This invention relates generally to a combined flashlight and key ring.

Carrying a flashlight separate from a key ring for the purpose of locating key holes in the dark is very inconvenient as it is necessary to use one hand for holding and directing the flashlight and the other hand for inserting the key.

The present invention overcomes the foregoing and other objections by providing a miniature and portable flashlight to which is hinged a flexible ring or chain for holding a bunch of keys and the like.

A primary object of the present invention is to illuminate a key hole or the like and to guide a key thereto.

Another object is to provide a unitary structure for illuminating a key hole and for guiding a key thereto.

Another object is to provide such a structure which is adapted to be carried in the pocket of the user without inconvenience or causing the clothes to bulge.

Another object is to provide such a device that will collapse into a compact form.

Yet another object is to provide such a device that is simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture.

A further object is to provide such a device that will aid in keeping the keys in sight thereby minimizing the chances of the keys becoming misplaced or hidden.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the description of the invention to follow taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which—

Fig. 1 is a side view of the improved flashlight and key ring.
Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 with parts in section.
Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the key ring collapsed.
Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The improved flashlight and key ring or key supporting member are illustrated as used in connection with a handle 18 of an automobile door provided with the usual key hole 11 for the insertion of a key.

This improved device comprises an ordinary flashlight consisting of a cylindrical casing 12, miniature in size, provided with the usual electric battery 13, exterior switch button 14 and light bulb 15. The bulb 15 is housed in a removable end or cap 16 which is screw threaded on to the casing 12.

An elongated flexible member is fastened to the flashlight casing. This member is shown as a key ring or key supporting device comprising flexible wire links 17 supporting metal beads 18. The ends of this wire ring are suitably fastened to the cap 16, but they may of course be fastened directly onto the casing 12. The flexible ring member is separated at one point for the purpose of mounting a key 19 or keys thereon, and the separated ends are held together by a clasp 20 comprising a socket 21 and pin 22 adapted to be inserted into the socket.

By reason of the foregoing construction, the device can be held in one hand. The palm of the hand can push the switch to light the bulb and the fingers of the hand can grasp the key and direct it to the key hole. Owing to the flexibility of the key ring, the rays of the light bulb and the key can be brought into direct alignment with the key hole thereby illuminating the key and key hole. This is possible because the key ring and key can be swung across the front of the bulb directly in the center of the rays.

When not in use the flexible key ring readily collapses along the flash light casing as shown in Fig. 3 thereby taking up a minimum of space in the pocket.

When the device is on top of a desk or table or the like, the flashlight casing tends to minimize the chances of it becoming misplaced or hidden.

Furthermore, the flexible key ring permits the device to be hung readily on a nail or other support for the purpose of keeping it in sight.

I claim:

1. A device of the kind described comprising a cylindrical casing, a battery therein, said casing having an open end, a removable closure cap for the open end of the casing, said cap having an open end, a light bulb in the casing electrically connected to the battery and protruding from the open end of the closure cap and a flexible chain attached at each end thereof through the walls of said cap for supporting keys.

2. A device of the kind described comprising a cylindrical casing, said casing having an open upper end and a substantially closed lower end, and a switch protruding through said lower end, a removable closure cap for the upper end of the casing, said cap having an open end, a light bulb in the casing electrically connected to the battery and protruding from the open end of the closure cap, and a flexible clasp chain for removably supporting a plurality of keys thereon, said chain attached at each end thereof through the walls of said cap.

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