

(No Model.)

J. C. SCHLARBAUM.  
KEY RING.

No. 534,452.

Patented Feb. 19, 1895.

Fig. 1.

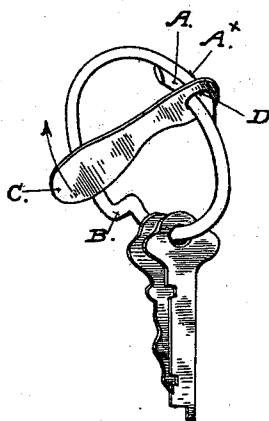


Fig. 2.

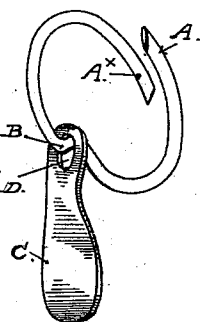
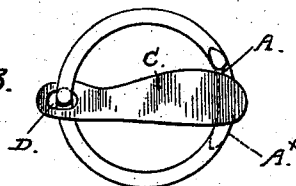


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

M. Regner  
Marcus Leve.

Inventor:

John C. Schlارbaum  
By Smith & Osborn  
his Attorney.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. SCHLARBAUM, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

## KEY-RING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 534,452, dated February 19, 1895.

Application filed May 14, 1894. Serial No. 511,226. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN C. SCHLARBAUM, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented a new and useful Key-Ring, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates especially to key-rings employed for holding keys and other like articles that require to be bunched or kept in compact form and ready for use; and has for its object the production of a device wherein the meeting ends of the ring are held much more firmly together, without the liability of being fractured, than by the devices heretofore employed.

To attain this end my invention consists essentially in a ring composed of steel wire having overlapping ends, the points of which are beveled. These overlapping ends are clamped together by a locking-plate provided with a slot, the diameter of which is equal to the diameter of the two overlapping ends of the ring which if borne down flatwise will force the members together and lie flatwise against or across the ring. An offset is made in the base of the ring, if necessary, in which the locking-plate may rest when the ring is locked. By such a construction the stringing of the keys is easily performed and the ring can be made of larger and stronger wire than heretofore, where other fasteners have been employed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings that form part of this specification:—Figure 1 is a view of the ring closed with the locking-plate in position on the overlapping ends. Fig. 2 is a view with the ring opened. Fig. 3 shows ring closed with the locking-plate lying flatly against it.

I construct my key-ring with overlapping ends —A—A<sup>x</sup>, the points of which are be-

veled outwardly, as shown, and an offset or bend —B— is made in the base of the ring or opposite the meeting ends in which the locking or clamping device rests. The locking device consists of a flat strip of metal —C— of suitable thickness to give sufficient strength, and an oblong slot —D— is made in the upper end of it, the length of which corresponds with the diameter of the two overlapping ends of the ring, when these are brought together side by side. In practice these overlapping ends are sprung apart and the keys strung upon the ring upon either end or member and then the member or arm —A<sup>x</sup>— is passed into the slot and carried down the arm, below the end of the opposite arm —A, and then reversed or carried backward taking in this arm also, after which movement the locking-plate is borne downward against the body or base of the ring and the two members are clamped firmly together as shown. In order to unclasp the two members, so that the keys can be removed, the locking-plate is thrown upward or backward and carried back upon either arm or member when the keys can be easily removed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination with a key-ring having an offset or bend and overlapping ends or points, of a locking-plate provided with a slot, the dimension of which is equal to the diameters of the combined or overlapping ends of the ring, as set forth and specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

JOHN C. SCHLARBAUM. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

C. W. M. SMITH,  
R. M. EDWARDS.