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A. A. ZAROWIN

2,232,503

KEY CASE

Filed April 12, 1940

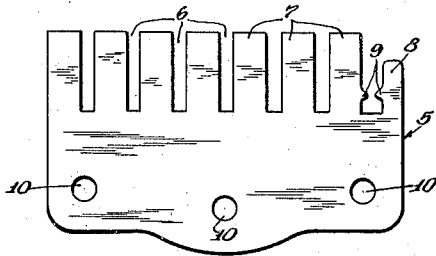


FIG. 1.

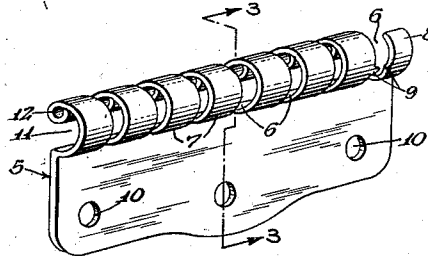


FIG. 2.

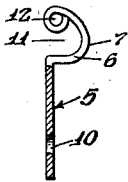


FIG. 3.

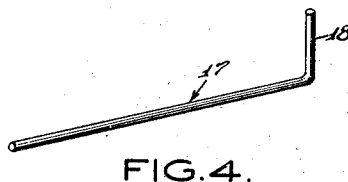


FIG. 4.

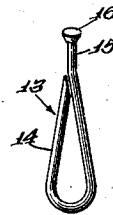


FIG. 5.

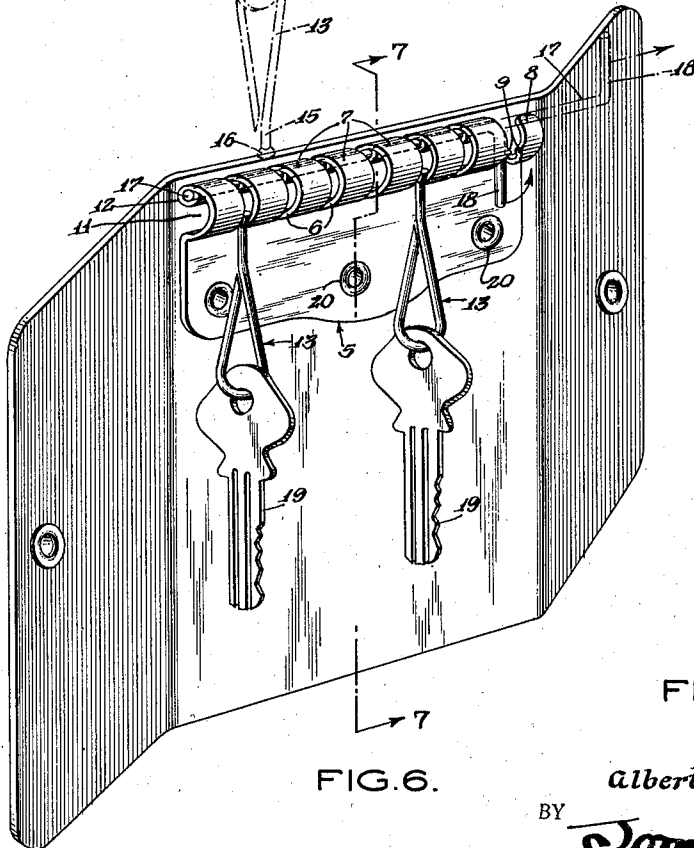


FIG. 6.

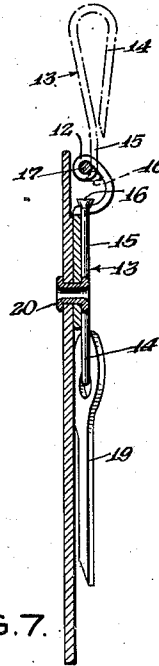


FIG. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,232,503

KEY CASE

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Application April 12, 1940, Serial No. 329,265

7 Claims. (Cl. 70-456)

The present invention relates to improvements in key cases of the type employing hangers for securing one or more keys in a flexible folder, the improvements primarily residing in the provision of a superior support, one which is characterized by extreme simplicity of construction and operation, as well as by marked economy in manufacture or production.

The support per se comprises a minimum of three parts, a metallic blank, a key hanger, and a locking lever—it is completely devoid of springs and other intricate gadgets. A simple strip of metal is expeditiously fashioned into a base with a pair of integral beads, one bead providing sockets for the key hanger and the other bead serving to receive the locking lever. Also the particular manner of manipulating the locking lever to free the hanger from its socket and the means for retaining the lever in locked position comprise additional features which are distinctly novel in the art.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates one embodiment of the invention—

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a developed blank from which the supporting plate is formed,

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the support showing the upper edge rolled over to present a pair of reversely disposed beads,

Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken along lines 3-3 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the retaining lever,

Fig. 5 is an elevation of one of the key hangers,

Fig. 6 is a view in perspective of my improved key hanger assembly incorporated in a conventional case, the latter being in its open position, and the lever and one hanger being illustrated in optional positions by dot and dash lines, and

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional elevation along lines 7-7 of Fig. 6.

