Nov. 30, 1948. E. N. JACOBI 2,454,925

AUTOMATIC KEYHOLE LOCK COVER

Filed March 2, 1945 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

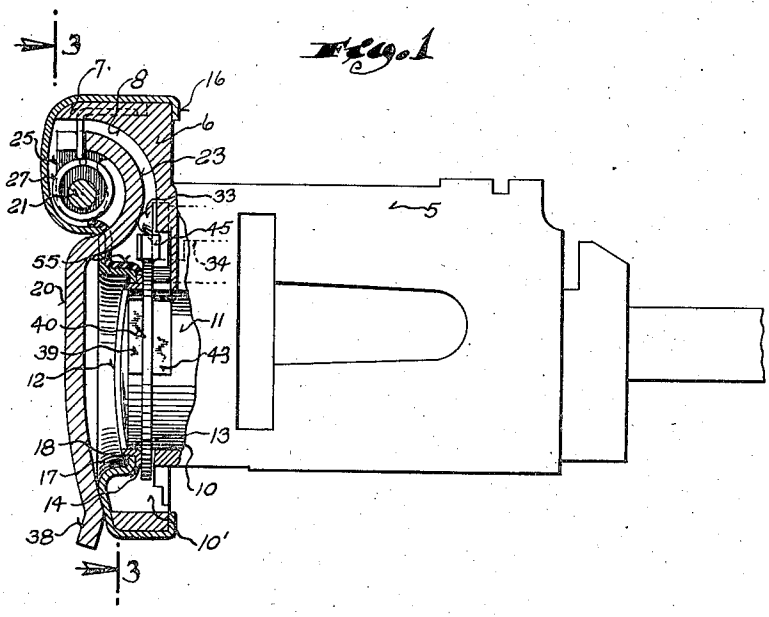



Fig. 2

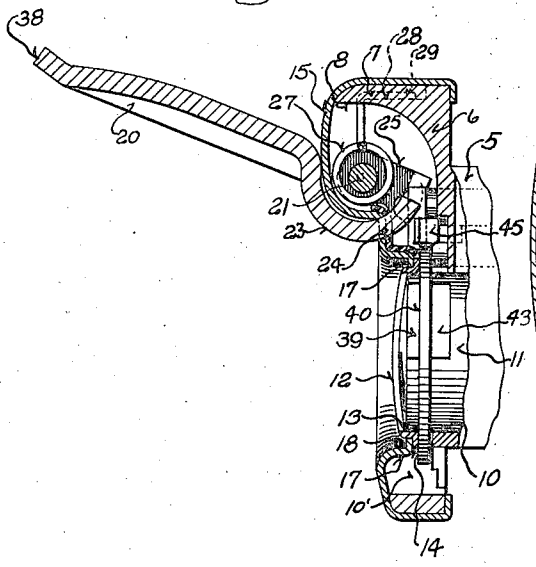
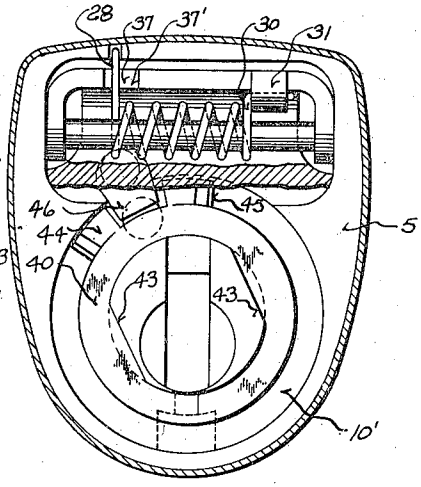



