Sept. 14, 1937. R. C. LEGAT 2,093,326

KEY SUPPORT

Filed June 5, 1936

Fig. 1

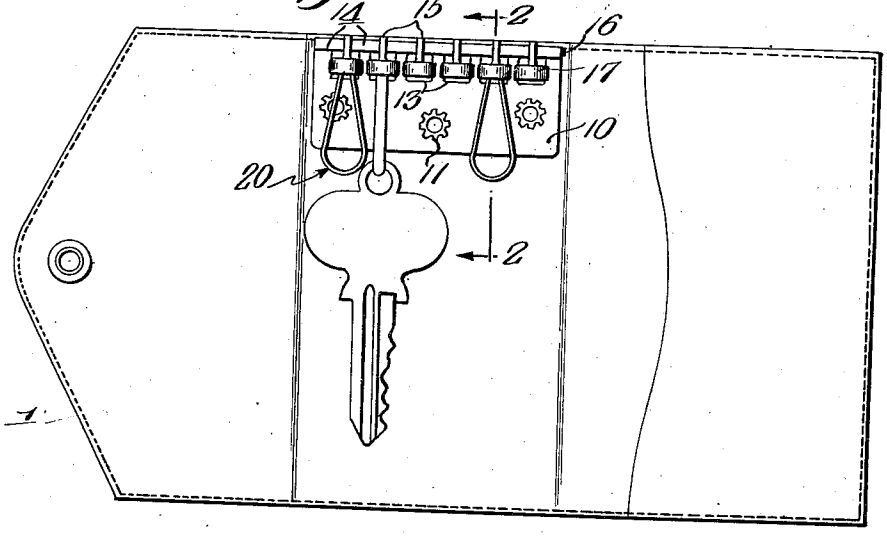


Fig. 2

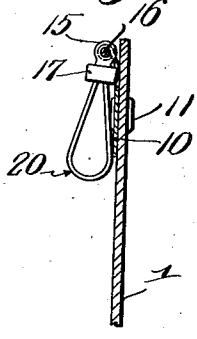


Fig. 3

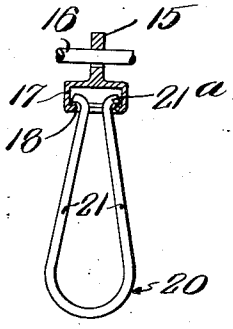


Fig. 4

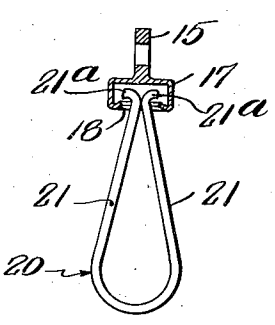
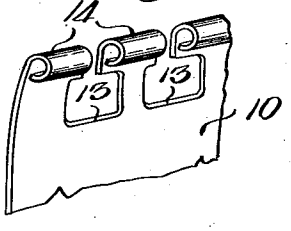


Fig. 5



Inventor:
Robert C. Legat
by Roberts Cushman & Woodbury
his Attys

Patented Sept. 14, 1937 2,093,326

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,093,326

KEY SUPPORT

Robert C. Legat, New Britain, Conn., assignor to G. E. Prentice Manufacturing Company, New Britain, Conn., a corporation of Connecticut

Application June 5, 1936, Serial No. 83,658

3 Claims. (Cl. 70—456)

This invention relates to an improved key supporting arrangement particularly adapted to be employed in key cases, for example, of the conventional leather type. More particularly, the present invention affords an arrangement to facilitate the individual removal of key hangers from the supporting plate and case when desired. Often the user of a key case prefers to remove certain hangers with the associated keys so that only a few keys are retained with the case, thus permitting the latter to be more compact and more conveniently carried in the pocket or handbag. Moreover, it is sometimes desirable to interchange the position of the keys and hangers in the case or to replace a broken or damaged hanger.

The present invention particularly affords a simple, inexpensive arrangement permitting the removal of any selected hanger when desired, but ordinarily arranged so that the hangers are securely retained upon the support. Furthermore, such means may be arranged so that the detachable connection between the hanger and support also is normally effective in locking the key upon the hanger, the removal of the hanger from the support permitting the key to be removed from the hanger or permitting an empty hanger to receive a key.

To permit these desirable results, the upper end of the hanger may be detachably connected to an individual support which in turn is pivotally connected to the retaining plate. For example, the hanger may be of symmetrical construction, having the upper ends of its two legs provided with outturned end portions which normally engage an annular retaining flange on the support. These legs are formed of resilient wire so that they may be distorted inwardly to permit the hanger to be removed from the support. Thus when the hanger is in normal position the key is locked in the hanger and the latter is held on the support. The connection afforded by the outturned ends of the hanger legs and the annular flange of the support permits a pivotal movement of the hanger about the axis of the support and also permits a limited swinging movement in planes extending radially from said axis. Thus the novel connecting arrangement provided by the present invention not only permits the ready disconnection of the hanger from the support and the locking of the key on the hanger, but also permits a limited universal movement of the hanger relative to the support and retaining plate. Accordingly considerable freedom of movement of any individual key relative to the hanger is afforded, thus facilitating the convenience of the device.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of my improved key hanger assembly, showing the same secured to a conventional enclosing case, the latter being in its open position and certain of the hangers being omitted, a key being shown as supported by one of the hangers;

Fig. 2 is a sectional detail indicated by line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional detail taken on a plane at right angles to the plane of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a similar view but with the hanger shown distorted to the shape which it possesses when it is about to be removed from the support; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged isometric view of a portion of the supporting plate.

