Dec. 16, 1958 C. W. MEDENBACH 2,864,906

LOCKING DEVICE FOR FRENCH PHONE

Filed July 27, 1954

Fig. 1.

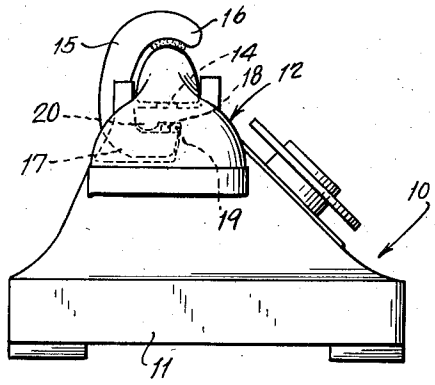


Fig. 2.

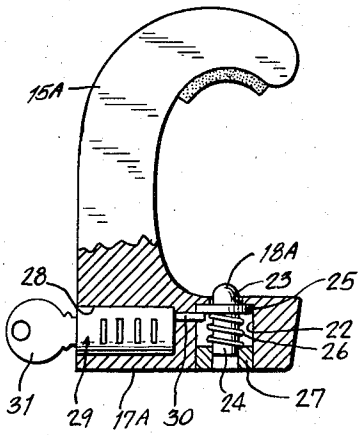


Fig. 3.

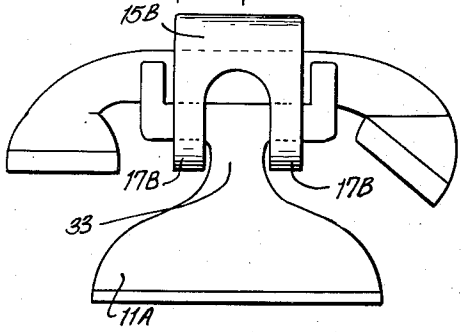
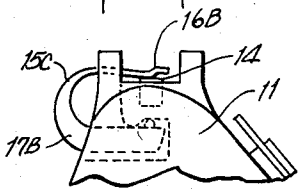


Fig. 4.



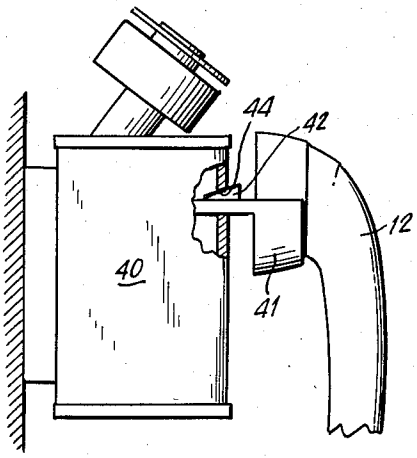


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



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LOCKING DEVICE FOR FRENCH PHONE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 179—189)

This invention relates to a locking device for a French phone and more particularly to a snap-on clamp to lock the French phone in an inoperative position so that it cannot be removed by children or persons unauthorized to use the telephone.

The prior art discloses a great many locking devices for telephones. Many of the locks are attached to the receiver alone. Others are attached to the dial and the prior art discloses a combination lock that although locked to the dial also retains the French phone in a locked position. However all of the prior references are drawn to locking devices where a key is involved, to prevent the use of the phone by an unauthorized person. Applicant's invention is primarily drawn to a snap-on device that is quickly and easily snapped into a holding position or quickly released by an adult but is constructed so that the average child cannot remove the French phone.

It is a object of this invention to provide a C clamp snap-on device to retain a French phone in an inoperative position and prevent children from using the phone.

A further object of this invention is to provide a C clamp snap-on device that may be locked in an inoperative position to prevent unauthorized persons from using the phone.

Another object of this invention is to provide a clamping device to retain a French phone in an inoperative position and prevent children from using the phone.

A further object of this invention is to provide a rubber wedge that may be inserted above the receiver retaining hook element to retain this switching element in an inoperative position even though the receiver may be removed.

Other objects of this invention shall be apparent by reference to the accompanying detailed description and the drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a French phone with the C clamp attached,

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view partly in cross section of a further embodiment of the C clamp of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of a French phone and clamp illustrating a further embodiment,

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of a further embodiment of this invention,

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a further embodiment of this invention, and

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view of an enlarged detail of the wedge shown in Fig. 5.

