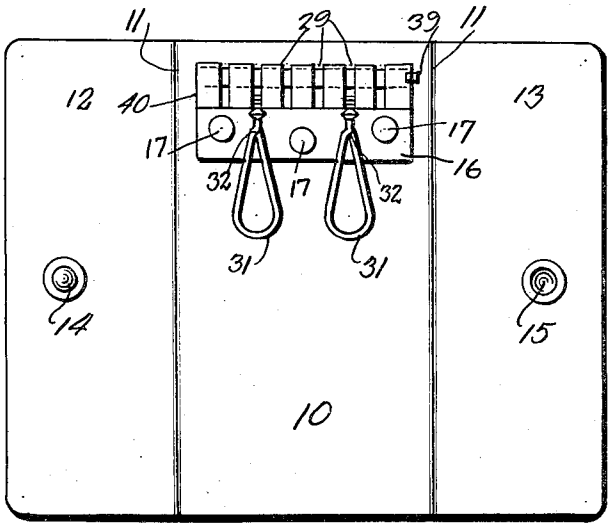
Aug. 18, 1936. O. E. ZAHN 2,051,432

KEY CASE

Filed Feb. 11, 1935

Fig. 1.



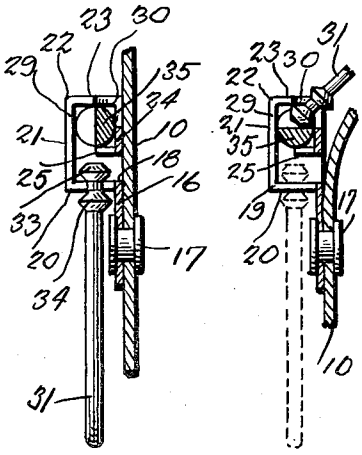


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 2.

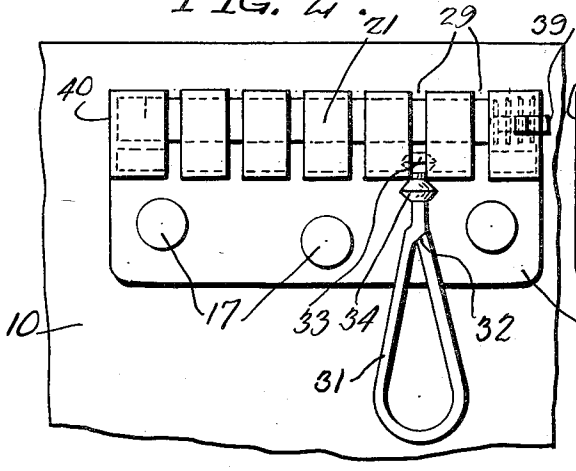


Fig. 3.

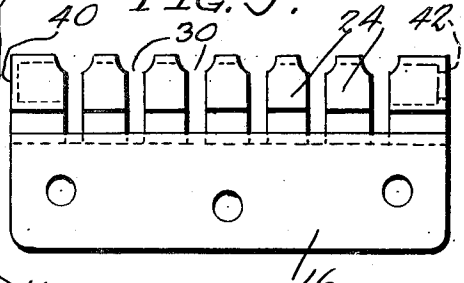
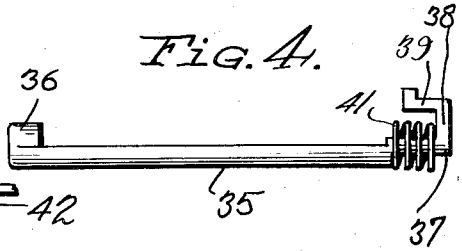


Fig. 4.



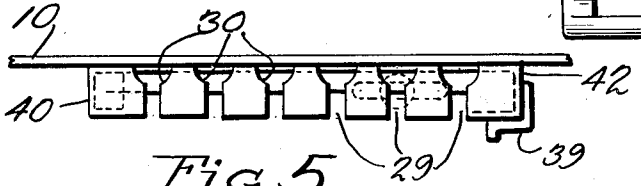


Fig. 5.

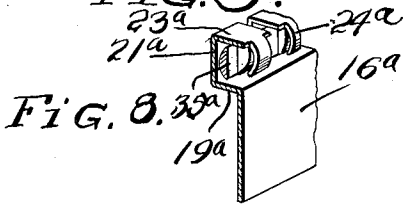


Fig. 8.

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Patented Aug. 18, 1936 2,051,432

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,051,432

KEY CASE

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Application February 11, 1935, Serial No. 6,074

1 Claim. (Cl. 150—40)

This invention relates to improvements in key cases of the type employing snap hooks for securing a series of keys in a flexible folder.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a key case of the above mentioned character having a novel arrangement for removably holding the snap hooks in the flexible case or folder.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a key case of the above mentioned character in which the means for releasably holding the snap hooks may be operated to release all of the snap hooks simultaneously whereby the one desired may be removed.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a key case of the above mentioned character having releasable snap hooks held in place by a locking rod which may be slid to a turning position against the action of the coil spring so that the locking rod will uncover enlarged portions of the snap hook receiving slots.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a key case of the above mentioned character having releasable snap hooks which may be cheaply and easily constructed and which contains only a small number of parts, reducing the possibility of inoperativeness.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description forming a part of this specification and in which,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the key case made in accordance with this invention illustrating the position in which the snap hook securing member is secured to the flexible key case;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary enlarged plan view of the releasable hook securing member;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the releasable hook carrying member showing the same detached from the flexible key case and illustrating the locking bar removed therefrom;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the elongated locking rod showing the same removed from the snap hook securing member and illustrating the detail construction thereof;

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the snap hook securing member showing the enlarged portions of the slots as being covered by the lock rod for preventing the removal of the snap hooks from the snap hook securing member;

Figure 6 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken through the snap hook securing member, showing the locking rod in its locked position;

Figure 7 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken through the snap hook securing member showing the locking rod in its unlocked position for the easy removal of the snap hook key fasteners; and

Figure 8 is a fragmentary perspective view, partly in section of another form of hook carrying member.

