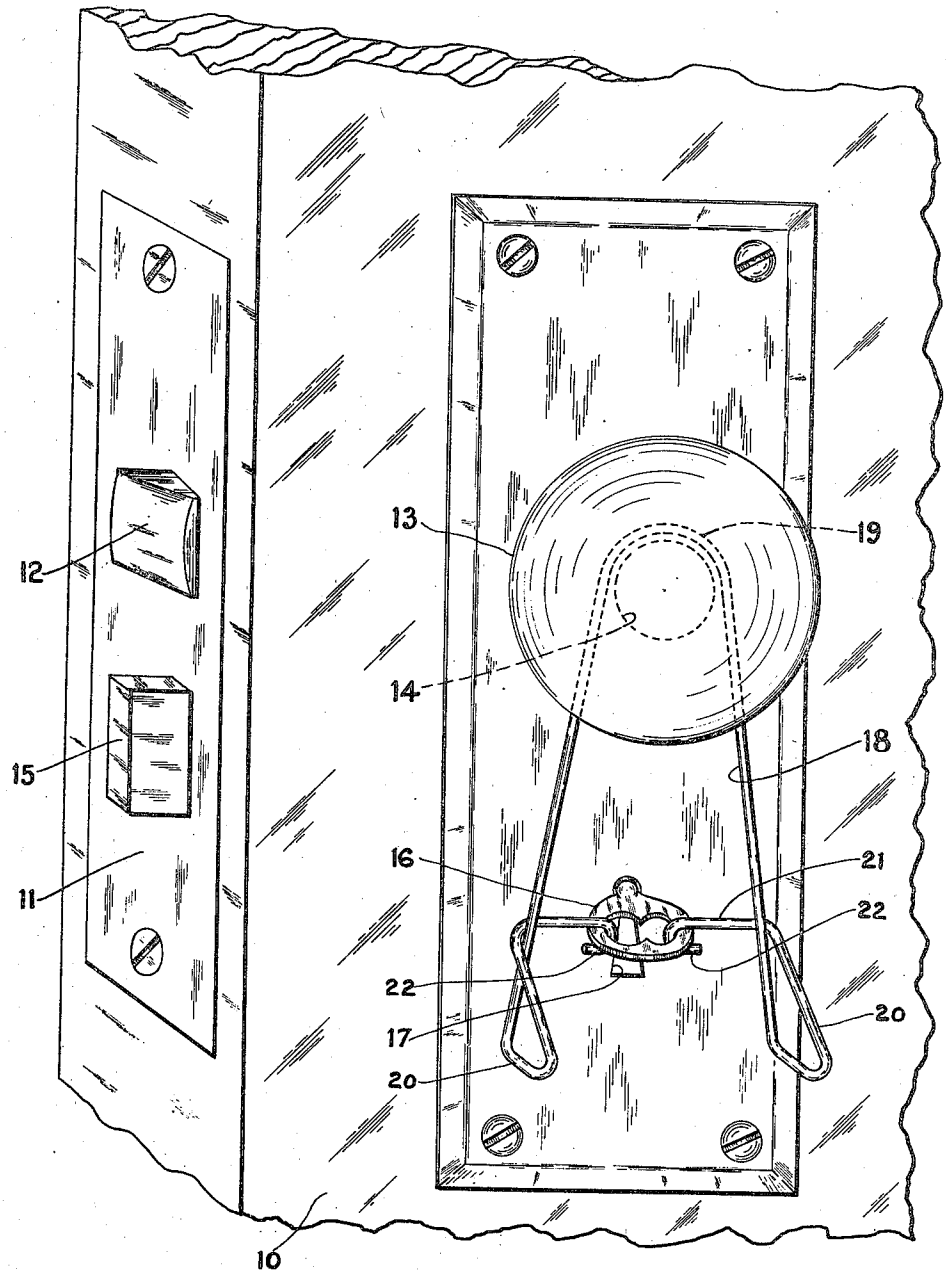
March 1, 1938. L. C. MERRELL 2,109,846

KEY FASTENER

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KEY FASTENER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 70—430)

This invention relates to a key fastener of the type used for locking a key within a lock.

