Nov. 1, 1932. L. DEFOY 1,885,186

FURNITURE LATCH

Filed May 10, 1930

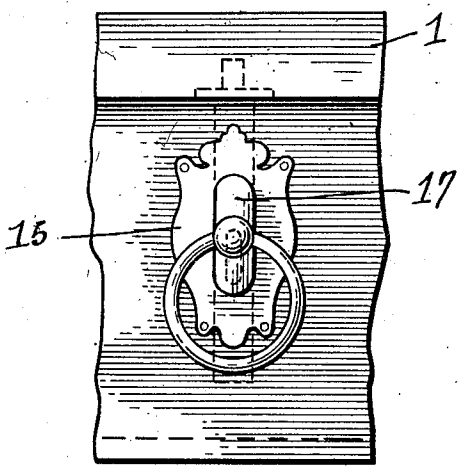


Fig. 1

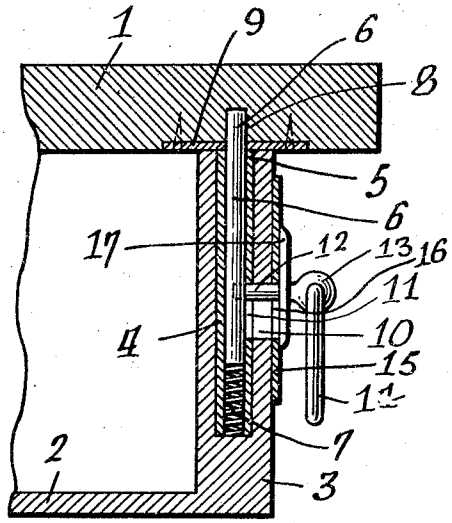


Fig. 2

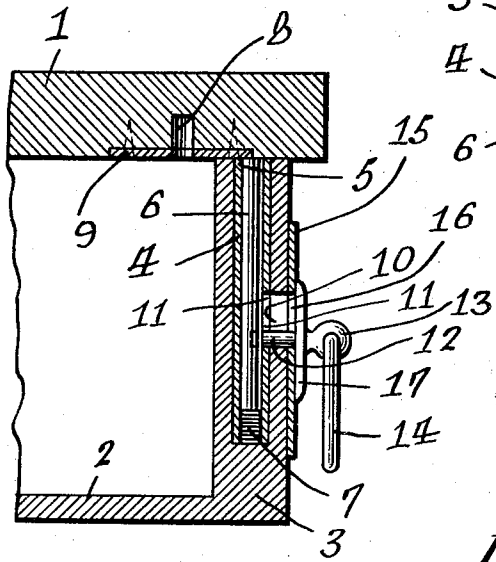


Fig. 3

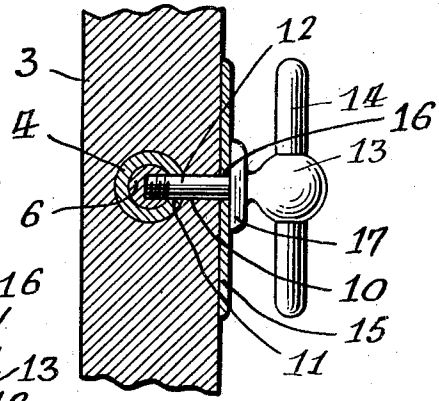


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FURNITURE LATCH

Application filed May 10, 1930. Serial No. 451,356.

The present invention pertains to a novel latch designed particularly for use in connection with the drawers of household furniture.

It is a known fact that visitors to a home frequently have occasion to enter the private rooms, such as bedrooms, and on such occasions are compelled by idle curiosity to look into the drawers of the furniture.

The principal object of the invention is to discourage and to prevent such practice and is accomplished by the use of a simple latch, the appearance of which is misleading as to its mode of operation. The latch is essentially of the spring-pressed bolt type adapted to be opened by moving the bolt against the action of the spring from an exposed operating member for this purpose. According to the invention, this operating member has the appearance of a simple pull ring which need only be pulled outwardly to open the drawer. As a matter of fact, the latch is not released by direct outward pull on the ring but requires rather a downward pull.

Curious persons attempting to look into a drawer would naturally first pull the ring out and, being unsuccessful, would in most cases become so embarrased as not to meddle further to determine the operation of the latch, or might even be led to believe that the drawer has been locked with a key.

The invention is fully disclosed by way of example in the following description and in the accompanying drawing in which

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the device;

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section thereof in locking position;

Fig. 3 is a similar section in open or released position, and

Fig. 4 is a plan section.

Reference to these views will now be made by use of like characters which are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout.

In the several figures is indicated a top board 1 of a table or other piece of furniture or even the partitioning strip between two sliding drawers. Beneath the part 1 is a conventional drawer 2 slidably supported in any known manner and formed with the usual face board 3.

In the board 3 is inserted a tube 4 so positioned that one of the ends 5 thereof is adapted to slide along the bottom face of the board 1 as clearly shown in Fig. 3. In the tube is slidably mounted a bolt or pin 6 resting on a spring 7 which normally tends to move the bolt against the board 1.

From the lower face of the board 1 is drilled an opening 8 adapted to receive the free end of the bolt 6 under the action of the spring 7 when the drawer 2 is in closed position, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The entrance to the opening 8 is preferably surrounded by an apertured wear disk 9 to prevent enlargement of the entrance to the opening 8 by the action of the bolt 6.

In the face of the board 3 is also cut a slot 10 which registers with another slot 11 cut axially in the tube 4. A pin 12 extends from the bolt 6 through both slots and is formed with an ornamental head 13 entirely outside the board 3 as clearly shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. A pull ring 14 is suspended from the head 13 for the purpose which will presently appear. To the outer face of the board 3 is applied an escutcheon plate 15 over the slot 10 and having also a slot 16 which registers with the slots 10 and 11. The stem 12 carries a slidable shield or cover plate 17 which conceals the slot 16.

Assuming that the drawer is locked by means of the bolt 6 as shown in Fig. 2, it will be obvious after an understanding of the construction of the lock, that the drawer may be unlocked merely by pulling downwardly on the stem 12 by means of the ring 14. The outward appearance of the device, however, is such as to indicate that the member 14 is merely an ordinary pull ring which, if pulled directly outwardly, will also pull out the drawer. Such a mode of operation is also suggested by the ornamental escutcheon plate 15.

Inasmuch as the device is not intended to be an intricate lock but merely as a guard against idle curiosity seekers, it effectively serves its purpose. Such curious persons who may wander into private rooms of a home which they are visiting have a known tendency, innocent but undesirable, to look into

the drawers of the furniture. An unsuccessful attempt to pull the drawer straight outwardly by the ring 14 in the apparently obvious manner would in most cases be embarrassing and would not be followed by further meddling with the lock to determine the manner of opening it, and might even lead to the belief that the drawer has been locked with a key.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be understood that various alterations in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as indicated by the appended claim.

What I claim is:—

A latch comprising in combination with a fixed member and a drawer slidable relatively thereto, a spring pressed bolt in said drawer adapted to enter said fixed member, said drawer being formed with a slot adjacent said bolt, a pin extending from said bolt through said slot to the forward face of said drawer, a cover plate carried by said pin and adapted to cover said slot in all positions of said pin, and a pull ring carried by the exposed end of said pin.

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