April 28, 1959 C. A. SOLBERG 2,884,037

CARRYING CASE FOR KEYS

Filed May 14, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

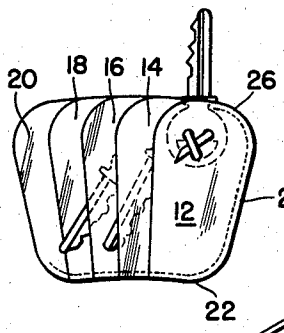


FIG. 1

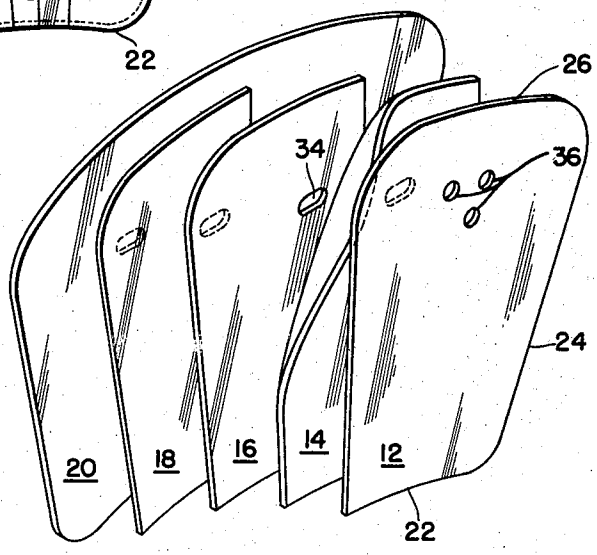


FIG. 2

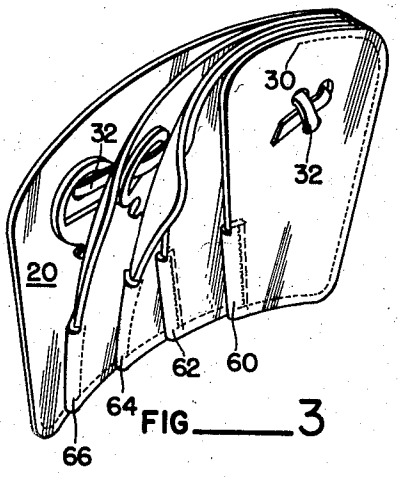


FIG. 3

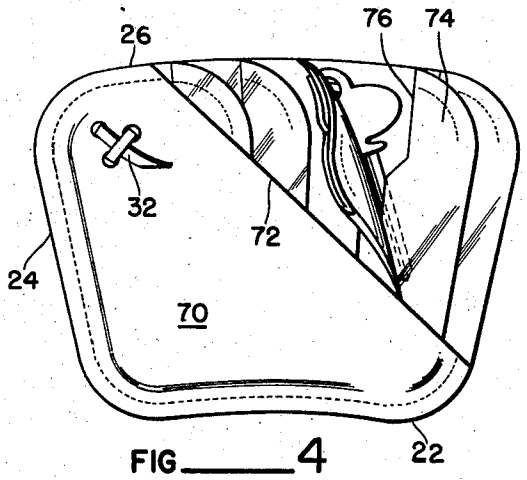


FIG. 4

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April 28, 1959 C. A. SOLBERG 2,884,037

CARRYING CASE FOR KEYS

Filed May 14, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

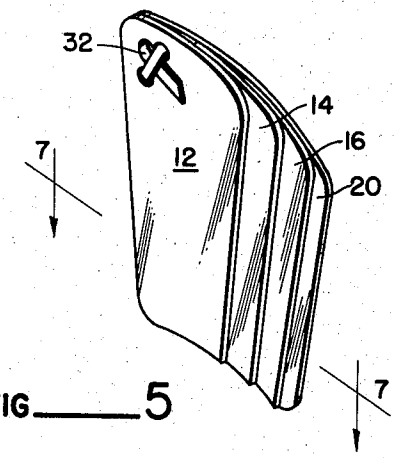
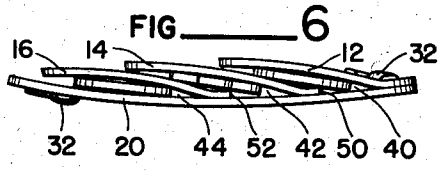


