United States Patent [19]

Justice et al.

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[45] **Jan. 2, 1973**

[54] **DEVICE FOR HOLDING OBJECTS IN A HANDBAG OR THE LIKE**

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[21] Appl. No.: **111,049**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**24/86 B,** 24/3 K, 150/40

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A44b 21/00,** A45c 11/32

[58] **Field of Search** ...150/34, 40, 47; 24/3, 13, 86 B, 24/3 K, 73; 248/205 A

[56] **References Cited**

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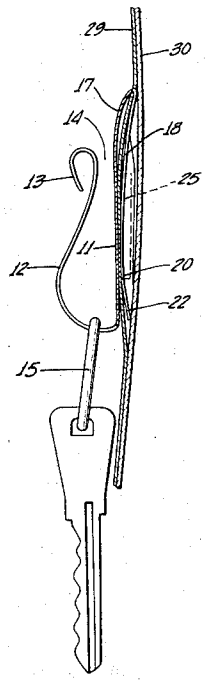
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device for holding a key ring or the like in which a hook projects from the lower edge of a plate from one side of the plate member, the upper end of the plate being inclined from the hook, while one or more prongs extend downwardly from the upper end to a position of engagement with the opposite side of the plate, terminating in pointed ends bent outwardly away from the plate. A pressure-sensitive adhesive element may be included on the opposite side of the plate.

2 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures



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SHEET 1 OF 2

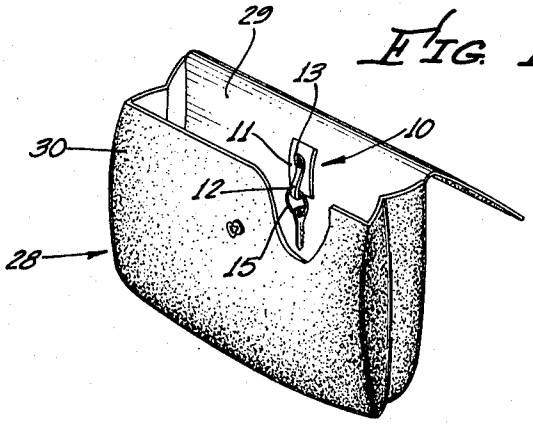


FIG. 1.

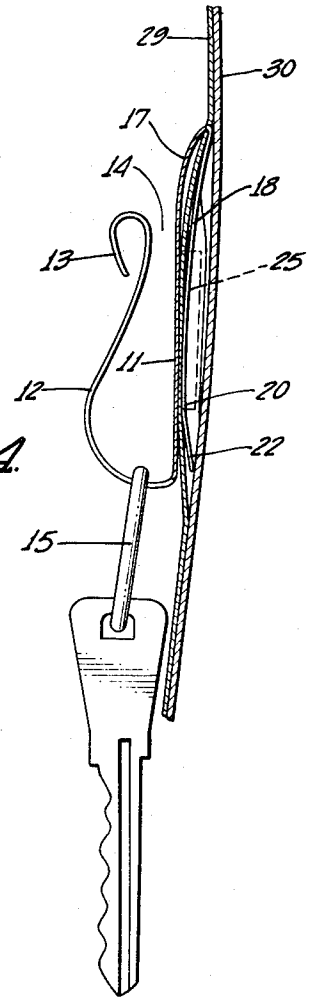


FIG. 4.

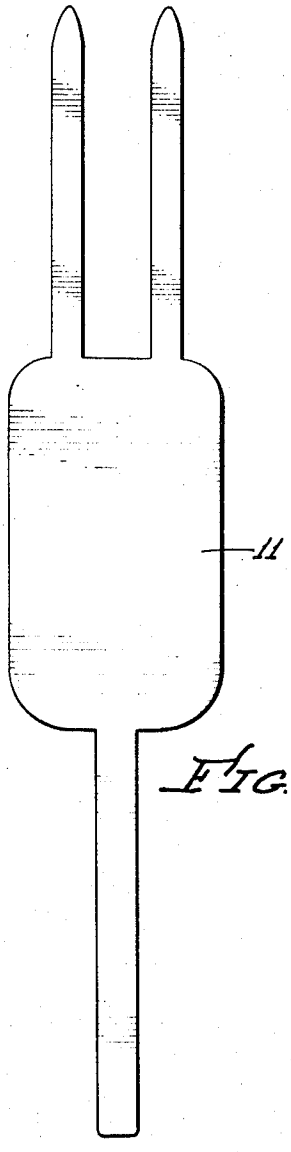


FIG. 2.

