July 25, 1933. W. R. BUXTON 1,920,060

FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

Filed July 17, 1930

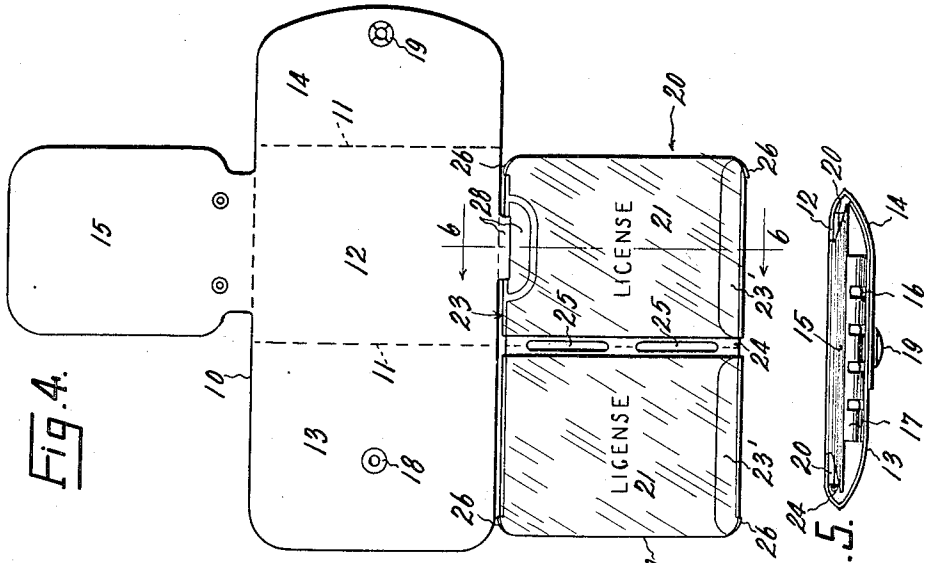


Fig. 4.

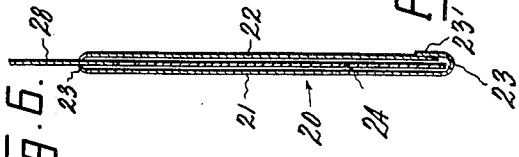


Fig. 6.

Fig. 5.

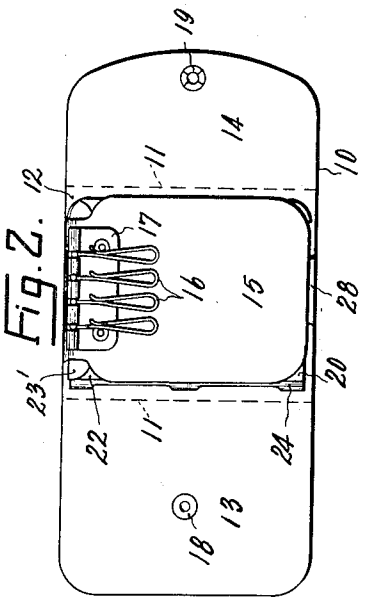


Fig. 2.

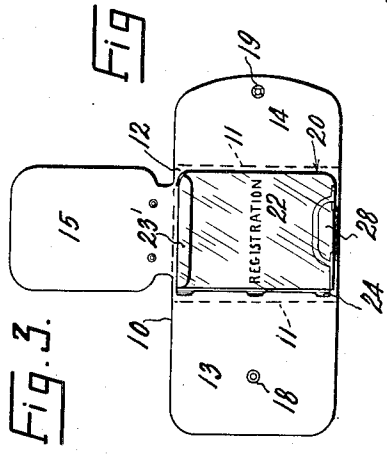


Fig. 3.

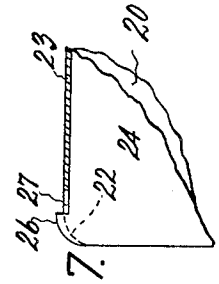


Fig. 7.

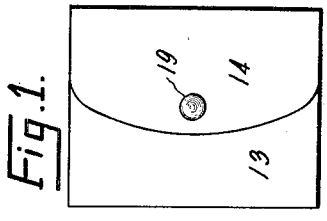


Fig. 1.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

Application filed July 17, 1930. Serial No. 468,575.

This invention relates to improvements in flexible pocket receptacles.

While the receptacle of this invention may have other applications, it is primarily intended for the purpose of carrying automobile license and registration papers along with keys, such as automobile keys.