FIG. 5



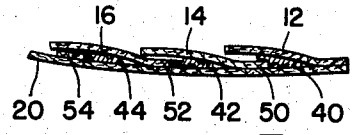


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

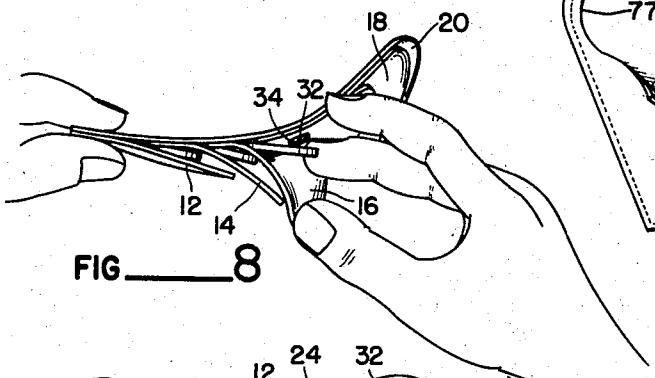


FIG. 8

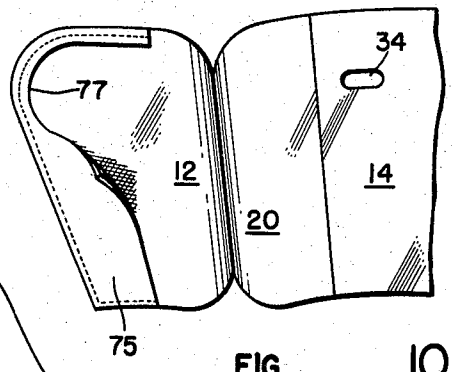


FIG. 10

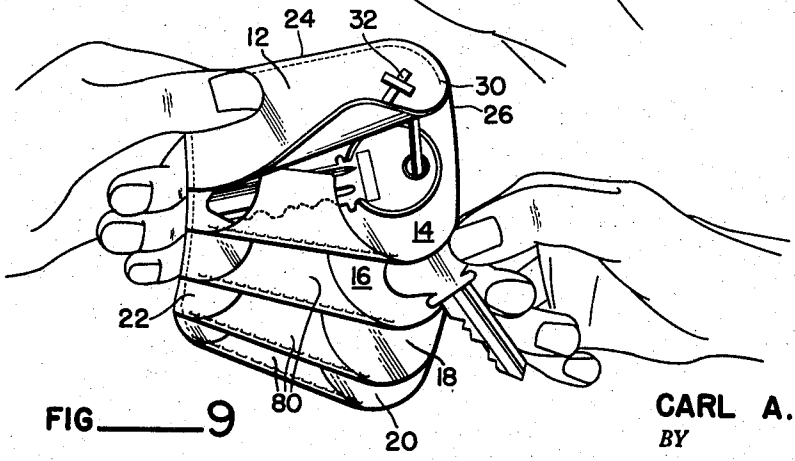


FIG. 9

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CARRYING CASE FOR KEYS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 150—40)

This present invention is a key-carrying device which holds the keys in a fixed position and thus makes it easy to determine on a certain key even in the dark. A further outstanding feature of this key holder is the fact that each key has a separate carrying position in which it is separated from each of the other keys of a group by a sheet of flexible material, and which key-holding positions are spread over sufficient lateral extent so that there will never be more than two key thicknesses where they overlap and thus a pocket carrying key holder is provided which is relatively thin and is convenient to carry and does not make unsightly bulges in the pocket.

Many devices have been produced in the past, with the purpose of providing a key holder for a plurality of keys, which is adapted to be carried in the pocket and to, after a fashion, position the keys so that they can be found easily. The various key containers that have been observed have been characterized by having very appreciable thickness which is objectionable, in that it makes a bulge in the pocket and, in order to hold the keys in a covered position so that they will not promote undue wear in the pocket, various covering means have been provided, involving snap fasteners and intermeshing hook closures, and all such arrangements have made it slow to get out a key that is desired. It is therefore believed that I have produced a key holder or carrying device which overcomes the many deficiencies of equipment used in the past and has many advantages that are not believed to have been used before in this type of equipment.

