Fig. 20.

Fig. 22 is a detail vertical section taken on the line 22—22 of Fig. 20.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings, particularly to the form of case illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, 10 designates the central section of a single piece of leather or the like, which forms one of the walls of the case, and integral with the sides thereof are substantially semi-circular portions 11 and 12, which are folded onto wall 10 in overlapping relation, to form the other wall of the case.

Near the outer edge of member 11 is seated the stud member 13 of an ordinary snap fastener and the complementary socket member 14 is seated near the outer edge of wall member 12.

Projecting upwardly from wall member 11 is a tab 15 in which is seated an eyelet 16 and a similar tab 17 projects upwardly from wall member 10 and is provided with an eyelet 18. Depending from the lower end of wall member 10 is a tab 19, in which is seated an eyelet 20.

The chain used in all forms of my improved case is preferably formed of a series of flexibly connected small hollow spherical members 21 and a short slotted hollow member 22 for detachably connecting the ends of said chain when mounted in the case.

When properly folded for use, wall member 11 is folded over onto member 10, with tabs 15 and 17 folded inwardly and downwardly so as to overlie the upper portions of said wall members, and

tab 19 is folded upwardly against the inner face of the lower portion of wall member 10.

After the key or keys have been placed on chain 21, the latter is threaded through coinciding eyelets 16 and 18, also through eyelet 20, and wall members 11 and 12 are now folded over onto the key and chain and secured in such position by engaging socket 14 on stud 13.

Thus, the folded case provides a complete flexible closure or envelope conveniently holding and carrying a key or keys and as said case is formed from flexible leather or the like, it will not rattle against the vehicle dash or steering column when suspended by chain 21 from the key inserted in the ignition lock.

In the modified construction shown in Figs. 6 to 9, inclusive, two wall members of leather or the like are used in forming the case, one member 23 is provided on opposite sides with substantially triangular tabs 24, one carrying the stud member 25 of a snap fastener and the other the socket member 26 of such fastener.

At the upper end of member 23 is a tab 27 and a similar tab 28 projects from the lower end, both of said tabs being provided with eyelets 29.

The other wall member 30 (Fig. 7) has the same size and shape as wall member 23, without the side tabs, but with end tabs 31, corresponding with tabs 27 and 28 and both carrying eyelets 32.

When this form of case is made up for use, tabs 27 and 28 are folded against the inner faces of the end portions of wall member 23, and tabs 31 are folded against the inner faces of the end portions of wall 30, thus bringing the eyelets 29 and 32 into registration so as to receive the key-carrying chain 33 (see Fig. 9).

To close this form of case, the tab 24 carrying the stud 25 is folded inwardly onto wall member 30 and socket 26 engages said stud, thus holding the tabs 24 in overlapping relation (see Fig. 8).

In the form of case shown in Figs. 10, 11 and 12, two wall members 34 and 35 are disposed side by side with the central portions of their adjacent edges 36 connected by rivets 37a and their upper and lower portions are connected by eyelets 37, for reception of a conventional key-carrying chain 38.

The stud 39 of a conventional snap fastener is seated in wall member 35 near its outer edge and a tab 40, on the outer edge of wall member 34, carries the socket member 41 of said fastener.

Chain 38 carrying a key or keys, such as K, are practically enclosed by wall members 34 and 35 when the tab 40 is folded over onto wall member 35 and secured by engagement of socket 41 with stud 39 (see Fig. 12).

In the modified form of one-piece case illustrated in Figs. 13 to 16 inclusive, one side wall member 42 has on its opposite sides reversely disposed lobe-shaped members 43, adapted to overlap and form a side wall. A strip 44 of thin resilient metal provides a reinforcement to maintain the case in proper form, said strip being arranged on the inner face of wall 42 and secured to the ends thereof by eyelets 43a, which receive the key chain 44a. The large ends of the lobe-shaped members 43 are provided with apertures 45 for receiving the key chain.

In this form of case, chain 44a passes through eyelets 43a and apertures 45, with the greater portion of said chain overlying the outer faces of the walls of the case and the key or keys mounted on the chain between said walls (see Figs. 15 and 16).

In the form of case shown in Figs. 17, 18 and 19, two identical wall forming members, each shaped as shown in Fig. 17 and foldable on a diagonally-disposed line X, to provide reversely arranged lobe-shaped wall-forming members 46, are provided in their end portions with apertures 47 for reception of a key chain 48.

The case forming members are assembled so that the lobe-shaped members overlap each other slightly as seen in Fig. 19, with chain 48 extending lengthwise on the outer faces of the sides of said case and passing through the coinciding pairs of apertures 47, and with the key or keys on said chain, between the double thickness walls of the case.

To swing the key outwardly from this form of case, it is only necessary to manipulate same so as to pull one or the other of the pairs of overlapping edges of the walls 46 apart, and then pull the key outwardly from between said edges. The flexibility of the leather or material from which the case is formed and the flexibility of the chain readily permits this action.

In the one-piece case illustrated in Figs. 20, 21 and 22, a rectangular section 49 of leather or the like is foldable on spaced parallel lines *b* and *c*, to form a side wall 50 and a pair of overlapping side wall members 51 and 52.

The stud member 53 of a snap fastener seated in wall member 51, is adapted to engage the socket member 54 seated in wall member 52, to connect said members and maintain the case in closed position.

Formed in the end portions of wall member 52, are apertures 55, through which pass the doubled end portions of a key chain 56, with the main portions of said chain lying lengthwise on the outer face of wall member 52.

The key or keys are carried by the doubled ends of the chain between the walls of the case, as seen in Figs. 20 and 22.

Thus, it will be seen that I have provided a pocket key case which is simple and compact in structure, inexpensive of manufacture and very effective in performing the functions for which it is intended. Minor changes in the size, form and construction of the various parts of my improved key case may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the spirit of my invention, the scope of which is set forth in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

In a pocket key case, a pair of walls of flexible material, tabs on the ends of one of said walls a tab on one end of the other wall which tabs are turned inward so as to lie between said walls, eyelets seated in said inwardly turned tabs and a key chain passing through said eyelets and lying wholly between said walls.

LESTER L. SHERWOOD.

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