Fig. 3

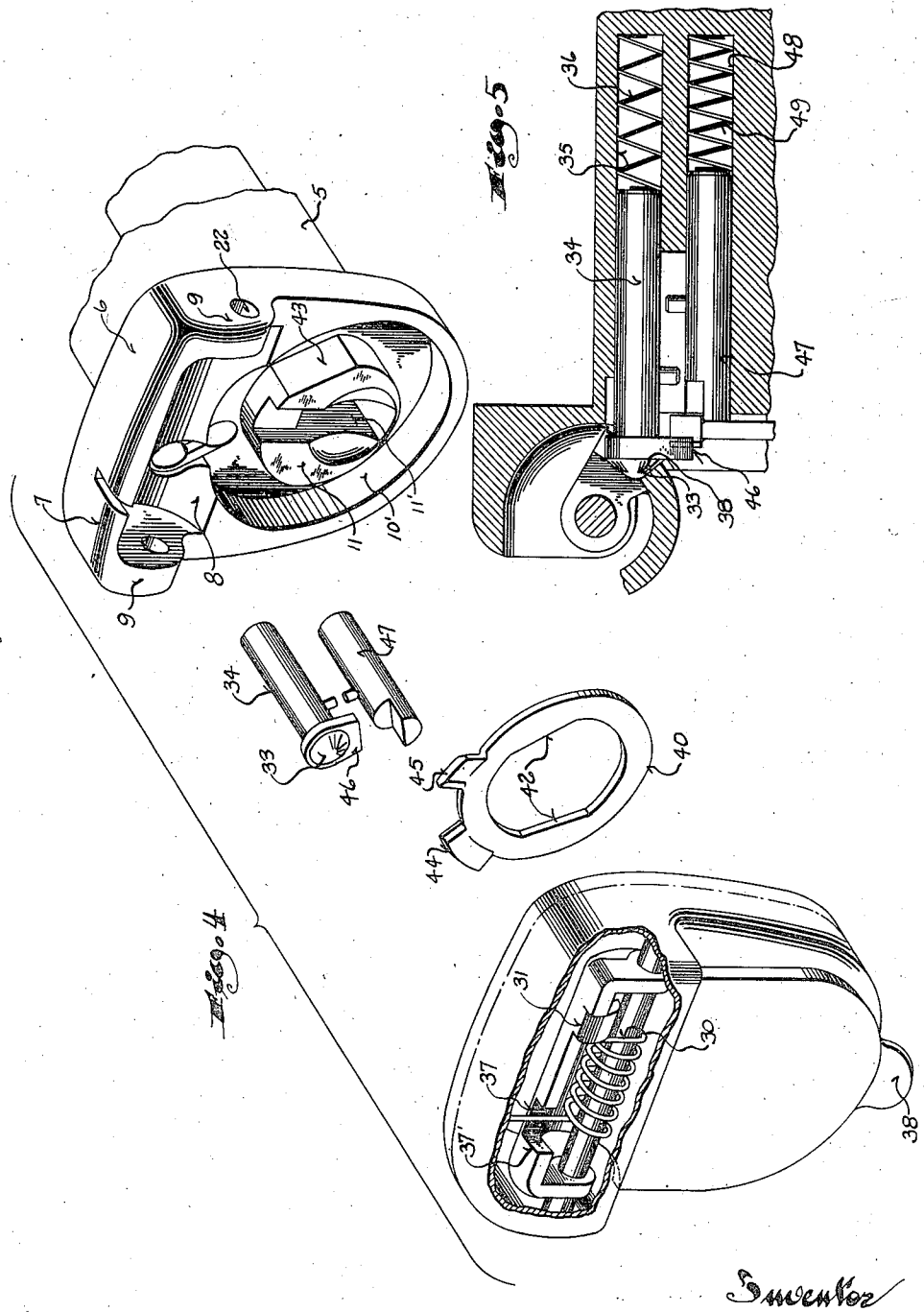



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AUTOMATIC KEYHOLE LOCK COVER

