Nov. 14, 1967 T. M. McDONNELL 3,352,047

GUN TRIGGER LOCKING DEVICE

Filed July 11, 1966

FIG. 1

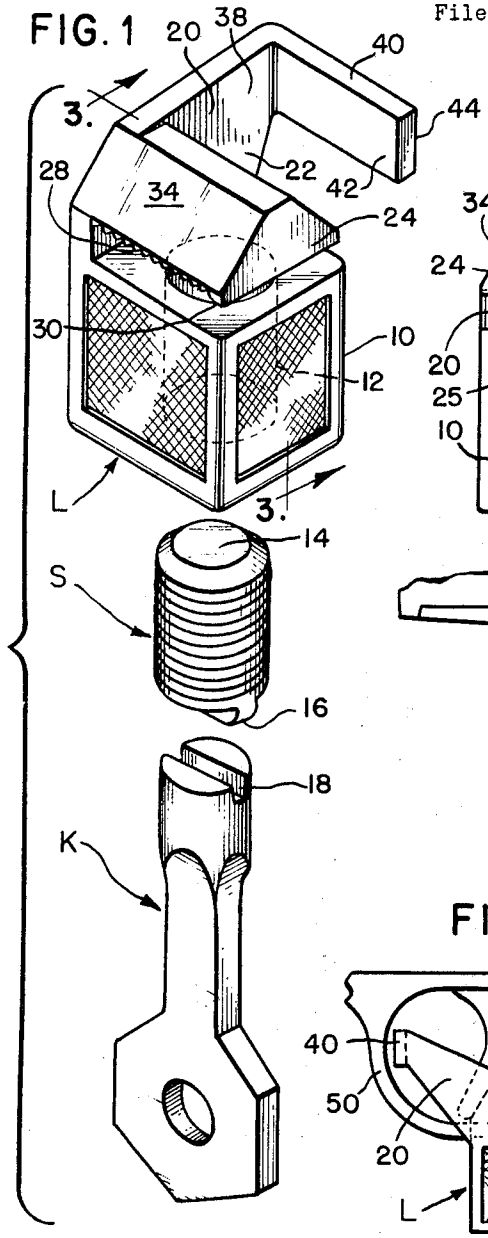


FIG. 2

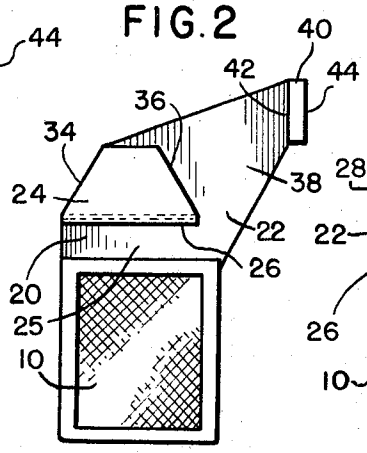
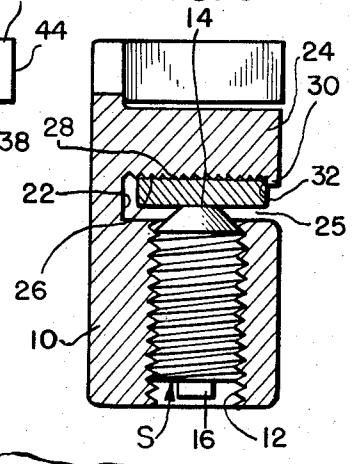


