Sept. 19, 1950 T. M. JABLON 2,522,516

KEY RING

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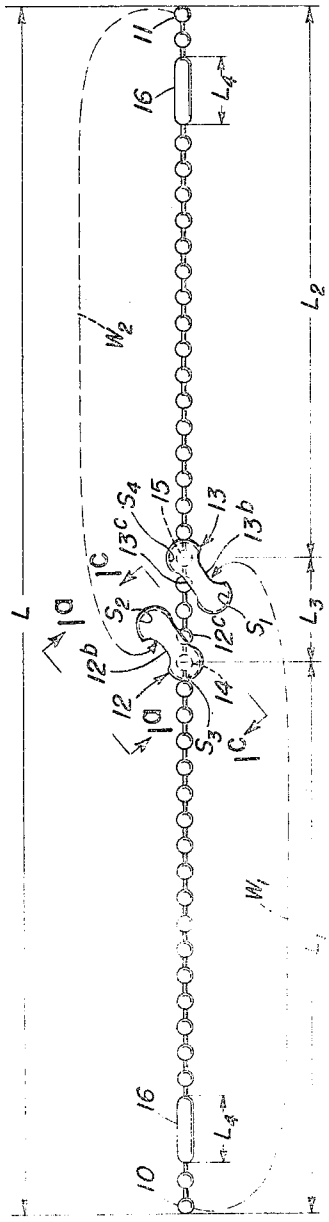


Fig. 1.

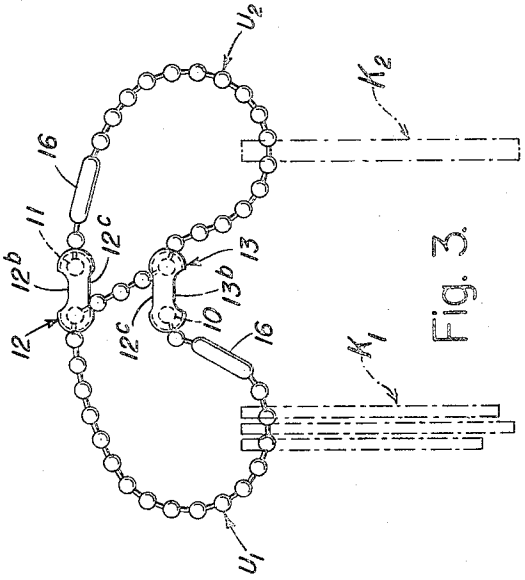


Fig. 3.



Fig. 1c.



Fig. 1a.



Fig. 1b.

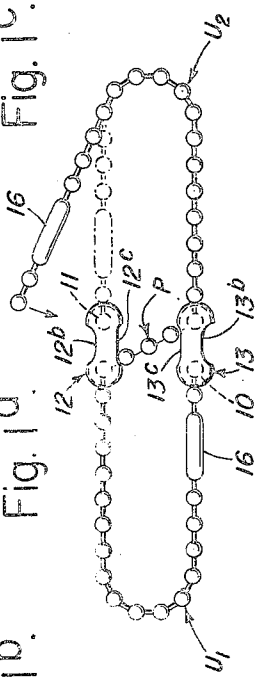


Fig. 2.

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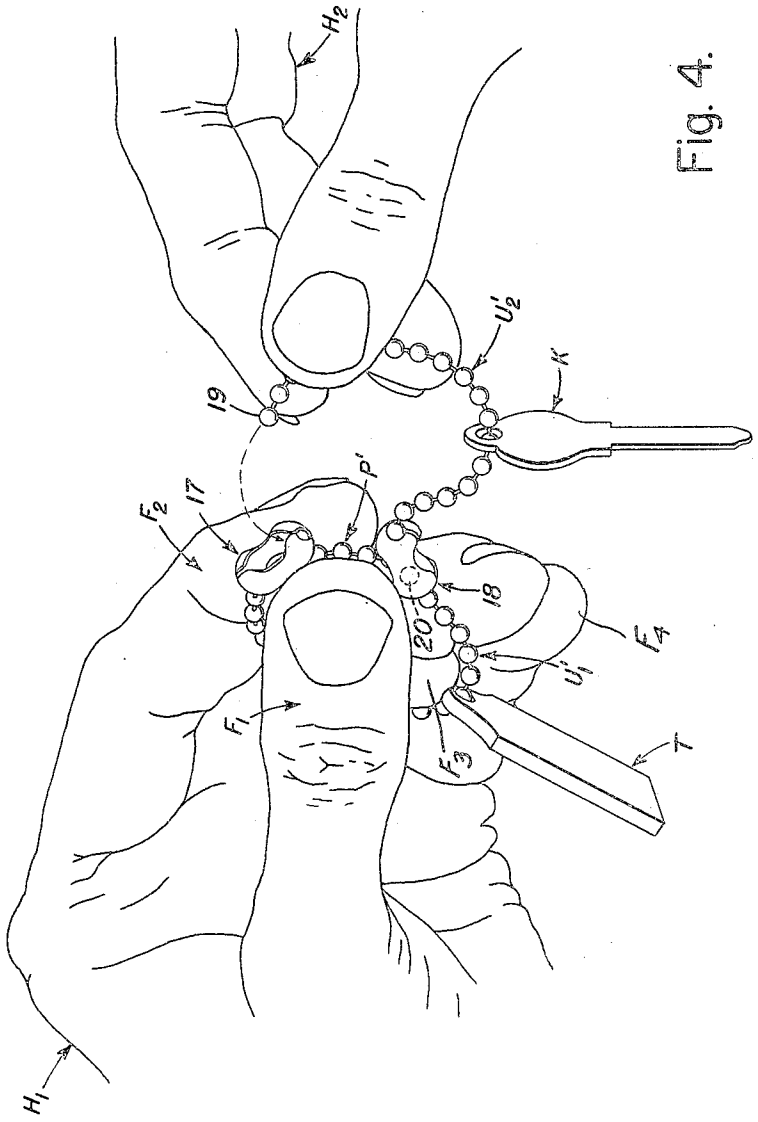