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Fig. 6

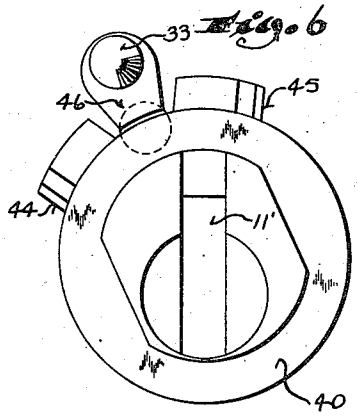



Fig. 7

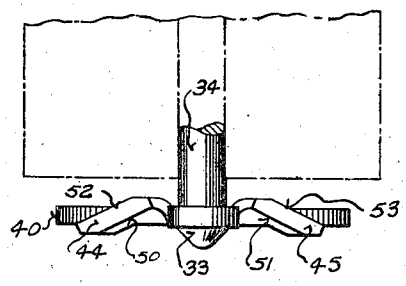



Fig. 8

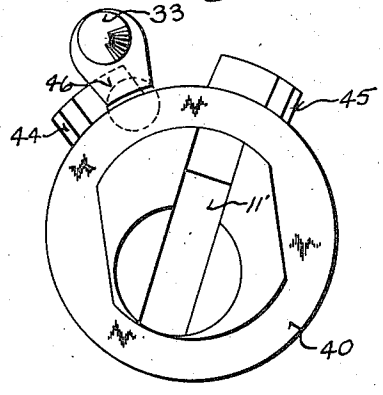



Fig. 9

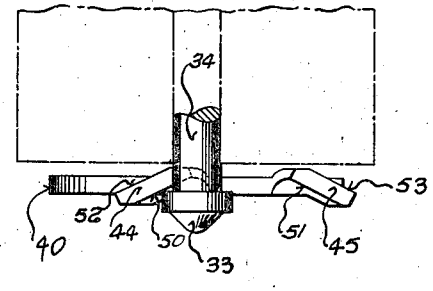



Fig. 10

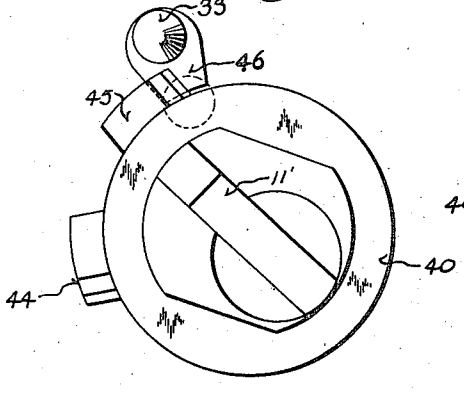
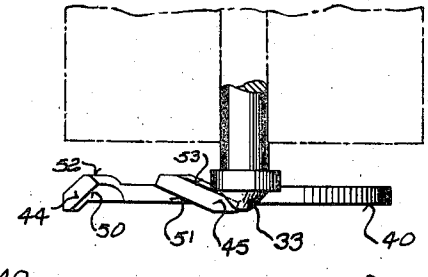



Fig. 11




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,454,925

## AUTOMATIC KEYHOLE LOCK COVER

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Application March 2, 1945, Serial No. 580,506

12 Claims. (Cl. 70—455)

1

This invention relates to locks of the cylinder type such as are used extensively in automobile door and deck handles and refers particularly to covers for such locks. These covers are commonly termed "dust" covers, and one such type of cylinder lock provided with a "dust" cover is shown and described in Patent No. 2,213,814, issued September 3, 1940 to Edward N. Jacobi.

As explained at length in the aforesaid patent, covers of the "automatic" type are much preferable to those necessitating manual closure after key operation of the cylinder to either its locked or unlocked position, for the manually closed cover is usually left in an open position.

In the automatically operated cover however, the cover may be opened by the same hand employed to insert the key in the lock or by the key itself, and the cover is retained in open position by means of a detent or the like to be released for spring propelled closure by means acting upon the detent during rotation of the lock cylinder away from its key inserting or removing positions. Hence, the cover snaps to a closed position covering the front of the lock cylinder upon withdrawal of the key.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide an improved automatic "dust" cover construction for locks of the character described.

More specifically it is an object of this invention to provide an automatic type cover construction for locks of the character described in which the cover is hinged from the lock body to swing about an axis normal to the lock cylinder axis to and from a position covering the front face of the lock cylinder.

Another object of this invention is to provide a cover construction for locks of the character described in which all of the crevices at the covered face of the lock are sealed against the entry of rain water so that the cover has the combined functions of protecting against the ingress of dust, rain water, or dirt into the lock cylinder.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, this invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinafter described, and more particularly defined by the appended claims, it being understood that such changes in the precise embodiment of the hereindisclosed invention may be made as come within the scope of the claims.