FIG. 3



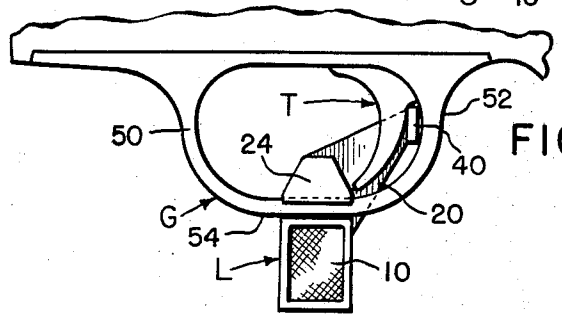


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

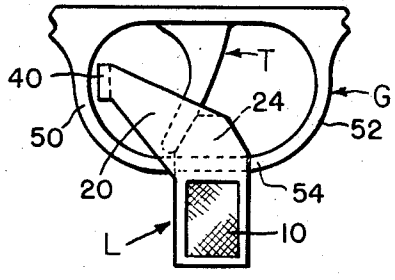


FIG. 6

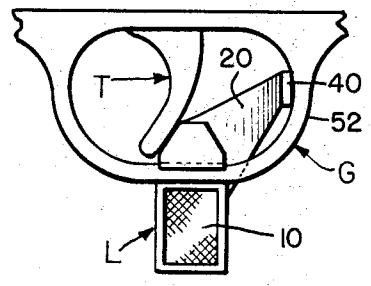


FIG. 7

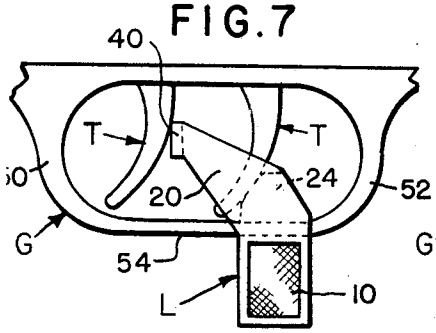
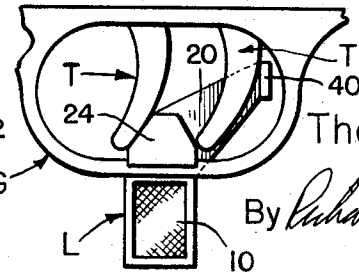


FIG. 8



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GUN TRIGGER LOCKING DEVICE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A gun trigger locking device having a body for attachment to a horizontal section of a gun trigger guard and a pair of laterally spaced, parallel, horizontal arms each presenting a pair of oppositely facing, generally vertical surfaces any one of which can be disposed for engagement with a vertical surface presented by the trigger to prevent accidental movement of the trigger.

This invention relates to safety devices for firearms, and more particularly to a trigger locking device for guns.

The invention comprehends an improved locking device which can be readily clamped on the trigger guard of a gun to prevent the accidental or intentional discharge of the gun.

Although many trigger locking devices have been used in the past, most of them have been complex mechanisms which have several pieces and which require special adjustments in order to apply them to different guns with various trigger guard arrangements. An example of this may be found in United States Letter Patents Nos. 2,503,953 and 2,598,924 each of which discloses a multi-piece structure requiring a lateral adjustment when the device is applied to a different gun.

A purpose of this invention is to provide a trigger locking device which requires no special adjustment or movement of parts when applying it to a different trigger guard arrangement from the one on which it was previously applied.

It is a primary object of the invention to provide a locking device of simple design and construction which can be readily attached to the trigger guard of a gun, and which can be readily removed, but only with the aid of a simple tool which is not available to the general public.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a gun trigger locking device which can be used on different types of guns with varying spaces between the triggers and trigger guard sections.

A more specific object of the invention is the provision of a gun trigger locking device having a body with an internal locking screw for attachment to a horizontal section of a gun trigger guard and a pair of laterally spaced, parallel, horizontal arms each presenting a pair of oppositely facing, generally vertical surfaces any one of which can be disposed for engagement with a vertical surface presented by the trigger to prevent the movement of the trigger relative to the trigger guard.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent from an examination of the following description and drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is an exploded, perspective view of a trigger locking device embodying features of the invention, with the locking screw and key shown removed from the body of the device;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the structure illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a transverse, vertical section taken on line 3—3 of FIGURE 1, with a portion of a trigger guard shown clamped in the device; and

FIGURES 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are side elevational views similar to FIGURE 2 but of reduced size showing the different positions in which the device can be applied to different types of trigger guard arrangements.

It will be understood that, for purposes of clarity, certain elements have been intentionally omitted from certain views of the drawing where they are illustrated to better advantage in other views.

Referring now to the drawing for a better understanding of the invention, and particularly to FIGURE 1, it will be seen that the trigger locking device is a one-piece unit indicated generally at L, with an internal locking screw S which can only be operated by a special key K in a manner hereinafter described.

The locking device includes a generally vertically disposed body **10** having a threaded, vertical, cylindrical opening **12** extending completely therethrough from top to bottom for receiving locking screw S.

Still referring to FIGURE 1, it will be seen that screw S has a flat, upwardly facing surface **14** on its upper end and on its lower end has a head with a downwardly extending ridge **16** which is adapted to mate with a complementary groove or channel **18** in the head of key K. Thus, when the screw is in locking position, with its head recessed up in opening **12** of the body, as shown in FIGURE 3, the head of the screw can only be rotated by means of the special key.

Extending upwardly from one side of the body adjacent opening **12** is a vertical wall or support member **20** which is preferably formed integrally with the body and which presents a vertical abutment surface **22** facing the body opening **12**.

