

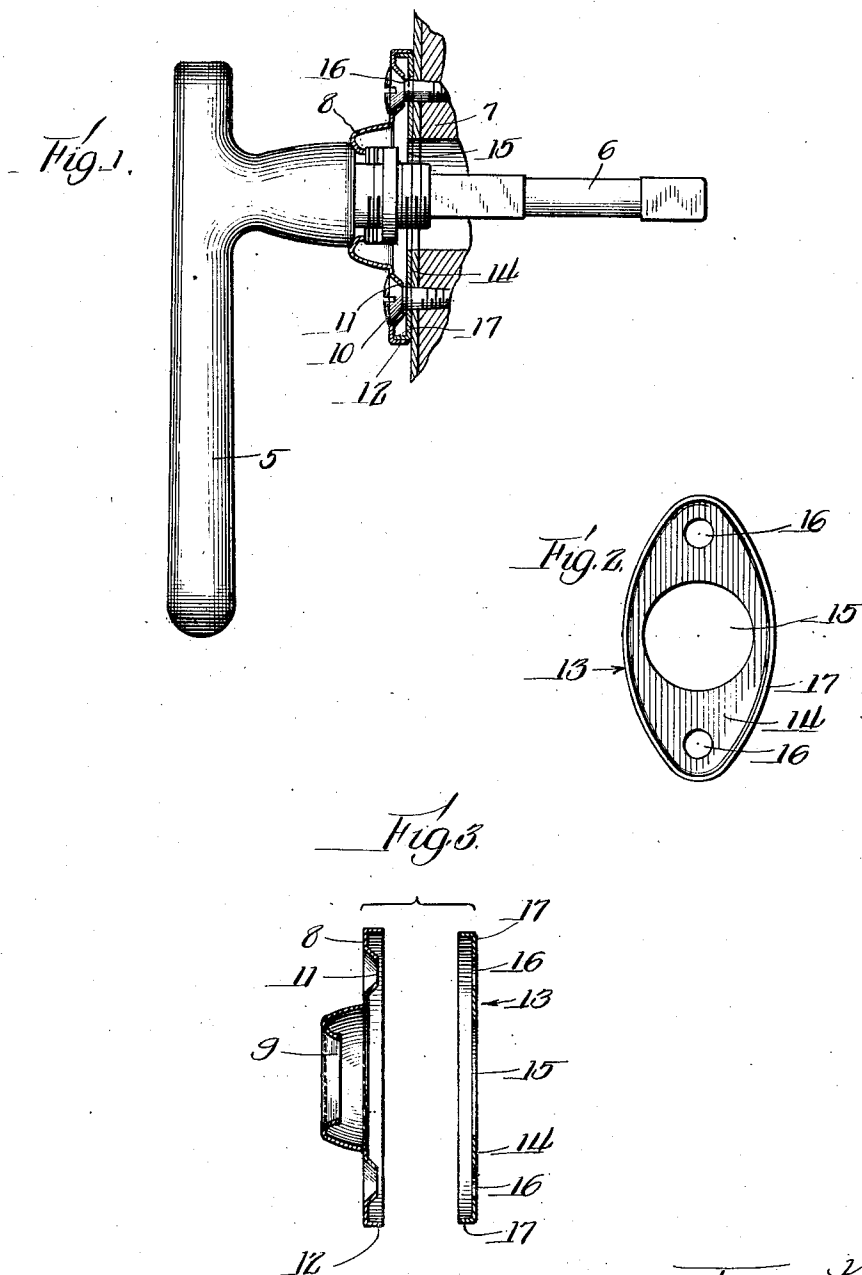
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ESCUTCHEON PLATE

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ESCUTCHEON PLATE

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This invention relates to door latch assemblies for automobiles, and more particularly pertains to escutcheon plates for such assemblies.

5 It has been the commonly accepted practice in this art to provide an escutcheon plate for a door latch assembly which is made in the form of a stamped metallic shell. This method of construction leaves a sharp edge
10 around the edge of the shell which is quite objectionable in that the sharp edge so provided mars and cuts the enamel or paint on the door. Such cuts weaken, and sometimes
15 crack, the enamel beyond the area covered by the escutcheon plate, with the result that an unsightly appearance is presented around the edge of the plate.