The accompanying drawing may be referred to as presenting a preferred exemplification of the present invention, the numeral 1 designating a conventional key case which may be formed of leather or the like. This case is provided with an intermediate portion to which a supporting or retaining plate 10 is secured by fastening means such as rivets 11. This plate has a generally planar body portion with cutout portions 13 of generally rectangular shape adjoining its upper margin. Above these cutout portions the edge of the sheet metal of the plate is bent into a cylindrical or bead-like portion which is divided into bead-like sections 14 by slots disposed in alignment with the intermediate portions of the rectangular openings 13. A pintle wire 16 is secured in these bead-like sections of the plate.

The hanger supports have eye portions 15 through which the pintle pin 16 extends (Fig. 3). Each eye portion may be welded to or integrally connected to a cup-like retaining part 17, the latter being provided with an inturned and slightly upturned annular flange 18 surrounding a central opening at the bottom of the support. The hangers 20 may be of symmetrical form, each having similar legs 21 inclining upwardly toward each other and having their lower ends connected to provide a conventional key supporting wire loop. The extremities of the hanger legs are turned outwardly, as designated by reference characters 21^a, and in their normal positions these portions of the hanger engage the annular flange 18 of the corresponding support (Fig. 3), the resiliency of the hanger tending to hold the upper ends of its legs apart.

When it is desired to remove a hanger from

the corresponding hanger support either to permit a key to be received by the hanger or to permit the removal of a key, or for any other desired purpose, the upper ends of the hanger legs are pressed toward each other to occupy the position shown in Fig. 4, while the corresponding support may conveniently be held against the surface of the casing 1 which is exposed by the corresponding opening 13 in the retaining plate. When the legs of the hanger are pressed together and the parts occupy the relative position shown in Fig. 4, the outturned ends 21ª of the legs may be removed through the opening provided by the annular flange 18, thus permitting the hanger to be detached. Obviously the hanger may be replaced in a similar manner.

Since each hanger support is pivotally mounted on the pintle pin 16 and may swing freely about the same and since the outturned portions 21ª of each hanger may rotate freely in the corresponding recessed portion of the support, considerable freedom of movement is afforded between the hangers and the supporting plate. Furthermore, the portions 21ª of the hanger preferably do not have a height as great as that of the recess which receives the same so that a limited swinging movement of the hanger relative to the support is also permitted, thus enhancing the facility of movement of the key relative to the supporting plate. In other words, not only may the support itself swing relative to the retaining plate, but the hanger may turn about the axis of the cup-like portion of the support 17 and may have a limited swinging movement in radial planes extending from said axis.

It is furthermore evident that the arrangement of the openings 13 in effect affords recesses in which the back portions of the cup-like parts 17 of the hanger supports may normally be received, thus reducing the effective thickness of the key case while in use and tending to hold the hangers more or less apart. It may furthermore be noted that the upper part of the generally planar portion of the plate 10 is bent outwardly so that its beaded portion is slightly spaced from the leather case 1, (Figs. 2 and 5). Thus the eyes 15 of the supports do not necessarily engage the upper edge of the case or tend to press the same outwardly as might be the case were the body portion of the plate exactly planar.

It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only and that this invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A key supporting assembly for a key case or the like comprising a supporting plate having spaced beaded portions at its upper edge and a planar body portion, a continuous pintle pin supported by said beaded portions and extending therebetween, said body portion having openings communicating with the spaces between the beaded portions, hanger supports having parts pivotally mounted on the pin between the beaded portions of the plate, said supports having recessed portions normally extending into the openings in said body portion, and hangers having parts interfitting with the recessed portions of the hanger supports.

2. A key supporting assembly for a key case or the like comprising a supporting plate having spaced beaded portions at its upper edge and a planar body portion, a continuous pintle pin supported by said beaded portions and extending therebetween, said body portion having openings communicating with the spaces between the beaded portions, hanger supports having parts pivotally mounted on the pin between the beaded portions of the plate, said supports having recessed portions normally extending into the openings in said body portion, each of said recessed portions providing a recess with an opening at its lower end, and hangers having resilient leg portions with their upper ends normally interfitting with the recessed portions of the supports, said legs being capable of being distorted to permit the removal of the hangers from the supports.

3. A key supporting assembly for a key case or the like, comprising a supporting plate having a beaded upper margin and a planar body portion, hanger supports having upper parts pivotally connected to the beaded margin of the supporting plate, each of said supports having a recessed portion providing an opening at the bottom of the support and affording an annular flange surrounding the opening, hangers having resilient leg portions with their upper ends outturned and normally fitting over the annular flanges of the supports, the legs of each hanger being capable of distortion toward each other to permit the removal of the hangers from the supports, said supporting plate having a plurality of openings below its beaded upper margin into which the recessed portions of the hanger supports normally extend.

ROBERT C. LEGAT.