April 12, 1960 S. R. MANZARDO 2,932,107

KEY IDENTIFICATION AND FILING MEANS

Filed Feb. 25, 1957

Fig. 1.

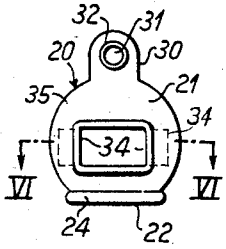


Fig. 2.

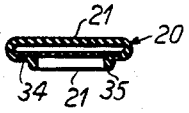


Fig. 6.



Fig. 3.

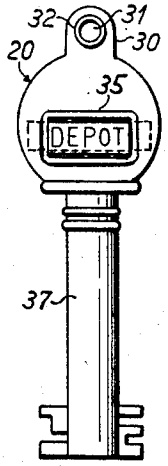
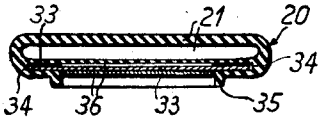


Fig. 4.



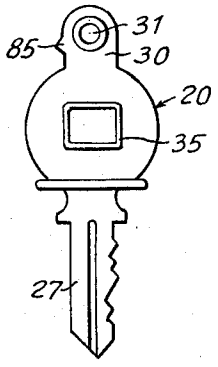


Fig. 5

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KEY IDENTIFICATION AND FILING MEANS

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9 Claims. (Cl. 40—330)

This invention relates to a key identification and receiving means to be applied to the handle of a key or similar object. In order easily to distinguish several keys from each other which are kept on a ring, in a case, on a key rack or otherwise, the keys heretofore have been provided with tags which are movably connected to the key handle by means of a hook, a chain or other intermediate piece. These known identification means suffer from the disadvantage that they are often larger than the respective keys themselves, that they are liable to interfere with each other or other objects and can then not be easily separated, and that on racks with several rows of keys, they often hang down over the next underlying row, covering those keys or preventing their separation or attachment. For keys which are to be carried in pocket cases the known tags are of course entirely unsuitable.

With the identification means according to the present invention all aforementioned shortcomings are obviated.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a cover for a key which will facilitate its identification in an assembly and the insertion and removal of the key therefrom, by means of projections extending from the rim of the cover and integral therewith.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a cover of a material with properties of resilience permitting keys with various handle sizes to be easily fitted with the same size cap, for instance, by a snap-on action, by stretching the cover over the handle of the key.

Still another object of the invention is means for identification of each key by including in the cover above described an outer pocket parallel to the rim of the cover for insertion of visual identification or key indexing means.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide the covers above described in a plurality of colors also for reference purposes.

Another object of the invention is a method of providing a plurality of keys in an assembly with a kit of covers, each having a rim projection parallel with the axis of the key, equipped with means for attaching it into an assembly provided with cooperating means, and each cover having a rim projection or projections spaced radially differently from those of the other covers for reference purposes, in order to provide variably headed keys.

Other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is the face view of a form of the invention showing a key receiving means with an identification tag frame;

Fig. 2 shows a section on the line VI—VI of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows the cap according to Fig. 1, arranged on the handle of a key;

Fig. 4 shows a section similar to that of Fig. 2, on a larger scale with a designation ticket and protective cover applied to the cap;

Fig. 5 shows a key receiving means similar to those of Fig. 1 with a key identification projection.

Fig. 6 represents a designation plate and its protective cover of transparent material.

The key receiving and identification means shown in the several figures comprises a snap-on cap or cover envelope **20** which is made of flexible stretchable material, such as natural or synthetic rubber or rubber-like synthetic substance. In accordance with the invention the elastomeric properties of the cap are such that it will be stretched to approximately double its size, to permit the use of the same standard-sized cap as a cover for key handles differing in size. The cap **20** includes two parallel flat sides or wall disks **21** which are connected to each other along their periphery so as to leave a bottom opening **22** for insertion of the handle part of a key. A lateral projection **30** is provided on the rim of the cover and extends axially in direction opposite to that of a key inserted in the cover. The sides preferably have the outline of circular surfaces cut along a chord. The projection **30** is perforated to form a hole **31**. The edge of the insertion opening **22** is strengthened by a bead **24** which extends round it. The edge of the hole **31** is also beaded. The external side of one wall disk **21** preferably is provided with a mark such as a numeral, lettering, or symbols such as triangles etc. This mark is embossed, but could also be recessed or printed on the cap. The same mark could be applied to the front and to the back of the cap.

The described identification means is stretched over the handle of a key **27**, as shown in Figs. 3 and 5. To this effect the handle of the key **27** is pushed through the insertion opening **22** of the cap **20**. It is thus possible to have a chain etc. threaded through the hole **31** or to hang the identification cap up with the key **27** inserted therein.

