April 29, 1958 V. I. AKERS 2,832,659

BUTTON KEEPER

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Fig. 1.

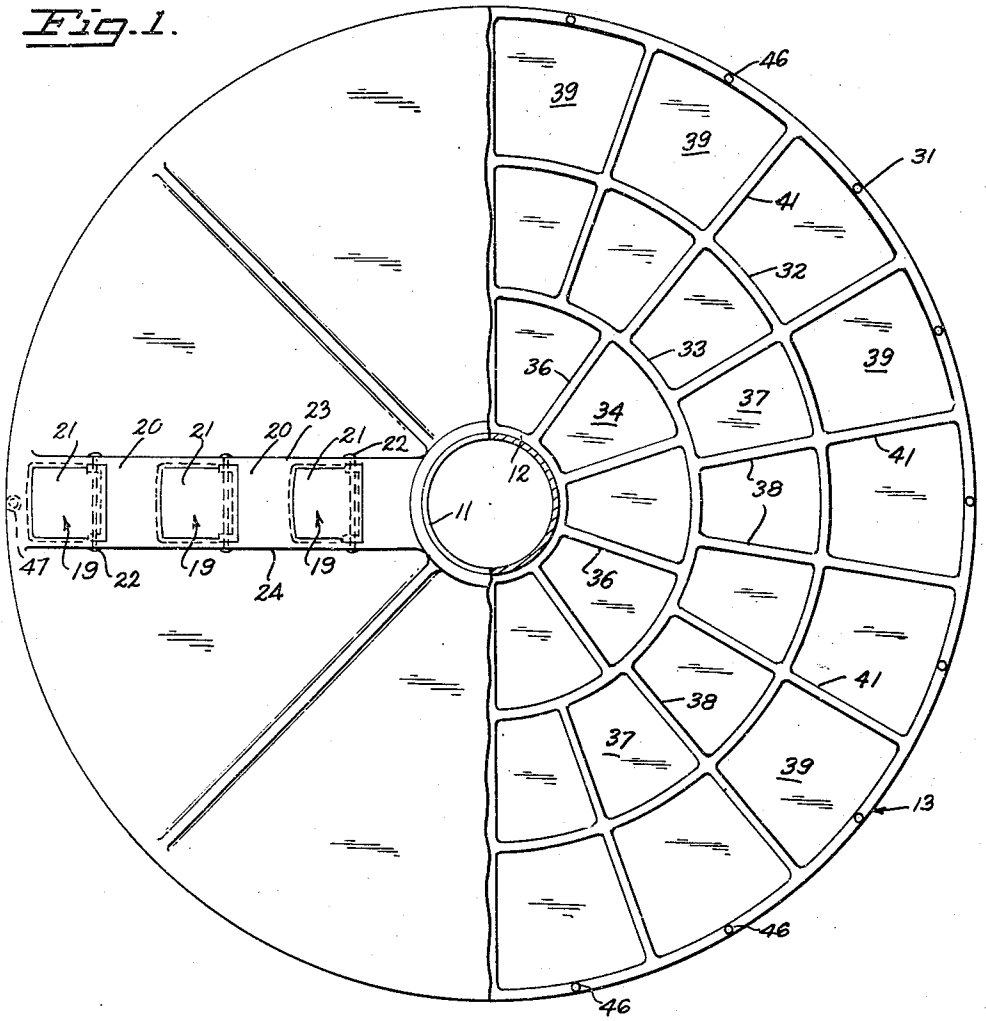
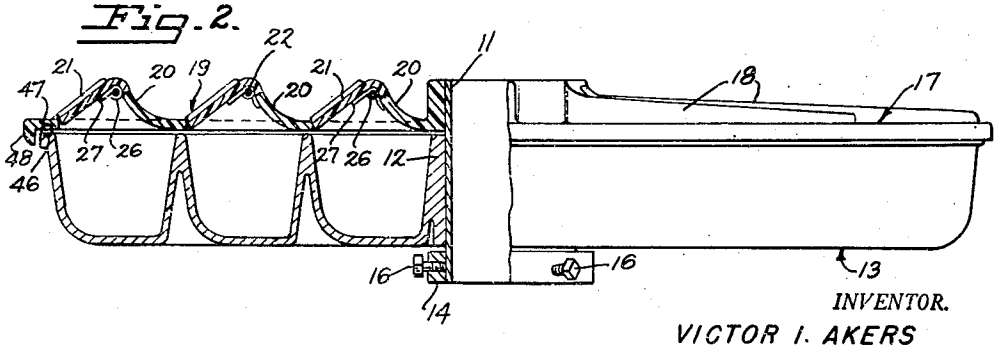


