Jan. 18, 1927. 1,615,059

D. J. WULFING

KEY CASE

Filed Sept. 17, 1925

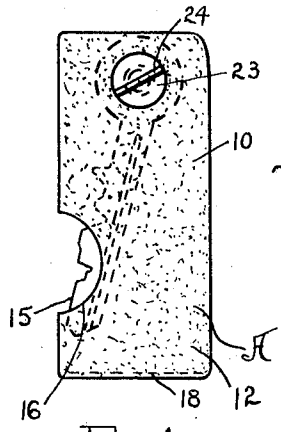


Fig. 1

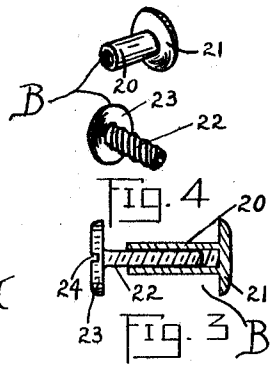


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

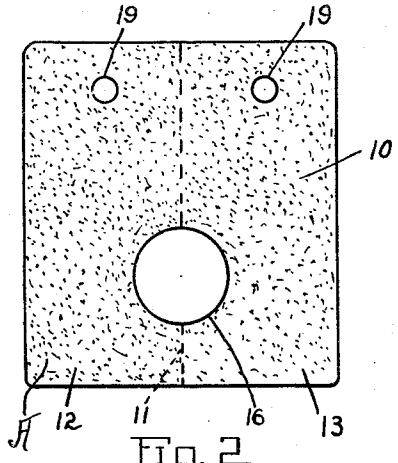


Fig. 2

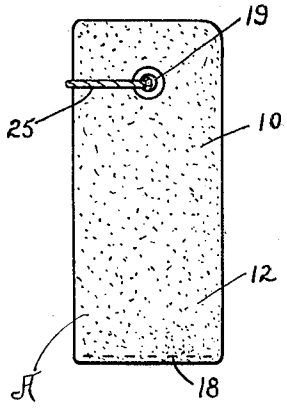


Fig. 5

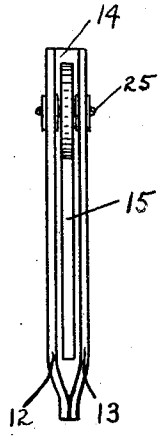


Fig. 6

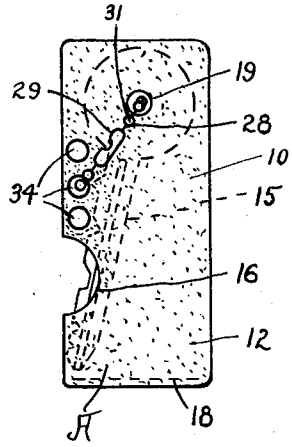


Fig. 7

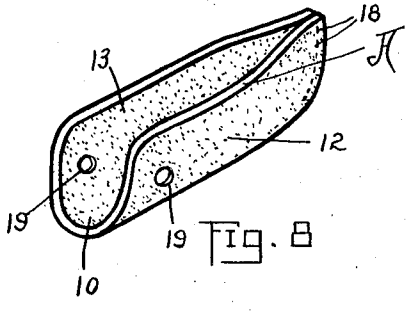


Fig. 8

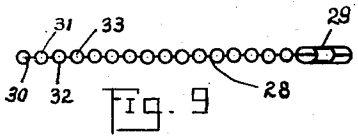


Fig. 9

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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KEY CASE.

Application filed September 17, 1925. Serial No. 56,864.

My invention relates to a key case wherein it is desired to provide a key case of a type to hold the key in a similar manner as a knife blade, held between the sides of the handle of a knife. The feature of holding the key in this manner is to provide a simple key case which can be made of leather or any other suitable flexible material, and having a member on which the keys are held in pivotal relation in the case.

A feature of my invention resides in providing a key case wherein the pivotal holding means of the case includes a member which is adjustable so that the shank of the same can be lengthened or shortened for holding more or less number of keys in the case.

It is also a feature of my invention to provide a flexible holding member for the keys on the pivotal connection with the case so that the entire key case and holding means is flexible to hold the keys pivotally within the case and with the holding means adjustable so as to lengthen or shorten the same.

An object of my invention is to provide a recess in the side of the case which permits the finger to press against the keys to push them out of the case more readily. The flexibility of the case holds the same about the keys and in some cases it is at an advantage to have an opening so that the keys can be pressed out into operative position.

I include in my invention a threaded key holding shank which is locked over the sides of the key case and having the shank of the same projecting in and through the side walls of the key case to hold the keys in operative position between the side walls of the case.

These features, together with other objects and forms of construction will be more fully set forth in the specification and claim.

In the drawings forming part of this specification:

Figure 1 is a side view of my key case showing the keys held within the same.

Figure 2 illustrates the blanked out formation of the key case.

Figure 3 illustrates a sectional detail of the adjustable key holding pin.

