July 22, 1924. 1,502,380

N. EISEMAN

KEY CASE

Filed Oct. 1, 1923

Fig. 1.

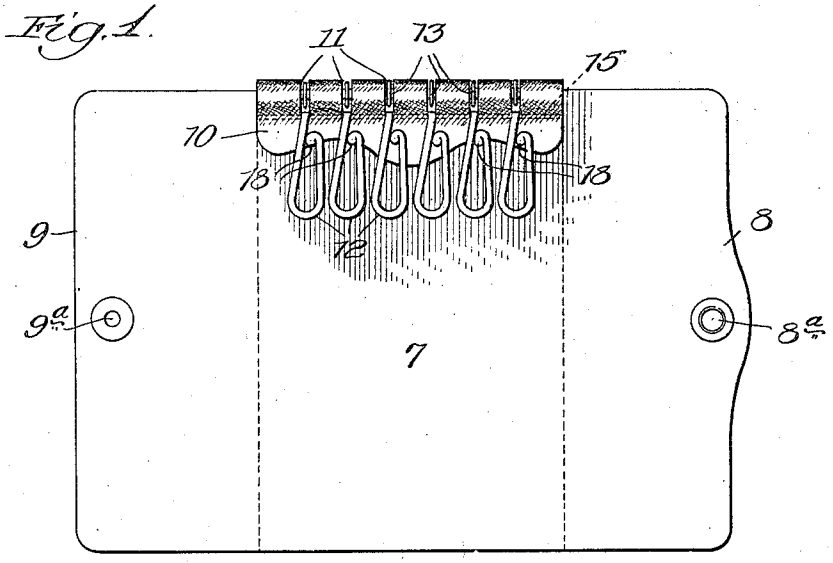


Fig. 2.

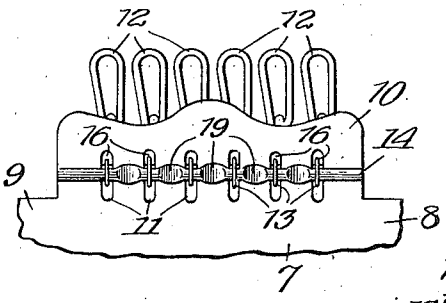


Fig. 3.

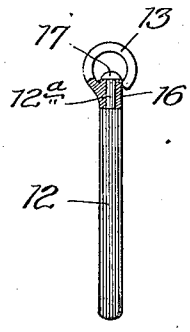


Fig. 5.

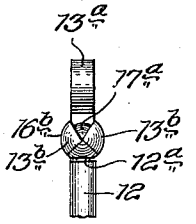


Fig. 4.

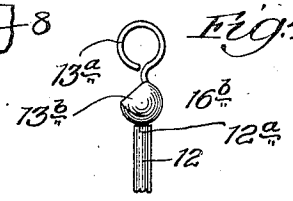


Fig. 6.

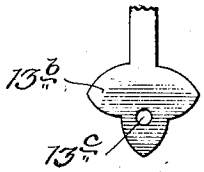


Fig. 5a.

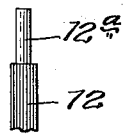
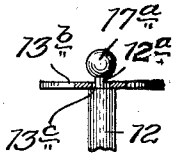


Fig. 5b.



Inventor:
Nathan Eiseman,
By Dyrenforth, Lee, Chritton & Wills,
Attys.

Patented July 22, 1924. 1,502,380

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NATHAN EISEMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO EISEMAN, KAYE COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

KEY CASE.

Application filed October 1, 1923. Serial No. 666,003.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NATHAN EISEMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Key Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in the class of flexible key-cases, in which the case comprises a back having side-flaps foldable over its surface in overlapping and releasably securable relation to cover keys hung, for convenient selection, on hooks pivotally suspended from near one edge of the back to be confined in regular flatwise order in the closed case, for ready protrusion, on opening the latter, of any selected key to be used for insertion into a given lock.

A primary object of my invention is to render a protruded key unobstructably rotatable with its hook in performing with the key its locking or unlocking function, while holding the case in the user's hand.

Further objects are to provide an improved construction of the end of the hook to facilitate attaching a key thereon and prevent its accidental withdrawal; and to provide a highly flexible and durable pintle for suspending the hooks at their rings on the inner face of the back of the case.

These and other objects are accomplished by my improvements illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a view of the key-case in its open condition, showing the hooks in place on the back;

Figure 2 is a broken view showing the end-flap on the back before it is folded upon and stitched to the latter, as represented in Fig. 1, this view serving to disclose the pintle-rod feature of my improvement and the manner of applying it to the under face of the flap and connecting the hooks with the pintle through the flap;

Figure 3 is a view in elevation partly sectional, showing in exaggerated size one form of the rotatable hook employed;

Figures 4 and 5 are broken views, at right-angles to each other, of another form of the rotatable hook;

Figure 5^a shows the stem or shank of the hook of Figs. 4 and 5 before the ball is formed thereon for union with a socket;

Figure 5^b shows the ball formed on the stem of Fig. 5^a after the stem has been inserted through a blank to be shaped into the socket-head represented in Figs. 4 and 5; and

Figure 6 is a broken view showing a blank to be shaped about the ball for forming the socket-head therefor.