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

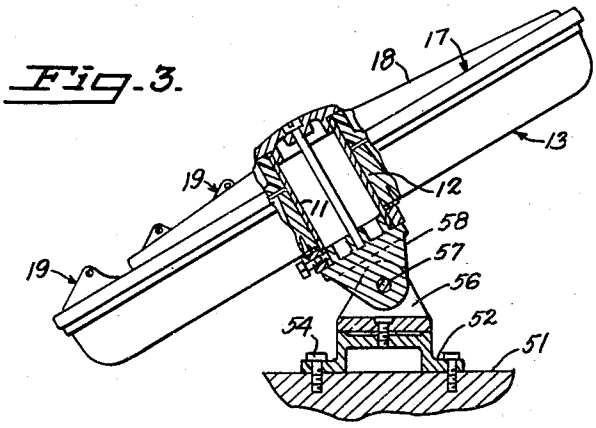


Fig. 4.

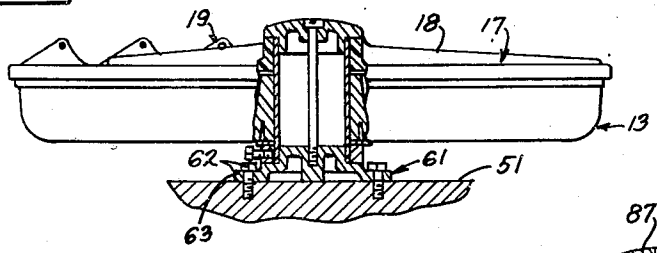


Fig. 5.

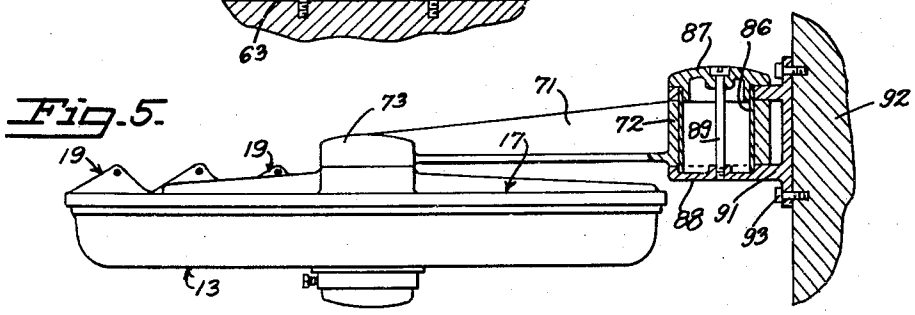
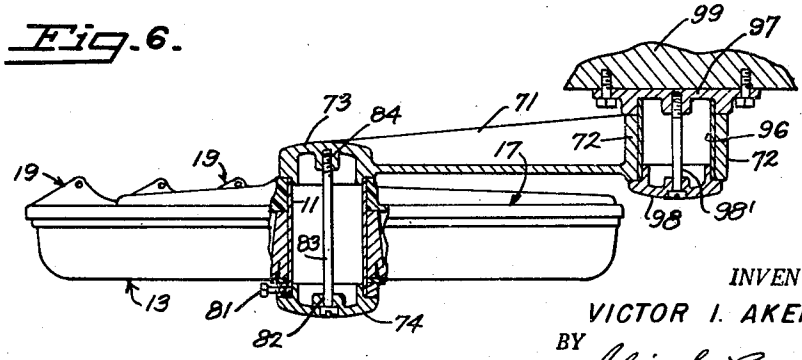


Fig. 6.



