May 23, 1939. R. T. WHITE 2,159,305

KEYHOLE COVER

Filed Sept. 28, 1938

Fig. 1.

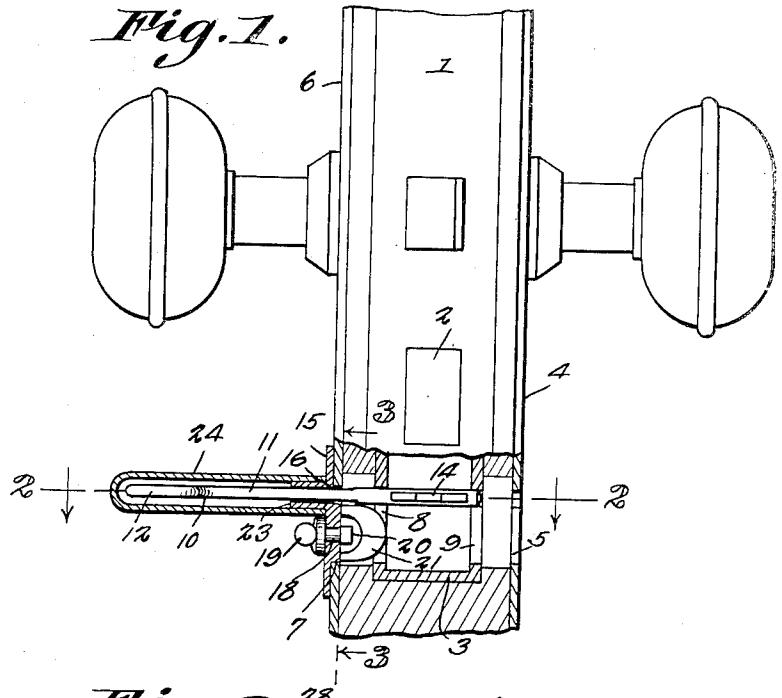


Fig. 2.

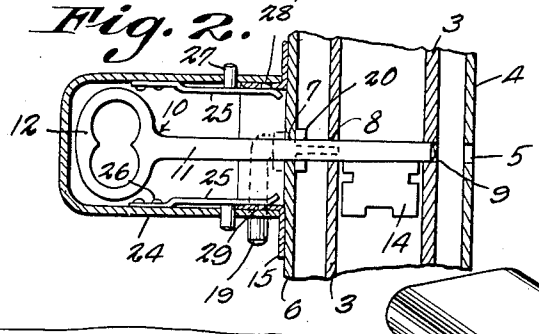


Fig. 3.

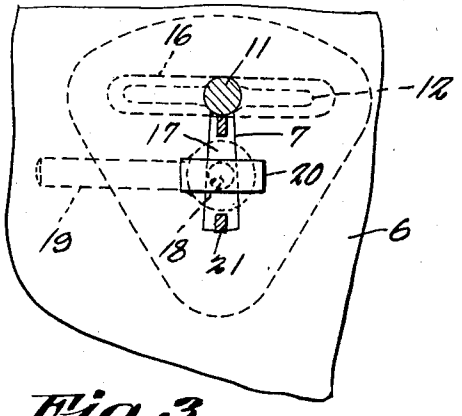
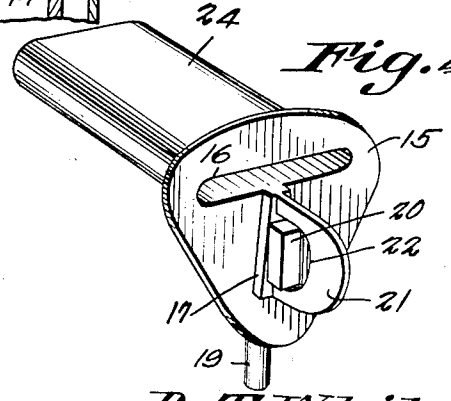


Fig. 4.



R. T. White
INVENTOR.

BY C. A. Snow & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

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KEYHOLE COVER

Raymond T. White, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application September 28, 1938, Serial No. 232,171

1 Claim. (Cl. 70—430)

This invention aims to provide a simple means whereby, if a key is left in the inside of a door, a person on the outside of the door cannot put something in the outside key hole of the door, turn the key, unlock the lock which the key controls, and open the door from the outside: whereby a person on the outside of the door cannot put an instrument in the lock, from the outside, take the device apart and open the door unlawfully from the outside: and whereby, if there is a key in the inside of the door, and held against turning, a person on the inside of the door may release the key, turn it, and open the door. The device is characterized by novel structure accomplishing the results stated.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is an edge elevation of a door to which the device forming the subject matter has been applied, parts being in section;

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a perspective illustrating a device constructed in accordance with the invention.

