June 17, 1930. G. A. HOLMES 1,764,451

KEY HOLDER

Filed Sept. 19, 1927

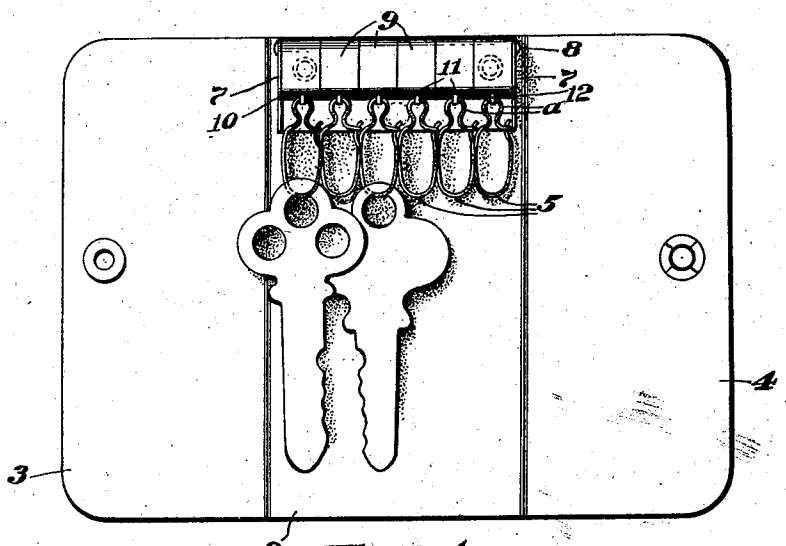


Fig. 1

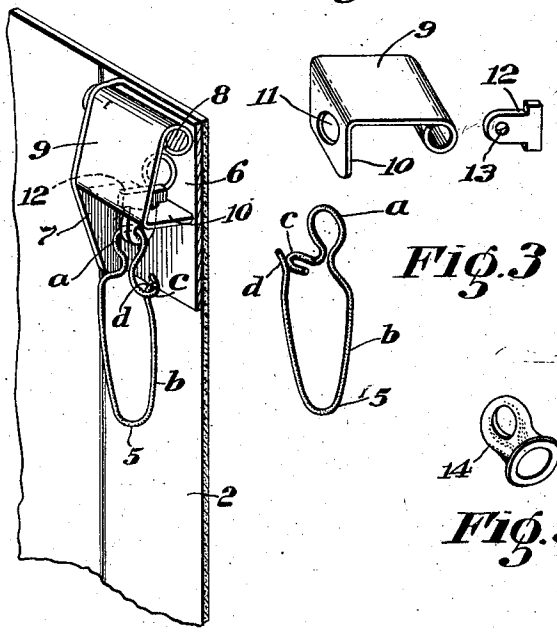


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 5

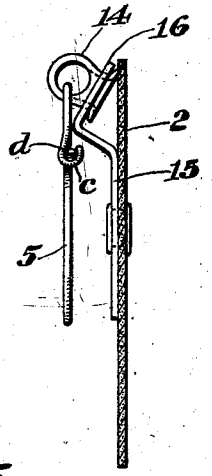


Fig. 4

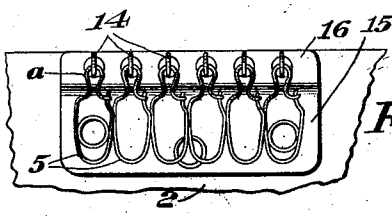


Fig. 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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KEY HOLDER

Application filed September 19, 1927. Serial No. 220,408.

This invention relates to keyholders of the type which comprise a case enclosing a series of hooks, the hooks being so anchored or fastened to the case that they have considerable freedom of movement and each hook being adapted to hold one or more keys.

The invention aims to improve devices of this character with a view to facilitating the placing of the keys in the holder or their removal therefrom while still providing a construction in which the keys will be securely held against accidental release.

The nature of the invention will be readily understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a front elevation showing a keyholder embodying this invention, the case for the holder being open;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing, on a larger scale, certain details of construction of the holder shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective exploded view of one of the keyholding hooks and the means for supporting the same;

Fig. 4 is a side view showing a different arrangement for anchoring the hooks in the case;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the swivel for supporting the hook shown in Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a front view of the upper portion of the device shown in Fig. 4.

