

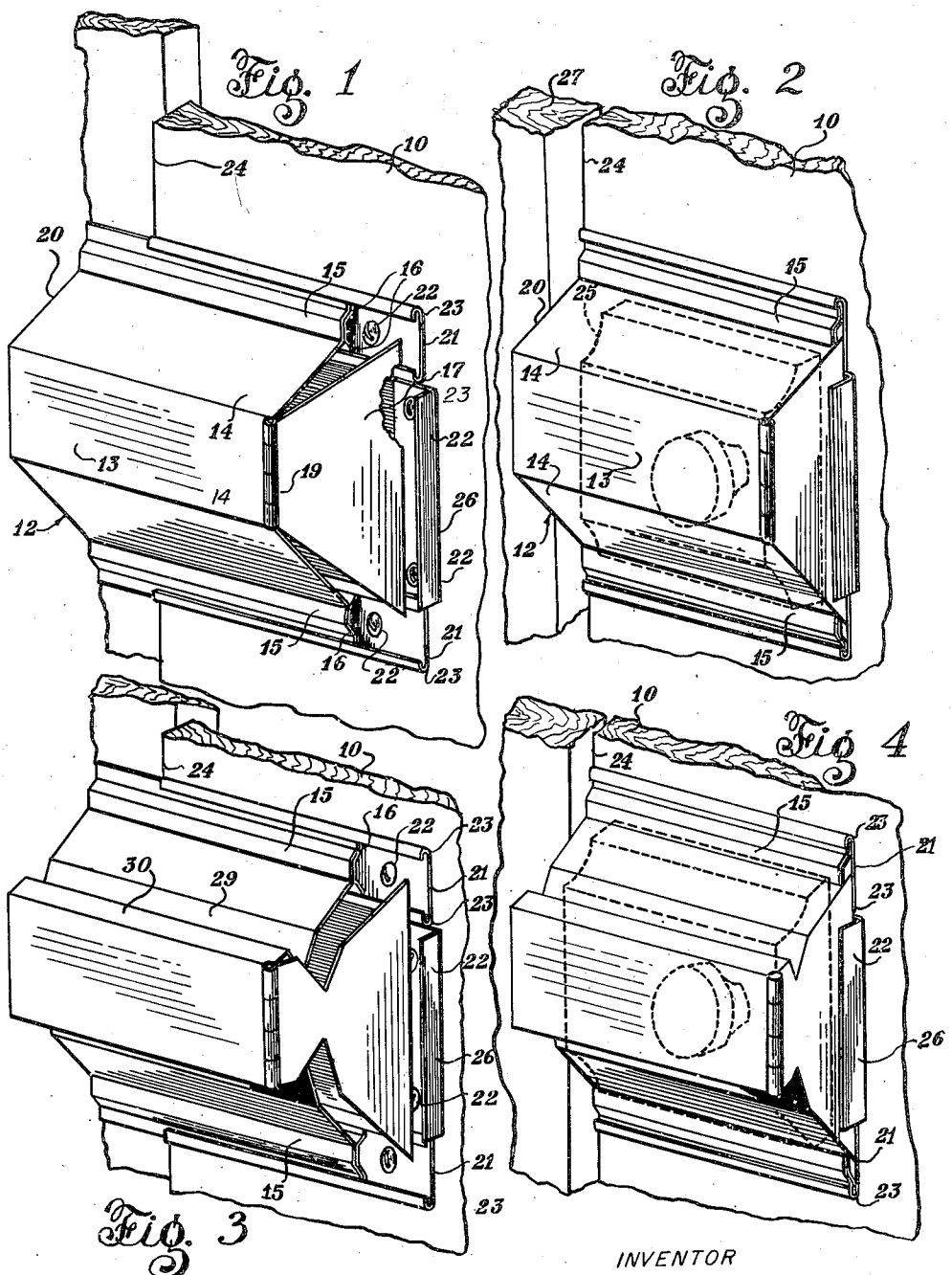
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LOCK PROTECTOR

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LOCK PROTECTOR

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This invention relates to lock protectors and is particularly adaptable to locks of the type which can be unlocked from the inside, without the use of a key, such as by operating a knob.

In instances where locks of this type are used, it occurs often that a glass pane or thin wood panel in the door, adjacent the lock, is broken by a culprit who reaches in and manipulates the lock to open the door. Various types of protectors have heretofore been designed to prevent this condition from happening, but they have all been too complicated, requiring alteration of the lock, or possessing some other troublesome aspect. None of the prior constructions are as simple in construction and application as the device of my invention.

An object of this invention is the provision of simple and novel means for preventing unauthorized opening of a lock from the outside by reaching through a broken pane or panel in a door.

Another object of the invention is to provide a protector which can be used in connection with nearly all standard types of door locks having a manually operated element on the inner side of the door.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a lock protector which is not dependent upon interaction with the lock in any way.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a lock protector which in no way interferes with authorized operation of the lock.

And still another object resides in the provision of a novel lock protector, constructed and arranged and removably mounted on the inside of the door, in cooperation with the door jamb, when the door is closed, to cover and prevent unauthorized operation of the manually operable member of the lock.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of a lock protector which in operative position is retained in place by the door jamb.

