Dec. 26, 1922.

1,439,864

W. R. BUXTON.
CASE FOR KEYS AND THE LIKE.
FILED JAN. 5, 1922.

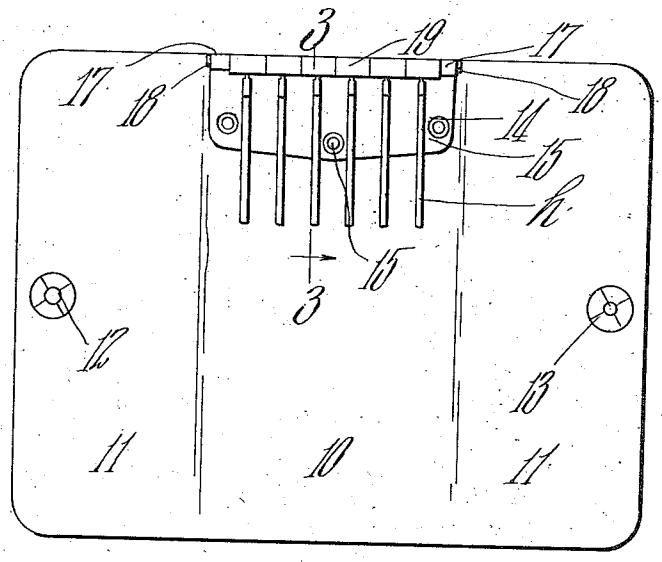
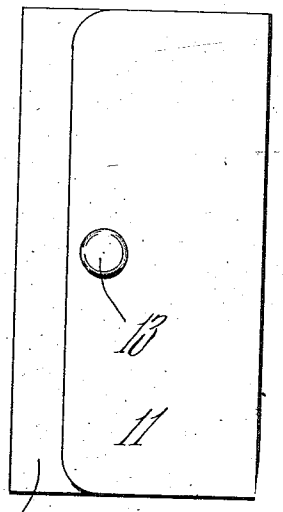


Fig. 1.



11 Fig. 2.

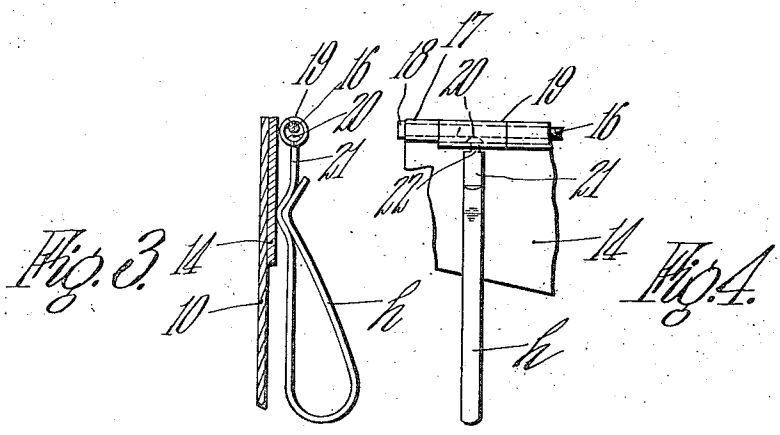


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

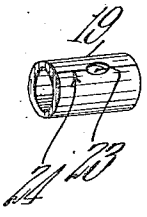


Fig. 5.

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Patented Dec. 26, 1922.

1,439,864

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WARNER R. BUXTON, OF LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO BUXTON, INCORPORATED, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CASE FOR KEYS AND THE LIKE.

Application filed January 5, 1922. Serial No. 527,113.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WARNER R. BUXTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Longmeadow, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cases for Keys and the like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in cases for keys and the like and, more particularly, to such cases wherein the keys are supported in snap hooks and these hooks are pivotally supported from the case and arranged to swing out of the case along a substantially definite arc-like path. One example of the general type of key case, with which this invention is concerned, is shown in U. S. Letters Patent No. 1,261,692, granted to me on April 2, 1918.

The object of this invention is to provide in a key case of the type described means whereby the key-supporting snap hooks may not only swing in the desired arc-like path into and out of the case, but may also turn about an axis substantially at right angles to that about which they swing.

According to this feature of the invention, the hooks are swivelled, as well as pivoted, and can turn with the key when the latter is turned in the lock. Ordinarily, the case is held in the palm of the hand with two or three fingers while the key is held between the thumb and first finger, and, in turning the key in the lock, a side strain is applied to the snap hook which tends to open it or distort it. Due to this condition, specially constructed hooks have been provided for key cases to prevent the keys from coming off the snap hooks when thus placed under strain. With the provision for the swivelling movement, the hook will turn relatively to the case, under such conditions, and the undesirable side strains usually imposed are avoided. Also the hooks may swivel while enclosed within the case to enable the keys to pack down into small compass.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in a case for keys or the like, a specifically improved means of mounting the hooks for the swinging and swivelling movement, characterized by a one-piece hook swivelled in a member which is rotatably mounted on a pivotal support fixed to the casing.

