

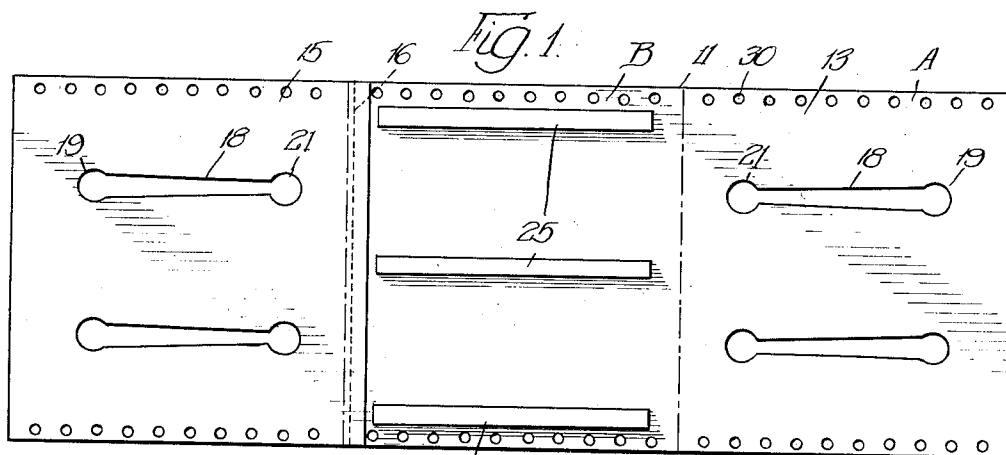
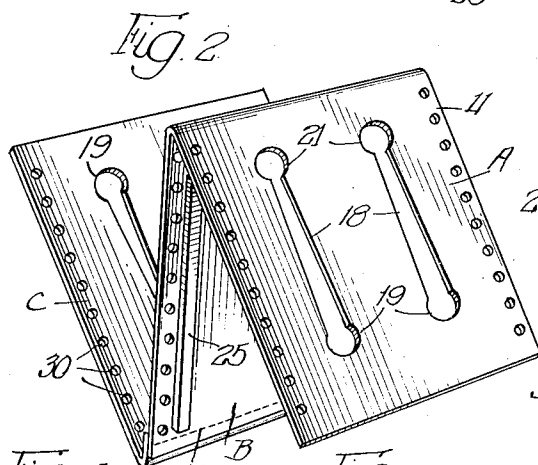
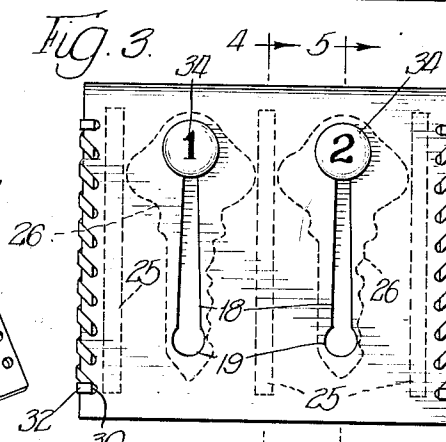
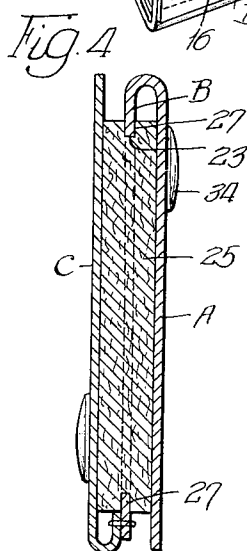
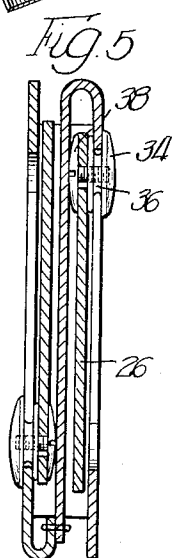
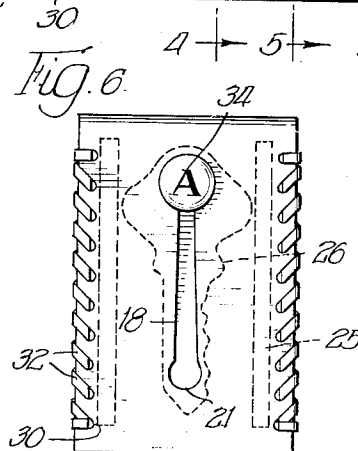
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KEY CONTAINER

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KEY CONTAINER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 150—40)

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This invention relates to a new and improved container for keys and more particularly to such a container in which the keys may be given a linear movement to expose the operating portion of the key.

