(No Model.)

W. H. CAMP.

KEY RACK.

No. 287,623. Patented Oct. 30, 1883.

Fig. 1

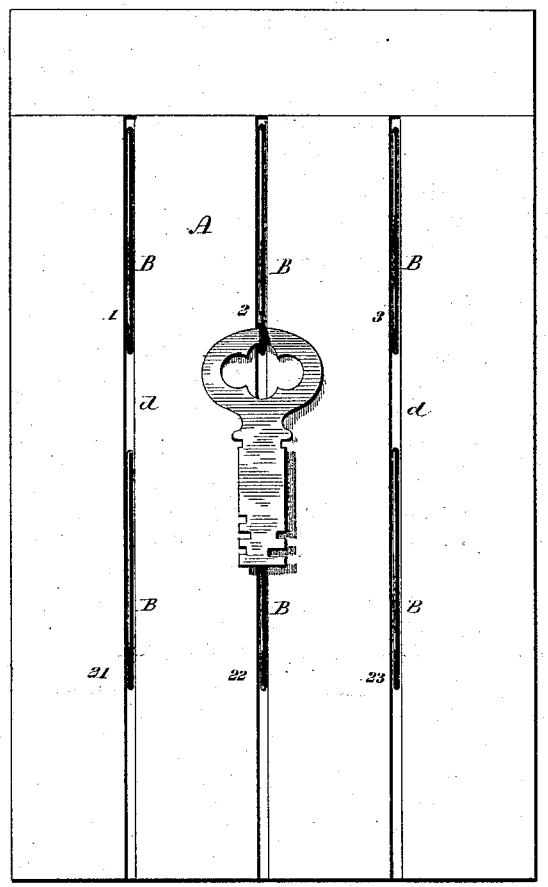
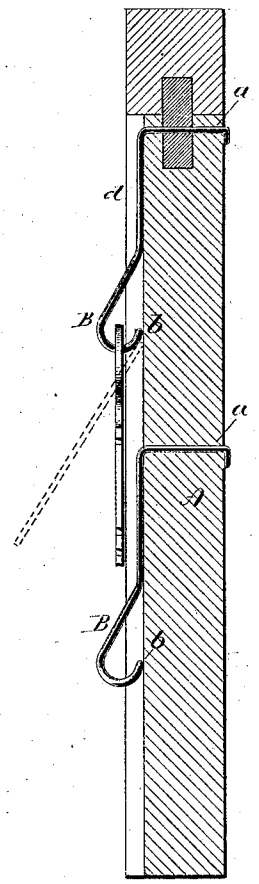


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALLACE H. CAMP, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE SCOVILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

KEY-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 287,623, dated October 30, 1883.

Application filed September 10, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALLACE H. CAMP, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Key-Racks; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a face view of the board; Fig. 2, a vertical section.

This invention relates to an improvement in racks for holding keys, designed with special reference to post-office use.

The manufacturer of post-office boxes such as now generally used sends the number required for a single office in a mass, and with them must be sent several keys for each lock, and as the keys must be sent separate or detached, great confusion often exists in properly placing the keys. Again, after the boxes are set up, the duplicate keys are to be retained by the postmasters, and if kept in a mass, as they usually are, and each key marked with its proper number, much time is lost in finding the particular key desired.

The object of my invention is the construction of a key-board which will securely hold the keys, each particular set of duplicates by itself, and so that the number of the keys will be readily indicated, and that one or more may be detached at pleasure; and the invention consists in a key-board having spring-hooks attached thereto, the hook end free, the shank made fast to the board, the mouth of the hook toward the board, and so that the point lies substantially upon the board, the hook end of the key rounded or inclined from the board outward so that the bow of the key pressed up against the hook will spring the hook outward, and so that the bow will pass within the grasp of the hook, and then when the key is required a still further forcing up of the hook will bring the lower side of the bow against the end of the hook and force it outward for the escape of the key, as more fully hereinafter described.

A represents the key-board, which is made of a size corresponding to the number of keys—say twenty wide and ten high—that is to say, for two hundred keys, which is sufficient for illustration.

The hooks B are made from a wire, the shank end *a* extending through the board and riveted or secured upon the opposite side, as shown in Fig. 2. On the surface of the board the wire is bent downward, following substantially the surface for a distance, and then outward, and its end returned inward and upward, as seen in Fig. 2, and so that the nose *b* of the hook will lie substantially upon the surface. That portion of the hook between the shank and the nose serves as a spring, the tendency of which is to hold the nose of the hook against the board. One of these hooks is arranged for each number, as seen in Fig. 1. The nose of the hook being turned upward leaves the outside of the nose inclined downward from the board. To insert a key, take the key and force its bow against the board and under the nose of the hook, as seen in broken lines, Fig. 2, and press upward. The key passes up on the surface of the board and forces the hook outward until the opening in the bow is above the nose of the hook. Then the spring, reacting, returns the key onto the board and engages the loop, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. The hooks are of sufficient size to hold several keys, so that all the keys for a certain number may be placed upon the hook corresponding to that number. When a key is required to be taken from the board, take hold of the key, as before, and press upward, bringing the lower side of the opening in the bow against the hook, as seen in broken lines at the lower hook, Fig. 2, and press upward. The hook will be forced out, as before, and the bow pass above the nose of the hook and clear from it, so that the action of the hook to make a positive engagement with the key or to permit its removal is automatic. To prevent displacement of the hook transversely, I cut vertical grooves *d* in the surface of the board in the line where the hooks are to be introduced, and in width little more than the diameter of the wire, and then bring the body of the hook to bear in the groove, and so that the nose will also stand in the groove, as seen in Fig. 2.

This prevents the displacement of the hook by any transverse force which may be brought upon it. With each set of boxes one or more boards, according to the number, are thus prepared, the keys placed thereon and sent with the boxes, thus avoiding any possible confusion of keys, the key for each box being readily indicated by its position on the board corresponding to the number of the box to which it belongs. These boards may then be retained by the postmasters as a holder for duplicate keys, or keys not in use.

While designed with special reference to post-office boxes, this key-rack is equally applicable to holding other classes of keys, as for hotels, &c.

I claim—

1. A key-rack consisting of a key-board provided with a series of hooks, B, the shank of the hook secured to the board, the nose of the hook turned inward and upward toward the face of the board, whereby a key may be forced up between the hook and board and into engagement with the hook, or removed therefrom by a like movement of the key, substantially as described.

2. A key-rack board constructed with grooves *d*, combined with the hooks B, arranged in said grooves, the shank of the hook secured to the board and the nose resting in the groove, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:
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