In the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustrating the invention and wherein like reference characters will be employed to designate like parts throughout the same, the reference character 10 will generally be employed to designate a flexible cloth, leather or fabric case, having parallel folds 11 forming flaps 12 and 13. Secured to the flap 12 is a male member 14 of a snap separable fastener adapted to be received in a female member 15 secured to the flap 13 whereby the flaps 12 and 13 may be held together to enclose the articles contained in the case.

Secured to one of the end portions of the case 10 is a metallic plate 16 securely held in place by means of rivets 17 and said plate 16 is bent longitudinally as at 18 to extend laterally from the plate 16 as at 19. The plate is then bent as at 20 and extends parallel to the plate 16 as at 21 for a short distance so that the plate may be again bent as at 22 to extend downwardly as at 23 whereupon the downwardly extending portion 23 is bent rearwardly to form a portion 24 in direct alignment with the plate 16 and parallel to the portion 21. The free end of the parallel portion 24 is bent inwardly as at 25 and terminates midway between the plate 24 and the parallel portion 21.

The bent plate above described forms a housing which is slotted at intervals as at 29 and said slot extends entirely around the plate from the base portion 16 to the central portion of the downwardly extending portion 23 wherein the slot is enlarged as at 30. It is intended that each of the slots 29 receive one end of a snap hook 31 upon which the key may be placed by separating the hook at the points indicated by the reference character 32. The free end of the hook 31 is provided with a pair of beads 33 and 34 which are similar in construction and are spaced apart so that the beads 33 may operate within the housing formed by the angular plate 16 while the bead 34 will be presented on the outside thereof with the snap hooks in the slots 29.

The slots 29 are so arranged that the key hook 31 may be moved along the slot from the position shown in Figure 6 to the position shown in Figure 7 wherein the hook 31 may be removed

as shown in Figure 7 by being passed through the enlarged portions **30** of the slot.

In order to hold the key hooks locked within the housing formed by the annular plate **16**, a rotary locking rod **35** is mounted for both turning and sliding movement in the housing and is held by the portions **21**, **23**, **24** and **25** as clearly illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. The rod **35** is semi-circular in cross-section and is provided at one end with a rounded bearing **36** while the opposite end is reduced as at **37** and is provided with an arm portion **38** to which is formed integrally an angle portion **39**.

One end of the housing formed by the angular plate **16** is closed by an end wall **40** so that the rounded portion **36** of the locking rod **35** will abut thereagainst and the opposite end of the casing formed by the angularly bent plate **16** is provided with an opening **42** for the protrusion of the end **37** of the locking rod **35** whereby the angle portion **39** will overlie the flat top portion **21** of the housing when the locking rod is in locked position as shown in Figure 6 and prevent rotation of the rod.

When it is desired to remove one of the key hooks the thumb of the user is pressed against the angle portion **39** whereby the locking rod **35** may be slid longitudinally relative to the angular casing against the action of the coil spring **41** to displace the member **39** relative to the flat faces **21** and **23**. After the locking rod **35** has been slid longitudinally of the housing the same is then freely turned so that the flat portion of the locking rod **35** will face the enlarged portions **30** of the slot **29** whereby the key hook **31** may be withdrawn as is clearly shown in Figure 7.

In the form of hook carrying member shown in Fig. 8, the plate **16***a* has a laterally bent portion **19***a* and a section **21***a* parallel to and in a plane offset from the plane of the plate **16***a*. The upper end of the section **21***a* is angularly bent as at **23***a* in the direction of the plate **16***a* the parts **21***a* and **23***a* being slotted, spaced fingers **24***a* of arcuate formation are carried by the rear edge of the part **23***a* respectively at opposite sides of the slots and constitute bearings for the rod **35***a*.

It is to be understood that the form of the invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred embodiment of the invention and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:—

A key case of the character described comprising a flexible holder, an elongated housing carried by the folder and being rectangular in cross-section and having a series of transverse parallel slots provided with enlarged openings at one end thereof, a rotatable and slidable locking bar mounted within the housing and extending longitudinally thereof, said locking bar having a flat face thereon to aline with the enlarged portions of the slots, hooks extending into the slots and retained therein by the locking bar, a spring on one end of the locking bar within the housing for normally holding the inner end of the locking bar engaged with the housing, and a finger piece projecting laterally of the outer end of the locking bar and closely overlying a portion of said rectangular housing to normally prevent rotation of said bar whereby the sliding and turning movement of the locking bar positions the same to permit the removal or insertion of the key holding hooks.

OTTO E. ZAHN.