The principal object of this present invention therefore is to provide a key holder for use in men's pockets and ladies' handbags, which entirely covers the keys yet makes the keys very readily available without the necessity of opening any special fasteners or covering devices.

A further object of this invention is to provide a key holder that distributes the keys transversely, to the end that overlapping of the keys is restricted to not over two thicknesses of keys at any one point, so that a very thin device can be made for this purpose.

A further object of this invention is to provide a key holder that preferably does not contain any metal in its structure and is made of flexible sheet material, to the end that a soft, pliant key holder is provided that is most acceptable for personal use.

A further object of this present invention is to provide in each key-holding position a retaining ledge, so that the key is held quite securely in what might be likened to the leaves of a book so that it will be securely positioned yet can be readily extracted and swung into a position for use.

Further objects, advantages and capabilities will be apparent from the description and disclosure in the drawings, or may be comprehended or are inherent in the device.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 illustrates one form of my present invention, in which one of the keys is shown in its using position and two other keys are shown partially revolved from their carrying position.

Figure 2 is a perspective view illustrating the form of the various sheet material elements, in their substantial position of use, but not joined together.

Figure 3 is a carrier after the general showing of Figure 1, in which two of the leaves have been turned back to illustrate the manner in which the keys are held in position and to further illustrate one form of key-retaining ledge.

Figure 4 is a somewhat modified form of this device, in which a covering member is provided, and this has been found to be a particularly desirable form for use in handbags and the like where the same will not be carefully positioned.

Figure 5 is a perspective view similar to Figure 1 but showing the form best adapted to use by a right-handed person.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of a key retainer made after the teachings of this invention and showing the preferred overlap of the various juxtapositioned keys.

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 7—7 of Figure 5.

Figures 8 and 9 are illustrative views showing how the key carrier is opened and a key selected.

Figure 10 illustrates a variant form wherein a secondary pocket is provided for each key.

Referring more particularly to the disclosure in the drawings, the numerals **12**, **14**, **16**, **18** and **20** designate, respectively, separate sheets of flexible sheet material employed in making one of the preferred forms of my present invention. Throughout the drawings, two general forms of the key holder are shown. Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the form of holder best suited for a left-handed person, and Figures 4, 5, 8 and 9 illustrate the form best adapted for use by a right-handed person. The parts therefore are substantially identical, but are reversed in the assembly in order to facilitate handling the keys. In either case a base sheet as **20** is employed, and to this sheet are secured by stitching a plurality of leaf members as **18**, **16**, **14**, **12** and the like, it being apparent of course that the number of the additional separators or leaves is merely a function of the number of keys that it is desired to carry, inasmuch as a separate space is preferably provided for each separate key. These separators are all stitched to the back member as **20** on their bottom margins as **22**, one side margin as **24** and part way only on the upper margin **26**. This upper stitching is terminated as illustrated in Figures 3 and 9 at a point **30**.

The keys themselves are preferably secured in the carrier by a thong as **32** which passes through elongated openings as **34** in each of the separator members except the outermost one, as the member **12** in Figure 2, which is provided as a matter of convenience, with three round openings **36** which make it possible to secure the end of the thong after the showing of Figures 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9. The same form of thong-securing means is best employed for base member **20**. It will be readily understood that various forms of supporting means might be employed. However, in this present device it is particularly desirable that everything be kept soft, pliant and flexible, so that it will be convenient to carry, and for this purpose a thong of leather or suitable sheet material has proven to be a very satisfactory choice. The thongs of course must pass through an opening in the handle end of the keys.