The numeral on the cap **20** permits easily distinguishing the key **27** from similar keys likewise provided with such identification means, it being of course understood that each of the identification means bears a different numeral.

In order to facilitate the distinction of different keys with similar identification means, the latter preferably are made of contrasting colors, the paint being embedded in the material of the cap.

The marks or lettering may be provided with a color luminescent in the dark, or only with a color to easily distinguish the keys from each other by night. As an alternative external areas of the cap **20** are provided with a coating luminescent in the dark or the whole identification means consist of a material luminescent by night.

This projection **30** projects from the rim of the cap in the axis of the key and consists of the same material as the cap **20** and permits hanging up the key cover with the key therein. A bead **32** extends round the edge of the hole **31**.

One wall disk or face side **21** preferably has means to hold exchangeable designation plate and has to that effect, at its outside, a frame **35** formed by embossed ribs. Moreover, the face side **21** possesses two pockets **34** laterally adjoining the grooves and into which the ends of the strip-like designation plate **33** may be inserted.

According to Fig. 6, there is also provided a protective cover **36** made of transparent material into which the designation strip **33** can be inserted. With strip **33** and cover **36** applied to the cap **20**, the cover lies within the frame **35** so that strip **33** and cover **36** are protected. Fig. 3 shows a front view of the cap **20** provided with a designation strip **33** and protective cover **36** as fitted to the handle of a key **37**. Obviously, the designation strip **33** may be changed as required and be lettered by the user of the identification means himself.

Fig. 5 illustrates identification means according to the invention, in which the cap **20** is provided on its periphery with at least one lateral cam-like projection **85** integral with the cap **20**. Said at least one projection **85** serves as a feeder for key recognition for instance, by feeling with one finger, to make it possible to recognize by touch the different keys. One or more than one lateral projections **85** may be cut on the cover at different points, in order to obtain an identification means for a plurality of keys. In this way a plurality of differently spaced, feelable signs are available for key identification.

A modification shown in Figure 5 has a suspension lobe **30**, on which there is provided a cam-like projection **85** for key identification by touch.

An essential advantage of the invention resides in the fact that the identification means are well connected to their keys, require little space and do not dangle down beside the keys when hung up. The keys provided with the disclosed identification means are handier than keys with tags made in several parts and tag-holders of the design hitherto used.

It is intended that the present specification covers all changes and modifications of the embodiments shown and combinations thereof, which do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

What I claim is:

1. A key-identification means, and receiving means comprising a resilient removable snap-on cover-envelope for at least the handle part of a key, and a plurality of projections on the rim of said cover radially extending in the plane of said cover and integral therewith at least one of said projections serving purposes of identification and one other projection serving key-attaching purposes.

2. A key-identification means as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cover includes an outer window-pocket, adjacent to a side of said cover, with means for insertion of variable visual identification of said key inserted in said cover.

3. A key-identification and receiving means comprising a resilient snap-on cover envelope with a bottom opening for insertion of the handle-part of a key; an outer window pocket, adjacent to a side of said cover with means for insertion of a plate for visual identification of a key inserted in said cover; a lateral projection on the rim of said cover axially extending in direction opposite to that of a key inserted in said cover, and means on said lateral projection for key keeping purposes.

4. Means for identification of keys having heads of various sizes and for filing of said keys in an organized assembly such as a filing cabinet, comprising a key-cover

made of material having high resilient properties, including a first and at least one second pocket, said first pocket having a resilient orifice for insertion of the head of a key therethrough into said first pocket, said at least one second pocket having a window and an orifice for insertion of a key identification means therethrough into said second pocket for visual observation of said identification means.

5. A key identification means as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first and the said at least one second pocket form a single integral body said pockets having a common dividing wall.

6. A key identification means as claimed in claim 4, wherein the said first and said at least one second pocket are arranged in parallel planes.

7. A key identification means as claimed in claim 4, wherein said cover includes a rim extension in the plane of its said first pocket and means on said rim extension for insertion and removal of said key with said key cover fitted over it into and from a key assembly respectively.

8. A key identification means as claimed in claim 4, wherein said cover comprises at least one rim extension protruding radially in the plane of said first pocket for purposes of key identification.

9. A key identification means as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first and said at least one second pocket are in parallel with a common dividing wall and form an integral body, wherein said first pocket has a rim extension in the plane thereof, comprising means for insertion and removal of a key inserted in said cover into and from a key assembly respectively, and wherein said rim extension comprises at least one extension protruding radially in the plane of said pocket for purposes of identification of said key.

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