Nov. 30, 1971 J. CURTIN 3,623,346

DOORKNOB SHROUD

Filed June 8, 1970

FIG. 1

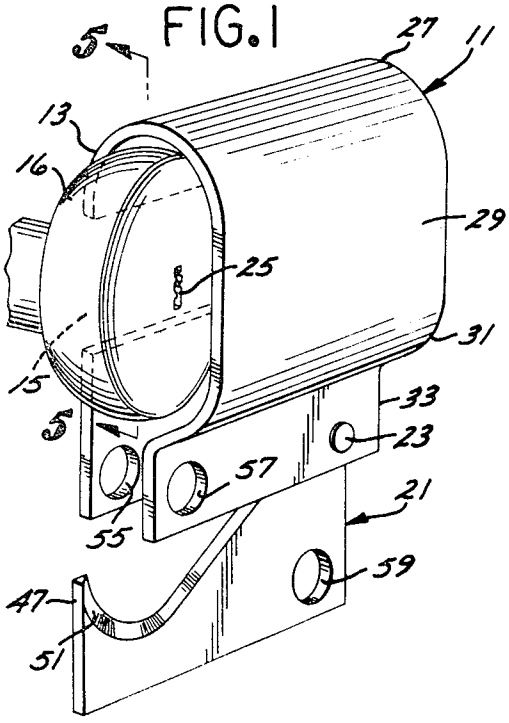


FIG. 2

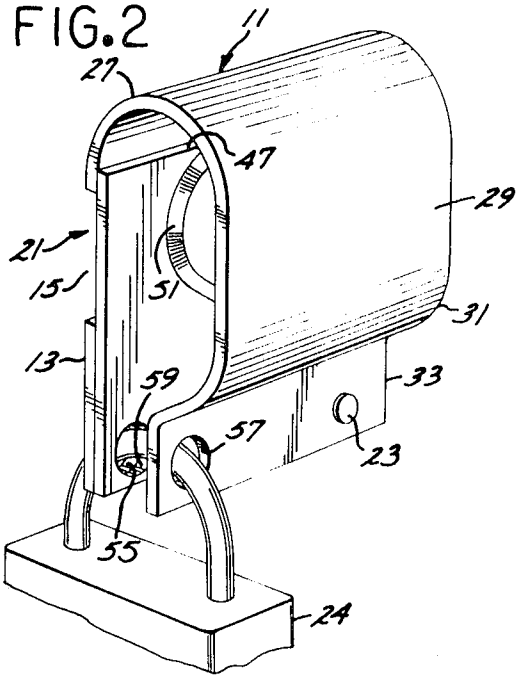


FIG. 4

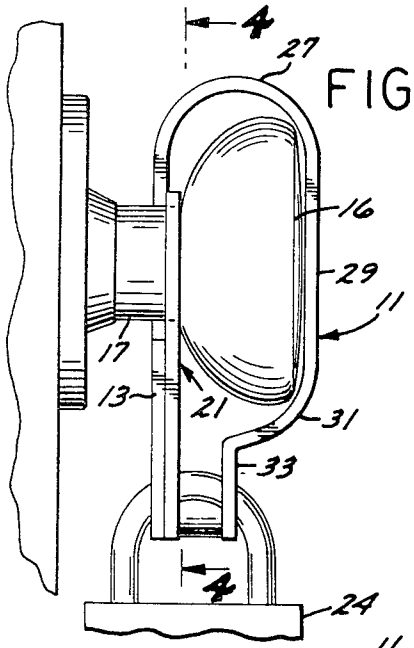
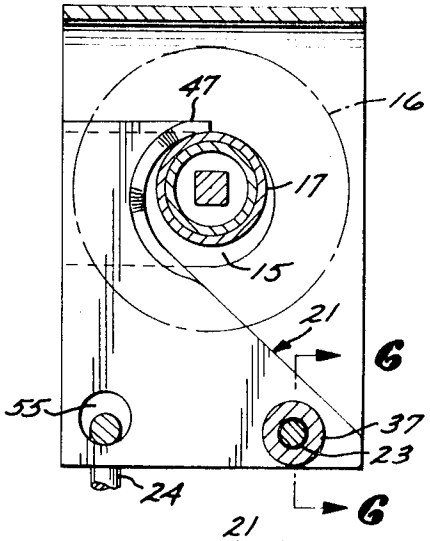


