

H. ESSEX.
Key-Hole Guards.

No. 152,352.

Patented June 23, 1874.

Fig. 1.

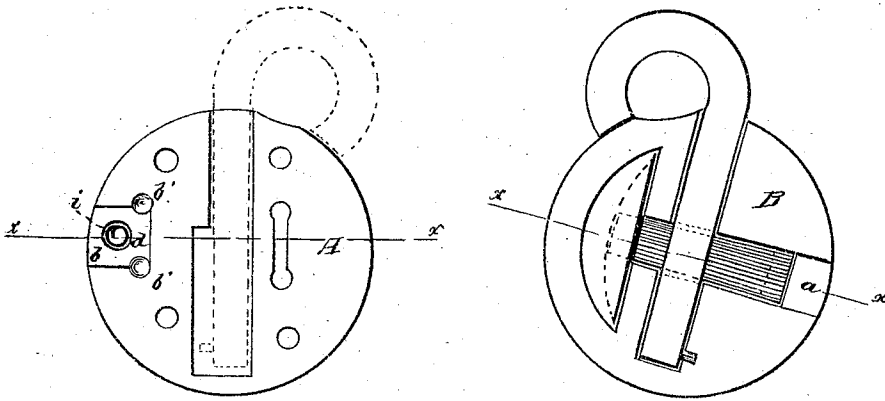


Fig. 2.

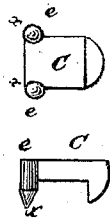
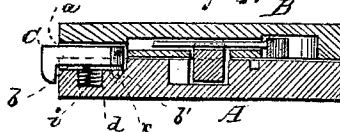


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4. B



WITNESSES:
P. C. Dietrich,
Fred Reischer

INVENTOR,
Henry Essex
per J. H. Alexander
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY ESSEX, OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN KEY-HOLE GUARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **152,352**, dated June 23, 1874; application filed May 15, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY ESSEX, of Meadville, in the county of Crawford and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in a spring-guard for closing the key-holes for locks, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of parts A and B; Fig. 2, a view of the key-hole guard C; Fig. 3, a view of the key; and Fig. 4 is a section on line *x x*.

In the drawing I have represented a lock, the case of which is made in two parts, A and B, bolted or otherwise fastened together, and having the key-hole *a* formed in the part B at the joint or inner edge of the same, said key-hole being formed for a flat key. In the inner side of the part A of the lock-case, opposite to the key-hole, is formed a recess, *b*, having at its inner end, at each corner, a rounded extension, *b'*, as shown. In the recess *b* is formed a circular recess, *d*, for the insertion of a spiral spring, *i*. C represents the key-hole guard, which is placed in the recess *b*, and provided, at its inner end, with projections *e e*—one on each side; and on each projection is a small conical point, *x*, which fits in a corresponding depression made in the recesses *b'*, thus allowing the key-hole guard to turn slightly on said

projections as upon trunnions. The key-hole guard projects beyond the lock-case, the outer end being formed as a head or knob, and the spring *i* presses the guard into the key-hole. The key-hole guard is readily pressed back by the aid of the key when desired to unlock the lock, and when the key is withdrawn it closes itself, and, in a great measure, prevents tampering with the works of the lock, as it is hard to pull it back and at the same time get anything into the key-hole to pick the lock with, except the proper key.

A key-hole guard may be arranged in the same manner on almost any lock—that is, placed within the lock-case and operated by a spring to close the key-hole, one end of the guard projecting beyond the side of the lock-case.

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

1. The combination, with a lock, of a key-hole guard and spring, the guard being on the side of the key-hole, and projecting beyond it, and the spring arranged within the lock-case, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of the lock-case A B, provided with key-hole *a* and recesses *b b'*, the escutcheon C, provided with projections *e e*, having points *x x*, and the spring *i*, all substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY ESSEX.

Witnesses:

GEO. O. MORGAN,
G. W. ADAMS.