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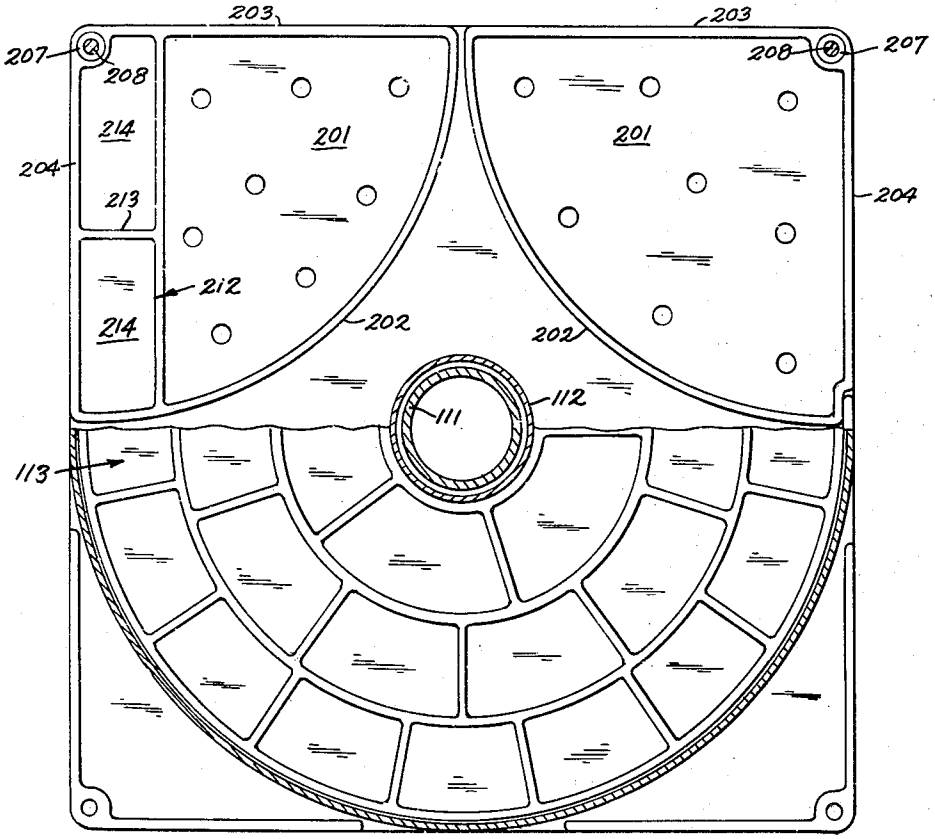


Fig. 7.

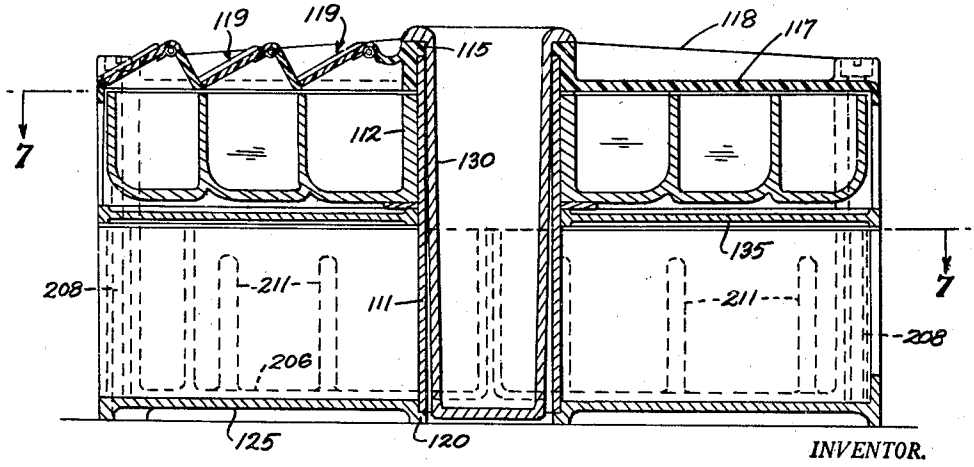


Fig. 8.

