Jan. 3, 1967 S. SCHWARTZ 3,296,429

KEYCASE-FLASHLIGHT CONSTRUCTION

Filed June 29, 1964

Fig. 1.

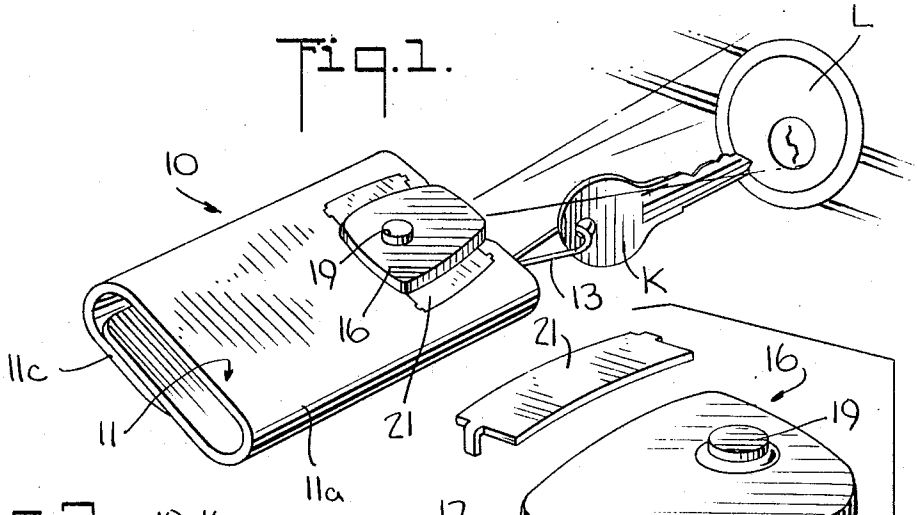


Fig. 2.

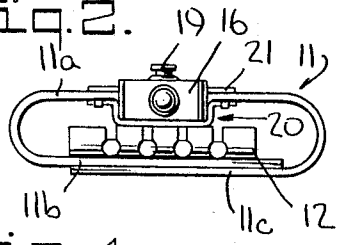
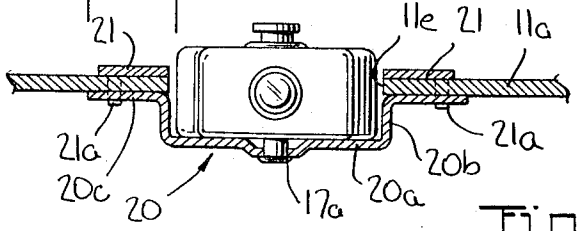


Fig. 4.



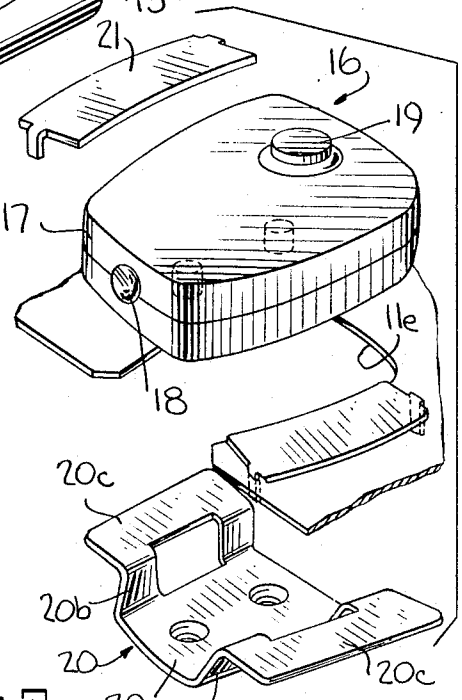
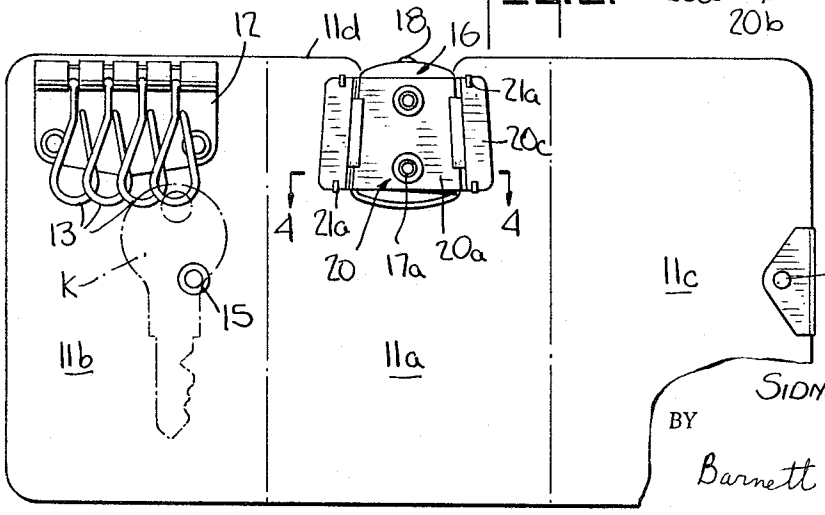


Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.



