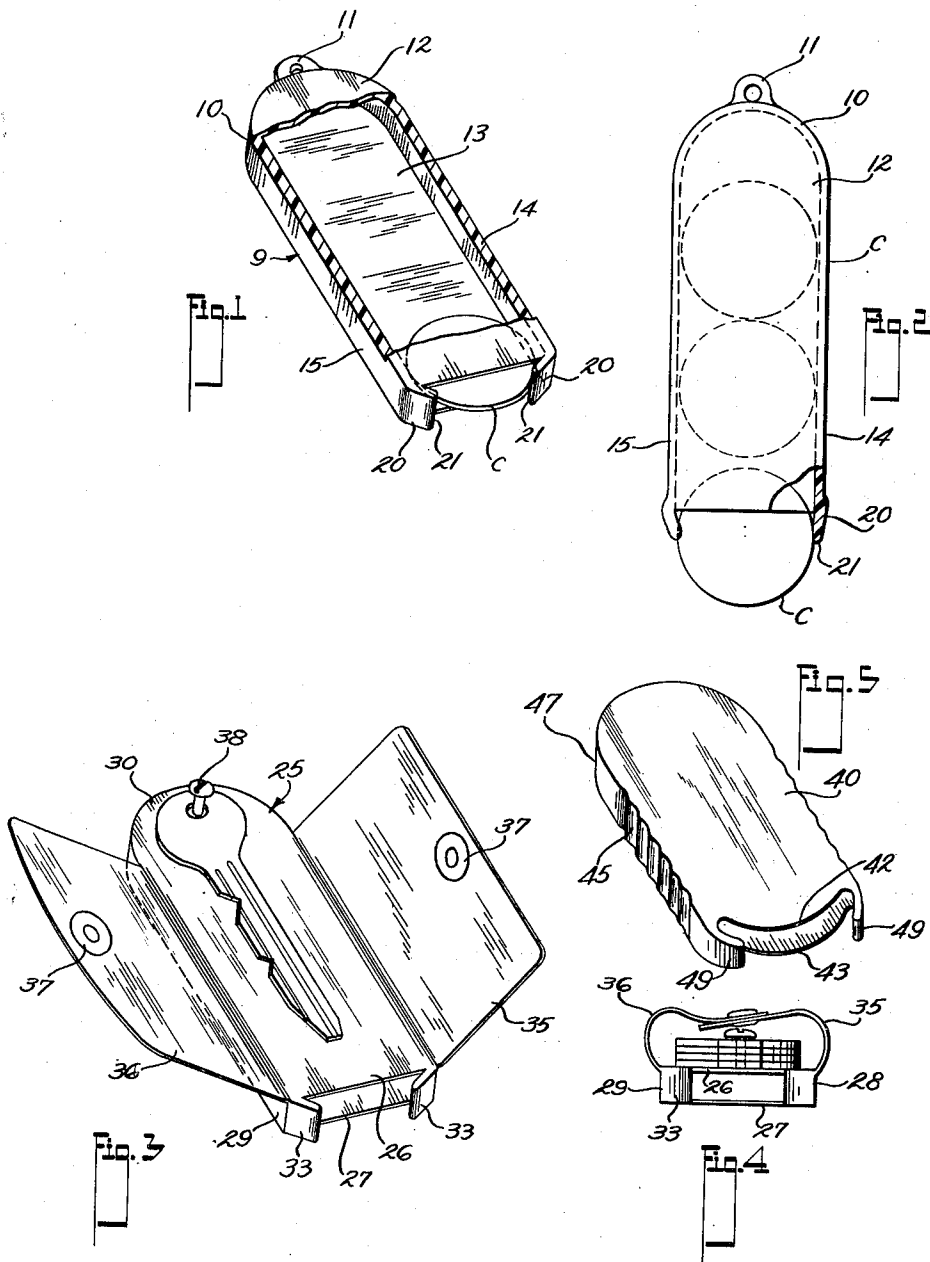


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O. F. EVERITT
COIN-HOLDING DEVICE
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INVENTOR.
ORPHIUS F. EVERITT

BY

Richy Swatto
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COIN-HOLDING DEVICE

Orphius F. Everitt, Elyria, Ohio

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1 Claim. (Cl. 133—6)

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The present invention relates generally to receptacles and is more particularly concerned with a novel and very useful coin-holding device and with a combination key and coin-holding device, both of which are easy and inexpensive to produce.