In many homes, especially those built for speculative resale, locks of a very insecure nature are used because they are cheap to purchase. In order to render such locks more secure, resort may be had to a key fastener which will secure the key within the lock in a position obstructing the entry of a pass-key from the outside.

This art of key fasteners is a very highly developed one, and there are a large number of patents showing fasteners of many different types. However, the prior art fasteners have lacked many desirable features, and have in the main been too expensive, or too difficult to manufacture, to warrant their being marketed at a price which people will pay for such devices.

I have contributed to the art a key fastener which is extremely simple and cheap to manufacture, being made preferably of a single piece of spring wire. At the same time, my key fastener is so made that it is easily applied to a knob and key to be fastened, and so fits relatively to the key that it is practically impossible to remove surreptitiously the fastener, from fastening relation to the key. It is easily secured to the key, and when its tension is applied to the key it insures the rotation of the key to a horizontal position, thus obstructing the key hole so as to prevent keys or picking instruments from effectively entering the lock from the outside. Also, my fastener is so constructed that it is readily applied to keys equipped with varying sizes of bows, this itself being a feature of exceeding importance.

My key fastener, furthermore, is so made that it is impossible to see any part thereof from the key hole, whereby its surreptitious release through the key hole will be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

In describing my invention, I shall refer to the drawing wherein the single figure illustrates my invention applied to a door.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, reference numeral 10 indicates a door to which is applied a lock 11 of the usual type having a latch bolt 12 retracted by a knob 13 mounted on a spindle 14. The lock has also a bolt 15 retracted by a key 16 inserted through the usual key hole 17.

My key fastener is made, preferably but not necessarily and for cheapness, of a single piece of spring wire 18 formed as an inverted U. The bow 19 of the inverted U may rest on the spindle 14 so that the legs of the U extend downwardly. Each leg is shaped by the proper coiling of the wire so as to form finger pieces 20 which are easily operated by the hand. The wire forming each of the finger pieces 20 then extends horizontally as at 21 and terminates in a horizontal U hook 22 adapted to engage the bow of the key 16, as shown in the drawing.

It will be quite obvious that the lower horizontal leg of each U hook 22 extends sufficiently beyond the bow of the key 16 so that substantial movement must be imparted to the finger pieces 20 to remove the U hooks from the key bow. Also, because of these extensions of the U hooks 22, it will be obvious that horizontal movement must be imparted to the U hooks 22 before vertical movement may be imparted thereto sufficient to lift them out of the key bow. This is, of course, of extreme importance.

At the same time, it will be quite obvious that movement must be imparted to both finger pieces 20 in order to remove each of the U hooks 22 from the key bow. It will, of course, be readily seen that the U hooks 22 maintain the key under tension and in a horizontal position, and that while the key is held firmly relatively to the key hole 17, at the same time, it is impossible to see the U hooks 22 from the key hole.

While I have shown but a single form of my invention, and while I realize that my contribution is made to a highly developed art, I feel nevertheless that I have made a relatively broad contribution to that art, developing as I have an extremely novel and useful, as well as inexpensive form of key fastener.

I now claim:

1. A key fastener formed of an integral piece of spring wire bent into an inverted U, the ends of the legs of the U being formed of a coil of said wire to facilitate manual manipulation thereof, the said wire extending horizontally from the upper end of each coil and terminating in U hooks the legs of which are horizontal, the said hooks engaging the bow of a key to be fastened.

2. A key fastener formed of an integral piece of spring wire bent into an inverted U, the ends of the legs of the U being formed of a coil of said wire to facilitate manual manipulation thereof, the said wire extending horizontally from the upper end of each coil and terminating in U hooks the legs of which are horizontal, the said hooks engaging the bow of a key to be fastened, and requiring substantial horizontal movement to be released from the said key bow.

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