To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JACOB HOOVER and GEORGE M. MILLER, citizens of the United States, residing at Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Key-Centers for Padlocks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to a new and improved form of key center for padlocks.

Hitherto it has always been the practice to construct key centers from a solid piece of metal in a cylindrical form turning down the two ends to a smaller diameter, to extend through the walls of the case of the lock, and slotting the center its entire length for the reception of the key. This has not only been an expensive operation, but it has many disadvantages as well.

The object of the present invention is to form a key center from sheet metal, rolled and pressed into the desired form.

Another object of the invention being to form the key center with resilient lips or extensions for gripping the sides of the key, thus preventing the same from accidentally dropping out of the lock.

With these and other objects in view, our invention consists in certain construction and combination of parts as will hereinafter be fully described and claimed in the specification, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this application, and in which like figures of reference refer to corresponding parts in all of the views; but it is fully understood that while we have here described our device as shown, that we do not confine ourselves to the exact design, as slight changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the several parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1, is a front elevation of the usual padlock employing a key center.

Fig. 2, is a vertical cross sectional view through the center of the key post, or center.

Fig. 3, is an enlarged end view of our improved form of key center.

Fig. 4, is a side elevation of the same.

Fig. 5, is a top view showing the curves and the extensions for gripping the key.

Referring to the drawings, the usual lock casing is shown by the numeral 1. The key center is formed from a piece of sheet metal 2, bent into tubular form, as shown in Fig. 3, and having the extensions or lips 4, which are of shorter length than the key post, thus forming a shoulder 5, and providing a bearing end 6, to freely revolve within the orifice provided in the casing 1.

The lips are slightly curved inwardly near their centers and as the center is formed from stiff or semi-resilient material, and the distance between the centers of the lips is less than the opening in the end of the center, as the key is inserted in the center, the lips will be slightly forced apart, thus producing a frictional grip for the key. The center will revolve within the lock casing in the usual manner as the key is turned.

Having thus described our invention what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A device of the kind described, consisting of a metallic sheet rolled into tubular form and cylindrical in cross-section, said tube being provided with its ends with integral lips projecting outwardly from the tube and arranged in confronting relation and providing shoulders beyond the ends of said lips, said lips being curved inwardly near their centers and being resilient, said tube being open at its opposite ends and longitudinally between said lips and its side walls.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB HOOVER.

GEORGE M. MILLER.

Witnesses:

JOHN J. THOMPSON,

A. F. SHENCK.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."