Aug. 13, 1963 A. E. GOLDFARB 3,100,608

BUCKLE KEY CHAIN

Filed July 24, 1961

FIG. 1.

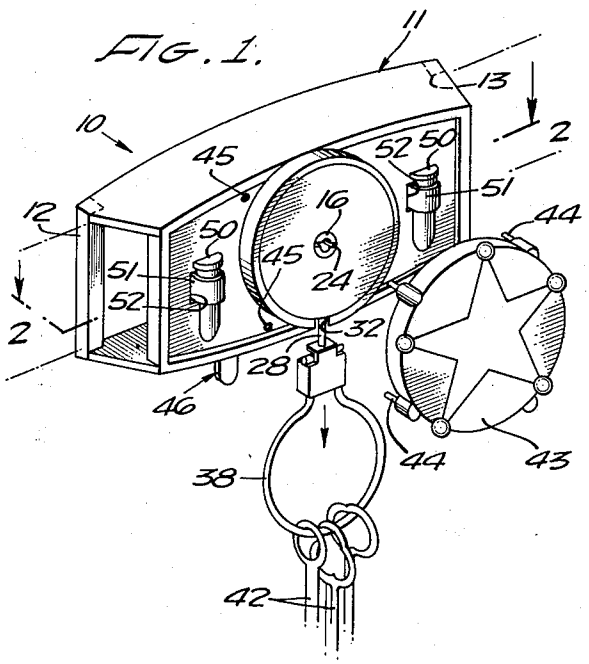
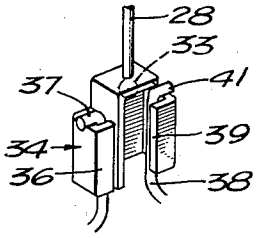


FIG. 4.



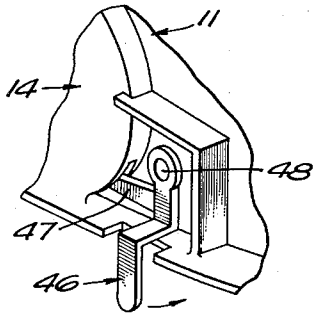


FIG. 5.

FIG. 2.

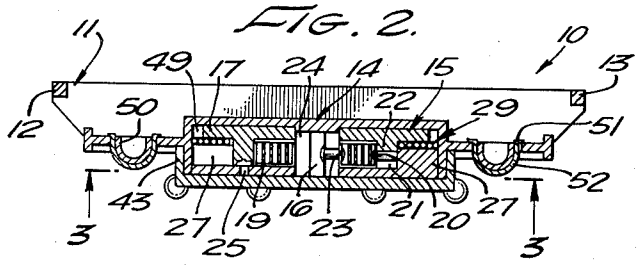
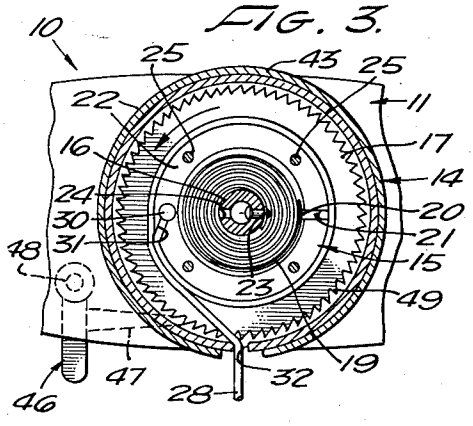


FIG. 3.



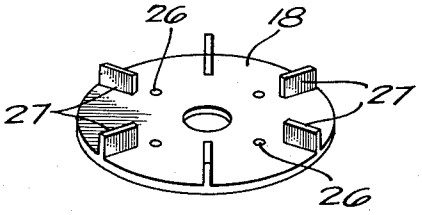


FIG. 6.

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BUCKLE KEY CHAIN

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1 Claim. (Cl. 242—96)

The herein invention relates to a novel buckle key chain designed primarily for children and having a spring-biased automatic return of a cable supporting a key ring. A particular feature of the invention is a releasable locking means for releasably locking the cable in any desired extended position. The locking means is releasable for releasing the cable for automatic rewind.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved toy of the type referred to above, particularly characterized in that it provides for entertaining manipulations of the key and key ring, the automatic return means and the locking means.

Another object of the invention is to provide a toy as in the foregoing object having improvements consisting in a novel and original locking means for the automatic return for locking it in any desired position.

