Sept. 20, 1949. E. R. LOEW 2,482,422

KEY HOLDER

Filed April 30, 1947

Fig. 1.

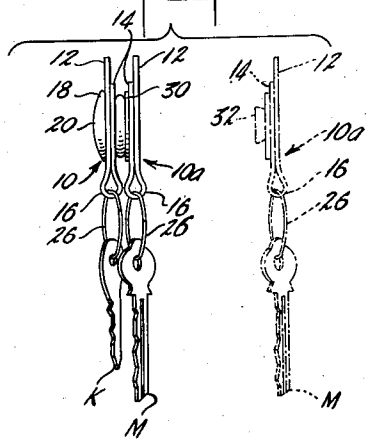


Fig. 5.

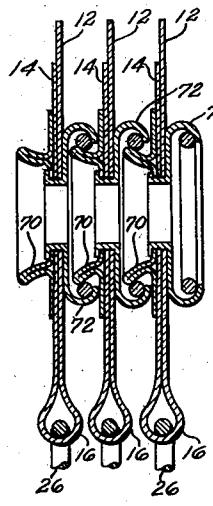


Fig. 2.

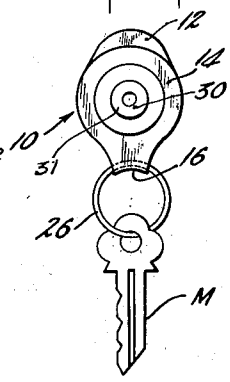


Fig. 3.

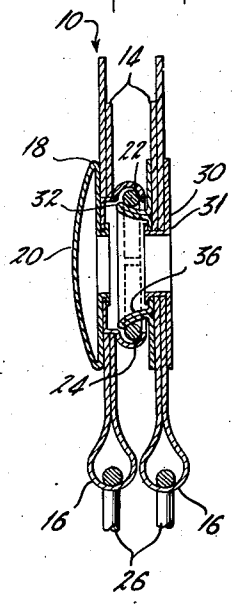
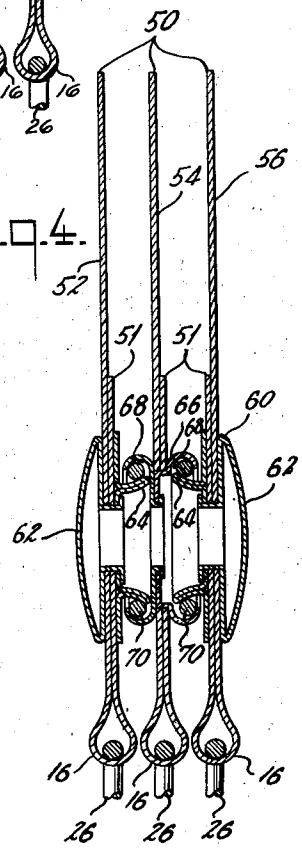


Fig. 4.



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KEY HOLDER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 150—40)

1

My invention relates generally to key supports, that is, devices for keeping in a group a plurality of rings. In particular, my invention relates to devices for supporting in a group a plurality of keys or other articles of similar character, any one or more of which may be easily and quickly separated from the others in the group. In one type of conventional key holder, it is possible to remove a single key therefrom, as by detaching same from its mount. However, these devices are mechanical complications and necessitate a high degree of dexterity in order to detach a single desired key therefrom when any one key is engaged in a lock. Other key rings of conventional type assemble a number of keys on a single split ring or other holder. When using key-rings of this type, as for instance when driving a car, and it becomes necessary to perform another key-controlled operation, as opening the car trunk, gas tank lock, garage doors, etc., it is necessary to remove the entire batch from the car's ignition lock (where it must be during operation of the motor vehicle).

The main object of my invention, therefore, is the provision of a support for a number of keys which comprises a plurality of releasably secured-together key holder units, each of which units may be easily and quickly separated from the rest thereof.

Still another object of my invention is the provision of a support for a number of keys which comprises a plurality of releasably secured-together key holder units, means to nestably and removably secure said units together in a group whereby any one or more thereof may be readily removed from the group.

Still another object of my invention is the provision of a support for a multiplicity of keys which comprise a plurality of looped members with means in the bights of each loop to support a key thereon.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a support for a plurality of keys comprising a number of individual retainer members, each of which retainers is formed of a piece of material bent on itself and secured together by a snap fastener element, whereby a plurality of retainers may be releasably secured together.

Still other and further objects of my invention will in part be obvious and still others in part pointed out specifically in connection with the following description of illustrative embodiments thereof.

