J. H. McCLURE.

AUTOMOBILE LOCK.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 25, 1918.

1,296,301.

Patented Mar. 4, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

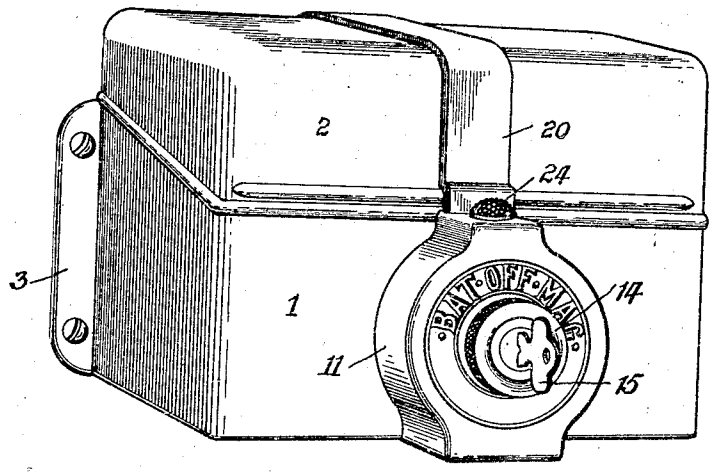


Fig. 1.

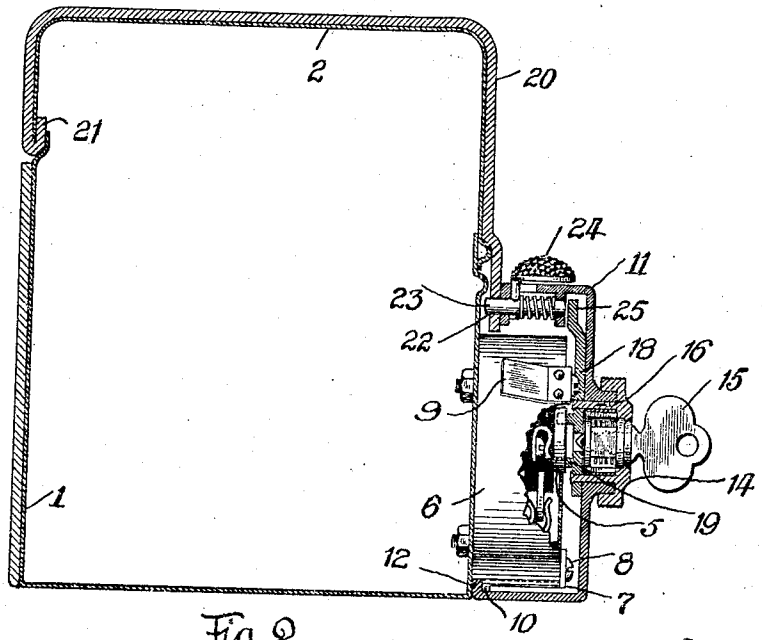


Fig. 2.

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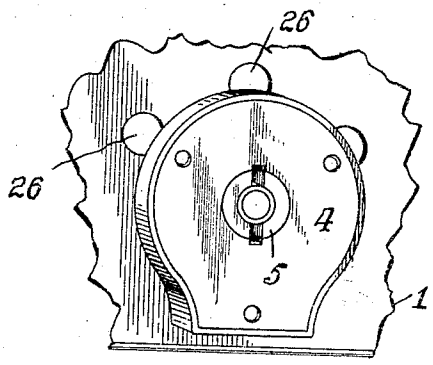


Fig. 3.

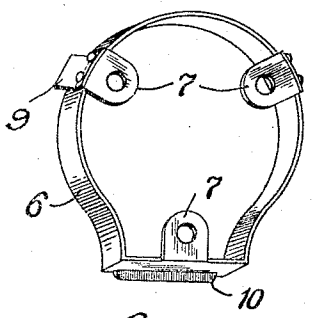


Fig. 4.

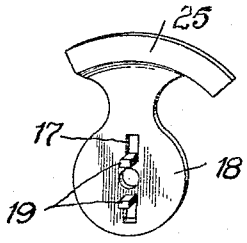


Fig. 6.

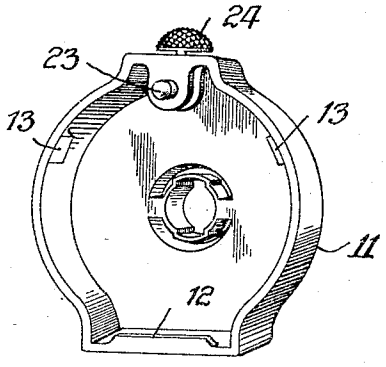


Fig. 5.

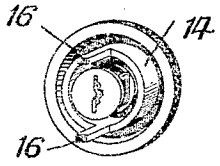


Fig. 7.

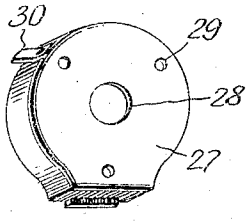


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AUTOMOBILE-LOCK.

1,296,301. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 4, 1919.

Application filed February 25, 1918. Serial No. 218,995.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. McCLURE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automobile-Locks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an automobile lock, and has special reference to a coil box equipment which may be easily and quickly installed to positively lock the coil box and its switch against being surreptitiously opened and the switch actuated.

