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KEY CHAIN HOLDER

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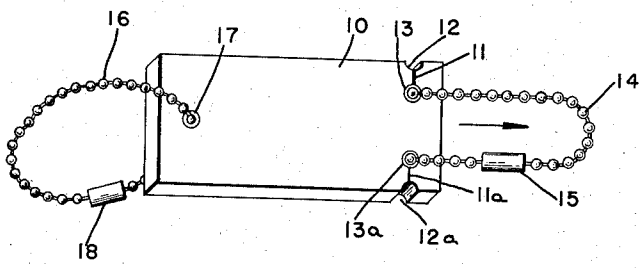


Fig. 1

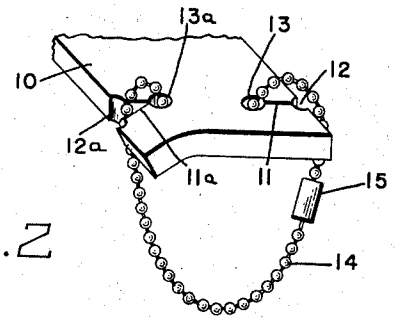


Fig. 2

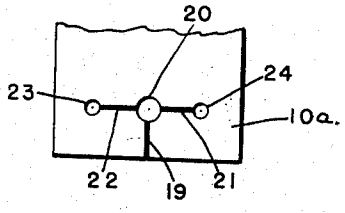


Fig. 3

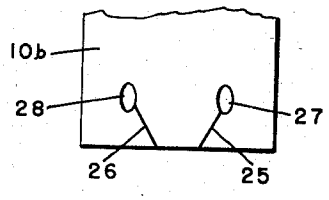


Fig. 4

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KEY CHAIN HOLDER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 70—457)

This invention relates to a key holder, and more particularly to such a holder from which a chain, loop or ring with a bunch of keys thereon may be quickly disconnected or detached from the holder for use.

Keys are frequently carried attached to a chain or ring or loop which is in turn attached to some type of holder. It is sometimes necessary to detach one or more of these keys for separate use and in such case the only alternatives are to detach the keys separately or to place them on a separate holder. This requires unnecessary duplication and bulk. Furthermore, where a large number of keys are attached to the holder it is frequently too bulky to handle all the keys together with the holder as a unit and some provision for readily removing one or more of the keys is desirable.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a device for holding key chains, loops or rings with such chains, loops or rings being readily and quickly detachable from the holder and readily inserted thereon.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a novel type of key holder having a provision for a readily detachable key holding member such as a chain, loop or ring, attached at one point thereon and another key holding member attached thereto which is not readily detachable.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a holder of this type which is simple, inexpensive, compact and convenient.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent with the description to follow taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a key holder showing a pair of key chains each attached at opposite ends;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view of one end of the key holder of Fig. 1 showing the quick detachable construction;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view of one end of a key holder showing an alternative form of the construction permitting quick detachment;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of still another alternative form of one end of the key holder showing the quick detachable construction.

Referring to the drawings, the key holder shown in Fig. 1 consists of a relatively flat member **10** which forms the body of the holder. This body is made of a flexible, resilient material such as a flexible, resilient plastic of the type referred to as polyethylene cellulose acetate, polyvinyl chloride, or the like or of other material having this property such as copper, aluminum, steel, etc., sufficiently thin to permit flexing. In general, plastic materials such as polyethylene are preferred.

At one end of the holder a pair of slits **11** and **11***a* are formed extending from opposite edges. These slits are formed from enlarged grooves or notches **12** and **12***a* which are formed at the edges and which permit more ready entry of the key chain to be referred to hereafter. Each slit **11** and **11***a* terminates in an enlarged opening **13** or **13***a* through which the key chain **14** is

passed. This key chain is made endless by means of fastening member **15** which may be opened in the known manner to permit attachment of the keys on the chain. At the opposite end of body member **10** is formed a hole **17** through which a key chain **16** is passed. This key chain is fastened at the ends and made endless by fastening member **18**. In a preferred form of the invention as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the chain holding slits extend inwardly from opposite edges and are in linear alignment. The resilient member is preferably of rectangular configuration with the slits formed adjacent one end thereof and parallel thereto with the result that the key holding chain member will embrace the portion of the resilient member between the end portions of the slits and will at the same time extend outwardly of the end of the member a sufficient distance so that the keys will hang freely without engaging the end of the member. The slits are preferably formed without removal of material by cutting or the like, so that the adjacent walls thereof are in contact with each other or at least very nearly so.