Many examples will be found in the prior art of key cases adapted for the stated purpose. For the most part, the prior art key cases provide pockets in which the license and registration papers are received in folded-up form. These are open to the objection that the papers have to be removed from the pocket and unfolded before they can be displayed. In other cases, provision is made for a limited display of the papers but usually not enough of the papers are displayed to satisfy the authorities asking to see them. In another prior art example, a key case is combined with pairs of hinged transparent containers for the papers,—one pair for the license and one pair for the registration,—in such a way that all necessary parts of the license and registration can be displayed. In the last named example, however, the license and registration papers are exposed each time the key case is opened and also the hinged containers are subjected to movement on their hinge connections by the opening and closing of the key case. This results in oft-repeated bending back and forth of the license and registration papers along a line of fold coincident with said hinge connection and the papers are liable to wear through along this line. Aside from this objection, the case is larger and more bulky than need be for the purpose.

The invention has for its general objects to provide an improved means for accomplishing the stated purpose or analogous purposes; to provide a key case in which the license and registration papers are normally concealed, or substantially, so, and at the same time protected against damage and rapid wear and yet arranged to be readily exposed and displayed when required; and to provide a receptacle in which the license, registration and all the keys required for the automobile, may be contained and which is foldable into small compass and into thin, substantially flat and compact form.

These and other objects will more particularly appear as the detailed description proceeds and will be pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention will be disclosed with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 is an end elevational view showing the receptacle in closed and pocket-carrying form;

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the receptable as opened for use as a key case;

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the receptacle with the key holding part swung up to permit access to the containers for the license and registration papers;

Fig. 4 is a similar view, drawn to a larger scale, showing the containers swung out of the receptacle for display;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the closed receptacle;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional elevation of one of the containers.

The receptacle proper may be, and in the form herein disclosed is, a key case constructed on substantially the same general lines as that disclosed in my U. S. Letters Patent No. 1,443,937, dated January 30, 1923. It includes a strip or folder 10, of leather or other suitable flexible material, subdivided by transverse lines of fold 11 into a central section 12 and two flaps 13 and 14, hingedly connected one to each side edge thereof. A third flap 15, of an area substantially commensurate with that of the central section 12, is hingedly connected to the upper end edge of such section and normally lies superposed thereon as shown in Fig. 2. This flap 15 serves to support one or more key holders 16 which are suitably supported, as indicated, from a metal plate 17, secured to the flap 15. The flaps 13 and 14 are foldable in overlapping relation over the key holders 16, flap 15 and section 12,

as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, to close the receptacle and these flaps may be held together in any suitable way, as by interengaging snap fastener elements 18 and 19, fixed to flaps 13 and 14, respectively.

For carrying the license and registration or other desired papers, I provide a pair of containers 20, which as will be clear from Fig. 6 are made up in the form of open-ended flattened-down tubes having closely spaced front and rear walls 21 and 22, and relatively short connecting side walls 23. The walls 21 and 22 are at least in part, and preferably entirely, of transparent material. These containers are hinged together like the leaves of a book and can be opened and spread apart as shown in Fig. 4, or closed and superposed as shown in Fig. 3. The license and registration, disposed back to back, are slid into these containers so that substantially half of each lies in one container and substantially the remaining half of each in the other container and so that the license in all its essential parts is visible through one set of walls, as 21, while the registration, in all its essential parts, is visible through the other set of walls as 22. In some cases, it may be necessary to fold the license and registration papers once in order to insert them in the containers but this can be done in a manner such that all the essential parts can be displayed through said walls without requiring withdrawal of the papers from the containers.

It will be noted that but two containers are necessary for the purpose and these, as will later appear, are so constructed that they are exceedingly thin and will fold flatly one upon the other into compact form, when superposed. These containers are connected to the pocket receptacle or key case by hingedly connecting one side wall 23 of one to one end edge of the key case,—preferably to the lower end edge of the central section 12. Accordingly, after the containers have been swung into superposed relation, they may be swung, while maintained in such relation, into the key case folder and superposed on section 12 to lie beneath flap 15. The article then appears as shown in Fig. 2. The containers are then substantially concealed and protected by flap 15 and the article, as a whole, appears little different than the key case shown in the above identified patent. The article can then be used as a key case in the normal way without disturbing or moving the license and registration papers. The keys, of course, are frequently used while the license and registration papers ordinarily need to be displayed only infrequently. The described arrangement protects the license and registration papers and their containers from the wear and tear incident to the frequent opening and closing of the key case. When these papers need to be displayed, it is simply necessary to lift flap 15 and swing the containers out of the key case folder and unfold them, whereupon the license and registration will be displayed through opposite walls of the containers. Or, after the containers are swung out of the folder, as shown in Fig. 4, to display the license they may, before being superposed, be swung back into the receptacle so that one is superposed on flap 13 and the other on section 12, whereupon the registration will be displayed.