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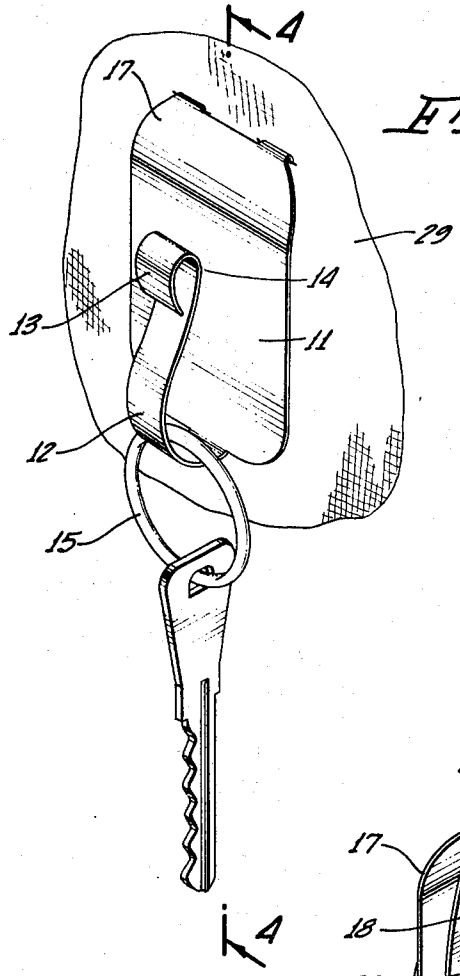


FIG. 3.

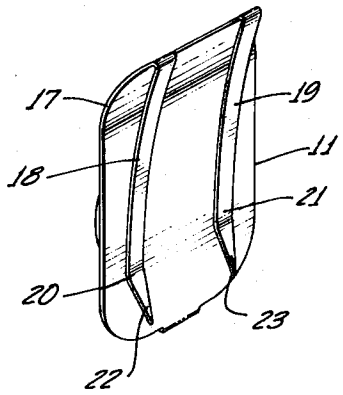


FIG. 7.

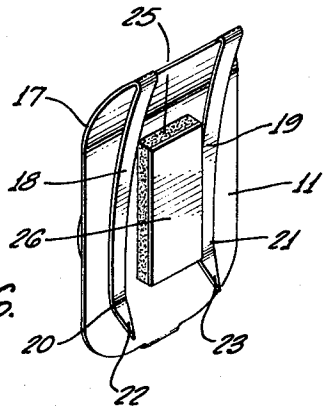


FIG. 6.

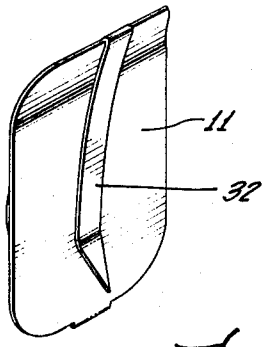


FIG. 8.

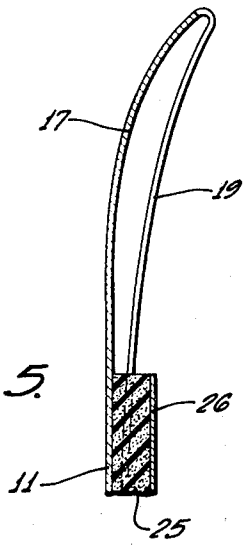


FIG. 5.

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DEVICE FOR HOLDING OBJECTS IN A HANDBAG OR THE LIKE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. The Field of the Invention

This invention pertains to holding devices for handbags or the like, particularly to the holding of keys.

2. Description of Prior Art

One of the most prevalent and well-recognized everyday annoyances is found in the difficulty in finding objects in a ladies' handbag. This may be particularly severe in the time-wasting fumbling to obtain keys, compounded because they are frequently used. In order to alleviate this, it has been proposed in the past to provide some sort of retaining device in a purse to which keys may be attached. Frequently, these are difficult to install and use, or they may lack stability and be subject to becoming loose and dislodged. Also, some such prior designs are relatively expensive and complex.