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BUTTON KEEPER

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Application April 18, 1955, Serial No. 501,797

3 Claims. (Cl. 312—266)

The invention, in general, relates to special service devices employed in laundries. More particularly, the invention relates to an improved button holder affording ready availability to laundry workers of desired sizes, types and colors of buttons for attachment to shirts and other laundry items.

Considerable time and labor heretofore have been consumed in locating and attaching buttons to laundered garments principally because of the lack of a suitable button retaining device enabling a laundry worker quickly to find the appropriate size, type or color of button needed to match other buttons of a laundered item. Whatever devices have been employed heretofore for retaining buttons have either been relatively large bins carrying standard sizes of buttons or two or more drawers of a table or the like in which the buttons are haphazardly or randomly disposed requiring the laundry worker to spend considerable time to locate and separate out desired buttons of desired size, type and color. The present invention is directed to obviating disadvantages encountered heretofore in locating and attaching buttons to laundry items and to provide an improved device which can be removably mounted directly upon a worker's bench or in close proximity thereto.

A primary object of the invention is to provide an improved button keeper wherein a plurality of different sizes of buttons of different types and colors are separately retained in a plurality of compartments readily accessible to an operator.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an improved button keeper of the indicated nature which is additionally characterized by its ready shiftability in order that different sizes of buttons and colors can be quickly removed from the keeper.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide an improved button keeper of the aforementioned character which is capable of being rotatably as well as removably mounted in close proximity to a laundry worker's bench thus affording quick accessibility to desired buttons for attachment to laundered items.

A still further object of my present invention is to provide an improved button keeper which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture and which requires little maintenance.

Other objects of the invention, together with some of the advantageous features thereof, will appear from the following description of a preferred embodiment of my invention which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings along with certain modified embodiments thereof. It is to be understood, however, that I am not to be limited to the precise embodiments shown, nor to the precise arrangement of the various parts thereof, as my invention, as defined in the appended claims, can be embodied in a plurality and variety of forms.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a preferred embodiment of the invention, this view being partly broken away to illustrate the construction.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, this view showing the embodiment partially in sectional elevation to illustrate the construction.

Fig. 3 is a partially perspective and partially sectional elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention as well as its universal mounting.

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the invention and mounting means therefor to enable rotation of the embodiment in a horizontal plane.

Fig. 5 is still another side elevational view of the preferred embodiment of the invention, together with universal mounting means therefor including a wall bracket.

Fig. 6 is a view somewhat similar to the view of Fig. 5 but illustrating the preferred embodiment of the present invention in side elevation, together with a cross-sectional elevational view of the mounting means therefor illustrating the mounting of the embodiment from the underside of a desk or counter for not only rotational movement of the invention but for universal mounting thereof upon such a desk or counter.

Fig. 7 is a top plan view, partially cut away, of a modified embodiment of the present invention, this view being taken on the section line 7—7 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 8 is a sectional elevational view of the modification of the present invention which is illustrated in Fig. 7.

In its preferred form, the improved button keeper of my present invention preferably comprises a central post, a container movably mounted on said post; said container being divided into a plurality of sectors each containing a plurality of open-top compartments of variable size for removably holding buttons of various sizes, types and colors, together with a lid fixed to said post and overlying said compartments, and a series of doors in one portion of said lid for gaining access to buttons in any selected one of said compartments after movement of said container to bring the selected compartment into underlying relationship with respect to one of said doors. A modified embodiment of the present invention includes, in addition to the combination of the preferred embodiment above described, a large compartment underlying said container, a plurality of hingedly mounted doors normally closing said large compartment, together with trays mounted along the walls of said large compartment for holding needles, shears, thimbles and the like, and a plurality of spaced pins fixedly secured in upright positions in the bottom of said large compartment for removably receiving spools of thread of variable weight and color.

