March 16, 1954 L. W. FOLSCHEID 2,672,043

KEY RETAINING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 25, 1950

Fig. 1.

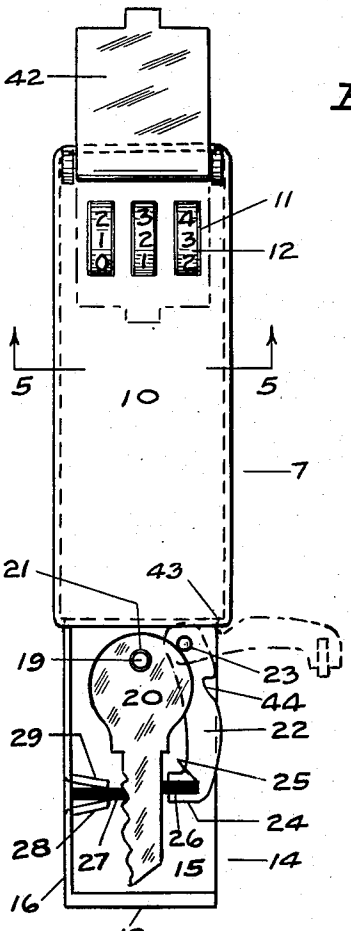


Fig. 2.

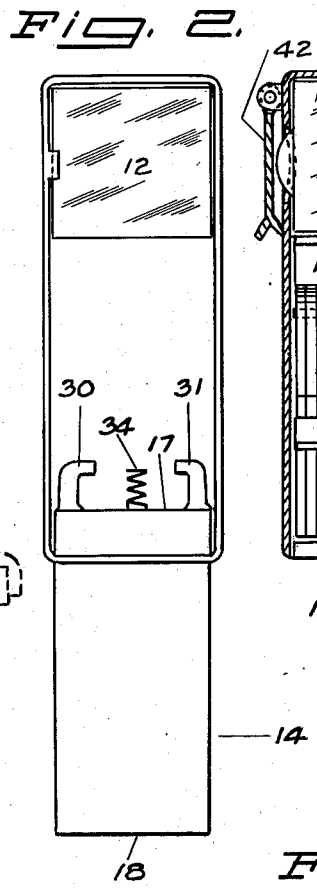


Fig. 3.

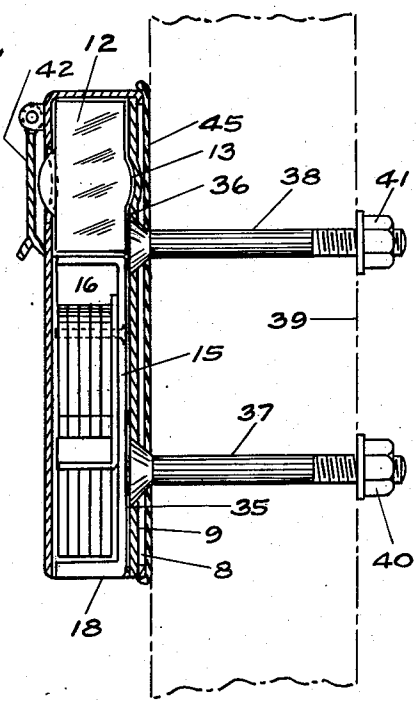


Fig. 4.

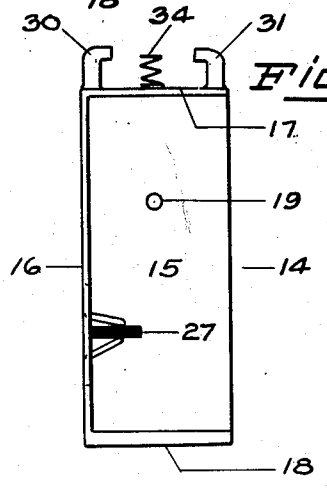
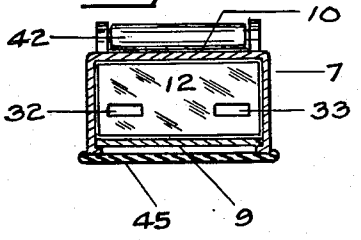


Fig. 5.



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KEY RETAINING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 70—447)

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This invention relates to an improved key retaining device and has for the primary object the provision of a suitable case for retaining extra or auxiliary keys and to secure the said case to the frame of an automobile door or other part thereof or to a building door or to any suitable support located in any desired location.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a case for housing and locking up extra keys in a manner enabling the keys to be available in the event the user loses the regular keys carried on his person and to provide a movable key retainer within the case and a combination lock for locking the same.