Fig. 4.

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KEY RING

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6 Claims. (Cl. 70—457)

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This invention relates to key rings, and more particularly to key rings having a pair of interconnected flexible loops whereby one or more keys strung on one loop are kept separate from others strung on the other loop, each loop being capable of being individually opened or closed.

It is among the objects to provide a double loop key ring which is simple, compact, yet highly flexible and non-obstructive, as well as attractive in appearance.

Another object is to provide a double loop key ring which is inexpensive to produce.

Another object is to provide a double loop key ring having a minimum of parts.

Another object is to provide a double loop key ring in which the loop size is adjustable.

Still another object is to provide a double key ring which can be easily and rapidly manipulated in a convenient manner when opening and closing the individual loops.

These objects are attained by attaching to a length of bead chain a pair of two-socketed bead chain coupling members each of which has a main lateral opening and an auxiliary lateral opening opposite the main opening. These coupling members are disposed upon the chain in such a manner that the auxiliary openings substantially face towards each other while the main openings face away from each other, with the bead chain extending through the coupling members by way of the auxiliary openings. One intermediate bead of the chain lodges in one socket of one coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket. Another intermediate bead of the chain lodges in one socket of the other coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket. Each end bead of the chain is inserted in or insertable into the free socket of that coupling member from which it is spaced farther in terms of chain length than it is spaced from the other member.

According to one feature, at least one end portion of the chain comprises an elongated bead near the end bead.

It is among the advantages of the double loop key ring according to this invention that it can be easily and rapidly manipulated in a certain manner when opening or closing the individual loops; that it is compact; that it is all-flexible due to the absence of bulky connectors or rigidifying parts and therefore non-bulging; and that it lends itself to being attached compactly to a display card in an attractive shape.

Fig. 1 is a view of a length of bead chain to form the double loop key ring, with a pair of

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coupling members positioned upon and attached to the chain at intermediate points thereof.

Figures 1^a, 1^b, 1^c are detail views of a coupling member.

Fig. 2 is a view of an embodiment of the double loop key ring with one loop closed and other loop open.

Fig. 3 exemplifies the double loop key ring of Fig. 2 in use with keys indicated on each loop.

Fig. 4 is a view illustrating the manipulation of the double loop key ring in the user's hands.

The double loop key ring according to Fig. 1 consists of a total length of bead chain L, this length being defined by end beads 10 and 11. To the intermediate portion of the length L are attached a pair of two-socketed bead chain couplings 12 and 13, the coupling 12 being attached to an intermediate bead 14 and the coupling 13 to an intermediate bead 15 of the chain. The coupling 12 has a longitudinal slot 12^a expanding to form a lateral main opening 12^b, and a lateral auxiliary opening 12^c opposite the main opening. Similarly the other coupling 13 has a longitudinal slot expanding into main opening 13^b, and a lateral auxiliary opening 13^c opposite the main opening. In Fig. 1 the couplings are positioned upon and attached to the chain in such a manner that their auxiliary openings 12^c and 13^c face each other while their main openings or slotted sides face away from each other.

The end beads 10 and 11 together with the intermediate beads 14 and 15 define or subdivide the chain into end portions marked by the length L_1 and L_2, and an intermediate portion marked by the length L_3. Near its end each of the chain portions L_1 and L_2 has an elongated bead 16 marked by the length L_4. As will be seen further below the chain portion L_1 is adapted to be formed into a first U-shaped loop U_1 by inserting or snapping the one end bead 10 into the free socket S_1 of coupling 13 as is tentatively indicated by arrow W_1. Similarly, the chain portion L_2 is adapted to be formed into a second U-shaped loop hereinafter designated as U_2 by inserting or snapping the other end bead 11 into the free socket S_2 of coupling 12 as is tentatively indicated by arrow W_2. The intermediate beads 14 and 15 are shown to have been snapped or inserted each into a respective socket S_3 and S_4 of the coupling members whereby the members are attached to the chain at the desired points thereof.