My invention aims to provide an accessory of the above type including a lock that is articulated with the usual battery switch to control the operation of the same, and associated with the lock is a latch member and strap adapted for holding the lid of the coil box closed. The locking mechanism is assembled so that it cannot be easily removed, but provision is made whereby the mechanism may be detached after the coil box is opened.

My invention further aims to provide a simple, durable and inexpensive mechanism that is applicable to battery boxes now in use, and the many advantages of the lock will be apparent as the invention is better understood.

Reference will now be had to the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coil box provided with a lock in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical cross sectional view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a portion of the coil box showing the usual ignition switch;

Fig. 4 is a similar view of a frame forming part of my locking mechanism;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the inner side of the lock casing;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a detached coupling member;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a detached lock, and

Fig. 8 is a similar view of a modified form of lock frame.

In the drawings the reference numeral 1 denotes a coil box having a lid 2 and the rear wall of said box is provided with flanges 3 so that it may be connected to the dash of an automobile or other support by screws or any suitable fastening means. The front wall of the battery box has an ignition switch 4 including a key actuated rotatable member 5 and this switch, as well as the coil box, are of conventional form found on the dash of many automobiles.

My invention resides in mounting a frame 6 on the ignition switch 4, said frame conforming in shape to the switch so as to fit on the side walls thereof and to hold the frame on said switch I provide said frame with apertured lugs 7 connected to the front wall of the switch by screws 8. Some of the lugs have resilient clips 9 and the bottom of the frame has a depending lug 10. I may use the type of frame shown in Fig. 8, said frame having a front wall 27 provided with a lock opening 28, screw openings 29 and clips 30.

Mounted over the frame 6 is a lock casing 11 which has the bottom thereof provided with an upwardly projecting lip 12 adapted to engage behind the lug 10 of the frame 6, while other lugs 13 of the casing 11 are adapted to engage behind the resilient clips 9. After the frame 6 is connected to the switch 4 then the lock casing can be sprung into position against the front wall of the coil box to inclose the switch 4.

Prior to placing the lock casing in position it is equipped with a lock 14 and a coupling member 18. The lock 14 is of the tumbler type that can be locked against rotation and released by a key 15. The lock has diametrically opposed pins 16 adapted to extend through slots 17 of the coupling member 18 and the ends of said pins are upset, similar to rivets, so that the coupling member 18 will hold the lock in the casing 11, yet permit of its rotation when released by the key 15. The coupling member has projecting diametrically opposed arms 19 adapted to engage in the rotatable member 5 and thus articulate the lock with the switch so that the switch may be turned off or on by rotating the lock in proper direction.

The lock is also employed for holding the lid 2 of the coil box closed, and to this end, I provide the lid with a flexible metallic strap 20 which has the rear end thereof hooked in the rear wall of the coil box, as at 21, and the front end of said strap has an aperture 22.

The top of the casing 11 is provided with

a spring pressed latch 23 adapted to engage in the aperture 22 of the strap 20, and said latch may be retracted through the medium of a button or finger piece 24 outside the casing 11 and connected to the latch through the top wall of said casing. To prevent the latch from being retracted, at times, the rotatable coupling member 18 has a segment shaped cam 25 that may be positioned at the forward end of the latch 23 to prevent actuation of said latch by the button 24.

The front wall of the coil box, adjacent the switch 4, has a series of openings 26, and these openings permit of an instrument being inserted in the lock casing 11 to depress the clips 9 when it is desired to remove the lock casing 11. It will be noted, however, that access can only be had to the openings 26 when the lid 2 is opened, as the casing 11 covers the outer ends of the openings 26.

When the key 15 releases the lock 14, the lock can be rotated clockwise to close the magneto switch and such movement of the lock maintains the cam member 25 in front of the latch 23 and the coil box cannot be opened. It is only when the lock is turned counterclockwise, to close the battery switch, that the cam member 25 is out of the path of the latch 23. Then the latch can be manually retracted to permit of the battery box being opened.

It is thought that the operation and utility of the lock will be apparent without further description and while in the drawings there is illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that the structural elements are susceptible to such variations and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:—

1. The combination with a coil box having a lid, a casing connected to said box, a strap having one end thereof held rigidly relative to said box, and the other end adapted to extend into said casing, a latch in said casing adapted to hold the said other end of the strap therein, and a lock in said casing adapted to hold said latch against actuation.

2. The combination of a coil box having a lid and a switch, a casing inclosing said switch, a latch carried by said casing for holding the lid of said box closed, and a lock carried by said casing adapted for actuating said switch and holding said latch against actuation.

3. The combination of a coil box having a rotatable switch, a casing inclosing said switch, resilient means holding said casing on said switch and releasable from within said coil box, and a lock carried by said casing adapted for actuating said switch.

4. The combination with a coil box having a switch, of a frame fixed to said switch, a casing inclosing said switch and said frame, resilient means holding said casing on said frame and releasable from within said coil box, and a lock carried by said casing adapted for actuating said switch.

5. The combination with a coil box, having a switch, and a lid, of a frame on said switch, a casing sprung into engagement with said frame and inclosing said switch, a latch carried by said casing adapted for locking said lid in a closed position, a lock carried by said casing, and a coupling member articulating said lock with said switch and adapted for holding said latch against actuation.

6. The combination of a coil box having a lid, a strap to hold said lid closed, a switch, a lock on said box adapted to receive and hold an end of said strap, and lock controlling means having connection with said switch so that said lock controlling means may actuate the switch.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN H. McCLURE.

Witnesses:

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ANNA M. DORR.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."