In accordance with my invention, I provide in my improved button keeper a central post **11** and utilize a portion thereof as a journal for a bearing **12** which is formed integral with a compartmentized container **13**, thus mounting the container for rotation about the central post **11**. The container **13** preferably is formed to a circular shape and is molded from any commercially available transparent plastic material in order that objects in the compartments thereof can be visible from the exterior without lifting any cover or lid; although the container can be cast from any suitable light-weight material, such as aluminum or an aluminum alloy or can be fabricated from wood with the cover or lid molded from a transparent plastic material so that the contents of the compartments of the container may be observed through the lid. In the exemplification of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings, I provide a slip-fit collar **14** on the lower end of the post **11** which, together with suitable set-screws **16** piercing the collar **14** and bearing upon the post **11** when tightened, enables the mounting of the keeper on a standard or other portion of the frame of a standard

sewing machine so that the contents of the container will be in reach of an operator.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the annexed drawings, a top or lid 17 is provided for the container 12 and preferably is formed to a circular cross-section and molded or cast integrally with the central post 11; the lid 17 conveniently being reinforced by a plurality of upstanding, spaced and radially extending ribs 18. At one section, the lid 17 is interrupted by a series of spaced, radially extending doors which are designated in the accompanying drawings by the reference numeral 19; each of the doors 19 preferably consisting of a section 20 formed integral with the cover 17 as well as a section 21 which is pivotally connected to a pin 22 spanning the opposite side panels 23 and 24 of the series of doors. A suitable spring 26 is coiled about each pin 22 and has one extremity 27 thereof bearing against the undersurface of each pivoted door section 21 thus serving to maintain each door closed but readily opened downwardly upon slight pressure to overcome the tension of an associated spring 26.

In accordance with the invention, container 13 is divided into three sectors by means of the outer rim 31 of the container as well as intermediate circular partitions 32 and 33; the sector closest to the central post 11 being naturally of smaller area than the succeeding sectors extending outwardly from the central post 11. Each sector of the container 13 in turn is divided into a plurality of compartments by means of radially extending spaced partitions. As shown, the inner sector is formed with a plurality of compartments 34 by means of the radial partitions 36; the intermediate annular sector is formed with a greater number of compartments 37 by means of the radial partitions 38 and the outer annular sector is formed with a still greater number of compartments 39 by means of the radial partitions 41. The compartments 34 of the inner sector are made relatively large and it is contemplated that such compartments should be used to store large sized buttons. The compartments 37 of the intermediate sector are relatively small in size and can be used to store relatively small buttons, while the somewhat larger compartments 39 of the outer sector of the container can be used for standard sized buttons. By the provision of this great number of compartments of variable sizes, an entire range of buttons with respect to size, type and color can be kept in container 13 and be readily available for removal and attachment to a laundered shirt or other garment.

To enable quick selection of desired buttons and removal thereof from the container 13, I have provided means on the container for selectively bringing any desired compartment of the container holding desired buttons into a stationary position with respect to the series of doors 19. These means preferably comprise a series of semi-spheres or complete spheres 46 seated upon springs, not shown, and a series of cavities, also not shown, formed in the outer rim 31 of the container in circumferentially spaced relationship, and preferably at the mid-point of the compartments 39 of the outer sector of compartments, all cooperating with a pair of diametrically arranged recesses 47, of which but one is shown in the drawings, see Fig. 2, which are formed in the underside of the outer rim 48 of the lid 17. One recess 47 is located in rim 48 at the transverse center of the doors 19 and its corresponding recess 47 is located at a diametrically opposite point in the underside of rim 48 of the lid. When an operator desires a button or a number of buttons from a particular compartment of the container 13, the container is manually rotated about the central post 11 to bring the selected compartment into alignment with the series of doors 19 and by the aforesaid cooperating means of the spring-seated spheres 46 and recesses 47, the container 13 is latched in a position of rest with the selected compartment underlying the doors 19. The operator then merely depresses a door 19 to grasp and remove one or more of the desired buttons

and thereafter sew the same to a shirt or other laundry item. The container 13 can thus readily be moved from position to position, at will, and brought to rest in a latched position with any selected compartment of the container in a position underlying the doors 19.