The case proper, of leather or other suitable flexible material, is of ordinary general construction, comprising a back 7 and side-flaps 8 and 9 adapted to be folded in mutually overlapping relation on the back, where they are fastened together by pressing a socket 8^a on one flap over a button 9^a on the other, this fastening being well known and as usually employed for the present purpose.

For carrying keys (not shown) on the back 7, I prefer to provide on the latter an end-flap 10 to be folded upon the back and stitched thereto, as represented in Fig. 1, though this is not a necessary feature of my key-case, since the key-carrying medium on the back may involve any other suitable construction when provided with slots 11.

Hooks 12 are provided, as usual, for holding the keys, and terminate at the ends of their stem-portions in rings 13, which are passed through the flap-slots 11 and are hung on a pintle-rod 14, forming a feature of my improvement hereinafter described; and when the pintle is passed through the series of hook-rings projecting through the slots 11 along the inner face of the flap 10, the latter is folded on the back 7 and fastened, as by the stitches indicated at 15 (Fig. 1). With the hooks thus in place, they may be turned on their axis 14 to protrude beyond the back, or to extend in the case to lie flatwise therein as represented in Fig. 1 for confining keys hooked upon them, as usual, to similarly lie flatwise. However, since the hook-rings are so confined about the pintle as to bind or obstruct them against movement for turning the hooks out of and into the case otherwise than in the direction at right-angles to their axis 14, manipulation of a key on a protruded hook for its locking or unlocking purpose would be hampered with obviously resultant inconvenience unless the hook be rendered rotatable with the key so employed.

I obviate this objection by providing the hook with a joint adapting it to be rotated on its own axis as well as on the pintle-

axis. This may be accomplished by providing a swivel-joint between the stem and ring of the hook, as represented in Fig. 3, wherein the ring is provided with a collar 16 fitting about the reduced section 12^a of the hook-stem, the end of which is upset, as shown at 17, to fasten the hook and ring together in relatively rotatable relation. Another desirable construction of the joint is of the ball-and-socket variety, illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, wherein a ring 13^a is formed on one end of a stem terminating in a leaf-like head 13^b, perforated at 13^c (Fig. 6); and the reduced section 12^a (Fig. 5^a) of the hook-stem 12 is inserted through the opening 13^c in the head 13^b and then formed into a ball 17^a (Fig. 5^b), whereupon the leaves of the head are shaped about the ball to form a socket 16^b therefor.

With either the described swivel or ball-and-socket joint on a hook, the latter may be turned, as usual, on the pintle to protrude the key for insertion into a lock, whereupon it may be freely turned, while the user holds the key-case flatwise in his hand, because of the hook being rotatable with the key.

The form of hook illustrated has its hooking extremity curled inwardly to form a rounded head 18, which better adapts the hook for its purpose in a key-case, by presenting a smooth extremity, and not only by facilitating hooking of the perforated or ring head of a key, but also by preventing accidental withdrawal of a key from the hook, because of being obstructed by the head 18.

To prevent stiffening of the key-case and thus impairing its desirable flexibility by employing a stiff medium or pintle for pivotally carrying the hooks, I provide a highly flexible pintle preferably using for the purpose a rod composed of rawhide, which is both thus flexible and durable; and when the rod has been inserted through a series of the hook-rings, as hereinbefore described with relation to the showing in Fig. 2, I expand it at intervals, as by stamping between the rings, to corrugate it and form protuberances 19 between the rings, of greater diameter than the latter, to confine the pintle against displacement or withdrawal.

I realize that considerable variation is possible in the details of construction herein shown and described and I do not intend to limit my invention thereto except as pointed out in the appended claims, in which it is my intention to claim all the novelty inherent in my invention as broadly as permissible by the state of the art.

I claim:

1. A key-case of the character described provided with a key-carrying flap-extension provided with slots at intervals and folded upon and secured to the inner face of the case-back, a pintle extending through and confined in said folded flap, and hooks having on their stems rings surrounding the pintle and projecting through said slots, said stems having flexible-joint connections with the rings, rendering the hooks rotatable on their own axes.

2. In a key-case of the character described, a pintle-rod on the back of the case and on which the rings of the key-carrying hooks are strung, said rod being formed of highly flexible material and provided with protuberances for spacing said rings apart.

3. In a key-case of the character described, a pintle-rod formed of rawhide and corrugated to provide ring-spacing protuberances, said rod being secured on the inner face of the back of the case and having the rings of the key-carrying hooks strung thereon and spaced apart by the protuberances formed by the corrugations.

NATHAN EISEMAN.