The accompanying drawings illustrate one complete example of the physical embodiment of the invention, constructed in accordance with the best mode so far devised for the practical application of the principles thereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in section of a lock having the cover of this invention applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 illustrating the manner in which the cover is automatically held in a raised position providing access to the lock cylinder;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the forward end of the lock showing the escutcheon cap and cover in assembled relationship but separated from the lock body;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view through a front portion of the lock body illustrating the mechanism for holding the cover in its raised position and for effecting release of the cover; and

Figures 6 to 11 inclusive are more or less diagrammatic views illustrating the action of the cover release mechanism at various positions of rotation of the lock cylinder.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings in which like numerals indicate like parts, the numeral 5 designates a die cast lock body or casing provided with an enlarged head 6 at its front somewhat oval-shaped in cross section but being more or less flat at the top side of the head. Viewed from the side, it will be seen that the head 6 has a canopy-like shape by reason of an overhanging portion 7 at the top of the head. This canopy has a central cored out portion providing a recess 8 opening to the front of the body and leaving spaced ears or lugs 9 at either side of the recess for a purpose to be later described.

The lock casing has a longitudinal bore 10 therein to rotatably receive a lock cylinder 11. As is customary, the lock cylinder is provided with a keyway 11' opening to the front thereof adjacent to the enlargement 6 for the reception of a proper key (not shown) by which the tumblers of the lock are retracted from engagement with the casing to release the cylinder for rotation.

Referring particularly to Figures 1 and 2, it will be seen that the front face of the lock cylinder projects into a well or counterbore 10' at the enlarged front of the lock body or casing and has a plated and polished metal finishing cap 12 telescoped thereover. This cap includes a relatively short cylindrical skirt portion 13 within which the front end of the lock cylinder is received, and a radial flange 14 bent outwardly from the inner extremity of the skirt.

The front and sides of the enlargement 6 are covered by a plated and polished escutcheon cap 15 of relatively thin sheet metal. This cap 15 closes the recess 8 at the front of the enlargement 6 and is bent around and under the canopy-like overhanging portion 7 so as to conform to the configuration of the front face of the lock body. Flanges 16 bent inwardly from the sides

of the cap engage behind the enlargement so as to hold the cap in place thereon.

In line with the front of the lock cylinder the escutcheon cap 15 is formed with an inwardly projecting cylindrical wall 17 of slightly larger diameter than the skirt of the finishing cap 12, and a radial inwardly projecting annular flange 18 on the inner end of the wall 17 engages the front of the flange 13 on the finishing cap 12 to hold the same in position on the end of the lock cylinder. The flange 18 also rotatably receives the skirt of the cap 12 and hence provides a pilot bearing for the front of the lock cylinder.

The cover 20 of this invention is mounted upon a hinge pin 21 positioned within the recess 8 and having its ends received in suitable apertures 22 in the lugs 9 at opposite sides of the canopy-like overhanging portion 7. The hinge pin thus extends transversely of the lock cylinder axis.

A wall section 23 semi-cylindrical in cross section is formed at the upper end of the cover flap 20 and projects through a suitable aperture 24 in the escutcheon cap 15 to operate within the recess 8. Ears 25 bent inwardly from the opposite ends of the wall section 23 are pierced substantially at the center of curvature of the wall section 23 for the reception of the hinge pin 21 so that the cover 20 swings about the axis of the hinge pin with the semi-cylindrical wall section concentric thereto.

In the closed position of the cover its inner side edges intimately engage with the outer face of the escutcheon cap 15 outwardly of its cylindrical wall 17 and to improve the seal at the contact area therebetween the cover and escutcheon cap 15 are formed with conical-like surfaces converging toward a point outwardly of the front of the lock body as shown in Figure 1.

The ears 25 are spaced apart only slightly less than the transverse dimension of the recess 8 so that their engagement with the lugs 9 holds the cover centered with respect to the axis of the lock cylinder. A torsion spring 27 coiled about the hinge pin 21 has one of its ends 28 received in a recess 29 in the enlargement 6 and has its other end 30 engaged behind a tang 31 struck substantially radially inwardly from the free extremity of the semi-cylindrical wall section 23 so that the spring at all times exerts a yielding force on the cover tending to close or hold the same closed and tightly engaged with the escutcheon cap 15.