The containers are preferably made entirely of celluloid or some like material which is transparent and preferably also flexible. A simple construction makes use of a strip of celluloid, which strip is folded near its middle to superpose one part upon another, said parts forming the walls 21 and 22. An extension 23′ is left on one part, as 21, to be folded over against the other part, as 22, in overlapping relation therewith and secured thereto, if desired, as by cement. The resulting construction is a container having oppositely located open ends and one having the cross sectional shape of a flattened down tube. The front and back walls of the container are normally very closely spaced but, because of the tubular construction and the flexible nature of the material, these walls can be spread apart, if and when necessary, to accommodate papers of increased thickness.

A preferred way of hinging the containers together is by means of a very thin strip 24 of leather or the like. The containers are positioned with their open ends in alignment and the strip is passed completely through both containers and spans the space between them. This strip serves also to partition the containers and separate the license from the registration. It may be printed appropriately, as shown, to indicate where the license and registration are intended to be placed. The central section of the strip 24, or that portion located between adjacent open ends of the two containers, serves as the hinge and this portion may be cut away to some extent, as indicated by the spaced vertical slots 25, to secure a free working hinge connection. The width of this portion is preferably variable according to the thickness of the papers carried. That is, when there are thin papers in the containers, the latter may be slid towards one another on the leather strip 24 to secure a minimum spacing therebetween and a minimum width of hings connection. On the other hand if thicker papers are to be carried, the containers may be spread apart to increase the width of hinge to make it suitable for the heavier load. The strip 24 has projections 26 at each of its four corners (Fig. 4) and each of these projections extends into a slot 27

as shown in Fig. 7, formed in the end walls of the containers. It will be clear from Fig. 7 that the container 20 can be moved to the left relatively to strip 24 to a certain limited extent to provide for increase in the width of the hinge connection but that the container cannot accidentally be pulled off from the strip.

As a preferred means for hinging one of the containers to the key case, a roughly T-shaped member 28 is hingedly connected to the lower edge of section 12. Preferably, this member 28 is an integral part of the leather folder although it is desirably of less thickness and may be skived down to make its thickness about equal to that of the leather strip 24. The shank of this member 28 is passed through a slot in the upper side wall 23 of one of the containers, and the projecting cross bar portions of the T-shaped member overlap and engage the inner part of the upper side wall of the container and thus hold the member and container together in a manner permitting convenient detachment, if and when required. The strip 24 is preferably recessed, as indicated in Fig. 4, to receive the head of the T-shaped member and, because of this and because the member and strip are about equal in thickness, the two normally lie in a common plane as shown in Fig. 6, permitting the license and registration papers to be slipped into place in the containers without striking the head of member 28 as an obstruction. This is desirable where the tubular containers cannot be opened. It is, however, within the scope of the invention to make the containers capable of being opened, which may be done by omitting the cement used to stick tab 23′ to wall 21.

The operation should be clear from the foregoing description but will be briefly summarized. For ordinary key case use, the receptacle is used just like any other key case,—the parts being positioned as in Fig. 2 with the license and registration containers protected and concealed by flap 15. This flap also serves as a retaining means, sufficient for all practical purposes, for holding the containers against accidental dislodgment from the receptacle during ordinary key case use. Such use, of course, is the most frequent one and the flaps 13 and 14 may be opened and closed many times during each day. On the other hand, access to the license and registration papers may not be required only once or twice a year and in any event very infrequently as compared to access to the keys. Therefore, I have arranged the containers so that they are substantially hidden under normal conditions and protected from the wear and tear which would otherwise ensue if they were exposed to the rubbing and abrading action of the keys or subjected to hinging action with the same frequency as are the flaps 13 and 14. When access to the license and registration is required, one simply lifts flap 15 and swings the superposed containers 20 on the hinge 28 out of the key case. One then swings one container 20 on hinge 24 to bring it into the same plane as the other container, or as shown in Fig. 4. One paper,—as the license,—is then displayed through the front walls 21 while the other can be seen through the rear walls 22. Normally, however, the containers lie tucked behind the flap 15, superposed in a flat, thin, and compact form as will be clear from Fig. 5.