The numeral 1 marks a door or other closure. The door 1 carries a lock 2. The lock 2 comprises a casing 3, shown as mounted within the door 1. An outer escutcheon plate 4 is secured to the door 1. The outer escutcheon plate 4 has a key hole 5. An inner escutcheon plate 6 is secured to the door 1. The inner escutcheon plate 6 has a key hole 7. The lock casing 3 is provided with an inner key hole 8 and an outer key hole 9. The key holes 5, 7, 8 and 9 are in line. The lock 2 is controlled by a key 10. The key 10 includes a shaft 11 carrying a turning head 12 and a bit 14. The parts 1 to 14 are common. No novelty is claimed for them, saving insofar as they cooperate with parts hereinafter described.

The device forming the subject matter of this application preferably is made of metal. It includes a key hole cover plate 15, of any desired outline. The key hole cover plate 15 has an elongated horizontal slot 16. The key hole cover plate 15 is supplied on its inner surface with a vertical rib 17. The rib 17 is arranged at right angles to the slot 16 and extends upwardly to the slot, at a point about midway between the ends of the slot. The rib 17 is shaped to fit in the key hole 7 of the inner escutcheon plate 6. The key hole cover plate 15 fits against the inner escutcheon plate 6, as shown in Fig. 1. The rib 17 is short enough, considered vertically, so that it does not close the upper part of the key hole 7 in the inner escutcheon plate 6. One of the functions of the rib 17 is to prevent the key hole cover plate 15 from turning around a horizontal axis represented by the shaft 11 of the key 10.

In the key hole cover plate 15 and in its rib 17, a short horizontal shaft 18 is journaled. An operating member or handle 19 is secured to one end of the shaft 18 and is disposed externally of the key hole cover plate 15. A keeper 20 is secured intermediate its ends to the shaft 18. The keeper 20 is narrow enough, so that when it is vertically disposed, it can pass through the key hole 7 of the inner escutcheon plate 6. When, however, the shaft 18 is rotated by means of the handle 19, the keeper 20 extends crosswise of the key hole 7 in the inner escutcheon plate 6, as in Fig. 3, and the key hole cover plate 15 is held in place.

A vertical fin 21, arranged at right angles to the slot 16 in the cover plate 15 (Fig. 4) projects from the rib 17, at right angles to the key hole cover plate 15. The fin 21 is adapted to enter the lower part only of the inner key hole 8 of the casing 3, as shown in Fig. 1. The fin 21 has an opening 22. The keeper 20 on the shaft 18 operates in the opening 22.

The key hole cover plate 15 is supplied with an external neck 23. In shape, the neck 23 corresponds to the shape of the slot 16 in the cover plate 15. The inner end of a retainer or cap 24 is detachably mounted on the neck 23. The retainer or cap 24 is of unequal transverse dimensions. Its vertical height is such that, when the head 12 of the key 10 is in it, a person cannot reach through the key holes 5 and 9 of Fig. 1, grab the shaft 11 or the bit 14 of the key 10 with a pair of pliers or the like, turn the key, unlock the lock 2, and open the door 1.

Any suitable means may be provided for holding the retainer or cap 24 on the neck 23 of the key hole cover plate 15. If desired, spring tongues 25 may be located in the retainer or cap 24, the outer ends of the spring tongues being secured at 26 to the retainer or cap. Intermediate their ends, the spring tongues 25 are supplied with outwardly and laterally extended push buttons 27, slidable in the opposed walls of the retainer or cap 24. At their inner ends, the spring tongues 25 are supplied with outwardly extended projections 28, adapted to be received in seats 29 formed in the neck 23 of the key hole cover plate 15.

The fin 21 is in the lower part of the key hole 8, and it will not be possible to insert an instru-

ment from the outside, through the key hole 9, turn the keeper 20 around until it is alined with the keyhole 8, push off the complete article shown in Fig. 4, set the key 10 free, and unlock the lock 2 by turning the key from the outside. It will not be possible to lay hold of the key by way of the key holes 5 and 9, and turn the key, because the head 12 of the key cannot turn in the cap or retainer 24. If a person on the inside of the door desires to turn the key 10, he pushes in on the buttons 27, releases the projections 28 of the spring tongues 25 from their seats 29 on the neck 23 of the key hole cover plate 15, and takes off the cap or retainer 24. The retainer or cap 24 no longer prevents the key 10 from being turned by means of the head 12, and the key may be operated either to lock or unlock the door.

In order to avoid confusion in construing what is claimed, it should be noted that such words as "inner", "outer", and the like, are used in the same sense as a reference to the "inner" and "outer" surfaces of the door.

What is claimed is:

A device of the class described, comprising a main member so shaped as to be placed against the inside surface of a closure, a keeper disposed outwardly of the main member and of elongated shape to pass outwardly through the lower part of the inside key-hole of a closure, means for operating the keeper from the inside of the closure, to dispose the keeper transversely of the inner keyhole, thereby to hold the main member on the closure, a retainer so shaped as to cooperate with the head of an inside key and prevent the key from being turned, means accessible from the inside of the main member for holding the retainer releasably on the main member, and a fin carried by the main member and shaped to fit in the lower portion of the inner key hole, the fin extending outwardly of the keeper, to serve as a guard therefor, to prevent the keeper from being turned from the outside of door, thereby to release the retainer and make the key accessible for turning from without the door.

RAYMOND T. WHITE.