Coin holders heretofore known have generally taken the form of a purse or similar item provided with some sort of closure means for the opening therein, such as the usual purse lock or a flap which is adapted to folding over the opening of the body for snap attachment to an opposite side of said body to retain the coins in the purse. Attempts have been made by others heretofore to retain the coins in the purses by means of resilient elements such as metal springs which may partially or completely normally extend across the coin-receiving openings of the devices. These contrivances, however, have not proven very satisfactory because of the difficulty of making a good lasting attachment of the retention means to the purse or case, particularly where the latter is of leather or plastic material which is subject to either tearing or fracture under stresses normally incident to use of such elements. A similar shortcoming has been incurred in connection with the use of resilient retention means within the purse or body rather than across the coin-receiving opening thereof.

Furthermore, those skilled in the art have been unsuccessful in their efforts to produce a wholly satisfactory combination key case and coin holder, which could be manufactured rapidly and easily and still have all the utility and economy demanded in such devices. Attempts in the past have characteristically involved the use of pocketed devices having separate closure means or folding flaps defining a closed coin pocket and requiring special efforts on the part of the user to assure the retention of coins in the device as well as to remove coins therefrom.

In accordance with the present invention, these difficulties of the prior art can be overcome and a device of this type may be produced at a considerably lower cost than the prior art devices. Specifically, this invention enables the production of devices of either type aforementioned in a plastic molding die, the device as a whole being made of plastic material, with the possible exception in certain cases of one or two small metal parts which may serve, as described in detail below, as special securing means for key-covering flaps and for the keys themselves. This plastic material may be selected from a wide variety of known plastic compositions to give best wear re-

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sults and to meet requirements as to color, weight, flexibility and resiliency. Still further, rather than requiring a special effort to put coins into the devices of my invention and to retain them therein, these devices exert a positive force on coins being inserted therein, to move the coins completely into the devices. Moreover, at all times this same force is available to oppose movement of the coins out of these devices and a special effort is required to withdraw the coins over these forces. These features are built into my devices and are attributable to their novel design and construction which form the basis for this invention.

As for the key-holding features of the devices of this invention, because of their design and construction, keys fitted thereto are readily accessible and easily moved relative to the devices for use in the usual ways.

Those skilled in the art will gain a further understanding of this invention upon consideration of the detailed description set forth below, reference being had to the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device embodying this invention in one form, a part of the top of the device being broken away in the interest of clarity;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device of Fig. 1 with part of an end portion of the device being broken away to show the coin retention means in open position, the coins in and partly within the case being indicated in outline;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a combination key and coin holding device embodying this invention in another form;

Fig. 4 is an elevational view of the device of Fig. 3 taken at the open end thereof and showing keys disposed in a normal position therein; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of still another form of a coin-holding device of this invention.

Generally, a coin holder of this invention comprises a body having spaced top and bottom walls, spaced side walls secured to the top and bottom walls, and an end wall connecting the side wall with the top and bottom walls and cooperating therewith to combine a coin chamber. One end of the body is open to receive coins to be stored therein and the body is further provided with resilient means comprising a tongue secured to the body and defining a gate partially closing said open end, and having a resilient portion for limited motion relative to the body when force applied to the tongue exceeds a predetermined maximum. A combination key case and coin

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holder has in addition to the foregoing elements, a pair of opposed flexible flaps, preferably of reduced thickness, which are formed integrally with the body and adapted to partially overlap each other and cover substantially the top portion or wall of the body. This device further has securing means carried by the flaps for detachably securing the flaps together and with means attached to the body for detachably securing keys to the body.

More specifically and with particular reference to Figs. 1 and 2 a typical coin holder of my invention comprises a relatively thin and long body 9 having a closed end 10 rounded to conform generally to coins C to be contained in the device, and has an integrally formed eye 11 for carrying the device, as by means of a chain (not shown). Top and bottom walls 12 and 13 are disposed substantially parallel and are of essentially the same generally rectangular shape but having a rounded end. Side walls 14 and 15 disposed at substantially right angles to the top and bottom walls and are integrally formed with said top and bottom walls with an end wall 10. These various walls are preferably of a substantial thickness as indicated in the figures but the top and bottom walls may be slightly thinner than the others, if weight is an important consideration.

The capacity of this Fig. 1 device is six coins arranged in two superimposed rows of three coins each. In the case of nickels, substantially all the available space of the device is taken up at this capacity, but smaller coins, such as pennies or dimes, may nevertheless be positively and effectively retained although there is some room for such coins to shift around within the device, even when it is packed as indicated.