It is important in order to display enough of the registration and license papers to have a containing means therefor of a substantial area and unless the receptacle is to be unduly large, this containing means of large area must be sub-divided into at least two containers. This necessitates a hinge connection to enable one container to be superposed on the other into the necessary small compass to be contained in a small key case (that illustrated is substantially smaller than an ordinary key case). It is important, if long and useful service is to be had, that the containers be moved on their hinge connection as infrequently as possible. Since the license and registration papers also bend back and forth as the containers are swung on the hinge 24, these papers would soon wear through along the line of fold. Also, the less the containers are used, the better. The celluloid is easily abraded and injured. Also a slight amount of abrasion of the containers, as by rubbing one upon another, will soon destroy the desired clear transparency of their walls.

The described arrangement, therefore, is a most advantageous solution of the problem of carrying license and registration papers in a key case. These papers are concealed and protected under normal use of the receptacle as a key case and are not subjected to any wear by key case use. Yet, the papers are instantly available and readily displayable, when required.

What I claim is:

1. A receptacle for keys and license and registration papers, comprising a folder of flexible material having a central section and a pair of flaps hingedly connected one to each side edge thereof together with a third flap hingedly connected to one end edge of said section and normally superposed on the latter, key-holding means carried by the outer face of the third flap, a pair of containers each having closely spaced front and back walls and connecting side walls, said front and back walls being at least in part of transparent material and of an area no greater than that of said section, said containers serving between them to receive

license and registration papers placed back to back, said containers being hingedly connected along adjacent end edges to enable them to be superposed and one of the containers having one side wall hingedly connected to the other end edge of said section, said containers when superposed being foldable along the last-named hinge connection into superposed relation with said section and positioned beneath said third flap to be concealed and protected thereby, said flap with the weight of the key holding means thereon tending to hold the superposed containers in place between its inner face and said section.

2. In combination with a key case of the type wherein key holders are carried on the outer face of a flap hingedly connected to one edge of the key case, a pair of containers each having closely spaced front and rear walls and connecting side walls, said front and rear walls being at least in part of transparent material and of an area substantially commensurate with that of said flap, said containers being hinged together along adjacent end edges and serving between them to receive license and registration papers placed back to back so that one paper may be viewed through the front walls and the other through the rear walls, said containers with the papers contained therein being foldable about their hinge connection into superposed relation, and means hingedly connecting one side wall of one of said containers to an edge of the key case opposite that to which said flap is connected and at an opposite point, whereby the containers when superposed may be swung about the last named hinge connection into the key case and beneath said flap.

3. In combination, a folder of flexible material and a pair of containers movable into and out of superposed relation, one of said containers being hingedly connected to the folder to enable the containers to be swung into and out of the folder, each of said containers constructed in the form of a flattened-down, open-ended tube, said containers when moved out of said relation so disposed that an open end of one lies adjacent and in line with an open end of the other, and a thin strip of flexible material extending through each container between the walls thereof and spanning the space between the adjacent open ends thereof, said strip serving to hingedly connect the containers for movement into and out of said relation, said strip and containers having interengaging means to prevent the containers from sliding off said strip.

4. In combination, a folder of flexible material and a pair of containers movable into and out of superposed relation, one of said containers being hingedly connected to the folder to enable the containers to be swung into and out of the folder, each of said containers constructed in the form of a flattened-down open-ended tube, said containers when moved out of superposed relation so disposed that an open end of one lies adjacent and in line with an open end of the other, and a thin strip of flexible material extending through each container between the walls thereof and spanning the space between the adjacent open ends thereof, said strip serving to hingedly connect the containers for movement into and out of said relation, said containers being free for limited sliding movement relatively to said strip in a direction toward and away from one another.

5. In combination, a folder of leather or like flexible material having hingedly connected to one edge thereof a substantially T-shaped flap having a shank and a cross bar portion, a pair of containers each constructed in the form of a flattened-down open-ended tube, said containers disposed with one open end of one adjacent one open end of the other, a strip of flexible material extending through and between the walls of both containers and spanning the space between their adjacent open ends and serving to hingedly connect the containers so that they may be moved into and out of superposed relation, one of said containers having an opening in one side wall thereof to receive the shank portion of said tab, the cross bar portion of the tab disposed within the container and interengaged with said side wall to hold the container from sliding off said tab, said strip being recessed to receive said cross bar portion and allow it to lie in the same plane as the strip.

6. In combination, a pair of containers each constructed of transparent material and in the form of a flattened-down open-ended tube, and a thin strip of flexible material extending loosely through each container between the walls thereof and completely encompassed thereby, said containers being slidably mounted for movement longitudinally of the strip to enable an open end of one container to move toward or away from the adjacent open end of the other container, and interengageable means on said strip and each container to limit the extent of movement of the containers away from each other.

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