Further objects and additional advantages of the invention will becomes apparent from the following detailed description, claim and annexed drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view with parts shown in exploded relationship;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a view as taken substantially along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a view showing a detail of the spring mounting;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the releasable locking means in greater detail;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing a portion of the spring housing.

The device, generally indicated by the numeral **10**, includes a housing **11** having a general configuration resembling a buckle and including a pair of end loops **12** and **13** through which a belt may be extended for supporting the housing **11**. The housing **11** includes a centrally located spring housing **14** in which a reel **15** is rotatably disposed for rotation about a central post **16** of the housing **14**. The reel **15** includes an inner ratchet disc **17** and an outer closure disc **18** between which a flat, coiled spring **19** is disposed.

The spring **19** includes one end **20** secured in a transverse slot **21** of an annular boss **22** integral with the disc **17** and an opposite end **23** secured as in a transverse slot **24** of the post **16**. A plurality of pins **25** are formed on the annular boss **22** and extend into an equal plurality of apertures **26** formed in the disc **18**, the pins **25** being cemented or otherwise secured in the apertures **26** for permanent securement of the disc **18** into the disc **17**

The disc **18** includes a plurality of radial webs **27** which guide a cable **28** into coplanar winding as indicated at **29** in FIG. 2. The cable **28** is preferably a nylon cord which is heated at one end **30** to form an enlarged bulb at the end and inserted in an aperture **31** of the annular boss **22** to anchor the end **30** therein. The cable **28** is wrapped around the annular boss **22** and extends outwardly through a transverse slot **32** of the spring housing **14** and has its opposite end **33** secured in a key ring clasp **34**. The end **33** is heated, similarly to the end **30** to form an enlarged bulb end for securing the end **33** to the clasp **34**. The clasp **34** includes a first channel **36** in which one end **37** of the key

ring **38** is pivotally anchored and a second socket **39** in which a free end **41** of the key ring **38** is removably retained. The end **41** may be inwardly biased against the inherent spring construction of the ring **38** to remove the end from the channel **39** for additional removal of keys like **42**. The entire key ring **38** may be pivoted on the axis of the end **37** within its channel **36**, which is believed to be unique. An outer cap member **43** is telescopingly mounted over the spring housing **14** and has a plurality of pins **44** insertable and cementable in an equal plurality of apertures **45**. The exterior of the cap **43** may be in the form as illustrated, suggesting a sheriff's badge or as an alternate, the form of a modern police badge.

A locking means **46** (see FIG. 5) includes a movable pawl **47** pivotally secured as at **48** to the back side of the housing **11** and engageable with the ratchet teeth **49** of the disc **17** to prevent rotation thereof.

With the pawl **47** disengaged from the ratchet teeth **49**, the cable **28** may be unwound from the spring housing **14** to extend the key ring, such action causing the spring **19** to be wound and placed under tension. The key ring **38** is automatically biased inwardly of the spring housing towards the buckle **10** and the cable **28** to be retrieved into the spring housing **14** but may be locked by engagement of the pawl **47** with the ratchet teeth **49**.

Additional decorations may be provided on the exterior of the housing **11** such as simulated bullets **50** formed integrally with the housing and having simulated retainer clips **51** securable in slots like slots **52**. The purpose of having a separate clip **51** is to provide a different finish on the bullet **50** and the clip **51**, the clip **51** being finished in a saddle leather color while the bullets **50** are metal coated by a vacuum process.

From the foregoing, those skilled in the art will observe that the invention provides a device which achieves and realizes the objectives as stated in the foregoing. It provides a simplified but entertaining toy which has practical utility and considerable appeal for its purpose.

The foregoing disclosure is representative of a preferred form of the invention and it is intended that it be interpreted in an illustrative rather than a limiting sense, the invention to be accorded the full scope of the claim appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

In combination, means comprising a belt buckle of a generally rectangular shape and having a circular housing formed therein spaced from the ends of the buckle and from the plane of the rear thereof; a rotatable reel mounted in said housing, spring means for rotating the reel in one direction, a cord mounted on the reel and having an end extending from the housing through an aperture therein and having a key ring attached thereto whereby the cord may be withdrawn from the housing by rotating the said reel in a manner to wind up the said spring, pawl and ratchet means including a manually actuated pawl for stopping the winding up operation of said reel in any desired position, and said manually actuated pawl having a lever part mounted on the lower part of said buckle adjacent to the position in which the said cord extends from the housing, said housing presenting a circular conformation at the front of the buckle adapted to receive a circular cover.

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