March 17, 1931. J. X. MINEHART 1,797,098

KEY RING HOLDER

Filed Jan. 10, 1930

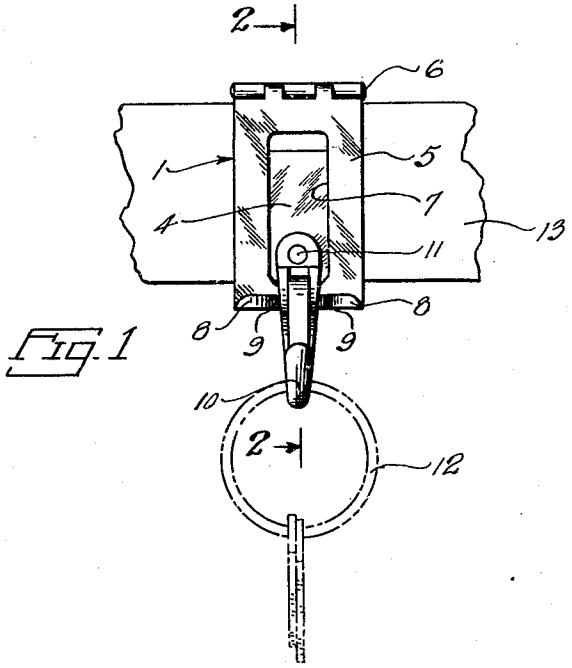


Fig. 1

Fig. C

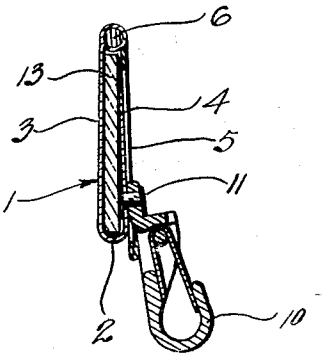


Fig. 3

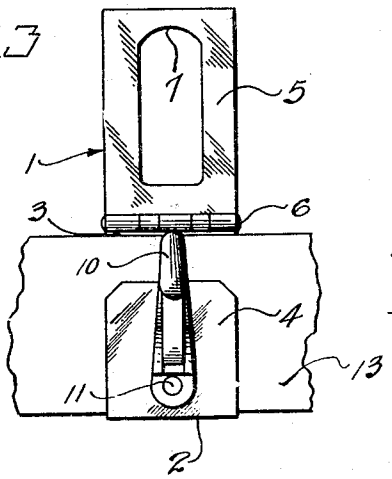


Fig. 4

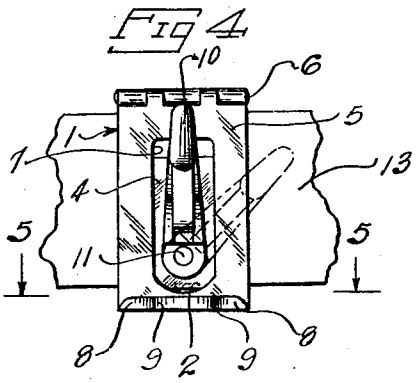
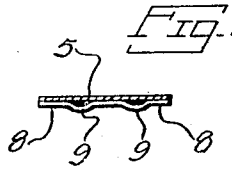


Fig. 5



J. X. Minehart

INVENTOR

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS

Patented Mar. 17, 1931 1,797,098

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JACOB XOMA MINEHART, OF FORT MADISON, IOWA

KEY-RING HOLDER

Application filed January 10, 1930. Serial No. 419,931.

My invention relates to improvements in key ring holders, and it consists in the combinations, constructions, and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of my invention is to provide a key ring holder of the type carried by a belt and in which novel means is provided whereby the device may be easily and quickly associated with a belt while the latter is being worn.

A further object is to provide a device of the type described in which certain structure, while primarily designed for the purpose of supporting a key ring, is also arranged to function as a part of the means for attaching the device to a belt.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, and the novel features of the invention will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application, in which

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my device showing its application to a belt,

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 1 showing the hinge portion in an open position,

Figure 4 is a view showing the manner in which the hinge portion is locked, and

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

In carrying out my invention I make use of a substantially U-shaped member 1 formed from relatively thin sheet metal. The member 1 is bent at 2 for forming portions 3 and 4. It will be noted that the portion 4 is somewhat shorter than its companion portion 3. While I have defined the construction as being formed from sheet metal it will be understood, of course, that any other suitable material may be employed.

A hinge member 5 is movably secured to the portion 3 as at 6. The hinge portion is provided with an opening 7 and a flange 8 formed to provide projecting portions 9. A snap fastener 10 is mounted for rotation about a pin 11 upon the portion 4. The snap fastener may be rotated about its axis in either direction as when viewing Figure 1. The snap fastener is arranged for supporting a key ring 12.

In operation, when it is desired to place the device upon a belt, such as that indicated at 13, the snap fastener is moved to the position shown in Figure 4 at which time the hinge portion 5 may be lifted as shown in Figure 3. At this time the U-shaped member 1 may be disposed upon the belt 13 as shown in Figure 2. The portion 4 in being shorter than the portion 3 permits the edge of the belt to be inserted between the two portions. The opening 7 in the hinge member 5 permits the hinge member to be moved away from the U-shaped member 1 when the snap fastener is positioned as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

After the U-shaped member 1 has been placed upon the belt the hinge portion is moved to the position shown in Figure 4 at which time the snap fastener 10 may be rotated about its axis for positioning the fastener as shown in Figure 1. The lugs or projecting portions 9 are aligned so that the snap fastener 10 is positively held in the position shown in Figure 1. The lugs 9 are sufficiently flexible to permit the snap fastener to be easily rotated past either one of the projections.

It will be noted that one of the main features of my invention is the fact that my device may be disposed upon a belt at any time, particularly while the belt is being worn. The hinge member 5 is effectively locked when the snap fastener is positioned as shown in Figure 1.

I claim:

1. A key ring holder comprising U-shaped means arranged for receiving a belt, a movable member carried by the U-shaped means and having an opening therein, and a key ring holding element movably carried by said U-shaped means and arranged for passing through the opening in said movable member whereby the latter may be locked with respect to the U-shaped means when the key ring holding element is moved into engagement with the movable member.

2. A key ring holder comprising a U-

shaped member arranged for receiving a belt, a movable member hingedly carried thereby and having an opening, and a snap fastener carried by said U-shaped member and being movably mounted thereon and arranged to be aligned with the opening in said hinge member whereby the latter may be passed over the snap fastener, said snap fastener being arranged to be moved into engagement with the hinge member for locking the latter with respect to the U-shaped member.

3. A key ring holder comprising a U-shaped member arranged for receiving a belt, a movable member hingedly carried thereby and having an opening, and a snap fastener carried by said U-shaped member and being movably mounted thereon and arranged to be aligned with the opening in said hinge member whereby the latter may be passed over the snap fastener, said snap fastener being arranged to be moved into engagement with the hinge member for locking the latter with respect to the U-shaped member, said movable member being provided with projecting portions for engaging the snap fastener for holding the same in a predetermined position.

4. A key ring holder comprising a pair of hinged together member arranged to be positioned upon opposite sides of a belt, and a key ring holding element carried by one of said members and arranged to be moved into engagement with the other of the members for holding the two in operative relation upon the belt.

Signed at Fort Madison, in the county of Lee and State of Iowa this second day of January A. D. nineteen hundred thirty.

JACOB XOMA MINEHART.