Thus, the cover is free to swing about the axis of the hinge pin 21 to its open position shown in Figure 2 and which may be defined by engagement of the external extremity of the wall section 23 with the front of the escutcheon cap 15 alongside the recess 8. In this position of the cover a detent 33 formed on the outer end of a plunger 34 slidably received in a longitudinal bore 35 of the lock body slightly below the plane of the hinge axis but above the bore 10 is projected forwardly out of its bore by a compression spring 36 confined in the bottom thereof behind the plunger to engage over a substantially radial shoulder 37 on the semi-cylindrical wall section 23 of the cover adjacent to its end confined within the recess 8. This shoulder is provided by notching the confined end of the wall section 23 as shown at 37' in Figures 3 and 4, the notch 37' obviously allowing the detent to snap into place as the cover approaches its fully open position.

Lifting of the cover is facilitated by a tab 38 projecting from the lower edge of the cover outwardly of the enlargement 6, and when swung to its raised position shown in Figure 2 the detent 33 automatically operates to hold the cover open for key insertion and operation of the lock.



The cover is held in open position in this manner for substantially the full rotation of the cylinder to either locked or unlocked position depending upon the condition of the lock at the time of key insertion, and cover release mechanism generally indicated by the numeral 39 is provided to retract the detent 33 to allow the cover to be propelled toward closed position by its spring 27 immediately prior to completion of lock cylinder rotation.

The cover release mechanism comprises a cam washer 40 having a bore 41 by which it is slidably received on the front end of the lock cylinder behind the flange 13 of the finishing cap 12. The washer is non-rotatable on the lock cylinder, however, by reason of the engagement of diametrically opposite flat portions 42 on the washer with flattened surfaces 43 on the exterior of the lock cylinder. This arrangement forms in effect a splined connection between the washer and the lock cylinder which constrains the washer to rotation with the cylinder but enables the washer to slide axially along the exterior of the cylinder at the front end thereof.

Circumferentially spaced cam blades 44 and 45 project radially outwardly from the outer periphery of the washer for cooperation with a side arm 46 depending from the detent 33. These cam blades are twisted out of the plane of the cam washer so that the planes of the blades converge rearwardly of the washer, and the blades lie at opposite sides of the detent arm 46 in both the locked and unlocked positions of the lock cylinder as shown in Figures 3 and 6.

A plunger 47 slidably received in a longitudinal bore 48 between the bores 36 and 10 and projected outwardly of its bore by a compression spring 49 engages against the rear face of the cam washer to normally hold the same in its forward position abutting against the flange 13 of the finishing cap 12.

When the cover is raised to open position and the detent 33 engaged therewith to hold the same open, the inner faces 50 and 51 of the cam blades act to cam the washer rearwardly against the action of the spring 49 upon initial rotation of the lock cylinder in either clockwise or counterclockwise direction by reason of the engagement of one of the cams with the side arm 46 of the detent without disturbing or retracting the detent.

Hence, it will be seen that the washer merely cams itself around the detent arm 46 during initial rotation of the lock cylinder and the cover remains open until continued rotation of the cylinder through close to 360° to either lock or unlock the same brings one or the other of the faces 52 or 53 of the cam blades into engagement with the detent arm 46 to force the same backwardly into its bore as shown in Figures 10 and 11. The detent 33 is thus retracted during final rotation of the lock cylinder or just before the cylinder has been rotated to its full locked or unlocked position 360° removed from its initial starting position.

Retraction of the detent in this manner frees the cover for closure by the torsion spring 27, but actual closure is, of course, delayed until the key is removed from the lock cylinder.

In the lock construction shown, the key of the lock is removable upon rotation of the lock cyl-

inder through 360° to either its locked or unlocked positions. In other well-known contructions, however, rotation of the lock cylinder is sometimes limited to less than 360° so that key removal is possible only in a neutral position of the cylinder corresponding to the position of rotation of the cylinder in Figures 3 and 6. In both types of lock construction, however, the cams effect release of the cover for closure upon rotation of the lock cylinder toward a key removing position.