An object of this invention is to provide a simple means whereby the edges of an escutcheon plate will be held away from the
20 surface of the member on which the plate is mounted.

A more specific object is to provide a filler for an escutcheon plate which will present a
25 smooth bearing surface to a door while preventing the contact with the door of any cutting or wearing parts of the escutcheon plate.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following description and
30 the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a view of a door latch operating assembly showing in section the preferred form of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the preferred form
35 of the filler plate.

Fig. 3 is a view of the escutcheon plate and the device spread apart.

While I have shown in the drawings and will herein describe in detail the preferred
40 embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not thereby intend to limit the invention to the specific form disclosed, but aim to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit
45 and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

I have chosen merely for the purpose of illustrating this invention an ordinary type
50 of door operating means comprising a handle adapted to operate a door latch (not shown)

from the exterior of a vehicle. Rigid with the handle is the usual operating member 6 which extends into the door 7 through an opening therein. This opening, according to the usual practice, is concealed by means of
55 an escutcheon plate 8.

The usual method of construction of the escutcheon is to form a shell of any desirable design having a central opening 9 through
60 which the operating member extends. The escutcheon is adapted to be secured to the door in a suitable manner shown herein as by screws 10, the heads of which engage appropriate recesses 11 in the escutcheon, and it will be readily apparent that the relatively
65 sharp edged rim 12 of the escutcheon will tend to engage the highly finished surface of the door 7, resulting in a cutting and cracking of the enamel.

In carrying out the objects of this inven-
70 tion, I prefer to employ a sub-shell or escutcheon filler 13, which is arranged to provide a substantially solid back wall for the shell-like escutcheon 13. The filler as shown here comprises a plate having a back 14 which
75 includes a central opening 15 and a plurality of holes 16 which are adapted to register respectively with the opening 9 and the recesses 11 in the escutcheon. The peripheral shape of the plate 14 is exactly similar to
80 that of the escutcheon, and an outstanding rim 17 on the plate is adapted to telescope snugly into the similarly formed but somewhat shorter rim 12 on the escutcheon. Thus
85 I have provided a filler which telescopes snugly into the escutcheon plate and which, due to the differences in the heights of the rim on the escutcheon 12 and the rim 17 on the filler, will present a flat surface above the escutcheon. When the assembly is mounted,
90 as shown in Fig. 1, on the door of a vehicle, the flat back surface 14 of the filler will rest on the surface of the door and will prevent any part of the escutcheon from touching or rubbing against the door, whereby damage
95 to the finish of the door is eliminated.

In practice the escutcheon plate and the filler would usually be assembled during manufacture and the unit supplied to the trade with the handle assembly. For this
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reason, it is preferable that the filler be constructed to fit very snugly in the escutcheon plate to prevent accidental separation therefrom.

5 I claim as my invention:

1. A latch operating mechanism having an escutcheon plate including a peripheral rim and adapted to be secured to a door, and a filler positioned between said escutcheon and
10 said door, said filler comprising a flat base and a peripheral rim, said rim being constructed to fit telescopically into said rim on said escutcheon, said rim on said filler being slightly wider than said rim on the escutcheon
15 whereby the base of said filler will extend outwardly beyond the edges of said rim on said escutcheon to hold said escutcheon from contact with said door.

2. An escutcheon plate for automobile
20 latches and the like comprising, in combination, a pair of interfitting flanged members having a snug frictional engagement between said flanges to secure said members together as a unit and to prevent separation thereof
25 when not attached to the door, the outer one of said members being formed to present a finished outer surface, and the inner one of said members having a smooth back surface to abut against the surface of a door without
30 marring the finish thereof, the interfitting relation of the members being such that contact of the outer member with the underlying door portions is prevented.

3. An escutcheon unit for automobile door
35 latches and the like, comprising an outer or face plate adapted to be secured to the door, an inner filler plate interposed between said door and said outer plate, said plates having inturned peripheral flanges of unequal
40 widths frictionally interengaging to maintain the face plate and inner filler plate in proper relationship when not attached to the door and adapted to hold said face plate in spaced relation to said door when attached
45 thereto.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

ROLLO MARPLE.

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