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KEYCASE-FLASHLIGHT CONSTRUCTION

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3 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.4)

This invention relates to portable keycases and more particularly is directed to a pocket-size keycase having a miniature flashlight incorporated therein.

Among the objects of the invention is to provide an improved keycase-flashlight construction of the character described wherein a miniature flashlight is incorporated in a double-flap or similar type keycase to direct a light beam substantially parallel and in close proximity to the longitudinal axis of a key when the latter is in a keyhole inserting position to illuminate the keyhole and otherwise serve as a general utility flashlight when the keys are all retracted and the case closed, which shall comprise few and simple parts that are relatively inexpensive to manufacture and assemble in quantity production, which shall be neat in appearance, rugged in construction, convenient to handle, operate and maintain, and which shall be practical and efficient to a high degree in use.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists of features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter disclosed, the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the claims following.

In the accompanying drawing in which an illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a keycase-light constructed to embody the invention showing a key carried thereby in keyhole inserting position with the light beam illuminating a keyhole and surrounding area.

FIG. 2 is an upper end view of the keycase-light shown in FIG. 1 but in closed position with the key retracted showing the front of the flashlight.

FIG. 3 is a view of the interior of the keycase-light shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 with the keycase in open position and spread flat to show the arrangement of the keyholder and miniature flashlight.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 4—4 in FIG. 3 showing the assembly of the flashlight and case; and

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary exploded view of the parts securing the flashlight to the case.

Referring in detail to the drawing, **10** denotes a keycase-light constructed to embody the invention comprising a casing **11** made of any suitable sheet material, such as leather, imitation leather, plastic or the like, fabricated in a single layer or a lamination of a plurality of layers, the sheet material being double folded to provide a center panel **11***a*, a left side infolding panel **11***b* and a right side exterior panel **11***c*.

Incorporated in casing **11** is a key ring holder **12** suitably attached, as by eyelet rivets **12***a* to the upper portion of infolding panel **11***b*. Key ring holder **12** may be of any conventional construction mounting a plurality of key rings **13**, each adapted to removably receive a key K and to pivot from a closed concealed position within casing **11** shown in FIG. 3 to an open, projecting, keyhole inserting position shown in FIG. 1. Cooperating male and female snap fasteners **14** and **15** mounted on right and left panels **11***c* and **11***b*, respectively, serve to retain casing **11** in closed position in the well understood manner.

A feature of the invention is the novel combination and simple manner of incorporating miniature flashlight

16 in casing **11**. Flashlight **16** may be of any suitable construction, miniaturized preferably by utilizing a button shaped, alkaline-mercury type battery (not shown). Flashlight **16**, as here illustrated, is similar to that shown and described in my copending application Ser. No. 298,210 filed July 29, 1963 and entitled Miniaturized Flashlight With Replacement Cartridge Unit, having substantially bilaterally separable container **17**, light bulb **18** and finger operable button **19**.

Flashlight **16** is mounted in a cutout **11***e* provided on center panel **11***a* so that the front end thereof, in which light bulb **18** is positioned, substantially aligns with top edge **11***d* of casing **11** to project a light beam along the length of key K carried by any of the key rings **13** when in keyhole inserting position. As will be apparent from FIG. 2, flashlight **16** is preferably centralized with respect to the longitudinal bisector of panel **11***a* and also substantially centralized with respect to the plane thereof to accommodate the thickness of flashlight **16**, which is on the order of 5/16 of an inch, partly on the interior and partly on the exterior of casing **11** when the latter is in closed position.

To achieve this end, a mounting bracket **20** having a central cradle or depression **20***a* and upstanding sidewalls **20***b* is secured to span cutout **11***e*. Cradle **20***a* is sized to substantially conform to cutout **11***e* and to seat flashlight **16** therein. A laterally extending flange **20***c* extends from each sidewall **20***b* and abuts the interior surface of panel **11***a* along the border of opposite edges of cutout **11***e*. Decorative clamping plates **21** are positioned on the exterior surface of panel **11***a* along the border of the opposite edges of cutout **11***e* in register with flanges **20***c* and cooperating therewith to fasten bracket **20** to panel **11***a*. Each of plates **21** has a pair of prongs **21***a* extending from opposite ends thereof piercing the sheet material of casing **11** and being bent toward each other to grip flange **20***c* therebetween. The bottom half of flashlight container **17** is suitably attached to cradle **20***a* as by spaced eyelet rivets **17***a*.