In the drawings annexed hereto, and forming a part hereof,

2

Figure 1 is an edge elevational view of one form of device constructed according to and embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section through the device shown in Figure 1;

Fig. 4 is a similarly enlarged vertical section of a modified form of device also constructed according to and embodying my invention; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged vertical section of another modification of the present invention.

The form of invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive comprises a plurality of units as 10, 10*a*. Two such units are shown, but within the scope of my invention, three and even more units may be employed, as seen in Fig. 5. Each unit comprises a length of suitable material as leather, plastic, imitation leather or heavy fabric material or the like, suitably shaped as desired, forming two end tabs 12, 14 of which one tab 12 is longer than the other. Tabs 12, 14 are shown as circular in plan, although they may be of rectangular or any other shape, as desired.

The preferably integral connecting strip 16 between the end tabs 12, 14 is of reduced width, and when the tabs 12, 14 are brought flatly together, the intermediate connecting strip 16 forms the bight of the loop defined thereby. The tabs of holder unit 10 are secured together as by means of a rivet 18, having a head cap 20 on one side thereof, and an inwardly channeled opening 22 on the other side. A split spring-ring 24 is provided and trapped within channeled opening 22 for reasons and purposes to be developed below, the opening 22 and ring 24 forming the female component of a snap fastener. As part of each holder or retainer unit of my invention, I provide a key attaching member, as ring 26, which may be a single loop as shown, of coiled ring type, onto which a key K or M may be threaded. Rings 26 are disposed within the bights 16, 16 either prior to the riveting together of the end tabs or after the tabs are riveted together.

The tabs of the other unit 10*a*, making up the form shown in Figs. 1 to 3, are secured flatly together by a rivet 30, one side of which has an outwardly flared head portion 32, of such size as to be force fittable into the opening 22 of the rivet 18 of unit 10, by the initial expansion of spring ring 24 and the subsequent contraction thereof about the reduced thickness-neck portion 36 of head 32. Of course, when it is desired to separate unit 10 from unit 10*a*, the longer tab 12 of the latter unit may be grasped and pulled, and head 32 thereby released from the spring

grip of ring 24 and the holder units thus released.

In the form of invention illustrated in Fig. 4, three holder units 52, 54, 56 are provided. In each of these units, one of the tabs 50 is of substantially greater length than the other tab 51. The tabs of the two end holders 52, 56 are fastened together by rivets 60, 60 the outer sides 62, 62 of which are ordinary caps. The inner sides of these fastening rivets 62, 62 are formed into outwardly flaring heads 64, 64, defining the male components of a snap fastener arrangement. The tabs of the middle or center holder 54 are secured together by a rivet 66, both sides of which comprise the female component of snap fastener arrangements. As seen in Fig. 4, both sides of rivet 66 have inwardly channeled portions 68, 68 in each of which a split spring ring 70, 70 is trapped. The head portions 64, 64 are force pressed into the openings in rivet 66 against the normal tensioning of springs 70, 70, which then contract about the reduced thickness neck portion of heads 64, 64 to releasably secure same together.

Within the scope of my invention, each rivet, as 18, 60, etc. may be so formed as to have a male snap fastener component 70 on one side and a female component 72 on the other side, so that any number of holder units may be releasably snap-fastened together into a single group as shown in Fig. 5. It will be obvious that any one unit may be readily, simply and easily removed from the group, and the rest of the holders held together by these snap-fastener arrangements. In the form shown in Fig. 1, for instance, the outer side 31 of rivet 30 may be provided with a channel-split ring arrangement as 68, 70, this being so obvious as to necessitate no separate illustration.

Having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A holder for a plurality of keys comprising a plurality of lengths of material each of which is folded transversely on itself to form a loop, key supporting means trapped within each of the loops, the loops each being permanently closed by a rivet, both sides of which rivet consist of snap-fastener components adapted to be releasably engaged by a complementary snap-fastener component on an adjacent length.

2. A holder for a plurality of keys comprising a plurality of lengths of material, each of which lengths is folded transversely on itself to form a loop, key supporting means trapped within each of the loops, the loops each being permanently closed by a rivet, both sides of the rivet, closing an interiorally disposed length, consisting of snap fastener components adapted to be releasably engaged by a complementary snap fastener component of a rivet closing the adjacently disposed lengths.

3. A holder for a plurality of keys comprising three lengths of material, each of which lengths is folded transversely on itself to form a loop, key supporting means trapped within each loop, the loops each being permanently closed by a rivet, the inner length being secured by a rivet having snap-fastener components on both sides thereof, and the two outer lengths each having a cooperating snap fastener component on the side thereof facing the inner length.

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