Referring to the drawings and Fig. 1 in particular there is illustrated a French phone 10 which comprises a base 11 and a microphone and receiver hand set 12. The base 11 is provided with the usual switch element 14 that is retained in an open position by the weight of the hand set 12. With this type of phone, as soon as the hand set 12 is lifted a circuit is completed to the operator or the circuit is closed so that a dial may be operated to in turn connect the phone to another party. This arrangement is ideal for adults. But in the average home where there are children the children mimic their adults removing the phone completing a circuit to the operator or to other parties by using the dial and causing considerable confusion or annoyance. Likewise on party lines children remove the hand piece 12 and continually interfere with the use of the phone by other parties on the line. In order that this condition may be corrected this invention contemplates the use of a C clamp 15 which is formed so that its upper end 16 is shaped to fit the top surface of the hand piece 12, while the lower end 17 of the C clamp 15 is shaped to fit into the open portion of base 10 directly below the hand piece 12. The under or engaging surface of end 16 may be provided with a piece of felt or coated with a soft material. In order that the C clamp 15 will remain in this position the lower end of the C clamp is provided with a spring pressed detent 18 and again the construction of the average base 10 is taken advantage of, that is, there is a cut out portion 19 in the base 10 and the cut out portion 19 is formed with a shoulder 20. The spring pressed detent 18 is positioned in the end 17 so that the upper end of the detent 18 will engage shoulder 20 when the C clamp is in a retaining position. It is apparent that knowing the construction of the C clamp any adult may readily snap the lower end 17 of the C clamp to release the clamp 15 and in turn lift clamp 15 from the hand piece 12. By the same token the clamp 15 may be quickly and easily snapped into the retaining position illustrated in Fig. 1. It is apparent that the average child would not anticipate the manner of releasing the C clamp 15 and the average pull on C clamp 15 will not permit the clamp to be released. It is only by a certain movement of C clamp 15 that the spring detent 18 is released to permit the easy removal of the clamp.

Referring to Fig. 2 it is apparent that the same type C clamp 15A is illustrated provided with the same spring pressed detent 18A. The spring pressed detent 18A is similar to the detent 18 of Fig. 1. This spring pressed detent is constructed as follows. The spring pressed detent 18A is inserted in a bore 22 in the end 17 of the C clamp. Bore 22 does not extend through the C clamp so that a smaller bore 23 may extend from the opposite internal surface of the C clamp to connect the bore 22. The spring pressed detent 18 is constructed of a central plunger 24 that extends upward through the bore 23 so that its upper end protrudes a predetermined distance from the internal surface of the C clamp. A washer 25 is permanently affixed to the plunger 24 and spaced a predetermined distance below the tip of the element 24. Washer 25 is of a diameter to fit in bore 22. A spring 26 is inserted surrounding element 24 and bearing against the lower surface of washer 25. The lower end of spring 26 is retained by a plug 27. Plug 27 is fitted into bore 22. It may be threadably secured or permanently secured as illustrated. In addition there is a bore 28 provided in the end 17A of the clamp 15A. A cylinder lock 29 is mounted in bore 28. The cylinder lock 29 is provided with a tumbler 30 that in a locked position will extend out and under the shoulder of the washer 25 to retain detent 18A in a locked position. A key 31 is provided so that the tumbler lock 29 may be unlocked to retract the tumbler 30 and thus permit detent 18A to again be pressed downward to release the C clamp 15A. It is apparent that C clamp 15A may be quickly and easily snapped into a locked position on a French phone and by a simple insertion of key 31, the lock 29 permits the C clamp to be locked so that unauthorized persons cannot use the phone.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4 there is illustrated a further embodiment of this invention in which a base 11A is

constructed slightly different from the base **11** of Fig. 1. In this modification of the telephone there is no hollowed out portion as shown in Fig. 1. Therefore the clamp **15B** is constructed slightly different, that is, although it is generally C-shaped the lower portion of the **C** is divided and there are two lower ends **17B** spaced sufficiently so that they will fit either side of the pedestal formation **33**. The upper portion of the clamp **15B** may be identical to the upper portion of the **C** clamp **15** or **15A**. However in a further embodiment of the clamp **15B** there is illustrated in Fig. 4 a clamp **15C**. Clamp **15C** is provided with a lower portion **17B** similar to the lower portion of clamp **15B**. However the upper end **16B** is bent so that it bears directly on the switch element **14** instead of bearing on the hand piece **12**. It is apparent that the switch element **14** of base **11** may be retained in an open or inoperative position and the hand piece **12** may rest on clamp **15C**. With this type of clamp the removal of the hand piece **12** by a child will not activate a circuit to the operator or activate the dialing mechanism.

