Aug. 31, 1926. 1,598,207

C. LORBER

KEY CASE

Filed Dec. 12, 1925

FIG. 1

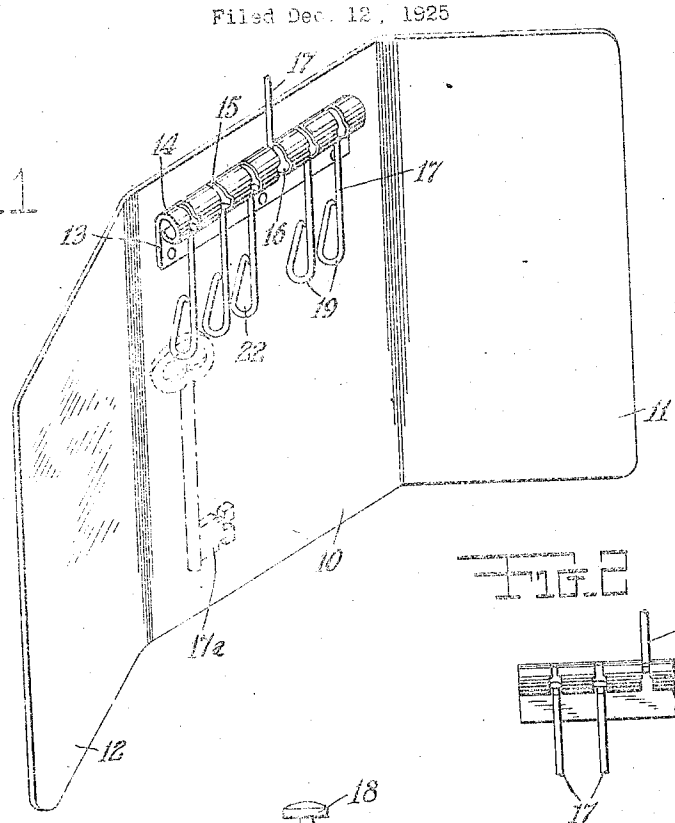
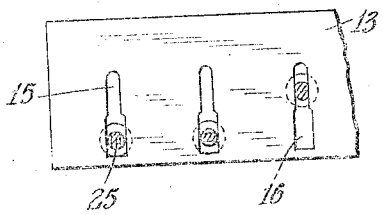


FIG. 2

FIG. 3



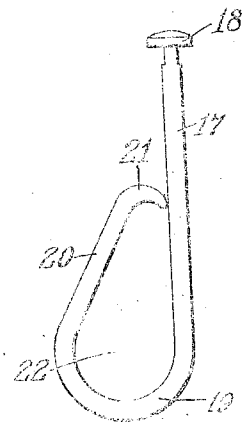


FIG. 4

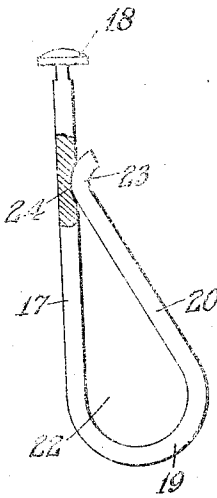


FIG. 5

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KEY CASE.

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The main object of this invention is to provide a key case serving as a container for keys and having for one of its novel features a construction which permits the rotation of the key rings in the case when they are suspended and prevents rotation of the key rings when the latter have been projected outside of the case.

Another object is to provide a novel type of key ring which is self-closing and permits the ready securement of a key upon the ring in such position that it cannot readily be inadvertently removed from the same.

The above and other objects will become apparent in the description below, in which characters of reference refer to like-named parts in the drawing.

Referring briefly to the drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the key case, showing the series of hooks in suspended position and one of said hooks in rotated position to a point exterior of the key case.

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the key hook mounting sleeve, showing the formation of the hook slots therein.

Figure 3 is an enlarged plan view of the mounting sleeve used with said key case, showing the various positions of the hooks in the slot to illustrate the method of rotating the hooks and locking the same at different positions in the slots.

Figure 4 is an enlarged front elevational view of the preferred type of hook.

Figure 5 is a front elevational view of the modified type of hook.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the numeral 10 indicates the back of the key case which is formed of leather or some other suitable material. The sides of the back have flaps 11 and 12 extending therefrom which are adapted to fold over the surface of the back and cover the keys suspended from rings which will be more fully described hereafter. Near the upper end of the back 10, a plate 13 is secured. This plate consists of a rigid piece of metal. The upper edge of this rigid plate is rolled into a cylindrical sleeve 14 and is mounted at the upper end of member 10 forming the suspension means for the keys. The cylindrical sleeve is first formed as part of a flat plate in which a plurality of longitudinal slots are formed. Said slots extend across the width of the plate 13 when it is in the flat stage where the sleeve is finally formed so that said slots will be situated on the sleeve 14. The slots are identical to each other being mutually spaced apart and have small longitudinal channels 15 having semi-circular closed ends and intercommunicating relatively larger channels 16 which are square at their ends. When the cylindrical sleeve 14 has been formed on the plate 13, the larger channels 16 are positioned below the smaller channels 15 as illustrated in Figure 1.

