

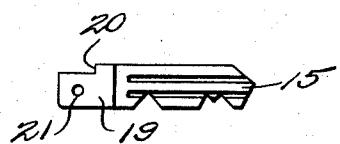
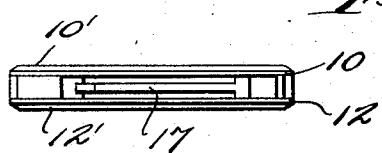
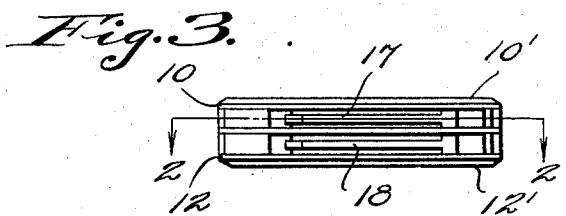
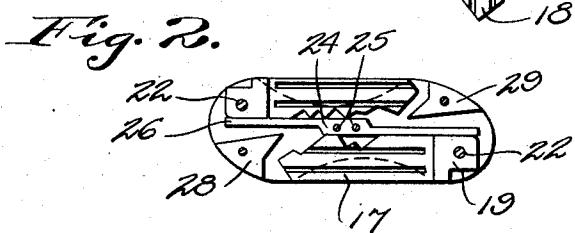
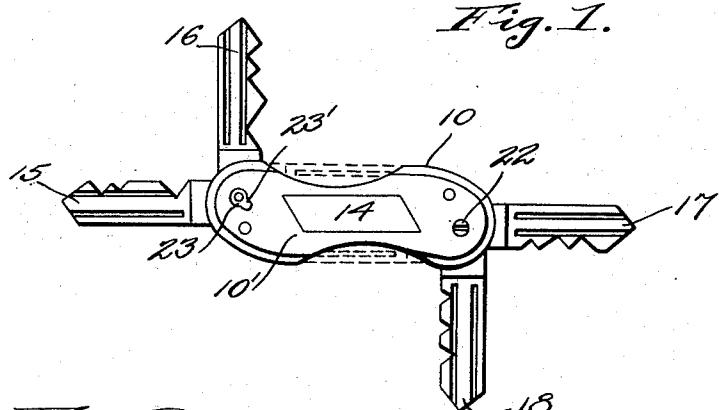
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V. J. McCaul

1,777,929

KEY HOLDING DEVICE

Filed March 18, 1927



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## KEY-HOLDING DEVICE

Application filed March 18, 1927. Serial No. 176,542.

The object of this invention is to provide a key holder or the like which shall include a handle, and means for pivotally mounting a plurality of keys, in a manner similar to that in which the blades of a pocket knife are mounted.

A further object is to provide a key holding device in which several keys may be mounted by means of pins or pivotal members, and each being adapted to be retained in a plurality of positions, and especially in operative position and in folded position.

A further object is to provide a device in which the several keys used in connection with a motor car and garage, or used distinctively for office purposes, or for the locks most commonly used about the house,—may be assembled so that they may be readily carried, and the user will know instantly, by the general appearance of the handle, which set of keys he desires to use at a given time.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of elements described, illustrated and claimed, it being understood that modifications may be made within the scope of the claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings forming part of this application,

Figure 1 is a plan view showing the holding device, the keys being in open position, or in partly open position.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view in edge elevation.

Figure 4 is a further elevation.

Figure 5 is a detail view showing one of the keys, all of these elements having shank portions formed like those of a knife blade.

The handle includes the plates or side plates, 10 and 12, each of these plates mounting a cover or cover plate the latter being designated, respectively, 10' and 12'. The device is assembled in much the same manner as a pocket knife is manufactured or produced, and one or both cover plates may carry a main plate or other form of ornamentation, and it is obvious that a plate of the kind designated 14 may also indicate the use to which

the particular group of keys mounted between the side plates, is to be applied. This marking may be by the use of numbers or numerals, or by the use of words, indicating garage keys, house, office, or desk keys. 55

The keys per se are of the form shown in Figure 5, or may be of that form, and in Figure 1 I have shown four blades or keys, designated respectively 15, 16, 17, 18. These keys each include a shank portion 19, a part of 60 which is cut away to form a shoulder 20, and the shank portion is apertured at 21 for one of the pivots 22.

The spring, although serving much the same purpose as the spring of a pocket knife, 65 is mounted centrally of the handle, and includes the central portion 24 having apertures for rivets 25, and the spring includes end portions such as 26, adapted to engage the shank 19 of each of the keys, the shoulders 70 20 cooperating with the spring in a manner well understood, so that the keys are retained in the position desired for use, the keys also being retained in folded position, as indicated by dotted lines in Figure 1, and full lines in 75 Figure 2.

Spacing blocks or spreader blocks are shown at 28 and 29, and are of approximately the thickness of the shanks of the blades.

The pivots 22 are in the form of key retaining or mounting screws, and these devices are secured by nuts 23, the nuts being counter-sunk in the cover plates 10' and 12'. Offsets 23' on the nuts, also counter-sunk, prevent the nuts from turning. The materials employed 80 in the different parts of the handle, etc., will of course be suited to the purpose, and some other element could be substituted for one of the keys, within the scope of the invention. 85

Having described the invention what is 90 claimed is:—

The combination with a plurality of keys each including an end portion forming a shoulder, and pivots for mounting the shoulered portions of spaced longitudinal plates 95 between which the keys are foldable to closed position, a spring, and means for securing the spring at its middle portion between the plates, the ends of the spring bearing on the shouldered ends of the keys in reverse rela- 100

tion when the keys are in open position or closed position, one of the keys being movable to open position from one side of the spring, and a second key being movable to open position from the other side and from the other end of the spring.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.  
VERNE J. McCaul.

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