Referring to Figures 6, 7 and 8, it will be noted that the working or combination ends of the keys are arranged to fit into a V, as illustrated at **40**, **42** and **44** of Figure 6. These V's are formed by the separator members as **12**, **14**, **16** and **18**, and the backing sheet as

20. This V-shaped receiving arrangement for the keys is further tightened down on the keys by the stitching along the bottom edge of the separators as **22**. It has been noted, however, that this does not provide a really secure retaining means for the keys unless the sheet material is quite stiff, and this is not desirable in a device that is going to have several layers of the material, because it then becomes stiff and unwieldy when put in the pocket for carrying. It has therefore been found desirable to provide an abutting surface as retaining member, and these are shown at **50**, **52** and **54**. It will be apparent, it is believed, that with the narrow or combination end of the key deposited in the V-shaped portion as **40** and, further, in abutting relationship to the edge **50** formed by the margin of adjacent member, a quite secure arrangement is made for holding the key, even though the sheet material be quite pliable, as, for instance, some of the softer leathers. The form shown in Figure 6 can be made to give increased resistance to the movement of the key, if the stitching is kept back somewhat from the edges **50**, **52** and **54**, and this will give the sheet material a chance to curl outwardly slightly and give greater security against key movement.

Figure 3 illustrates a further development of this thought, in that the margins of the separators are curled back and stitched as at **60** and **62**, **64** and **66**. This is a particularly desirable arrangement where relatively wide combination ends are used on keys.

In Figure 4 an additional covering member is provided at **70**. This covering member is fixed on all sides to the backing material **20**, except for the one free diagonally cut margin **72**. This arrangement gives best security for the position of the keys when the key holder is going to be placed in a lady's handbag, for instance, where it might come to rest in any position and gravity and working, due to movement of the handbag while carrying, might tend to work the keys loose from the normal retaining means. A separate partial pocket **74** is provided for each key and as an aid in turning the key to the position of use the pocket forming sheet is cut away at **76**. This cover **70** can of course be applied to any of the variant forms of this key holder.

In Figure 10 a modified form of key-securing means is provided, in that a separate partial pocket **75** is provided for each key. This pocket is preferably cut back at **77** to permit easy access to the key when it is desired for use.

Figure 8 illustrates one convenient manner of using my key holder when it is desired to revolve a key into position for use as shown, for instance, in Figure 1 or 9. Inasmuch as every reasonable measure is taken to hold the key securely in its own carrying position, it has been found that a definite procedure for selecting a preferred key should be established, and this is illustrated particularly in Figure 8 in which, for a right-handed person, the second finger is used to separate the separators or leaves of the key holder, and that frees the thumb and forefinger for use in gripping the key, normally near the handle end, so that the same can be raised above the abutment as **50** and the key can then be revolved out where it can be employed in the average lock. This final step is shown in Figure 9.

In Figure 9 I have illustrated a tab form of abutment **80**. These engage the combination portion of the key about midway. It has been found that, even though these tabs are quite flexible, they coact with the separators and provide a most secure positioning of a key.

It is believed that it will be clearly apparent from the above description and the disclosure in the drawings that the invention comprehends a novel construction of key holder.

Having thus disclosed the invention, I claim:

1. A carrying case for keys, made of flexible sheet material, comprising: a base sheet of flexible sheet material; a plurality of separate separator sheets of flexible sheet material disposed to provide a separate space for each key to be carried; said separator sheets being laterally displaced marginally secured to said base sheet across their bottom edges, along their upright edges and continuing partially across their top margins; each of said separator sheets forming, with the said base sheet, a V-shaped retaining means for a key; a common flexible key-supporting means passing through the upper portion of each of said flexible sheets; and key-positioning abutments vertically disposed in each key space, formed along the secured edge of each laterally displaced separator and adapted to engage the combination end of the key using the space and thus hold the keys in a laterally disposed arrangement wherein each key only partially overlaps the adjoining keys.

2. The subject matter of claim 1, said base sheet and said separator sheets providing a key-carrying case having a width equal to the combined width of several keys.

3. The subject matter of claim 1, said separator sheets secured to said base sheet in overlapping relationship, spaced transversely a distance equal to substantially half the width of said separator sheets.

4. A carrying case for keys, made of flexible sheet material, comprising: a base sheet of flexible material; a plurality of separate separator sheets of flexible sheet material disposed to provide a separate V-shaped space for each key to be carried; said separator sheets marginally secured to said base sheet across their bottom edges and along their upright edges in overlapping, laterally displaced disposition; each of said separator sheets forming, with the said base sheet, a V-shaped retaining means for a key; and a common flexible key-supporting means passing through the upper portion of each of said flexible sheets.

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