As viewed in Figures 2 and 3 the double loop key ring formed by the elements shown in Fig. 1 may be said to comprise the U-shaped loops U_1

and U_2 which appear as having their ends pairwise interconnected by the couplings 12 and 13, while the couplings in turn appear as being connected with one another by the chain portion P. In the Figs. 2 and 3 embodiment the loops U_1 and U_2 correspond to and are formed by the end portions or lengths L_1 and L_2 of the bead chain, while the interconnecting portion P corresponds to and is formed by the intermediate portion of the length L_3 of the chain of Fig. 1.

According to the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 3 the length L is arranged in S-shape to form the two loops U_1 and U_2, and the free end bead of each loop is connected through a coupling with the adjacent non-free end of the other loop. In this embodiment the free end portion of each loop comprises the elongated or long bead 16 which facilitates the manipulation of passing or threading the free ends of the loops through the keys. Keys K_1 and K_2 are indicated in dot-and-dash lines as being held by the respective loops U_1 and U_2.

In the embodiment of Fig. 4 the double loop of the key ring is made up of a straight length of standard bead chain, that is without such special beads as the long beads 16 of Figs. 2 and 3, although otherwise it is composed similar to the Figs. 2 and 3 embodiment, having loops U_1' and U_2', and an intermediate chain portion P'. The ends of the chain of this embodiment are indicated by the end beads 19 and 20. This embodiment illustrates how one loop may be used to hold an identification tag T separate from a key K held by the other loop.

Fig. 4 illustrates how the manipulation of opening and closing the individual loops of the key ring can be performed conveniently and rapidly. As shown two fingers F_1 and F_2 of the user's hand H_1, namely thumb and forefinger, grasp the flexible interconnection or intermediate chain portion P' between couplings 17 and 18, the couplings thus serving as confining members between which the fingers may obtain a firm hold on the interconnection P'. That is to say, if grasped in this manner the chain portion P' helps to hold steady the couplings 17 and 18, while vice versa the couplings 17 and 18 help the interconnection P' to be firmly held by the user's fingers. In order to afford an even firmer hold for the user's fingers upon the couplings 17 and 18, other fingers F_3 and F_4 of hand H_1 may close around the tag T thus anchoring the same in a manner to tension loop U_1' so that the interconnection P' cannot escape in any direction the grasp of the fingers F_1 and F_2. The user's hand H_2 is shown in the process of manipulating the open end portion of loop U_1' in closing the same. As an alternative expedient, instead of the fingers F_3 and F_4 clasping the tab T, one finger F_3 may slip into the loop U_1' so as to tension and anchor the same, when it is desired to hold the couplings steady for opening or closing a loop.

What I claim is:

1. A double loop key ring comprising a length of bead chain, and a pair of two-socketed bead chain coupling members each of which has a main lateral opening and an auxiliary lateral opening opposite the main opening, which members are disposed to have the auxiliary openings substantially facing towards each other while the main openings face away from each other, said bead chain extending through said coupling members by way of said auxiliary openings, a first intermediate bead of the chain lodging in one socket of the one coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket, a second intermediate bead of the chain lodging in the one socket of the second coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket, each end bead of the chain being inserted in the free socket of that coupling member from which it is spaced farther in terms of chain length than it is spaced from the other member.

2. A double loop key ring according to claim 1, in which the two intermediate beads are spaced from each other by a plurality of intervening beads.

3. A double loop key ring according to claim 1, in which at least one end portion of the chain comprises an elongated bead near the end bead.

4. A double loop key ring comprising a length of bead chain, and a pair of two-socketed bead chain coupling members each of which has a main lateral opening and an auxiliary lateral opening opposite the main opening, which members are disposed to have the auxiliary openings substantially facing towards each other while the main openings face away from each other, said bead chain extending through said coupling members by way of said auxiliary openings, a first intermediate bead of the chain lodging in one socket of the one coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket, a second intermediate bead of the chain lodging in the one socket of the second coupling member thus rendering its other socket a free socket, each end bead of the chain being adapted to be inserted in the free socket of that coupling member from which it is spaced farther in terms of chain length than it is spaced from the other member.

5. A double loop key ring according to claim 4, in which the two intermediate beads are spaced from each other by a plurality of intervening beads.

6. A double loop key ring according to claim 4, in which at least one end portion of the chain comprises an elongated bead near the end bead.

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