FIG. 3



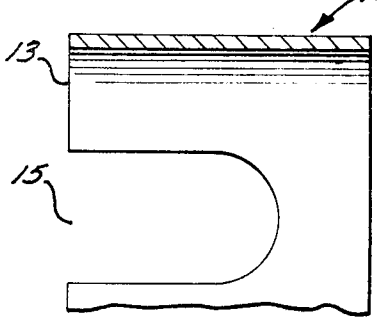


FIG. 5

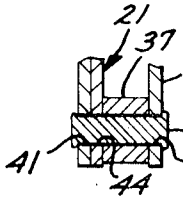


FIG. 6

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DOORKNOB SHROUD

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U.S. Cl. 70—424 5 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A doorknob shroud to be mounted on a doorknob to block unauthorized access to a keyhole. The shroud includes a housing formed with a back wall having a side opening slot therein for receipt of the doorknob shank. The housing further includes a blocking portion projecting over the keyhole to block access thereto. A retainer is pivotally mounted to the housing for being pivoted to a retaining position projecting across the open end of the slot. Locking means is provided for locking the retainer in its retaining position whereby such retainer may be opened, the housing mounted on a doorknob by passing the doorknob shank in through the open end of the slot, the retainer closed and locked in position to maintain the blocking portion disposed in blocking position over the keyhole.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The doorknob shroud of present invention relates to devices for blocking access to keyholes and the like.

Description of the prior art

Keyhole obstructing devices have been proposed which include clam shell halves which are hingedly connected together and may be clamped over the doorknob to block access to an adjacently located keyhole. A device of this type is shown in U.S. Patent No. 1,439,552. Since devices of this type must be relatively sturdy, a clam shell design of this type is relatively expensive to manufacture. Other prior art keyhole obstructing devices are shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 2,134,922, 2,883,850, 3,167,945, and 2,343,-387.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The doorknob shroud of present invention is characterized by a housing having a back wall formed with a side opening notch and including a blocking portion for being disposed over the keyhole when such housing is mounted on a doorknob. A retainer is pivotally mounted to the housing for being rotated into position projecting across the open end of the slot and locked whereby the housing may be mounted on the doorknob with the doorknob shaft received in the slot and the retainer pivoted to its closed position and locked to retain such shroud on the doorknob with the keyhole blocking portion projecting over the keyhole.

An object of the present invention is to provide a doorknob shroud of the type described which is relatively sturdy in construction to securely block access to a keyhole.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a doorknob shroud of the type described which is relatively economical to manufacture and is convenient to use.

These and other objects and the advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIGS. 1 and 2 are perspective views of a doorknob shroud embodying the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of the left end of the doorknob shroud shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of FIG. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The doorknob shroud of present invention includes a housing, generally designated **11**, which has its back wall **13** formed with a side opening slot **15** for receiving the shank **17** of a doorknob. A retainer, generally designated **21**, is mounted from the housing **11** by means of a pivot pin **23** whereby such retainer may be opened to the position shown in FIG. 1 and the housing **11** inserted over the doorknob **16** and the retainer pivoted upwardly into the retaining position shown in FIG. 2 and locked by padlock **24** to positively block access to the keyhole **25** disposed centrally in the doorknob.