The manner in which the detachable feature of the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 operates, is as follows. This is illustrated particularly with reference to Fig. 2.

When it is desired to remove the key chain **14** with keys attached thereon as a unit from the holder, the key chain is pulled downward through either slot, for example, as at **11***a*. This distorts the walls of the slot because of the resilient, flexible nature of the material, the walls moving downwardly and outwardly to permit passage of the key chain. This releases the chain at that side. The same action is carried out on the other side removing the chain through slot **11**. When the chain is reinserted in the holder, the same action is carried out in reverse, the chain first engaging the notched portion and then being forced through the corresponding slot, passage thereof being permitted by the distortion and displacement of the walls of the slot due to the flexible and resilient nature of the material. It may be noted that the chain tends to be retained in position by the spacings of the openings **13** and **13***a* since the plane of the slots is normal to the longitudinal axis of the holder and the normal direction of pull.

An alternative form of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 3 in which a single slit **19** is formed at one end of the body member **10***a* which is constructed of the same material as body member **10**. This slit terminates in enlarged opening **20**. From this opening extends a pair of slits **21** and **22** in opposite direction of said opening. Each of these slits terminate in enlarged openings **23** and **24**. The key chain or similar key holding member is passed through openings **23** and **24**. When it is desired to remove the chain, it is pulled through slits **21** and **22** and then through slit **19** by forcing the walls of the slit apart through distortion of the flexible and resilient material of which the body member is constructed. In view of the fact that the chain member is retained by openings **23** and **24**, the only entry to which is through **21** and **22** which are at an angle to entry slit **19**, accidental detachment of the chain is minimized.

Another form of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 4 which shows a pair of slits **25** and **26** formed at one edge of the body member **10***b*. This body member is formed of flexible and resilient material as described in connection with body member **10**. Each of these slits terminates in enlarged openings **27** and **28** and each slit is formed at a divergent angle to the other. It may be noted that each slit enters its enlarged opening at a point about the bottom of the opening taken with reference to the end of the holder at which this slit is formed. For this reason, any pull of the key chain in a direction

longitudinal to the holder will permit the chain to be retained within the opening and minimize accidental detachment by pulling through the slits.

While reference has been made to the use of the key chain above, it is understood that any holding member in the form of a loop or ring or other similar member made endless by fastening means or otherwise, may be used in place thereof.

The slits and openings referred to in the body member may be formed by incisions, cutting, molding, or in any manner known to one skilled in the art.

This application is a continuation of my copending application Serial No. 352,331, filed May 1, 1953, now abandoned.

Having thus described and illustrated the preferred embodiments of my invention, what I desire to claim and secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A key holder comprising a relatively flat body member of resilient, flexible material, a pair of spaced enlarged notches each formed in an edge portion of said member, a pair of spaced enlarged openings formed within said body member, a pair of relatively narrow slits formed through said member each starting from one of said notches and terminating in one of said openings, and an endless flexible key retaining member extending through both of said openings through engagement with said notches and passage through said slits, said flexible key retaining member enveloping the area between said enlarged openings and being retained thereby.

2. A key holder according to claim 1 wherein the notches are formed in opposite edge portions of said body member and wherein said notches, slits and enlarged openings are in linear alignment.

3. A key holder comprising a relatively flat body member of resilient, flexible material, a pair of slits each formed substantially transversely through said body member and extending inwardly from an edge thereof, each of said slits being formed in substantially the same plane and extending inwardly from enlarged notches formed in opposite edges of said body member, each of said slits terminating in an enlarged opening formed in said body member, said openings being spaced from one another, an endless flexible key retaining member extending through both of said enlarged openings and detachable from said body member between said slits by distortion thereof, said key retaining member encircling the portion of the body member between said openings and being retained against detachment from the body member by the portion of said body member between said openings and between said openings and an edge of the body member when in use as a key holder means.

4. A key holder according to claim 3 wherein the body member is formed of polyethylene and wherein said key retaining member is a flexible chain.

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