Referring first to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the holder there shown comprises a case usually made of leather and consisting of a central panel 2 with flaps 3 and 4 at each side of it, these flaps being adapted to be folded over the central panel and secured in this position by a snap fastener. Loosely fastened to the upper margin of this central panel is a series of hooks 5 each adapted to hold a key. The fastening means for the hooks comprises a metal base plate 6 which is riveted to the case and is provided at its opposite ends with outwardly turned lugs or ears 7—7 in which a pivot pin 8 is secured. Several angular holders 9 are pivoted on this pin side by side so that each holder can swing outwardly away from the case. Each holder includes a platform 10 through which a hole 11 is punched, as best shown in Fig. 3, to receive the shank of a T-shaped swivel 12, the head of the swivel resting on the platform. One of the hooks 5 extends through the hole 13 in the swivel and is loosely fastened to the holder 9 by this member. The hooks thus are suspended from the swivels and the freedom of movement desired in using the keys is thus provided.

As above indicated, the hooks are of unique construction. Each hook preferably is made of spring wire, and it includes an eye *a* which is connected to the swivel 12 and a loop *b* which is designed to hold one or more keys. In order to permit the introduction or removal of the keys each loop may be opened at one side, and for this purpose it includes a U-shaped catch *c* and a curved cooperating latch *d*, both the parts *c* and *d* being formed in the end portions of the length of wire of which the hook is made. Normally the latch *d* is held in the catch *c* by the resiliency of the wire, and the keys are securely fastened in the loop by these members. Preferably a relatively stiff wire is used for this purpose so that a heavy strain on any key would be necessary in order to straighten out the hook sufficiently to release the latch *d* from its catch *c*. Such a straightening action also is strongly resisted by the fact that the extremity of the latch is bent outwardly just above the catch *c*, as clearly shown in the drawings. Any accidental release of the keys thus is practically impossible. At the same time this construction has the advantage of being easily operated to place a key on a hook or to remove it therefrom, and the method of operation is obvious at a glance. The invention therefore avoids an objectionable feature of certain prior constructions in some of which the method of operation is obscure, some of them also being very difficult to operate.

In the construction shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 the same hook 5 is employed but the hooks are suspended from swivels which are con-

structed and mounted in a different manner. Each swivel 14 consists of a tubular or hollow stud somewhat like that used in snap fasteners but in which the head has been flattened and punched to receive the eye of the hook 5. In this construction, also, the base plate 15 which is riveted to the central panel 2 of the leather case is provided with an inclined platform 16 having a series of holes punched in it to receive the entire set of swivels 14, the shank of each swivel extending through the platform while the base or flange portion of the swivel lies behind the platform. The mounting of the platform in an inclined position, as shown in Fig. 4, is preferred for the reason that it appears to produce a freer swivelling movement of the hooks and their keys relatively to the base 15.

While I have herein shown and described preferred embodiments of my invention, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms without departing from the spirit or scope thereof.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to claim as new is:

1. In a key holder comprising a case; a series of key supporting hooks, each having a key holding loop, a catch and a releasable latch cooperating with said catch and normally held in engagement therewith by the resiliency of the key holding loop; and means for securing said hooks to said case but permitting them to have considerable freedom of movement relatively to the case.

2. In a key holder comprising a case; a series of key supporting hooks, each of said hooks being made of spring wire and having an attaching eye and a loop for holding a key, each hook also including a catch and a latch cooperating with said catch, both said catch and latch being integral with the loop and the latch normally being held in the catch by the resilience of the loop and having an outwardly bent extremity immediately beyond the catch; and means for engaging the eyes of said hooks and anchoring them to said case but permitting them to swing and swivel freely relatively to the case.

3. In a key holder comprising a case; a series of key supporting wire hooks, each hook having an eye *a*, a key holding loop *b*, a U-shaped catch *c* and a curved cooperating latch *d*, both parts *c* and *d* being formed in the end portions of the length of wire of which the hook is made; and means cooperating with the eye portions of the hooks to secure them to the case while permitting them to swing freely relatively to the case.

4. In a key holder comprising a case; a series of key supporting hooks, each of said hooks being made of spring wire and having an attaching eye and a loop for holding a key, each hook also including a catch and a latch cooperating with said catch, both said catch and latch being integral with the loop and the latch normally being held in the catch by the resilience of the loop; and means for engaging the eyes of said hooks and anchoring them to said case but permitting them to swing freely relatively to the case, said means including an inclined platform to which the eye portion of the hook is swivelled.

GEORGE A. HOLMES.