Referring to Figs. 5 and 6 there is illustrated a further embodiment of this invention in which there is provided a different type of telephone mounting. This is a wall type element **40** which is generally provided with a hook shaped switch **41** to retain the hand piece **12**. In this type of device the removal of the hand piece **12** permits the hook element **41** to move upward due to a spring element within the portion **40** which activates the circuit to the operator or to the dialing device. In order that this type of element may be made inoperative for children a wedge shaped element **42** is provided. Element **42** may be constructed of rubber, plastic or other rigid material and its upper surface **43** may be corrugated or formed with a rough texture to provide a good gripping relationship. As illustrated in Fig. 5 the wedge shaped element **42** may be inserted above the hook element **41** in the slot shaped aperture **44** provided in element **40**. With the wedge **42** tightly wedged in slot **44** the hand piece **12** may be removed from the hook **41** without activating the circuit to the operator or dialing device.

It is apparent that although the telephone is not standardized to a single design there may be variations of the clamp as described herein so that the clamp will fit any modification of the telephone structure without departing from the spirit of this invention. As long as the clamp retains the hand piece in a locked position and is easily snapped into engagement or out of engagement to prevent the operation of the phone by a child or in the further embodiment of the invention the operation of the phone by an unauthorized person, the device shall not depart from the spirit of this invention. Likewise as long as the phone shall be retained in an inoperative circuit relation by a simple element that may be snapped into or out of engagement therewith any variation of this element shall cover the spirit of this invention and this invention shall be limited only by the appended claims. Although a tumbler lock has been illustrated with an extended tumbler as the means of locking the **C** clamp the exact position at which the tumbler is mounted may be departed from or the manner in which the tumblers shall project to provide the necessary locking relation may be varied without departing from the spirit of this invention and this invention shall be limited only by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A snap-on clamp for a French phone which includes a French phone, said French phone including a base, a **C** shaped body of sufficient size to encompass the French phone with one half of C-shaped body when it is resting upon the telephone base, said base of said phone provided with a cut away portion on one side below the position at which the French phone rests on said base, the opposite half of said **C** clamp shaped to fit into the cut away portion of the telephone base, said lower portion of said **C** clamp provided with a spring pressed plunger, said plunger retracting within the **C** clamp to permit the lower end of the **C** clamp to fit into the cut away portion of the base and said spring pressed plunger providing a gripping detent to hold said **C** clamp in a snapped on holding relationship.

2. In a device according to claim 1 in which the upper portion of the **C** clamp is provided with a felt pad to grip the upper surface of the French phone.

3. A snap-on clamp for a French phone which includes a French phone, said French phone including a base, a C-shaped body of sufficient size to encompass the French phone with one half of C-shaped body when it is resting upon the telephone base, said base of said phone provided with a cut away portion on one side below the position at which the French phone rests on said base, the opposite half of said **C** clamp shaped to fit into the cut away portion of the telephone base, said lower portion of said **C** clamp provided with a spring pressed plunger, and a cylinder lock with extended tumblers inserted in the lower portion of the **C** clamp so that the extended tumblers of said lock will abut with said spring pressed plunger to retain said spring pressed plunger locked in an extended position, said plunger being pressed within the **C** clamp when said lock is released to permit the lower end of the **C** clamp to fit into the cut away portion of the base and said spring pressed plunger extending into the cutaway portion of the base to provide a snap-on detent to hold said **C** clamp in a locked position.

4. A snap-on clamp for a French phone which includes a French phone, said French phone including a base, a C-shaped body of sufficient size to encompass the French phone with one half of the C-shaped body, the base of said phone provided with a cutaway portion below the position at which the phone rests upon said base, the base end of said **C** clamp shaped to fit into the cutaway portion of the telephone base, the upper end of said **C** clamp formed to encompass the element to be locked, said lower end of said **C** clamp provided with a spring pressed plunger, said resiliently supported plunger being pressed within the **C** clamp to permit the lower end of the **C** clamp to pass into the cutaway portion of the base and said spring pressed plunger protruding out of said **C** clamp when positioned within the cutaway portion of the base to provide a gripping detent to hold said **C** clamp in a snapped on holding relationship.

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