Referring now particularly to the drawing, 5 designates a sheet metal strip or blank having its upper extremity provided with a plurality of transverse slots 6, open at their outer ends and extending equidistantly into the body of the blank to form intermediate projections or teeth 7. All of the slots and projections coincide excepting two at one end, preferably, the right end, and at which point it will be observed that a supplemental projection 8 is relatively shorter than the others and that a pair of lugs 9 are disposed opposite each other on the opposing walls of projection 8 and the adjacent projection 7. The

base of the blank is formed with suitable eyelet openings 10.

At this stage of development the slotted extremity of the blank is bulged forwardly and outwardly to present a primary bead 11, and coiled rearwardly and upwardly to form an ancillary bead 12.

As illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawing each key hanger 13 comprises virtually a snap hook having a looped extremity 14, a shank 15 and an enlarged head 16. The head is arranged to so engage any of slots 6 of bead 11 that the hanger may not only swing relatively to the bead in a substantially arc-like path, but may also swivel about an axis at right angles to that about which they turn.

Through the ancillary bead 12, a lever 17 having a handle 18 is designed to be moved longitudinally so as to uncover slots 6 of the primary bead 11 and thereby permit the insertion or withdrawal of the head 16 of the key hanger 13. Handle 18 is deflected at right angles to the axis of the lever and when rotated to occupy the position shown by dot and dash lines in Fig. 6 it may be slid in the appropriate direction free of projection 8 to open the slots or sockets 6, in fact, the lever may, if preferred, be removed entirely from the slots; and then when the hangers carrying keys 19 have been introduced into the slots the lever is forced home and turned downwardly to cause the handle 18 to enter slot 6 between projections 7 and 8, and impelled further until it passes lugs 9 and is brought to a position lying adjacent the face of the support—see full line showing of lever handle on Fig. 6. The handle is thus effectively and detachably locked against accidental displacement by lugs 9.

If desired, support 5 may be secured to a conventional case by means of suitable eyelets 20.

In its broader aspects my invention comprises not only the various means described but equivalent means for performing the recited functions. It is desired to reserve the right to affect such modifications as may come fairly within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A key holder support having a primary bead with a transverse slot, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in said slot and a head which normally is not movable through said slot, an ancillary bead disposed within the confines of the primary bead, a lever mounted in the latter bead and adapted to cover said slot to prevent passage of said head therefrom, means to detachably lock said lever in operative position,

said lever being rotatable for releasing it and slidable to uncover the slot and permit the withdrawal of the head.

2. A key holder support having a primary bead with a transverse slot, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in said slot and a head which normally is not movable through said slot, an ancillary bead disposed within the confines of the primary bead, a lever mounted in the latter bead and adapted to cover said slot to prevent passage of said head therefrom, means to detachably lock said lever in operative position, said lever being rotatable for releasing it and slidable to be wholly removable from the ancillary bead to permit withdrawal of the head.

3. A key holder support having a primary bead and a pair of transverse slots, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in one of said slots and a head which normally is not movable therethrough, an ancillary bead disposed within the confines of the primary bead, a lever slidable longitudinally in the latter bead and adapted to cover said last-mentioned slot to prevent passage of said head therefrom, means to detachably lock said lever in operative position, said lever being rotatable for releasing it and engageable between the walls of the other slot to lock the same in position.

4. A key holder support having a primary bead and a pair of transverse slots, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in one of said slots and a head which normally is not movable therethrough, an ancillary bead disposed within the confines of the primary bead, a lever slidable longitudinally in the latter bead and adapted to cover said last-mentioned slot to prevent passage of said head therefrom, said lever having a handle which is movable into the other slot for the purpose of locking the lever against sliding movement, said lever being rotatable for releasing it and slidable to permit the withdrawal of the head.

5. A key holder support comprising a strip of metal bent to form a primary forwardly extending bead and an ancillary rearwardly disposed

bead, said primary bead having a transverse slot, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in said slot and a head which normally is not movable therethrough, a lever mounted in the ancillary bead and adapted to normally cover said slot to prevent passage of the head therefrom, said lever being rotatable for releasing it and longitudinally slidable to uncover the slot and permit withdrawal of the head.

6. A key holder support, comprising a strip of metal bent to form a primary bead with a pair of transverse slots, lugs carried by the confronting walls of one of said slots, a key hanger provided with a shank which is freely movable in the other slot and a head which normally is not movable therethrough, an ancillary bead formed integrally with the primary bead, a lever slidably mounted in the latter bead and adapted to cover the last-mentioned slot to prevent passage of the head therefrom, said lever being rotatable for releasing it and having a handle which is detachably engageable between the lugs to lock the same.

7. In a key holder the combination of a strip of material having a primary forwardly extending bead with an ancillary rearwardly disposed bead, said beads comprising a plurality of projections spaced from one another laterally by slots, the projection at one end of the plurality of projections having a lug extending laterally therefrom, a supplemental projection spaced from the projection having said lug, the latter projection being shorter in length than the other projections and devoid of an ancillary bead, a lug extending from the supplemental projection opposite the first-mentioned lug, a key hanger having a shank freely movable in the slots between the plurality of projections and having a head not movable through said slots, and a lever slidably mounted in the ancillary beads, said lever having a handle detachably engageable between said lugs to lock the same in operative position, said lever being rotatable to disengage its handle from said lugs and slidable to uncover said slots to withdraw any of said heads.

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