Dec. 15, 1931. W. E. EDWARDS 1,837,151

KEY CONTAINER

Filed April 9, 1929

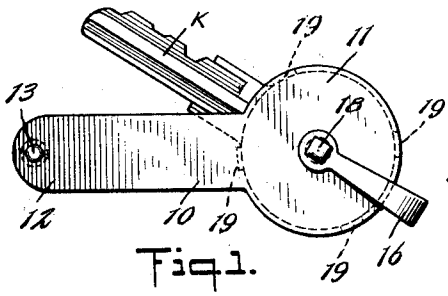


Fig.1.

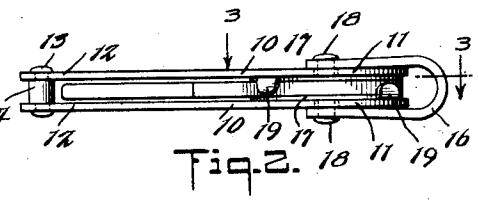


Fig.2.

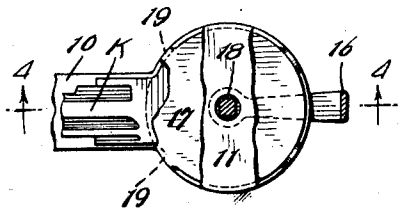


Fig.3.

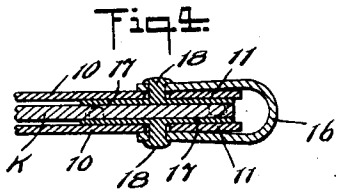


Fig.4.

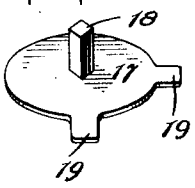


Fig.5.

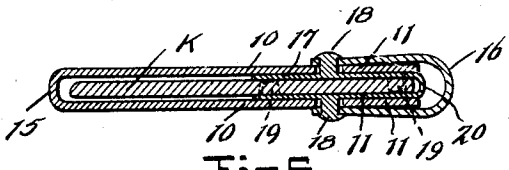


Fig.6.

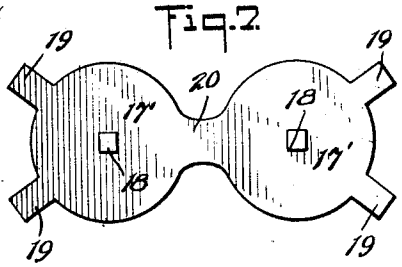


Fig.7.

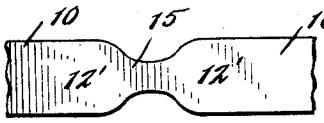


Fig.8.

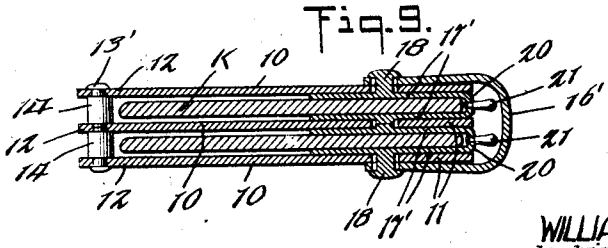


Fig.9.

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Patented Dec. 15, 1931

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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KEY CONTAINER

Application filed April 9, 1929. Serial No. 353,786.

My invention relates to key containers and particularly containers which are formed of plates which hold one or more keys in a flat position between them.

Among the objects of my invention may be mentioned the provision of a novel, simple and inexpensive key container which will serve to contain a key, and at the same time permit easy turning of the key out of the container; the provision of such an article, which will be both useful and ornamental; the provision of such an article which may be attached to a watch chain as is a knife and which may be used for advertising purposes. Other objects will appear from a further reading of the present specification.

Certain forms of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the invention with the key partially pivoted out of the casing,

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the invention with the key in place within the casing,

Fig. 3 is a broken plan view of the container and key, some of the parts being shown in section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 to show the relation of certain parts,

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3,

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the discs,

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of a modified form of the invention,

Fig. 7 is a plan view of two of the discs employed in the form of key container illustrated in Fig. 6,

Fig. 8 is a fragmental plan view illustrating how the toe parts of the plates illustrated in Fig. 6 may be connected together, and

Fig. 9 is a longitudinal section of a key container adapted for use with a plurality of keys.

The invention consists primarily in providing a key container, means for pivotally confining a key therein, and lever means external to the container for turning the key shank out of and into the container. I prefer to provide a disc or discs for pivotally confining the key in the container as will be subsequently more fully described. By pivotally confining the key I mean restraining the key against any motion with respect to the container except a turning motion about a pivot.

In the drawings there are shown two or more like plates 10—10, having head parts 11 and toe parts 12. The toe parts are rigidly connected together, for instance by a rivet 13 and spacer 14 as shown in Fig. 2. The head parts of the plates are not connected together, but are prevented from separation, for example, by a bale 16, as best illustrated in Fig. 2.