The housing **11** may be made of metal or a tough plastic or any other desirable material and is preferably formed from a single sheet by providing an upstanding back wall **13** which is turned outwardly and downwardly to form a turned back loop **27** at the its upper extremity and a downwardly projecting front wall **29**. It is noted that in the embodiment shown, the front wall **29** serves to block access to the keyhole **25**. The lower portion of the front wall **29** is turned inwardly at **31** and then turns downwardly to terminate in a downwardly extending flange **33** projecting parallel to the lower extremity of the back wall **13**.

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 6, a spacer in the form of a short, small diameter pipe **37** is interposed behind the front flange **33** and the retainer **21** is sandwiched between such spacer and the back wall **13**. The back wall **13** and the flange **33** are formed with respective aligned bores **41** and **43**. The pivot rivet **23** projects through such bores **41** and **43** and also through the spacer **37** and a bore **44** formed at one side of the retainer **21**.

The retainer is somewhat triangularly shaped and is formed on its top extremity with a hook portion **47** which hooks back over the doorknob shank **17**. The front side of the hook portion **47** is formed with a bevel **51** around its arcuate portion for accommodating the curved rear portion of the doorknob **15**.

Referring to FIG. 1, the back wall **13** and front flange **33** are formed in their ends opposite the pivot rivet **23** with aligned bores **55** and **57** and the retainer **21** includes a bore **59** registerable therewith when the retainer is in its closed position for receipt of the bale of the padlock.

In operation, the doorknob shroud of present invention may be mounted on a doorknob by merely pivoting the retainer **21** to the open position shown in FIG. 1 and sliding the housing **11** sideways onto the doorknob with

the shank **17** received in the slot **15**. The retainer **21** may then be pivoted to its closed position shown in FIGS. 2 and 4 and the bale of the padlock **24** inserted through the bores **55, 57** and **59** to hold the retainer in position projecting across the open end of the slot **15**. Thus, the housing **11** will be held captive on the doorknob to block access to the axially located keyhole **25**.

From the foregoing detailed description it will be apparent that the doorknob shroud of present invention provides a convenient means for blocking access to a locked keyhole to prevent entry by an unauthorized person who may have a key capable of operating such lock. Such doorknob shroud is economical to manufacture and provides secure blocking of access to the keyhole.

Various modifications and changes may be made with regard to the foregoing detailed description without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A doorknob shroud for blocking access to a keyway disposed adjacent a doorknob carried from a reduced-in-cross-section shank said shroud comprising:

a housing including a vertical back wall for projecting behind the doorknob and formed with a slot opening to one side of said housing for receipt of the shank of said doorknob, said housing being turned forwardly at the top end of said back wall to project outwardly across the top of said doorknob and then being turned downwardly to project in front of said doorknob to form a front wall, said housing being open on said one side for receipt of said doorknob from said one side and including a blocking portion projecting in front of said keyway to block access thereto;

a retainer pivotally mounted on one extremity from said back wall for being pivoted into retaining position projecting across the open end of said slot; and

locking means engageable with said housing and retainer to lock said retainer in its retaining position whereby said retainer may be unlocked and opened,

said housing slid onto said doorknob from said open side with said shank received in said slot and said retainer closed and locked in its retaining position to hold said shroud captive on said knob with said blocking portion blocking access to said keyway.

2. A doorknob shroud as set forth in claim **1** wherein:

said housing includes a first aperture in said one side thereof; and

said retainer is pivotally mounted at the side of said housing opposite said one side and includes an aperture aligned with said first aperture when said retainer is in its retaining position to receive the bale of a padlock.

3. A doorknob shroud as set forth in claim **1** that includes: a fastener securing the bottom ends of said walls together and pivotally securing said retainer to said housing.

4. A doorknob shroud as set forth in claim **1** wherein: said front wall is turned rearwardly on its lower extremity to project rearwardly under said doorknob and then turns downwardly to project parallel to said back wall.

5. A doorknob shroud as set forth in claim **1** wherein: said keyway is formed centrally in said doorknob; and said blocking portion is formed centrally in said front wall.

References Cited

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ROBERT L. WOLFE, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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