Attention is directed to the fact that the overhanging canopy-like portion 7 at the front of the lock body has a particular function in that it cooperates with the cover particularly at the junction between the flat surface of the cover and the semi-cylindrical section thereof to effect the transfer of rain water from the canopy to the cover so that it may drop freely from the bottom edges of the cover. This minimizes the possibility of rain water entering the lock body at the aperture 24 of the cap 15 and which is directly beneath the overhanging portion 7 of the body. Further protection against the ingress of rain water may be had by the provision of a soft rubber gasket 55 situated on the interior of the escutcheon cap 15 and encircling the aperture 24. The semi-cylindrical wall section 33 of the cover projects through this gasket and the opening in the gasket for the cover is undersize so that the edges thereof seal against the cover section 23 passing therethrough.

The gasket also acts as a squeegee during opening and closing of the cover in rainy weather to exclude rain water and to otherwise exclude dust or moisture from entering the interior of the cap. Obviously, in order to achieve full effectiveness the rubber gasket is vulcanized or otherwise bonded to the back of the escutcheon cap to hold the same tightly thereagainst.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be readily apparent that the automatic key hole lock cover of this invention represents an improvement over past devices of this type especially with regard to the exclusion of dust and moisture from the interior of the lock.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a lock: a lock body having a bore opening to the front face of the body; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore; a cover movably mounted on the lock body and engageable over the front face thereof to cover the front of the lock cylinder; a spring for yieldingly urging the cover to its closed position; retaining means for holding the cover in an open position providing access to the lock cylinder, said retaining means being movably carried by the lock body and operatively engaged with a part on the cover when the same is moved away from the front of the lock cylinder to uncover the same; and means for disabling said retaining means comprising, a cam rotatable with the lock cylinder and engageable with the retaining means upon rotation of the cylinder toward key removing position to carry the retaining means out of engagement with said part on the cover so as to free the cover for spring propelled motion toward its closed position.

2. In a lock: a lock body having a bore; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in said bore with the front face of the cylinder exposed at the mouth of the bore; a cover for closing the mouth of the bore; a hinge for the cover carried by the lock body at one side of the mouth of said bore



and mounting the cover for flatwise swinging motion on an axis normal to the axis of the lock cylinder toward and from its closed position covering the mouth of said bore; means for releasably holding the cover in closed position; a detent carried by the lock body and biased into engagement with a portion of the cover adjacent to its hinge and projectible into a notch in the cover upon motion thereof to its open position to hold the cover open; and cam mechanism carried by the lock cylinder for retracting said detent upon rotation of the lock cylinder toward key removing position so as to free the cover for motion toward its closed position.

3. In a lock: a lock body having an enlarged head and having a bore the mouth of which opens to the head end thereof, said head being counterbored at the mouth of the bore; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore and having its front face projecting into said counterbore; a cover for closing said counterbore so as to conceal the front of the lock cylinder; a hinge carried by the lock body mounting the cover for swinging motion on an axis transversely to the lock cylinder axis; a spring reacting between the lock body and the cover for yieldingly urging the cover toward closed position covering said counterbore; an escutcheon cap secured over said enlarged head so as to conceal the hinge and spring and having an opening adjacent to said hinge through which the cover projects for connection with the hinge; a cylindrical wall on said escutcheon cap projecting into the counterbore toward the face of the lock cylinder; a finishing cap telecsoped over the face of the lock cylinder and having a circumferential flange projecting radially outwardly from its inner end portion; a circumferential flange projecting radially inwardly from the inner end portion of said cylindrical wall and having an aperture therein to receive the finishing cap, said inwardly directed flange engaging the flange of the finishing cap to hold the same in place on the front face of the cylinder, and acting as a pilot bearing for the front of the lock cylinder; a detent engageable with a part on the cover to hold the same open upon movement of the cover to an open position providing access to the front of the lock cylinder; and cam mechanism disposed in said counterbore and driven by the lock cylinder during rotation thereof toward key removing position for disengaging the detent to thereby permit spring propelled closure of the cover.

