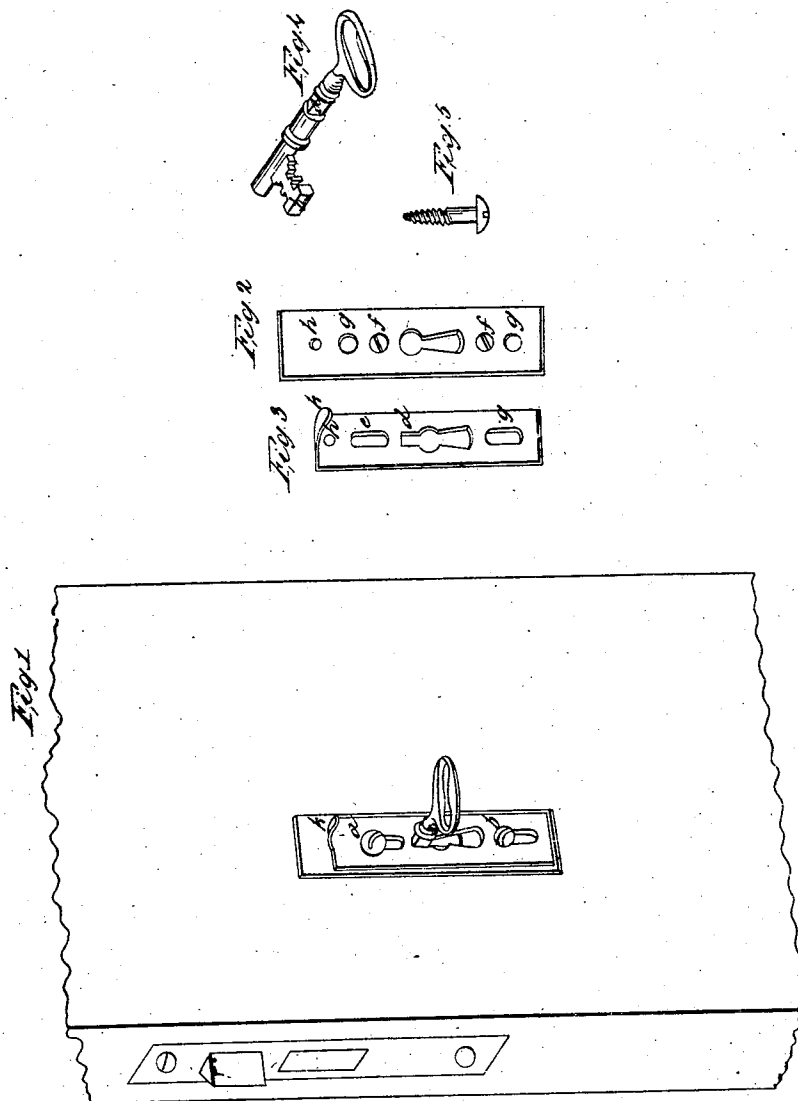


A. Westcott,
Key Fastener,
No 37,665, Patented Feb. 10, 1863.



Witnesses
Chas. A. Nash.
Edward S. Spaulding

Inventor
Amos Westcott

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AMOS WESTCOTT, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR PREVENTING DOOR-KEYS FROM BEING TURNED.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 37,665, dated February 10, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AMOS WESTCOTT, of the city of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Preventing Door-Locks from Being Picked; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in a new device for preventing the key in a door-lock from being turned and pushed out from the opposite side of the door, and at the same time rendering the operation of otherwise picking the lock far more difficult, if not impossible. This in my invention is accomplished by the use of a double escutcheon, the one fixed to the door in the usual way, while the other, which is provided with a slot to fit a flattened or squared place in the stem of the key, and which slides over and embraces the key in such a manner as to hold it in any desired position.

Figure 1 represents this device and a section of a door in perspective. Fig. 2 represents the first or stationary escutcheon, and is made in all respects like the ordinary escutcheon, with the exception that it has through it two holes, *g' g'*, through which screws pass to hold and to guide the movable escutcheon. Fig. 3 is the movable escutcheon, having in it the two slots *e g*, through which the screws, Fig. 5, pass, both to hold it and to guide it as it moves up and down.

