

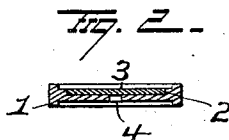
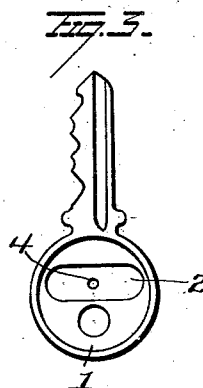
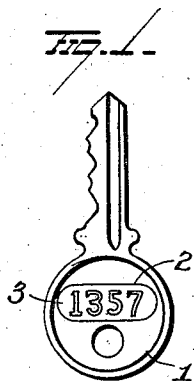
No. 868,948.

PATENTED OCT. 22, 1907.

E. A. STRAUSS.

KEY.

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WITNESSES

E. Nottingham
G. J. Downing

INVENTOR

E. A. Strauss
Cy H. A. Seymour
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL A. STRAUSS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

KEY.

No. 868,948.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 22, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL A. STRAUSS, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Keys; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in keys, the object being to provide a key with a name or number plate attached thereto by solder or other material that can be fused at a comparatively low heat, so that the plate can be removed by the application of heat and applied to another key.

With this end in view my invention consists in a key having a recess therein and a name or number plate approximately filling said recess and detachably secured by a material that melts at a comparatively low temperature.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a key showing my improvement applied thereto, Fig. 2 is a view in cross section taken through the plate and Fig. 3 is a view of the key with the plate removed.

1 represents a key of any approved form. In the drawing I have shown a Yale & Towne key, but the improvement is equally applicable to any key having a part sufficiently large to receive the plate.

The key is provided with a recess 2 for the reception of a name or number plate 3, the latter being of a size and shape to approximately fill the recess and rest flush with the surface of the key so that when in position it presents the appearance of a fixed and permanent part of the key.

Passing through the key preferably near the center of the recess as shown, is a hole 4, through which any surplus metal may escape when attaching the name plate, and through which a pointed instrument may be passed for forcing the plate out of the recess after the fusible material holding it in place has been softened by heat, and which also permits of the entrance of air under the plate during the act of removing the latter.

The improvement above described is particularly

adapted for keys designed for safe deposit or locker locks, hotel locks, or any lock of which there are a great number, and where the great number used tends to confusion of keys. In the case of safe deposit boxes, as an example, the renters are continually changing boxes or giving them up, at which time it is desirable, and frequently necessary, to change the locks or the combination of the lock. When the locks are changed on a numbered locker or box, the name or number plate must be removed from the old key and applied to the new one. Where the combination of the lock is changed a new key must be used and if the owner of the locker or box is known by or has a particular number, his number must be applied to the new key. This necessitates the frequent change of name or number plates to the various keys, which by my method is made comparatively easy. The fusible material can be applied either to the socket in the key or to the back of the plate, and when once applied will be sufficient for several changes of name plate, as none of the fusible material will necessarily be lost in the operation of applying or changing a number or name.

When the plate is once affixed it becomes practically, so far as the user or holder thereof is aware, a permanent and fixed part of the key, and as it cannot conveniently be removed except by the application of heat, there is but slight chance of it being accidentally dislodged.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, a key having a recess in one face, the said recess being closed at its ends, and a name plate corresponding in size and shape to said recess and detachably secured therein by a fusible material.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a key having a recess in one face, and a hole leading from said recess through the key, the said recess being closed at its ends, and a name plate corresponding in size and shape to said recess and detachably secured therein by a fusible material.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMIL A. STRAUSS.

Witnesses:

J. P. FORAKER,
HOWARD J. WHITE.