4. In a lock: a lock body having an enlarged head at one end and having a bore the mouth of which opens to the head through a counterbore; an escutcheon cap fixed over said enlarged head; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore and having its front face projecting into the counterbore; a finishing cap telescoped over the front of the lock cylinder; means on said caps cooperating to hold the finishing cap in place on the lock cylinder with the ecsutcheon cap providing a bearing for supporting the front of the lock cylinder; said enlarged head having a recess therein communicated with the counterbore and covered by the escutcheon cap; a pin mounted in the head at the recessed portion thereof; a cover for the mouth of said bore having a cylindrically shaped end portion projecting through an aperture in the finishing cap and hinged on said pin to provide for swinging motion of the cover to and from a closed position covering said counterbore; a spring in said recess

coiled about said pin and reacting between the lock body and the cover for yieldingly urging the cover toward its closed position; a detent slidably carried by the lock body and biased to a position engaging the cover, said cover having a notch therein to receive the detent when the cover is lifted to an open position providing access to the face of the lock cylinder so that the detent is operable to retain the cover in such opened position; a washer in said counterbore slidably but non-rotatably connected with the lock cylinder; means for yieldingly biasing the washer to a position defined by its engagement with the inner end of the finishing cap; and cam means on said washer engageable with the detent upon rotation of the cylinder in either direction toward key removing position for disengaging the detent from the cover to thereby enable spring propelled motion of the cover toward closed position.

5. In a lock: a lock body having a bore opening to the front face of the body; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore with its front face exposed at the mouth of the bore; a cover movably mounted on the lock body and engageable over the front face thereof to cover the mouth of the bore and the front face of the lock cylinder exposed therein, said cover being movable to a position away from the front of the lock cylinder to provide access thereto; means movably carried by the lock body for engagement with a part on the cover when the same is moved away from the front of the lock cylinder to provide access thereto for retaining the cover in such open position; and means on the lock cylinder rendered operative by rotation of the cylinder toward key removing position for disengaging said retaining means from the cover so as to permit closing motion of the cover to said position engaging over the front face of the lock body and covering the mouth of the bore therein.

6. In a lock: a lock body having a bore opening to its front face; a lock cylinder rotatable in the bore between locked and unlocked positions; a cover for the front of the lock cylinder; means mounting the cover from the lock body for swinging motion about an axis normal to the cylinder axis to enable the cover to be moved from a position covering the face of the lock cylinder to an open position providing access to the lock cylinder for the insertion of a key thereinto; spring means acting on the cover to yieldingly urge the same toward closed position; means carried by the cover and the lock body cooperable when the cover is raised to open position for holding the cover in said raised position against the force of the spring means acting thereon, said lock body carried means being movable relatively to the lock cylinder; and means actuated by rotation of the lock cylinder for moving said lock body carried means out of operative relationship with respect to the cover carried means to effect release of the cover for closure.

7. In a lock: a lock body having a bore opening to the front face of the body; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore; a cover movably mounted on the lock body and engageable over the front face thereof to cover the front of the lock cylinder; retaining means for holding the cover in an open position providing access to the lock cylinder, said retaining means being movably carried by the lock body and operatively engaged with a part on the cover when the same is moved away from the front of the lock cylinder to uncover the same; and cover releasing means



engageable with said retaining means to move the same out of operative position with respect to said cover part by rotation of the lock cylinder toward key removing position.

8. In a lock: a lock body having a bore opening to its front face; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore between locked and unlocked positions, the key being insertable in and removable from the lock cylinder in at least the locked condition of the cylinder; a cover for the front of the lock cylinder; a hinge connection between the cover and lock body mounting the cover to swing about an axis normal to and spaced from the cylinder axis from a closed position covering the front of the lock cylinder to a raised position exposing the lock cylinder for key actuation; means separate from the lock cylinder engageable with the cover in the raised position of the cover for holding the same in said raised position; and cover release means rendered operative by rotation of the lock cylinder within its quadrant of rotation toward locked position for disabling said cover holding means so as to free the cover for closure, said cover release means being inoperative to disable the cover holding means during rotation of the lock cylinder in its quadrant of rotation away from locked position.

