No. 629.213.

Patented July 18, 1899.

G. W. SHEETS.

KEY RING.

(Application filed Apr. 6, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

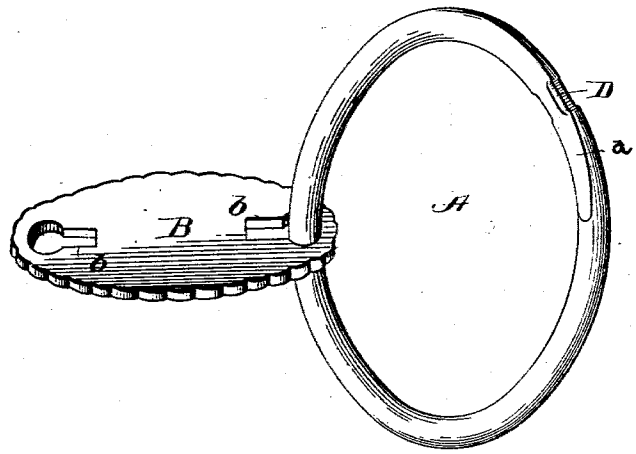


Fig. 2.

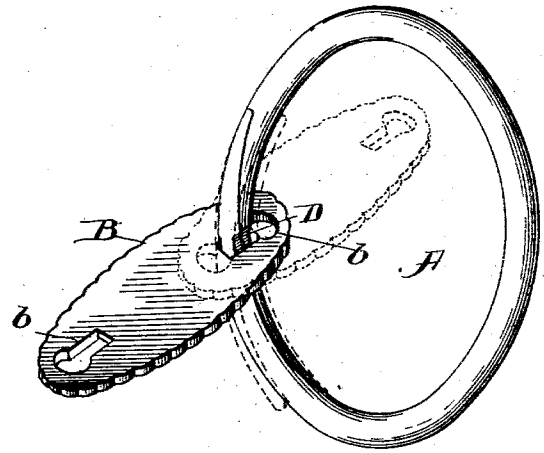
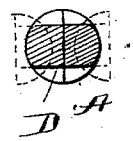


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. SHEETS, OF BIXBY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

KEY-RING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 629,213, dated July 18, 1899.

Application filed April 6, 1899. Serial No. 711,999. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. SHEETS, of Bixby, in the county of Choteau and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Key-Rings; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to improvements in rings designed, primarily, for holding keys and like articles and adapted to be carried in the pocket, although it is well adapted for other uses.

The objects of the invention are to provide a simple device which when closed will present no corners or points to wear or catch and tear the garments of the user and which while permitting the keys to be placed thereon with the greatest facility will nevertheless be secure against accidental opening.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a key ring and guard constructed in accordance with my present invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view illustrating the manner of opening and closing the ring. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through the lapping ends.

Like letters of reference in the figures indicate the same parts.

The ring proper, A, is preferably formed of relatively stiff but still somewhat resilient metal, such as tempered steel, and its two ends are beveled on their adjacent faces, as at *a*, to form a relatively long lap-joint, the two extremities, by reason of the beveling of the meeting faces, lying close to the body of the opposite end, and thus presenting no points or projections when the ring is closed. The overlapping ends are preferably flattened somewhat transversely of the radii, or the body of the metal forming the ring at this point is of somewhat greater thickness from side to side than from top to bottom, and this formation may extend throughout the overlapping portion, but preferably is for only a short distance, as at D in Figs. 1 and 2.

The set of the material forming the ring tends to hold the ends together when they are lapped in normal position; but when their positions are reversed with relation to each other the tendency is to hold the ends apart, as shown in dotted lines. In order now to open or close the ring at will, I provide a guard or pendant B, having in its end a keyhole-slot *b*. The round end of the slot is of such diameter as to permit the ring to slip through and rest loosely within it at any point, even when open, while the narrow end of the slot is of such width as to just take in the lapped ends of the ring when slipped transversely thereon, as shown in full lines in Fig. 2.

With the guard in the last-mentioned position, if it is given a half-turn, as indicated, the positions of the lapped ends will be reversed with relation to each other, thereby opening the ring for the reception of keys or other articles. When these have been placed upon or removed, a reversal of the operation of opening the ring will bring the ends back into their normal position, closing the ring.

In the preferred form the edge of the guard-plate is scalloped; but it is obvious that it may be given any attractive, ornamental, or fanciful shape, as desired, and also in this preferred form the body of the metal forming the ring, except at the lapped portion, as before stated, is of such cross-sectional area as will prevent the entry of it into the narrow portion of the keyhole-slot. Thus the guard is held out of operative relation except at the portion D, where it will move the overlapped ends. The ring and guard may be made of any preferred metal, dependent upon the value and style of ring desired to be produced.

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

1. A key-ring having overlapping ends beveled on their meeting faces to present a smooth contour on the outside, the set of the material tending to hold said beveled faces together when in contact and to separate the ends when their positions are reversed, and the transverse diameter of the overlapped ends being greater than the vertical diameter, in combination with a guard-plate having a keyhole-slot the narrow portion of which fits said meeting or overlapping ends on their shortest diameter and is narrower than their greatest diameter, substantially as described.

2. A key-ring having overlapping ends beveled on their meeting faces to present a smooth contour on the outside, the set of the material tending to hold said beveled faces together when in contact and to separate the ends when their positions are reversed, the transverse diameter of the overlapped ends being greater than the radial diameter and the radial diameter less than the diameter of the body of the metal forming the ring, in combination with a guard-plate having a key-hole-slot, the large end of which is loose on the ring whether open or closed and the narrow end of which will engage the overlapping ends on their narrow diameter but will not permit the entry of the remaining portion of the body of the ring; substantially as described.

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