In Figs. 3–6 inclusive of the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated various modifications of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, such modifications primarily concerning the mounting means for the button keeper of the present invention. For example, in Fig. 3 of the annexed drawings, I have illustrated my improved button keeper in a tilted condition and secured to a planar surface 51, such as the upper surface of a sewing machine or the top surface of a counter or the like. In the modification of Fig. 3, I have provided, as mounting means, a flanged base 52 which is secured by means of bolts 54 to the planar surface 51. Integral with or mounted upon base 52 is an apertured lug 56 in which a pivot pin 57 is secured and mounted upon the pivot pin 57 is a complementary apertured lug 58 which is bolted or otherwise secured to the central post 11 of my improved button keeper. In addition to being tiltably mounted, it is to be understood that the container 13 of the button keeper is rotatably mounted as in the preferred embodiment of the invention.

The button keeper can also be mounted for rotation in a horizontal plane as shown in Fig. 4 wherein I provide a mounting means comprising a flanged base 61 which is detachably secured by means of bolts to the lower end of the central post 11 and detachably secured to a sewing machine top, a counter or the like, by means of bolts 62 extending through apertures provided in the flange 63 of the base 61.

In Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawings, I have illustrated a modified embodiment of my improved button keeper. In this modification, the button keeper is rotatable in a horizontal plane and is swingably mounted upon any suitable support such as a side wall of a cabinet or the underside of a sewing machine top as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively, of the drawings. To effect this mounting, I provide an arm 71 which is formed with a bearing member 72 at one extremity thereof and with a boss 73 at its inner extremity. Cooperating with the boss 73 of arm 71 for mounting the button keeper, I provide a base 74 and detachably secure the same to the bottom of the button keeper by means of bolts 81; the base 74 having a central bore 82 therein for passing a screw-bolt 83 which threadedly engages a threaded opening 84 formed in the inside of the boss 73 of arm 71, the screw-bolt 83 extending through the hollow central post 11 of the button keeper which may be identical with the preferred embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 and which includes a container 13 rotatably mounted on the central post 11 and closed by a lid 17 which is integral with the post 11. As shown in Fig. 5, the bearing 72 on the outer end of arm 71 surrounds a sleeve 86 which is secured between a pair of closure members 87 and 88 on the top and bottom of the sleeve 86, respectively, and secured together by means of a screw-bolt 89 extending through the sleeve 86. Closure members 87 and 88 are part of a bracket member 91 which, in the exemplification of Fig. 5, is detachably secured to a side panel 92 of any desired support by means of screw-bolts 93. In the exemplification illustrated in Fig. 6 of the annexed drawings, the bearing member 72 on the outer extremity of arm 71 engages a sleeve 96 mounted between top and bottom closure members 97 and 98, respectively, which are detachably secured together by means of a screw-bolt 98 passing through the hollow sleeve 96. The top closure member 87 is detachably secured by means of bolts to the underside of the top 99 of a sewing machine, a counter or other like element. By this construction of mounting means, the button keeper can be swingably mounted to any desired support and also can be rotatably mounted on its central post 11 so that an operator may have ready access to but-

tons contained in the container **13** of the button keeper by depressing any one of the doors **19** formed in the lid **17** of the button keeper.