Another object of the invention is to provide a lock protector which can be readily removed when not in use.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of my device, whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of lock protector embodying the present invention shown mounted in position over a lock;

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Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device of Fig. 1 in operative position and with the door closed;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of protector in a position similar to that of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the protector of Fig. 3 shown in operative position over the lock.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the device is shown applied to a door 10, the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2 comprising a shield 12 of suitable gauge sheet metal shaped by a stamping operation to form a flat top surface 13, and side surfaces 14, one extending from each side of the top surface 13 at an angle therefrom. Provided at the outer edges of the side surfaces 14 are slide elements 15 formed by folding the sheet metal over to form lugs 16 substantially coextensive with the side surfaces 14.

A swingable closure member 17 is hinged at 19 to the top surface 13 at one end thereof, and is adapted to swing into position closing off its end of the shield 12. Said closure member is shaped to conform to the shape of the cross section of the shield. The opposite end 20 of the shield 12 is preferably open for simplicity of manufacture, but, of course, it may be closed if desired, and in the latter event said closed end is provided with an opening of sufficient size to permit free, unobstructed operation of the lock bolt.

Two channel shaped guide strips 21 with their longitudinal edges turned in to form guideways 23 are secured at opposite ends to the door as by wood screws 22, one guide strip 21 being positioned on each side of the lock, in parallel relation to each other, and extending from the free edge 24 of the door inwardly to a point beyond the inner edge of the lock designated at 25. Between the inner ends of the guide strips 21, and inwardly beyond the lock, is a detent angle strip 26 also secured to the door by wood screws 22, or by any other preferred means.

To put the lock protector to use, the door is left ajar as shown in Fig. 1, and the slide elements 15 are inserted in the outer ends of the guide strips 21 at the free edge of the door. The closure member 17 is swung outwardly from the inner end of the shield, and the shield is then slid over the lock. After the inner end of the shield has passed over the lock, the closure member 17 is swung over the end of the shield, and continued sliding of the shield brings the free edge of the closure member 17 to bear against the detent strip

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26. The detent strip 26 is positioned at such a point that when the shield 12 is in position covering the lock as just described, the outer end 20 of the shield registers approximately flush with the edge 24 of the door. When the door is then closed, the shield is held in place by the door jamb 27 from one direction and by the detent strip 25 from the other direction.

The shield 12 may also be put into position from the other direction, i. e., by sliding it from right to left as shown in Fig. 1, since the end 20 of the shield is preferably, as above indicated, completely open. For this procedure the door must be ajar as with the procedure first described.

In the form shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the shield 12 is shaped to fit the particular shapes of locks, whereas in the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the shield 12 is of general shape to fit locks of nearly all shapes. Many locks are of standard design and exist in sufficient numbers to justify standardizing the shield in a shape to conform more nearly to the shape of the lock. In the present embodiment the side surfaces 14 have a peculiar shape, having sharp angular depressions 29 to fit under the knob of the lock, the knob then being positioned in the enlarged portion 30 of the shield. Since the enlarged portion 30 is designed to fit closely over the knob of the lock, it is intended as an alternative construction to omit the closure member 17 in the form. It is impossible to reach in and operate the lock with the fingers or a tool. In such alternative construction the detent strip 26 is lengthened to extend beyond the inner ends of the guide strips 21 to retain the shield in place from that direction. In other respects the construction and use of this form of protector are the same as described in connection with Figs. 1 and 2.

Although I have herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, manifestly it is susceptible of modification and rearrangement of parts without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. I do not, therefore, wish to be understood as limiting this invention to the precise form herein disclosed, except as I may be so limited by the appended claims.

I claim as follows:

1. A lock protector for covering and enclosing a lock on a door, comprising a shield, one end of said shield having a swingable closure member thereon, means slidably securing said shield to the door, and stop means on the door for retaining said swingable closure member in closed position, said stop means also retaining said shield against removal in one direction.

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2. A lock protector for covering and enclosing a lock on a door and coacting with the jamb of the door, comprising a shield having a swingable closure member on one end, means slidably securing said shield to the door, said shield being in position for abutting the door jamb without substantial movement when the door is closed, and said shield thereby being held against removal by the door jamb, and means on the door for retaining said swingable closure member in closed position.

3. A lock protector for use on a door, comprising a shield adapted to fit over a lock on the door, one end of said shield having a swingable closure member thereon, means slidably securing said shield to the door, said closure member being swingable to open position for sliding the shield over the lock in a direction from the free edge of the door, and stop means on the door spaced from the lock in the direction the shield is slid over the lock, said closure member being swingable to closed position after passing the lock in the sliding operation and before reaching the stop means, said stop means retaining said closure member in closed position and the shield in place on the door.

4. A lock protector for use on a door and coacting with the jamb thereof, comprising a shield adapted to fit over a lock on the door, one end of said shield having a swingable closure member thereon, means slidably securing said shield to the door, said closure member being swingable to open position for sliding the shield over the lock in a direction from the free edge of the door, and stop means on the door spaced from the lock in the direction the shield is slid over the lock, said closure member being swingable to closed position after passing the lock in the sliding operation and before reaching the stop means, said stop means retaining said closure member in closed position and the shield in place on the door from movement in one direction, and the jamb retaining the shield in place on the door from movement in the other direction, when the door is closed.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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