For example, in U.S. Pat. No. 3.294,136, a conventional key-retaining device is held onto the interior of the handbag by a safety-pin type fastener. Obviously, the attachment is not firm and may become loosened in service, and the key-holding designs are relatively expensive and complex.

For example, in U.S. Pat. No. 3,294,136, a conventional key-retaining device is held onto the interior of the handbag by a safety-pin type fastener. Obviously, the attachment is not firm and may become loosened in service, and key-holding arrangement of that development virtually must be removed from the handbag before it can be used. The design of U.S. Pat. No. 2,224,972 provides an overlapping clip that must fit over some free open edge of a pocket within the handbag, limiting its applicability. The key chain is not removable from the retaining device in this patent, which detracts from the convenience of its use. In the construction shown in U.S. Pat. No. 2,272,854, a complicated attachment at the hinge of the handbag is necessary. Not only is this difficult to install, but it requires a particular hinge construction to enable it to be used at all. Other prior designs having comparable shortcomings are shown in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,503,501, 3,326,258 and 3,415,300.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes the difficulties of the the plate, art by providing a device which can hold keys or the like, which is easily and permanently installed to provide a stable support which, nevertheless, allows free engagement or disengagement of the key-holding ring or chain. The device includes a flat plate member from the lower edge of which extends an integral hook terminating in a doubled-over distal end that is spaced outwardly from one side of the plate. The doubled-over end avoids the presence of sharp corners and, by being spaced slightly from the surface of the plate entry and removal of the key ring or chain are facilitated. At the upper edge of the plate, one or more prongs extend downwardly adjacent the opposite side of the plate, terminating in pointed ends adapted to puncture the lining of the handbag as the device is installed. The hook members preferably are resilient and extend from the upper edge of the plate to a position where they engage the surface of the plate member. It is preferred also to provide a pressure-sensitive adhesive arrangement on the plate member adjacent the prongs, which may be in the form of a strip of foam plastic having pressure-sensitive adhesive on either side thereof. One adhesive side is used in holding the foam plastic strip to the plate member. In a preferred embodiment, there are two prongs in spaced parallelism and the adhesive strip is interposed between the two prongs.

In use of the device, the prongs are pried outwardly slightly from the surface of the plate member and pressed downwardly against the lining of the handbag to puncture it. The device is slid downwardly relative to the handbag, with the prongs inside the lining, until the upper edges of the prongs are reached, after which it is pressed inwardly so that the foam plastic strip adheres to the surface of the lining. This provides a stable, firm and permanent attachment to the handbag. The upper edge portion of the plate member inclines away from the hook so that it lies closely against the lining of the handbag and will not provide edges upon which the key ring or other object may catch. The device of this invention is not limited to use in handbags and may be used to retain objects other than keys.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view, partially broken away, showing the device of this invention associated with a handbag;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged plan view of a blank which is subsequently bent to provide the completed retaining device;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the retaining device as associated with the handbag;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along view 4—4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the upper portion of the key-retaining device;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the rearward side of the retaining device;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the rearward side of the retaining device in a modified form in which the pressure-sensitive adhesive member is eliminated; and

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a further modification in which only a single prong member is used.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The device **10** of this invention normally is made from resilient sheet metal as a one-piece unit. It includes a plate portion **11** from the lower edge of which projects a hook **12**. The latter element is not as wide as the plate **11** and extends from the center of the lower edge. The upper end **13** of the hook **12** is doubled over so that it presents no sharp edges. Preferably, the upper end **13** is spaced outwardly from the plate portion **11**, so that there is a gap **14** which facilitates entry and removal of a key ring **15** or similar object.

The upper portion **17** of the plate **11** is curved so that is inclines rearwardly away from the hook **12**. At the upper edge of the section **17** of the plate **11** are two spaced parallel prongs **18** and **19** which extend downwardly adjacent the rear face of the plate **11**. The prongs **18** and **19** are bent inwardly so that their lower portions **20** and **21** resiliently bear against the rear sur-

face of the plate **11**. At the bottoms of the prongs **18** and **19** are pointed ends **22** and **23** which incline outwardly away from the surface of the plate **11**.