Rings are mounted in each of these slots and are used for the purpose of attaching keys such as 17^a thereto. Said rings are formed of a unitary length of wire having a downwardly extending stem 17 which is surmounted by a flat head 18. The lower end of the stem continues as a semi-circular loop 19 and then projects angularly upward toward the stem as an extension 20 terminating at its end in a hanging catch hook 21. This construction forms an elongated tapering loop 22 into which one end of the keys is slipped. The foregoing relates to the preferred type of hook. In the modified type, the same construction with regard to the head stem, lower loop, and extension, is adhered to and the same numerals which are common to the preferred type will apply. The upper terminating end of the modified type of ring is curved at 23 toward the stem 17 and this curved portion rests within a similarly curved recess 24 formed in the side of the stem so as to completely close the loop 22.

Directly beneath the heads 18 of both types of ring used with the key case, the stems are provided with parallel flat surfaces 25. The dimension between the flat surfaces are substantially identical with the width of the small channels 15. The stems directly beneath the head are originally formed of material circular in cross section whose diametral dimension is equal to the width of the large channel 16 so that when the stem finds itself in the large channel, said stem is freely rotatable therein.

The novel characteristics of the type of key case illustrated herewith is that the stems of the key suspension rings cannot be rotated unless the entire key case is rotated when said stems are in a protruding position such as indicated by one of the stems in Figure 1. When the key rings hang suspended from their stems 17, as shown by five of these elements in Figure 1, the key rings may be freely rotated as the large channels

16 are of sufficient dimension to permit the rotation of these stems. Swinging the stems upwardly 180 degrees makes it necessary that the dimension of material of the stems between the flat surfaces 25 entering into the restricted or smaller channels 15 and on entering these channels, the stem is prevented from rotating except when the key case itself is rotated. In this manner, a structure is provided for a collection of keys which permit rotation of the keys when they hang suspended to any position in the key case so that they can be conveniently carried and when any one of these stems are swung upwardly 180 degrees, so that the longated loops protrude from the key case, the stem and entire key case rotates as a single unit.

I claim:—

1. In a key case, a back, flaps integral with said back and adapted to cover the latter, a rigid plate mounted on said back, rings suspended from said plate member, and means in said plate permitting rotation of the rings when suspended when the key case stands upright and locking said rings in position when swung upwardly 180 degrees.

2. In a key case, a back, flaps integral with said back and adapted to cover the latter, a rigid plate mounted on said back, rings suspended from said plate member, a cylindrical sleeve integral with said plate, slots in said sleeve receiving said rings, said slots permitting rotation of the rings when suspended and locking said rings against rotation when lifted to protruding position from the key case.

3. In a key case, a back, flaps integral with said back and adapted to cover the latter, a rigid plate mounted on said back, rings suspended from said plate member, a cylindrical sleeve integral with said plate, slots on said sleeve receiving said rings, said slots comprising a smaller channel and an intercommunicating larger channel, said rings having stems adapted to rotate in the larger channel and be locked against rotation in the smaller channel.

4. In a key case, a back, flaps integral with said back and adapted to cover the latter, a rigid plate mounted on said back, rings suspended from said plate member, a cylindrical sleeve integral with said plate, slots on said sleeve receiving said rings, said slots comprising a smaller channel and an intercommunicating larger channel, having stems adapted to rotate in the larger channel and be locked against rotation in the smaller channel, said stems being circular in cross section and adapted to rotate in the larger channel, and means in said stems for permitting the latter to enter into the smaller channels and be locked against rotation.

5. In a key case, a back, flaps integral with said back and adapted to cover the latter, a rigid plate mounted on said back, rings suspended from said plate member, a cylindrical sleeve integral with said plate, slots on said sleeve receiving said rings, said slots comprising a smaller channel and an intercommunicating larger channel, said rings having stems adapted to rotate in the larger channel and be locked against rotation in the smaller channel, said stems being circular in cross section and adapted to rotate in the larger channel, and means in said stems for permitting the latter to enter into the smaller channels and be locked against rotation comprising flat surfaces formed on said stems, the dimension between said flat surfaces being equivalent to the width of the smaller channels, said flat surfaces when entering the smaller channels being adapted to lock the rings against rotation.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES LORBER.