Keycase-light **10** may be readily assembled with minimum skilled labor and equipment by first cutting casing **11** to size with cutout **11***e* in center panel **11***a*. Key ring holder **12** and snap fasteners **14** and **15** may then be affixed to their respective panels as shown in FIG. 3. With flashlight **16** mounted in cradle **20***a* of bracket **20**, the latter is placed in register with cutout **11***e* so that flanges **20***c* abut the interior surface of center panel **11***a* bordering cutout **11***e* and clamping plates **21** are then pressed into position on the exterior surface of center panel **11***a* in register with flanges **20***c* so that prongs **21***a* pierce the material of center panel **11***a* and are bent toward each other upon flanges **20***c* as is clear from FIG. 3.

The practical utility of keycase-light **10** will now be apparent. As will be clear from FIGS. 2 and 3, a plurality of keys K are removably carried on key rings **13** in the conventional manner. When casing **11** is in closed position, a compact package is provided which neatly fits into a man's pocket or a lady's handbag. Flashlight **16** is readily available for lighting by finger pressure on button **19** when keycase-light **10** is comfortably held in the hand with the flashlight end between thumb and forefinger, button **19** being normally spring biased in an "off" position. When one of the keys K is extended from its retracted position within casing **11** to its keyhole inserting position shown in FIG. 1, the beam projected by light bulb **18** will illuminate the lock L to facilitate key insertion into the keyhole thereof.

The improved keycase-flashlight herein disclosed is seen to achieve the several objects of the invention and to be well adapted to meet conditions of practical use. As

various possible embodiments might be made in the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the disclosed construction, it is to be understood that all matters herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawing are to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A keycase-light of the character described comprising a sheet material casing double folded into a center panel, a side infolding panel and an opposite side exterior panel, a key ring holder carried by said side infolding panel adjacent an upper edge of said casing and having a plurality of key rings each adapted to removably carry a key for positioning within the casing and for pivoting to an external keyhole inserting position extending beyond said upper edge, said center panel having a cutout extending inwardly from said upper edge, a miniature flashlight having a light bulb at a front end and a finger pressure operated button on a top side thereof, and means for mounting said flashlight in the cutout centralized thicknesswise with respect to the plane of the center panel orienting the light bulb to substantially align with said upper edge and project a light beam along the key ring when in said external keyhole inserting position and locating the button on the exterior of the casing for access when the folded casing is grasped in the hand between thumb and forefinger.

2. A keycase-light of the character described comprising a sheet material casing double folded into a center panel, a side infolding panel and an opposite side exterior panel, a key ring holder carried by said side infolding panel adjacent an upper edge of said casing and having a plurality of key rings each adapted to removably carry a key for positioning within the casing and for pivoting to an external keyhole inserting position extending beyond said upper edge, said center panel having a cutout extending inwardly from said upper edge, a mounting bracket having a central cradle, upstanding opposite sidewalls and lateral flanges extending from each sidewall, said cradle being positioned to span said cutout on the interior side of the center panel with the lateral flanges abutting border portions of the cutout, a clamping plate in register with each of the lateral flanges and abutting opposite sides of said border portions, means extending through said center panel retaining said flanges and clamping plate in a border portion gripping position, and a miniature flashlight mounted in said cradle, the flashlight having a light bulb positioned to substantially

align with said upper edge and project a light beam along the key ring when in said external keyhole inserting position.

3. A keycase-light of the character described comprising a sheet material casing double folded into a center panel, a side infolding panel and an opposite side exterior panel, a key ring holder carried by said side infolding panel adjacent an upper edge of said casing and having a plurality of key rings each adapted to removably carry a key for positioning within the casing and for pivoting to an external keyhole inserting position extending beyond said upper edge, said center panel having a cutout extending inwardly from said upper edge, a miniature flashlight having a light bulb at a front end and a finger pressure operated button on a top side thereof, and means for mounting said flashlight in the cutout centralized thicknesswise with respect to the plane of the center panel, said mounting means comprising a bracket having a central cradle, upstanding opposite sidewalls and lateral flanges extending from each sidewall and a decorative clamping plate for each flange having prongs at opposite ends thereof, said cradle spanning said cutout on the interior side of the center panel with the lateral flanges abutting interior border portions of the cutout, each clamping plate abutting exterior border portions of the cutout in register with one of the flanges, said prongs of each clamping plate extending through said center panel and bent toward each other upon the flange for fastening the bracket to the center panel, said flashlight being mounted in said cradle with the light bulb positioned to substantially align with said upper edge and project a light beam along the key ring when in said external keyhole inserting position and said button located on the exterior of the casing for access when the folded casing is grasped in the hand between thumb and forefinger.

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