Key containers have heretofore been provided carrying keys on pivots or hooks which present a bulky appearance and also involve some difficulty in selecting a key desired for use. Other key containers which provide for linear movement of individual keys have comprised metal housings which are bulky and generally undesirable in that they present a rigid and unyielding lump for carrying in the pocket.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved key container which provides individual housings for the several keys.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a flexible key container with positive means for giving a linear movement to individual keys.

It is an additional object to provide a key container in which buttons or the like are secured to the keys to serve as finger contact members in moving the keys into and out of the containers.

It is also an object to provide such a container having yieldable means for holding the finger contact members and the keys at their limits of in and out movement.

It is another object to provide a key container having pockets opening in opposite directions with the body of the container formed of a single strip of flexible material.

It is a further object to provide such a key container having spacing means secured to the body for spacing the walls apart a distance approximately the thickness of a key.

It is an additional object to provide a key container which is simple in design and construction and adapted for commercial production and use.

Other and further objects will appear as the description proceeds.

I have shown certain preferred embodiments of my invention in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank body member used in forming the key container;

Figure 2 is a view of the blank of Figure 1 in partially folded position;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the container formed from the blank of Figures 1 and 2 in fully assembled relation with keys indicated therein in broken lines;

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a section taken on line 5—5 of Figure 3; and

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 3, but showing a container for two keys.

The body member 11 shown in Figure 1 comprises an elongated strip of flexible material. In the form shown, the strip 11 comprises a section 13 and a shorter section 15 secured to section 13

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by means of stitching indicated at 16. The body may be formed of a single unitary piece of material when it is made of material such as flexible plastic or the like, which is similar on both sides.

When formed of leather of a type showing a hair side and a flesh side and when it is desired to have the leather show a similar side on both external faces of the assembled key container, it is necessary to stitch two pieces together, as shown in Figure 1. With leather, a single piece may be used if it is desired to have one face of the key container show the hair side of the leather while the other face shows the flesh side of the leather which may, of course, be given a suede finish.

As clearly shown in Figure 2, the body member 11 comprises an outer fold A, an intermediate fold B and a second outer fold C. The outer folds A and C are each provided with elongated slots 18 which extend parallel to the sides of the folds. These slots have enlarged end portions 19 adjacent the open ends of the pockets formed in the key container and similar enlarged end portions 21 adjacent the inner ends of the pockets. It will be noted that the slots 18 taper from the enlarged portions 21 to a larger dimension where they join the enlarged portions 19.

The intermediate fold B is provided with a plurality of parallel elongated slots 23, as best shown in section in Figure 4. The spacer members 25 extend through the slots 23 and are longer than the slots. These members 25 have notches 27 formed in their ends to fit the intermediate fold B at the end of the slots 23 and thus hold the spacers in position.

The edges of the body portion 11 are shown as provided with uniformly spaced perforations 30. As shown in Figures 3 and 6, these edges are secured together by laces 32 which are laced through the perforations 30. It will be understood that this method of securing the edges together forms no part of the present invention since these edges may be stitched or otherwise secured together, as desired.

The spacers 25 are of such a thickness that the keys 26 in the pockets between the spacers are not frictionally held by the walls of the pockets with any substantial degree of tightness. The spacers cause the thickness of the pockets to approximate that of the usual type of key. These spacers are preferably formed of stiff but flexible material such as, for example, strips of heavy sole leather. While the spacers 25 are retained in position in the assembled article by means of the slots in the intermediate section B in which they are fitted, they may be secured to the outer folds A and C by means of the application of adhesive, if desired.