Figure 4 illustrates the parts of the pin separated from each other.

Figure 5 illustrates a different form of my key case.

Figure 6 is an edge view of the construction illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 7 illustrates a different form of my key case.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the leather body of my key case.

Fig. 9 is a detail of the pin used in the construction of the key case, as shown in Figures 7 and 8.

In the drawings my key case A is formed with a body portion 10 of leather or other flexible material which is died out of the formation illustrated in Figure 2.

The body portion of my key case A, such as 10, is provided with a central division along the line 11 which is scored in the blanking out of the body 10 so that the key case A is provided with two sides 12 and 13 which are of approximately equal dimensions and similar so as to fold over and form a key receiving pocket 14 between the sides 12 and 13, so as to hold the key 15 practically concealed and protected between the flexible leather side walls of the key case A.

The body 10 of the key case A is formed with a finger opening 16 which affords easy access to the free end of the key 15 so that the key can be pushed out from between the side walls 12 and 13 into operative position.

When the sides 12 and 13 are folded unto each other, I close one end of the case A by the stitching 18 so that this end of the key case is closed and thereby forming means to hold the sides in close relation to each other. This construction provides a closed edge along the folded line 11 at the back of the key case, while the front of the key case is open longitudinally into the compartment 14 so as to receive the key 15.

At one end of the body 10 of the key case A I provide openings 19 through which the key holding rivet B is adapted to extend. The key holding rivet B is formed of two parts, one part 20 of which is tubular and formed with a head 21, while the other part 22 is threaded and is adapted to fit into

complemental threads in the tubular part 20, and is formed with a head 23 having a cross slot 24.

The rivet B provides an adjustable key holding means which extends through the openings 19 and holds the sides 12 and 13 together, while the shanks of the portions of the rivet form a pivot bearing for keys, such as 15, to be turned on so that the keys can be turned in knife-blade-like operation when moved into or out of operating position. The threaded adjustment of the parts of the rivet B provide a pivoting shank which may be lengthened or shortened and thus permit one or more keys to be held adjustably between the sides 12 and 13 of the key case A. This rivet is adapted to form an adjustable lock and holding means for the keys and the side walls 12 and 13 of the key case A, so as to hold the sides against opening and the rivet from becoming disengaged to prevent accidental disengagement of the keys from the key case A. It is necessary to unscrew the portion 22 from the receiving portion 20 of the rivet B to disengage a key from the rivet and to separate the sides 12 and 13 of the case A so that a key can be removed from or attached to the rivet B.

In Figure 5 I have illustrated my key case A with a body portion 10 made of leather or other suitable flexible material and with eyeleted openings 19 to strengthen the sides of the openings.

In this form of my key case I prefer to use a flexible cord 25 which extends through the openings 19 which are protected by the eyelets 26 and the ends which are tied inside between the sides 12 and 13 of the case A. By this means I provide a flexible member for holding the keys pivotally between the sides of the case and free to pivot into or out of operating position. This provides a very practical key case as it has no stiff metal parts which might make it objectionable in use, yet the cord 25 may be lengthened or shortened to adjustably hold the keys between the key case sides 12 and 13.

In Figures 7 and 9 I have illustrated a chain formation for holding my keys within the case A. In this form of my key case the linked chain 28 is made up of a series of links and is provided with a spring tubular locking end 29 which engages either the end ball 30 or the next suceeding balls 31, 32, 33, etc., back from the end of the chain to lengthen or shorten the chain as may be desired.

I also provide adjusting holes 34 into which the chain 28 can extend so as to pass through any one of the openings 34 to lengthen or shorten the chain to hold different number of keys 15 within the case A.

My key case is very practical for holding an auto key separate from the other keys used by the ordinary person, as it provides a means of holding the auto keys flat and in a manner to pivot into and out of the case in a jack knife blade-like manner. This provides a very simple inexpensive construction for my key case. My key case is small ordinarily and can be carried in the vest pocket or in a small place, not being bulky in use. The compact neat design of my key case provides a means for carrying keys for a lady wishing only to carry a few keys within the same and by means of the adjustable pivot member, several keys can be easily carried within the case. It is an important feature of my invention to provide an adjustable key holding member so that the keys can pivot on the same and still be held against too free rotation by the side walls of the case. The simplicity and practical nature of my key case has demonstrated itself in the large demand for the same and the practical nature in which it is accepted as an automobile key case and holder.

In accordance with the patent statutes I have described the principles of operation of my key case and while I have illustrated a particular formation and construction in the drawings, I desire to have it understood that these drawings are only illustrative of a means of carrying out my invention and that it may be applied to uses other than those above set forth within the scope of the following claim.

I claim:

A key case including a single blank folded along a centre line, one end of said folded blank being closed so as to form a pocket having one end and one side open, key retaining means passed through the folded blank and near the open end of said blank and the folded side of said blank having an opening therein to aid in ejecting keys from said case.

DANIEL J. WULFING.