A modified embodiment of my present improvement in button keepers is illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8 of the accompanying drawings and has been designed primarily for home use rather than for commercial uses in laundries and the like. In this modification, see particularly Fig. 8 of the annexed drawings, the button keeper is in two tiers in which the upper tier comprises the rotatably mounted container element and the lower element or lower tier is employed for storing sewing paraphernalia. As illustrated, the modified button keeper comprises a central post **111** the upper portion of which is employed as a journal for a bearing **112** integrally formed with a container **113** which is thus rotatably mounted on the post for rotation in a horizontal plane. The container **113** is similar in all respects to that described and illustrated in Figs. 1–6, inclusive, constituting the preferred embodiment of the invention, as applied to commercial uses such as in laundries, and includes three circular sections each divided into a plurality of compartments of various sizes for holding different sizes, types and colors of buttons. In this modification, the central post **111** is supported between interior shoulders **115** and **120**, respectively, formed in the fixed lid **117**, having a series of movable doors **119** therein, and a base **125**. The lid **117** is fixedly mounted on or integral with a U-shaped member **130** fitted within the hollow central post **111**, see Fig. 8. A partition **135**, pierced at the center by the central post **111** and the U-shaped member **130**, divides the modified button keeper medially of its height and serves to reinforce the structure.

While the modified button keeper shown in Figs. 7 and 8 can be entirely circular in cross-section, I have found it convenient to make the upper tier in which the container **113** is mounted to a circular shape, and to make the bottom tier substantially square or rectangular in cross-section. The bottom or lower tier preferably is formed with four trays **201** which are substantially identical in contour and size and which are pivotally mounted at the four corners of base **125**. The trays **201** preferably are segmental in shape with an arcuate inner edge **202** joining side edges **203** and **204** that extend at right angles from the corners of the base, and a bottom panel **206**. The junctures of the side edges **203** and **204** of the trays are enlarged and provided with threaded apertures **207** for threadedly receiving pivot pins **208** extending from the lid **117** to the base **125** at the four corners of the base. By such pivotal mounting of the trays, each can be swung outwardly and away from its underlying relationship to the partition **135** so that access may be had to the contents of the trays.

As shown in dotted lines in Fig. 8 of the drawings, a plurality of pins **211** are secured in upstanding position to the bottom panel **206** of each tray and arranged in spaced relationship for receiving spools of thread. In the present modification, a sufficient number of pins **211** have been provided to accommodate eight spools of thread in each tray. In addition, a deep shelf **212** is secured along one edge, say the side edge **204** of each tray, and channelled out and partitioned, as at **213**, to provide long recesses **214** for holding needles, thimbles and the like.

By the construction thus described, I have provided a unique home button keeper and holder for sewing paraphernalia which can be inexpensively manufactured and which affords a compact unit for a multiplicity of buttons, needles, spools of thread and the like which all normally are scattered about in various rooms or in various drawers of a sewing machine or the like.

It is to be understood that the appended claims are to be accorded a range of equivalents commensurate in scope with the advance made over the prior art.

I claim:

1. In combination with a container having a plurality of concentric rows of compartments therein arranged about a central post and radially divided from one another in said rows, means mounting said container for rotation about said post, a lid fixedly secured to said post; said lid having a series of openings extending on one side of said post from the center of the lid radially outwardly to overlie compartments in said rows of compartments, and an inwardly opening door hingedly secured to said lid adjacent to each of said openings.

2. The combination as defined in claim 1, and a series of tension springs each anchored to the underside of said lid adjacent to each of said openings and bearing against each of said doors to hold said doors closed until pressure is applied to the outside of said doors to overcome the tension of each of said springs whereby each of said doors may be opened inwardly.

3. A button keeper comprising a central post, a circular container rotatably mounted on said post, partitions in said container dividing the same into a plurality of concentric rows of compartments in which buttons of various sizes, types and colors are retained, a circular lid secured to said post and overlying said compartments; said lid having a row of openings at one side thereof arranged radially from the center of the lid outwardly and in alignment with the rows of said compartments, inwardly opening doors pivotally mounted on said lid adjacent to the openings therein, and means urging said doors to closed positions but permitting the opening thereof inwardly by exertion of slight pressure; rotation of said container about said post bringing any selected one of said compartments in underlying relationship to one of said doors whereby buttons may be removed by inwardly opening the overlying door.

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