Another object of the present invention is to preferably construct the case in the form of an elongated vertical rectangular shell and to provide a vertically slidable key holder therein and to form the said shell with an opening in the bottom thereof, whereby the holder is capable of being slidably moved through the same for enabling the keys to be withdrawn.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a specially constructed lever pivotally secured to the holder for retaining the keys in vertical alignment and to also prevent rattling of the keys and lateral displacement of the same.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of a key locker that is durable, simple in construction, economical to manufacture and highly efficient and serviceable in use.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of the specification, wherein for the purpose of illustration, like numerals designate like parts throughout the same.

Fig. 1 is a front vertical elevational view of the case with the key holder therein moved to its lower position, whereby the keys are accessible to the user, and also showing the door covering the combination lock in its open position,

Fig. 2 is a rear vertical elevational view of the case, with the back removed, showing the combination lock in the upper portion of the case and the key holder moved to its lower position,

Fig. 3 is a vertical view of the device, shown partly in section and partly in elevation, particularly illustrating the key holder within the case and the manner in which the key holder is secured to a door or other portion of a building,

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of the keyholder, and,

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken through line 5—5 of Fig. 1, looking in direction of the arrows.

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Referring in detail to the drawing and numerals thereof, the numeral 7 designates the case as a whole, which case is preferably an elongated vertical housing open at the rear portion thereof as at 8, and upon which is provided a removable back 9, as disclosed in Figs. 2 and 3. The front face 10 of the case is formed with a series of vertical slots 11 in the upper portion thereof, whereby the numbers on the combination lock 12, mounted within the case are made visible. The said combination lock 12 is of any suitable conventional type and is retained therein as at 13 or in any suitable manner.

The keyholder proper is designated as a whole by the numeral 14 and is slidable within the casing 7 and formed with a back wall 15, a side wall 16 and a top and bottom wall 17 and 18, respectively. It will be noted, the front of the keyholder and one side portion thereof is open, giving free accessibility to any keys positioned thereon. A suitable pin 19 is fixed to the back wall 15 for retaining a suitable number of keys 20 thereon, the said keys being apertured as at 21 and suspended on the said pin as disclosed to advantage in Figs. 1 and 3. A specially constructed lever 22 is pivotally secured to the back wall 15 of the holder, as at 23, and is formed with an inwardly extending portion 24, slotted, as at 25, and into which slot a suitable substantially flat piece of hard rubber or other semi-flexible material 26 is inserted and is adapted to laterally project against the key as disclosed in Fig. 1, whereby a lateral support on one edge of the key is provided. A second lateral support 27 extends against the opposite edge of the key from the support 26 and is secured thereto by the two bent in members 28 and 29, whereby the keys are retained in vertical alignment and rattling or displacement of the same is prevented. A pair of oppositely disposed upwardly extending inwardly bent pawls 30 and 31, respectively, are fixed on the top wall 17 of the holder 14 as disclosed to advantage in Fig. 2 and are adapted to project through the slots 32 and 33, respectively, provided in the bottom wall of the combination lock 12 as shown in Fig. 5, the said lock being adapted to engage the pawls and locking the same when the holder is in its upper position. The said combination lock and the pawls adapted to be locked therein are of conventional construction well known in the art. An upwardly extending coil spring 34 is fixed on the top wall 17 of the holder and is adapted to abut and be com-

pressed against the bottom wall of the combination lock 12, whereby the keyholder 14 is resiliently forced downwardly the moment the same is unlocked. The preferred method employed for rigidly securing the device to the wall of an automobile door, building door or the like, consists in forming a pair of countersunk holes 35 and 36, respectively, in the door 9, fixed to the case, and in the provision of a pair of elongated bolts 37 and 38 extended through said holes and door or wall 39 of an automobile or building structure as disclosed to advantage in Fig. 3, suitable nuts 40 and 41, respectively, being employed for tightening the bolts to the wall. From the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, it will be observed that the case can be rigidly fixed to a door or building structure, and the keyholder within the case locked therein by a combination lock, which is enclosed in the upper portion of the case and operative through slots provided in the front wall of the case, the slots being covered by the hinged cover 42. The keys can readily be removed by unlocking and lowering the key holder and raising the lever 22, which lever is held upwardly by the inner edge of the case, as at 43 engaging the notch 44 formed in the lever. A buffer 45 made of rubber or some other suitable flexible material is interposed between the back of the case and the surface of the door or other member upon which the case is fastened, as disclosed in Fig. 3, to prevent marring or otherwise causing any damage to the door.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herein shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes relative to the shape, size, material and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A key retaining device embodying in its construction an elongated rectangular receptacle, a key holder slidably mounted therein, means on the key holder for suspending thereon a plurality of keys in a nested position, means including a lever pivotally secured on the key holder for retaining the suspended nested keys together and in vertical alignment thereon, said receptacle having an opening in the bottom thereof, whereby a portion of the key holder is capable of being slidably extended downwardly through said opening to give accessibility to the keys suspended on the key holder, and means including a combination lock fixed in the receptacle associated with a pair of pawls fixed on the top portion of the key holder for locking the same within the receptacle.

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