As best shown in Figure 5, key moving members are provided having finger engaging portions 34 extending outwardly of the slots and having shank portions 36 located in the slots 18 or in the enlarged end portions 19 or 21, depending upon the position of the key 26. These members are

also provided with inner key securing means 38. The shank portion 36 is of a diameter greater than the width of the slot 18 and fits within the round enlarged end portions 19 or 21 of the slot. Since the slot 18 is formed in flexible material, a comparatively small pressure of the finger against the fingerpiece 34 will separate the walls of the slot 18 and permit movement of the key 26 from the position in which it is housed in the pocket to the outer position for use. The taper of the slot 18 makes the key held more positively in the inner than in the outer position. In the outer position, the key is grasped by the hand in use and it is unnecessary for the key container itself to have any substantial effect in maintaining the key in this outermost position. The enlarged section 19 is, however, slightly larger than the adjacent end of the slot 18 so that the key will normally remain in the outer position when it is manually placed there.

As shown in Figures 3 and 6, the finger contact portions 34 may be marked with numerals or letters to designate the different keys held in the container so that they may be readily identified by the user.

The forms of construction shown provide a light, compact key container with sufficient yield or flexibility so that it is not objectionable when carried in the pocket. The keys are separately housed and the desired key may be readily identified and pushed out for use. The use of the single blank reduces cost of manufacture and provides an efficient construction. The manner of assembling the separators and holding them in place also facilitates manufacture. The keys are adequately restrained against accidental movement from the container and yet are easily pushed out for use.

While I have shown certain preferred embodiments of my invention, these are to be understood to be illustrative only as I contemplate such modifications as come within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A key container comprising a pocket of flexible material open at one end, said pocket being of an area to enclose a key, a face of the container having an elongated slot formed therein, the ends of the slot being enlarged, a key moving member having a finger contact portion externally of the slot, a shank portion extending through the slot, and a key securing portion inside the pocket, the shank being wider than the slot and fitting into the enlarged end portions of the slot, the shank flexing the side edges of the slot when moved along the slot.

2. A key container comprising a flexible elongated body member, said member being twice reversely bent and folded upon itself with the adjacent edges of the folded portions secured together to form oppositely extending open-ended pockets, said pockets each being adapted to enclose keys, slots formed in the outer walls of the pockets and key moving members extending through the slots with key securing portions inside the pockets, shanks extending through the slots and finger contact portions externally of the slots.

3. A key container comprising a flexible elongated body member, said member being twice reversely bent and folded upon itself with the adjacent edges of the folded portions secured together to form oppositely extending open-ended pockets, said pockets each being adapted to enclose keys, spacer members secured to the in-

termediate fold of the body member, said spacer members being elongated and extending lengthwise of the pockets to limit the movement of keys in the pockets, slots formed in the outer walls of the pockets and key moving members extending through the slots with key securing portions inside the pockets, shanks extending through the slots and finger contact portions externally of the slots.

4. A key container comprising a flexible elongated body member, said member being twice reversely bent and folded upon itself with the adjacent edges of the folded portions secured together to form oppositely extending open-ended pockets, said pockets each being adapted to enclose keys, spacer members secured to the intermediate fold of the body member, said spacer members being elongated and extending lengthwise of the pockets to limit the movement of keys in the pockets, said spacers having a thickness in each pocket of approximately the thickness of a key, slots formed in the outer walls of the pockets and key moving members extending through the slots with key securing portions inside the pockets, shanks extending through the slots and finger contact portions externally of the slots.

5. A key container comprising a flexible elongated body member, said member being twice reversely bent and folded upon itself with the adjacent edges of the folded portions secured together to form oppositely extending open-ended pockets, said pockets each being adapted to enclose keys, the intermediate fold of the body member having elongated slots formed therein spaced apart such a distance as to receive a key therebetween and spacer members fitted into said intermediate fold slots and extending into the pockets on both sides of the intermediate fold, slots formed in the outer walls of the pockets and key moving members extending through the slots with key securing portions inside the pockets, shanks extending through the slots and finger contact portions externally of the slots.

6. A key container comprising a flexible elongated body member, said member being twice reversely bent and folded upon itself with the adjacent edges of the folded portions secured together to form oppositely extending open-ended pockets, said pockets each being adapted to enclose keys, the intermediate fold of the body member having elongated slots formed therein spaced apart such a distance as to receive a key therebetween and spacer members fitted into said intermediate fold slots and extending into the pockets on both sides of the intermediate fold, the spacer members being longer than the slots in which they fit and having notches in their ends to engage the intermediate fold at the ends of the slots and retain the spacers in position in the slots, slots formed in the outer walls of the pockets and key moving members extending through the slots with key securing portions inside the pockets, shanks extending through the slots and finger contact portions externally of the slots.

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