Extending horizontally from, and preferably formed integrally with, wall **20** is a first arm **24** disposed to extend over the body and form with the wall and body a horizontally disposed opening or slot **25**.

As best seen in FIGURE 3, first arm **24** presents on its underside a downwardly facing, horizontal surface **26** disposed opposite upwardly facing surface **14** of the locking screw. If desired, surface **26** may be provided with serrations **28** to provide a better clamping effect.

At its free or outer end first arm **24** is provided with a preferably integrally formed, depending retaining lip **30** which presents an inwardly facing, vertical abutment surface **32** disposed opposite vertical surface **22** on wall **20**.

As best seen in FIGURE 3, first arm **24** presents a pair of rearwardly and forwardly facing generally vertical rear and front surfaces **34** and **36**, respectively, which may be inclined slightly, if desired, to converge upwardly.

As best seen in FIGURE 2, vertical wall **20** may be provided with a laterally extending, preferably integrally formed, connecting section or member **38** which extends at right angles to first arm **24**.

As best seen in FIGURE 1, there is preferably formed integrally with and extending horizontally outwardly from connecting section **38** a second arm **40** which is spaced from and generally parallel to first arm **24**. Second arm **40** also presents a pair of generally vertical, rearwardly and forwardly facing rear and front surfaces **42** and **44** respectively. Although surfaces **42** and **44** are shown in the drawing as straight up and down vertical surfaces, they may be inclined slightly, as desired.

Operation of the device is extremely simple and requires no special adjustment when changing from one gun to another because of the relationship of the first and second arms to each other and because each of the arms presents a pair of oppositely facing generally vertical surfaces.

To apply the device to a gun, the device is slipped over the trigger guard with the horizontal or bottom section of the trigger guard being received in slot **25** between the first arm and the body of the device, as shown in FIGURE 3. At the time the device is applied to the trigger guard of the gun the device is positioned in such a manner that any one of the four generally vertical surfaces presented by the two arms is disposed in abutting engagement with a

rearwardly facing, generally vertical surface of the trigger itself. Various positions are shown by way of example in FIGURES 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

It will be noted that when the device is applied to a gun having two triggers, it is positioned so that two of the four generally vertical surfaces presented by the two arms are each disposed in abutting engagement with one of the rearwardly facing, generally vertical surfaces of each trigger.

After the device has been properly positioned on the trigger guard of the gun, locking screw S is tightened by means of special key K until the bottom section **54** of the trigger guard is clamped tightly between upwardly facing surface **14** of the locking screw and downwardly facing surface **26** of the first arm.

Vertical abutment surfaces **22** and **32** presented by the vertical wall and lip, respectively, serve as a positive stop means for preventing the device from being forced laterally off the trigger guard once it has been clamped in position. The only way it can thereafter be removed is by loosening the locking screw with the special key.

I claim:

1. In a unitary safety device adaptable for detachable locking connection, without requiring any mechanical adjustment of parts, to any one of several different types of guns with varying trigger and trigger guard arrangements each having at least one generally vertically disposed trigger surrounded by a looped-shaped trigger guard having a pair of front and rear generally vertical sections interconnected by a bottom generally horizontal section, the combination of:

(a) a body having a vertical opening extending therethrough from top to bottom;

(b) a locking screw threadably positioned within said opening and presenting on its upper end an upwardly facing surface;

(c) a support member upstanding from said body at one side thereof;

(d) a first arm extending horizontally from said support member over said body and presenting on its underside a downwardly facing surface opposite the upwardly facing surface of said locking screw for cooperation therewith to clamp the horizontal section of a gun trigger guard therebetween;

(e) a second arm extending horizontally from said support member in parallel relation with but spaced laterally from said first arm;

(f) said first and second arms each presenting a pair of oppositely facing, generally vertical front and rear abutment surfaces, any single one of which can be disposed for engagement with a rearwardly facing, generally vertical surface of the gun trigger when the device is clamped on the horizontal section of a gun trigger guard to prevent movement of the trigger relative to the trigger guard;

(g) said first arm having depending from its free outer end, a lip presenting an inner vertical surface operable as an abutment to engage a side edge of the trigger guard horizontal section and thereby prevent the device from being slipped laterally off of said trigger guard when the latter is clamped on the former.

2. A device according to claim **1**, wherein said locking screw head has a raised portion which is engageable with a complementary head of a special key to prevent the screw from being rotated by a conventional tool.

References Cited

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3,153,874	10/1964	Merrill	42—70 X

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