Between the plates a key K is pivotally confined, but instead of passing a rivet or like part through the eye of the key its head is confined between a pair of discs 17, 17 which are pivoted between the head parts 11 of two adjacent plates.

The discs 17 are formed as illustrated in Fig. 5, each disc having a lug 18 centrally disposed of one of its surfaces extending perpendicularly therefrom and also two ears 19, 19 for a purpose which will later appear. I do not restrict myself, however, to but two ears on the discs.

The discs may be used as illustrated for instance in Fig. 4. As there shown, two discs are placed between the two plates 10—10 and the lugs 18 are passed through openings disposed centrally of the heads of the plates. These openings are of sufficient size to permit the discs to turn with the lugs 18 projecting through the openings. The bale end, however, has an opening in it which is square, and of only sufficient size to permit a lug to pass through it. The bale 16 is now put in place, an end of the bale being passed over each lug 18 and pressed tightly against the head of the adjacent plate. The ends of the lugs 18 which extend beyond the bale ends are now pressed down until the bale ends are held firmly against the heads of the plates and are further pressed downwardly until they assume the position illustrated in Fig. 4. The lugs being square in section and the openings in the bale ends being also square, the result is, of course, that the discs within the container will turn as the bale is turned.

If a key head of approximately the size of the plate heads and of the discs be now placed between the discs and if the ears 19 be bent over the key head, (see Fig. 2) the key may be pivotally confined within the container and the key shank will be turned out of and into the container as the bale is turned. In order more closely to confine the key between the ears and to cause the former to turn with the disc, I prefer to space two ears 19 upon one of the discs at such a distance that their edges will bear against the shank of the key where or approximately where it joins the key head. Thus there will be little or no pivotal play between the key and this disc.

It will be obvious that a key may be easily confined in or removed from confinement by the key container. In the first case it is merely necessary to slide the key head between the discs and bend two or more ears over its edges as indicated in Fig. 2. To remove the key only the ears adjacent the key shank need be bent away from the key head, whereupon the key will slide easily out of the container.

The container may be made of any suitable material.

Of course the container and all of the parts need not be constructed precisely in accordance with the description which has just been given to illustrate the invention. Many variations in the details of construction will naturally occur to those interested in such articles.

For instance the toe parts of the plates need not be connected by means of a rivet and spacer, but may be continuously formed in a bight 15, as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 8.

Further, the discs may be connected together by a web 20, as illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 9. The bale need not be used to turn the discs as has been heretofore described, and as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6; but the hole in the bale ends may be made larger than the lugs 18, a handle 21 may be fastened to the web 20, as illustrated in Fig. 9, and the discs may be turned by means of this handle. Thus lever means other than the bale may be provided external to the container for turning the key shank out of and into the container. The bale then still serves for connection of the key case to another part, as to the end of a watch chain.

Finally, it is not necessary that but a single key be confined by the container. A plurality of plates and a plurality of keys may coact quite as well. Three plates may be used with two keys, for example, as illustrated in Fig. 9. Here the discs 17^1 are shown as connected according to Fig. 7. The exterior lugs 18 pass freely through the bale 16^1, and the bale and the discs are free to rotate with respect to each other. Handles 21 fastened to the webs 20 between the pairs of discs permit of selective displacement of the key shanks out of the container, while the bale prevents spreading of the head part of the container.

Other forms of the invention may be imagined. With the understanding, therefore, that the invention is susceptible of embodiment in various forms within the proper scope of my concept.

I claim:—

1. A key container, a pair of discs pivoted on opposite sides within said container, means for confining a key head between said discs, and lever means for turning said discs to pivot the key shank out of and into the container.

2. A key container, a pair of discs pivoted on opposite sides within said container, ears on the periphery of said discs adapted to be bent over an edge of a key head and thus confine the key head between said discs, and lever means for turning said discs to pivot the key shank cut of and into the container.

3. A key container, a pair of discs within said container, a lug centrally disposed of one surface of each disc extending perpendicularly therefrom through an opening in the container, ears on the periphery of each disc adapted to be bent over an edge of a key head and thus confine the key head between said discs, and lever means engageable with said lugs for turning said discs to pivot the key shank out of and into the container.

4. A key container, a pair of discs within said container, a lug centrally disposed of one surface of each disc extending perpendicularly therefrom through an opening in the container, ears on the periphery of each disc adapted to be bent over an edge of a key head and thus confine the key head between said discs, and a bale having its ends engageable with said lugs for turning said discs to pivot the key shank out of and into the container.

5. A key container comprising two like plates joined together at one end, and a bale preventing separation of the parts at the unjoined end.

6. A key container substantially as claimed in claim 5, in combination with a pair of discs between the plates at the unjoined end, and lugs extending perpendicularly from the outer face of each disc through a hole in the adjacent plate fastened to the adjacent bale end.

7. A key container comprising a plurality of plates each having a head part and a toe part, spacers separating the toe parts of the plates, a pair of discs pivoted between each pair of head parts, and ears upon said discs for confining a key head between each pair of discs, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

WILLIAM E. EDWARDS.