9. In a lock: a lock body having a bore; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in said bore with the front end portion of the cylinder disposed in a counterbore defining the mouth of said bore; an escutcheon cap fixed over the lock body at the front thereof and having an aperture therein providing access to the front end portion of the lock cylinder; a cover for closing said aperture in the escutcheon cap; said lock body having a recess in its front end portion adjacent to said counterbore closed by said escutcheon cap; cooperating hinge parts carried by the lock body and the cover and disposed in said recess providing for flatwise swinging motion of the cover about an axis normal to the lock cylinder axis; means for releasably holding the cover in a closed position engaging over said aperture in the escutcheon cap to preclude access to the front of the lock cylinder; a detent carried by the lock body and biased into engagement with a portion of the cover adjacent to its hinge upon motion of the cover to an open position at which access is provided to the front portion of the lock cylinder for holding the cover open; cam means for disabling said detent, said cam means being slidable axially in said counterbore and biased outwardly thereof; means on the escutcheon cap disposed in said counterbore forwardly of the cam means for limiting outward sliding motion of the cam means in response to the biasing force acting thereon; and a driving connection between the lock cylinder and said cam means whereby rotation of the lock cylinder toward a key removing position renders said cam means operative to disable the detent and thereby free the cover for closing motion.

10. In a lock having a body bored to rotatably receive a key controlled lock cylinder with the front face of the cylinder disposed in a counterbore defining the mouth of the bore so as to be accessible for key actuation: an enlarged head on the front portion of the lock body having a recess therein opening to the front of the body adjacent to said counterbore; an escutcheon cap fixed over said enlarged head so as to close said recess therein, said escutcheon cap having an aperture therein providing access to the lock cylinder for key actuation thereof; a cover having a body

portion adapted to engage substantially flatwise over said escutcheon cap to close the aperture therein, and having a hinge part projecting through a close fitting slot in the escutcheon cap to lie within the recess in the enlarged head; hinge means within said recess and enclosed by the escutcheon cap cooperating with the hinge part on the cover to mount the same for swinging motion to and from a position engaging the escutcheon cap to close the aperture therein; cooperating detent means on said cover hinge part and the lock body engageable upon swinging motion of the cover to an open position affording access to the front face of the lock cylinder for holding the cover open; cam means disposed in said counterbore for disabling said detent means; a driving connection between the lock cylinder and the cam means for rendering the latter effective to disable the detent means upon rotation of the lock cylinder toward a key removing position so as to free the cover for closing motion; and means on the escutcheon cap projecting into said counterbore in front of the cam means to retain the same in the counterbore and to conceal the same from view.

11. In a lock of the type having a lock body provided with a bore to rotatably receive a key controlled lock cylinder: an enlarged head on the front of said body having a counterbore therein into which the front portion of the lock cylinder projects; a forwardly projecting ledge on the upper portion of said enlarged head overlying the mouth of the counterbore therein, said ledge having a recess opening to the front thereof; an escutcheon cap fixed over said enlarged head and having an aperture providing access to the front of the lock cylinder, said escutcheon cap fitting around said overhanging ledge so as to close the recess therein; a cover engageable over the apertured portion of the escutcheon cap beneath said ledge so as to render the front portion of the lock cylinder inaccessible, said cover having a part extending upwardly through a relatively close fitting slot in the escutcheon cap into said recess; and a hinge connection between the lock body and said upwardly extending cover part inside said recess and behind the escutcheon cap whereby said hinge connection for the cover is enclosed by the escutcheon cap to be protected against water and dust.



12. In a lock: a lock body having an enlarged head and having a bore the mouth of which opens to the front of said enlarged head through a counterbore; a key controlled lock cylinder rotatable in the bore and having its front portion disposed in said counterbore so as to be accessible for key actuation at the front of the enlarged head; a ledge on said head projecting forwardly therefrom and overlying the mouth of the counterbore, said ledge having a recess therein opening to the front of the ledge adjacent to the mouth of the counterbore; an escutcheon cap fixed over said enlarged head and extending around the front and underside of the ledge thereon to close the recess in the ledge, said escutcheon cap having an aperture providing access to the front of the lock cylinder; a cover engageable over the escutcheon cap to close the aperture therein and thereby render the lock cylinder inaccessible; means mounting the cover for flatwise swinging motion toward and from said closed position about an axis forwardly of the front face of the lock cylinder and substantially in line with the plane of the body of the cover, said means including an upward extension on the cover projecting through a relatively close fitting slot in the escutcheon cap adjacent to the underside of the ledge and into said recess in the ledge; and spring means disposed in said recess so as to be enclosed by the escutcheon cap and reacting between the lock body and the cover for yieldingly holding the cover in a closed position.

EDWARD N. JACOBI.


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