Other features of the invention will appear in the following description and in the illustrative embodiment of the invention in the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a key case embodying the invention, the flaps of the case being shown in open position;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the key case with the flaps closed;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevational view of the key holder; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the hook supporting collars.

Referring to these drawings, the case-forming member may be variously constructed as desired, but preferably, as shown it is substantially like that of my prior patent, such member being preferably formed from a strip of flexible material, such as leather and the like, and having a back 10 and two flaps 11 foldable in overlapping relation over the back. These flaps 11 may be held together in overlapping relation by any suitable means, such as the interengageable male and female fasteners shown at 12 and 13, respectively.

The back 10 is suitably provided along its upper edge with a pivotal support for a series of snap hooks *h*. Preferably, although not necessarily, this support is afforded by a separate member, such as 14, which I also term a key holder and which is adapted to be secured to the back 10 by some suitable means, of which the eyelets 15 are an exemplification. This pivotal support may advantageously consist of a rod 16 which is mounted at its ends in sockets 17 formed by rolling up end portions of member 14 into cylindrical shape and which is held against axial movement by lugs 18 struck up from member 14 to close the outer ends of sockets 17. On the rod 16 and between the sockets 17 are a plurality of collars 19 which preferably abut, or substantially abut, each other and fill the space between the sockets. Each collar 19, as shown, has an internal diameter somewhat larger than the external diameter of rod 16 for the purpose of providing a recess between the interior of the collar and the exterior of the rod to receive a head 20 formed on the upper end of the shank 21 of hook

h. The shank 21 is recessed in its side edges below head 20 to provide a part 22 of a reduced width and of a width commensurate with the thickness of shank 21 so that this part may turn, or swivel, in its collar 19, the latter having a hole 23 in its periphery to receive this part. To facilitate the assembly of the hooks in the collars 19, each of the latter is split longitudinally and diametrically of hole 23 as shown at 24. The collars can then be spread to permit the insertion of the heads into the interior thereof and thereafter closed up so that the walls of hole 23 encompass the part 22.

By this arrangement, the collars 19 can turn on rod 16 to provide for the swinging movement of hooks *h* about the axis of the rod and the hooks can likewise turn or swivel in the collars about axes at right angles to that of rod 16. The hooks are restrained against substantial radial displacement by the heads 20 which by abutment with rod 16 limits such movement in one direction and by abutment with the interior of the collars 19 limit such movement in the opposite direction.

The hooks *h* may be variously constructed to receive and removably support keys or other similar articles and this invention is independent of the particular style of hook used although the particular form shown in Fig. 3 has been found particularly advantageous and desirable.

The invention has been disclosed herein, in an embodiment at present preferred, for illustrative purposes, but the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description.

What I claim is—

1. A case for keys and the like, comprising, in combination with a suitable case forming member, a series of devices pivotally mounted on said member for independent swinging movement, and a one-piece snap hook carried by each device, the shank of each snap hook mounted in its device for turning movement about an axis substantially at right angles to that of the swinging movement.

2. A case for keys and the like, comprising, in combination with a suitable case forming member, a pivot rod mounted on said member, a series of devices mounted in axially spaced relation on said member, a one-piece snap hook carried by each device, each snap hook having a shank mounted to turn in its device about an axis at right angles to that of said rod and an integral head received between the interior of the device and the pivot rod to restrain radial movement of the shank in either direction.

3. A case for keys and the like, comprising, in combination with a suitable case forming member, a series of collars rotatably mounted in axially spaced relation on said member, and a snap hook mounted in each collar to turn therewith and to turn relatively to the collar about an axis substantially at right angles to that of the collar.

4. A case for keys and the like, comprising, in combination with a suitable case forming member, a rod mounted on said member, a series of collars mounted in axially spaced relation on said rod for turning movement, there being a recess provided between the inner wall of each collar and the rod, and a snap hook for each collar having a part extending radially therethrough and a head on said part disposed in said recess, said part being capable of turning in the collar.

5. A case for keys and the like, comprising, in combination with a suitable case forming member, a series of longitudinally split hollow cylindrical collars rotatably mounted in axially spaced relation on said member, a radial opening in the periphery of each collar, the split in the latter passing through said opening, and a snap hook mounted in each collar to turn therewith and to turn relatively to the collar about an axis substantially at right angles to that of the collar.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WARNER R. BUXTON.