Intermediate the prongs **18** and **19** is an adhesive member **25**. This member is a rectangular strip of conventional foam plastic with pressure-sensitive adhesive on either side. One surface of the member **25** is secured by its adhesive to the rearward side of the plate portion **11**. On the opposite side of the element **25**, the adhesive is covered by a removable protective layer **26**.

The key-holding device **10** is adapted for association with a handbag **28** or other container device. In a conventional handbag of this type, there is a loose lining **29** within the outer covering **30**. In installing the key-holding device **10**, the protective layer **26** is removed from the adhesive member **25**, and the device is aligned in a vertical direction relative to the handbag **28**. The device **10** then is positioned preferably near the upper portion of the handbag **28**, and the pointed ends **22** and **23** of the prongs **18** and **19** are pressed downwardly against the lining **29** so as to puncture it. retain outward inclination of the ends **22** and **23** away from the plate **11** facilitates their puncturing of FIG. lining **19**. The prongs **18** and **19** are pried outwardly slightly away from the rear face of the plate portion **11**, and the unit **10** is slipped downwardly so that the lining **29** is positioned intermediate the prongs **18** and **19** and the plate **11**. When the upper ends of the prongs **18** and **19** have reached the lining **29** where it has been punctured, the plate **11** is pushed inwardly against the lining **29**, causing the outer adhesive layer of the member **25** to adhere to the surface of the lining.

With this simple procedure, the key-holding device **10** is firmly attached to the interior of the handbag **28**. The prongs **18** and **19** cooperate with the adhesive member **25** in holding the unit **10** on the lining **29** so that it does not shift its position and will not come loose. With the prongs being resilient and biased toward the plate **11** at their lower portions **20** and **21**, they grip the lining to help rtain the device **10** in position. With the unit **10** held in this position, the key ring **15** easily is slipped on and off the hook **12**, holding its keys in a readily accessible position. The upper portion **17** of the plate, by being inclined away from the hook **12**, assures that the plate presents no sharp edges and will not interfere with the movement of the key ring **15**. Also, this curvature helps direct the key ring through the gap **14** onto the hook **12**.

In the event that the handbag **28** or other receptacle with which the device **10** is to be associated has no lining, it is possible to rely entirely upon the adhesive member **25** in securing the device **10** in position. Obviously, the attachment is not quite as strong in that event as where both the prongs and the adhesive member are utilized. In a similar manner, the adhesive element **25** may be eliminated, with the member **10** being held in place solely by the prongs **18** and **19**. This embodiment is illustrated in SFIG. **7**.

Another modification is shown in FIG. **8** in which only one prong **32** is utilized, rather than the pair of prongs **18** and **19**. While simplifying the construction to a degree, the single-prong model cannot be attached as securely as where two prongs are used. The single-prong clip may be used with or without the adhesive element **25**.

The foregoing detailed description is to be clearly understood as given by way of illustration and example only, the spirit and scope of this invention being limited solely by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for holding a key ring or the like comprising a first member,

said first member being a substantially flat plate, hook means integral with said first member and projecting therefrom on one side of said first member,

said plate including an upper and a lower end,

said hook means projecting from said lower end,

and prong means integral with said first member and projecting from said upper end of said first member on the opposite side of said first member,

said prong means extending in juxtaposition with

said opposite side and having end means adapted to puncture the member to which said device is to be attached,

said prong means including two resilient members in spaced parallelism depending from said upper end of said plate to a position of engagement with said opposite side of said plate at a location remote from said upper end thereof,

said resilient members of said prong means including end means inclined outwardly away from said opposite side of said plate for facilitating the puncturing of a member to which said device is to be attached,

and pressure-sensitive adhesive means interposed between said two resilient members.

2. A device as recited in claim **1** in which

said pressure-sensitive adhesive means includes an element of plastic foam having a pressure-sensitive adhesive on either side thereof,

one of said sides being bonded by its adhesive to said opposite side of said plate,

the other of said sides of said foam plastic element facing outwardly of said opposite side of said plate,

and a removable protective layer over said other side of said foam plastic element.

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