Above and connected with the key-hole in this escutcheon is a third slot, *d*, which, when the escutcheon is depressed to its lowest point, shuts over the flattened or squared portion of the stem of the key, and securely holds it from turning in either direction. This last or sliding escutcheon is slightly curved, the convex surface being outward, so that when the head of the lower screw at *b*, Fig. 1, is pressed firmly against it the tendency is to strengthen it, and to hold it firmly against the stationary escutcheon. This escutcheon is provided on its under side at the point *h*, Fig. 3, with a short pin, which, when the slide is at its lowest point, corresponds with and falls into a hole, *h'*, Fig. 2, in the stationary escutcheon and holds it firmly in place, so that it can-

not be carried upward till this pin is withdrawn from the hole in the stationary plate. To be enabled to do this the head of the upper screw, *a*, Fig. 1, must not be carried fully down to the plate, but left from it a distance corresponding to length of the pin above described, and before attempting to carry the sliding escutcheon upward the top of it must first be drawn forward by the handle, (hereinafter described,) so as to relieve this pin from the hole in the under plate. Attached to the sliding escutcheon, at or near its upper end, is a handle, *k*, for raising or depressing it, and also to draw it forward to relieve the pin above alluded to.

This device may be used in connection with any ordinary lock and key, the only change required is simply to square or flatten that portion of the stem of the key which passes through the escutcheon *a*, Fig. 4.

If the key is simply flattened, this should be done on the sides of the stem at right angles with the handle, as this will hold the bit of the key *b*, Fig. 4, at right angles, or crosswise of the key-hole, and thus not only prevent it from being turned, but also from being pushed out. This position is also best with reference to picking the lock, as the bit of the key in that position fills that portion of the lock best calculated to prevent its being picked.

The operation of these different parts is as follows, viz: When the sliding escutcheon is carried up, the key-holes in the two perfectly correspond, and the key can be turned as if there were but one, the ordinary escutcheon; but when the outer or movable escutcheon is slid down it will be seen that the hole made by the combination of the two is of an entirely different shape, the slot in the outer one passing across the round portion of the key-hole in the stationary one, and if the key is in place shutting over its squared or flattened portion, so as firmly to secure it from either being turned or pushed out of the door. To work this slide when it is up you have simply to press upon the handle *k* (the key being in position) till the slot *d* embraces the key and the pin *h* falls into the hole on the under plate. To raise this slide you have first to pull the handle forward till the pin is disengaged, and then carry it directly upward till

the lower end of the slots *e g* strike the screws *a b*, Fig. 1, which secure and guide this movable plate.

It will be seen that the outer plate, being made curving and held firmly against the lower one, by the lower screw, *b*, Fig. 1, constitutes a spring to hold the pin in place, and thus serves as a lock to the escutcheon, while this in turn secures the key firmly in the desired position.

In the drawings I have adopted the perpendicular slide to bring together this slot and corresponding square or flat section of the stem of the key, for the purpose of securing the key; but it may in some varieties of locks be desirable to have this outer escutcheon to move horizontally, or the two forms—viz., the slot and the square or flattened key—brought together in the form of a latch, having in view the same object and accomplished essentially by the same means.

When this device is applied to rim-locks, the first or stationary escutcheon may be dispensed with, as the slide would as well run

against the metallic plate of the lock as against an extra escutcheon, which is only used in any case for a base over which to slide the movable escutcheon. As these (rim) locks project from the door, and as in many of them the key-hole is near the top of the lock, it will frequently become necessary to move the sliding escutcheon horizontally, and perhaps in some cases resort to the latch form above referred to.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with the curved elastic slotted sliding plate *A*, of the handle *k*, pin *h*, and hole *h'*, employed in the manner described, to secure the said sliding plate in the position for locking the key, but admit of its ready movement from within.

AMOS WESTCOTT.

Witnesses:

EDWARD G. SPAULDING,
EDWARD H. WELLS.