Two tongues 20 integrally formed with the side walls 14 and 15 are normally disposed convergently partially across the open end of the device as a gate. Tongues 20 define angles of about 60° to the respective walls and have opposed edges 21 which are substantially straight and parallel to each other and which extend at substantially right angles to the top and bottom walls of the body. These tongues, being of the same resilient plastic material as the body, provide a spring effect to oppose relative motion of coins through the open end of the device in either loading or unloading the device. Thus, these tongues are deformed into substantially the position shown in Fig. 2 when a coin is being moved either way through the said open end.

Referring now to Figs. 3 and 4, again the device comprises a body 25 which is generally relatively long and thin and is made up of spaced similarly shaped, substantially parallel, and generally rectangular top and bottom walls 26 and 27, spaced side walls 28 and 29 integrally formed with top and bottom walls and with an end wall 30 defining an arc conforming generally to the shape of coins to be stored in the device. Still further, this device has integrally formed tongue members 33 constituting resilient means to retain coins within the body after the manner described above. In addition, two opposed, relatively thin-section, rectangular flap members 35 and 36 are integrally formed with the body and extend from opposite ends of the top wall to overlap each other and substantially cover keys carried by the device, as illustrated in Fig. 4. These flaps are further provided with mating snap fittings 37 on their free edges for attachment in the usual manner. The key-securing means for this Fig. 3 device comprises a screw 38 tapped into the closed

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end portion of the body for removal when it is desired to change or add keys to the device.

Device 40 of Fig. 5 generally resembles those described above but is shaped differently at its open end, its top and bottom walls 42 and 43 being arcuately formed adjacent to said open end for ready accessibility of coins contained in the device. These top and bottom walls, side walls 45 and end wall 47 may suitably otherwise assume the form shown in the devices of Figs. 1 and 3 and may correspond in other particulars to said other devices.

Jaws or tongues 49 of this device, because of the contour of the end portions of the top and bottom walls, may, however, have more coin retention effect than those of the previously described devices. It is seen for instance that small coins such as dimes will be strongly retained in the holder by tongues 49, although these coins are exposed to considerably greater extent and are easier to get hold of than coins in the other devices.

The operation and use of these devices will be apparent to those skilled in the art, but it is pointed out that a characteristic common to all devices embodying this invention is the propelling or "throwing" of coins into the coin vault by the coin retention means, i. e. the tongues. This is attributable to the resiliency, contour and position of this retention means in these devices.

There is, however, a fundamental and important difference between the mode of operation of the device of Fig. 5 and that of the other holders illustrated herein, and this difference renders the devices of the Fig. 5 generally preferable to the others. In particular, because of the arcuate shape of the lip portions of top and bottom walls 42 and 43, respectively, and because of the relative thin and flexible character of these lip portions, and also due to the spacing of tongues 49 over the greater portion of their lengths substantially uniformly from these lip portions, insertion of coins into or removal of coins from the holder is accomplished with unique ease and facility. The lip portions of walls 42 and 43 are readily deformed under pressure applied to the coins by the operator as the coins are moved through the open end of the holder. It will be understood, however, that this advantage does not entail sacrifice of any virtue of the holder such as its coin retention dependability, the lip portions resiliently opposing and in fact, preventing discharge of coins from the holders in the absence of force applied to the coins by the operator to cause their removal. Thus, holders of this Fig. 5 type may properly be characterized as readily receiving coins, dependably holding them and easily releasing them.

Having thus described the present invention so that others skilled in the art may understand the same, I state that what I desire to obtain by Letters Patent is set out in what is claimed.

What is claimed is:

A reloadable coin holder which readily receives, dependably holds and easily releases coins comprising a molded, flexible, resilient and non-metallic body having spaced substantially parallel top and bottom walls and side walls formed integrally with and connecting said top and bottom walls and cooperating therewith to define a coin chamber having an open end to receive coins to be contained by the holder, said top and bottom walls having free arcuately-shaped edges constituting convexly-formed opposed lips defining the coin-receiving opening of the holder, said lips

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being relatively thin and flexible for deformation under pressure applied by coins as they are moved through said opening, and a pair of opposed convergingly related tongues formed integrally with the side walls and defining a gate partially closing said coin-receiving opening to engage and resiliently oppose movement of coins through said opening, said tongues being spaced over the greater portions of their lengths substantially uniformly from said free edges of the top and bottom walls and having opposed spaced free end portions for engagement with coins contained by the holder.

ORPHIUS F. EVERITT.

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