Feb. 15, 1944. W. I. JONES 2,342,078

KEY-CARRYING DEVICE

Filed April 9, 1940

FIG. 1.

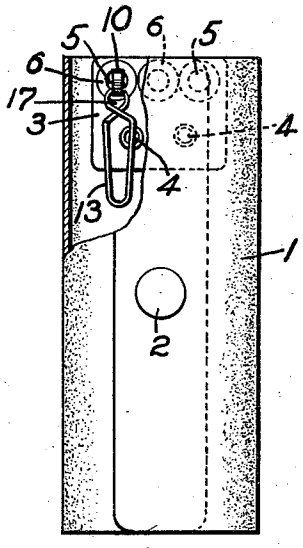


FIG. 2.

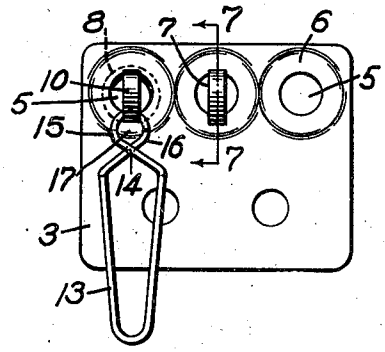


FIG. 9.



FIG. 6.

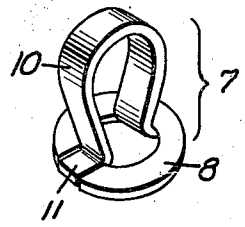


FIG. 10.

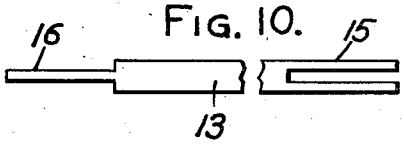


FIG. 3.

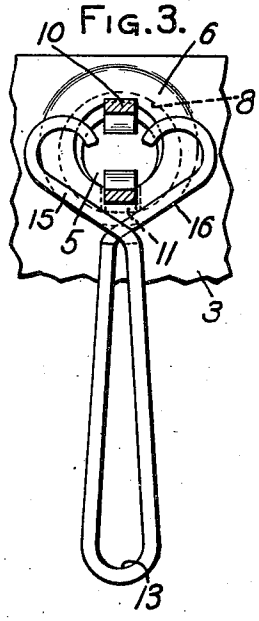


FIG. 7.

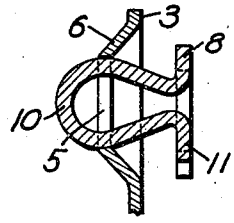


FIG. 4.

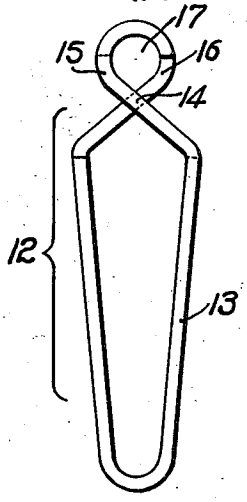


FIG. 5.

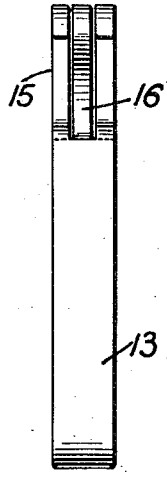
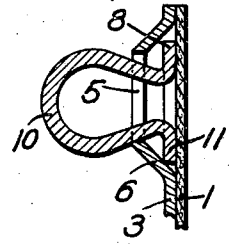


FIG. 8.



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2,342,078

KEY-CARRYING DEVICE

Walter I. Jones, Belmont, Mass., assignor to United-Carr Fastener Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., a corporation of Massachusetts

Application April 9, 1940, Serial No. 328,728

6 Claims. (Cl. 70—456)

My invention aims to provide improvements in key-carrying devices such as are commonly called key cases and which include an outer casing of leather or the like within which is located one or more elements for carrying lock keys and any other suitable devices.

Reference is hereby made to my divisional application Serial No. 476,021, filed February 15, 1943.

In the drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of my invention:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a conventional three-hook case with a portion thereof broken away to show a part of the key-supporting means in elevation;

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the hardware of the key case in various stages of assembly of the parts;

Fig. 3 is a view showing a partial portion of the supporting plate, a section of one of the key-holder supporting members and a key-holder squeezed to a position for assembly with or disassembly from the key-holder supporting member;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged side elevation of my improved key-holder in normal position;

Fig. 5 is an edge view of the key-holder shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the key-holder supporting member per se;

Fig. 7 is a an enlarged section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 2 showing the key-holder supporting member in the position of being snapped through an aperture in the plate;

Fig. 8 is a section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 2 showing the parts in final assembly;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of the blank from which the key-holder supporting member is made; and

Fig. 10 is a plan view of the blank with a portion broken away, from which the key-holder is formed.

My invention relates to that type of key container device which is so constructed that the key-holder together with any key, keys or other devices carried thereby may be removed from the part that supports the key-holder. Applicant is aware of the fact that such devices are not broadly new but he believes that his improved construction is much more simple to operate and less expensive in construction, with other decided advantages hereinafter to be described, and that he has made a distinct patentable advance in this particular art.

Referring to the specific form of my invention, I have shown a standard type of key case cover 1 of the folded over flap construction held together by a snap fastener 2 of any suitable construction. The case 1 may be of leather, cloth or any suitable material. Within the case and preferably at the upper portion thereof I have attached a plate member 3 as by means of rivets 4 substantially as indicated in Fig. 1. This plate member 3 may be provided with any number of apertures 5 preferably surrounded by bosses 6, these bosses extending toward the front face of the plate as shown in Figs. 2 and 7. Thus far what I have described is old, but from this point on I believe my invention is new.

It has been the usual custom to provide a key-holder supporting member extending through an aperture 5 in the plate 3 in swivel engagement with the plate. The construction of my key-holder supporting member 7 and the method of assembling it with the plate 3 is new so far as I am aware. As illustrated in Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9, my key-holder supporting member 7 is formed from sheet metal blanked out, as shown in Fig. 9, to provide a generally circular base portion 8 and a long tongue 9 connected to an inner circle of the base and formed to provide a loop 10 and a foot portion 11. The foot portion 11 more or less completes the ring-like base, as shown in Fig. 6, and the loop portion 10 is made substantially in the form of a stud head so that it can be snapped through an aperture 5 from the rear side of the plate 3 as shown in Fig. 7. As the loop is forced through the aperture it is compressed (Fig. 7) since it is of greater distance across at one point than the diameter of the aperture 5. Then as it is forced all the way through the aperture (Fig. 8) the loop 10 resumes its normal size and is thereby held in assembly with the plate and the ring-like base 8 fits into the boss 6, as best illustrated in Fig. 8. Since the key-holder supporting member is formed from spring metal the loop portion is yieldable, particularly since the foot 11 may move inwardly and outwardly quite freely. This construction of key-holder supporting member has the advantage of being light, strong, very easy to assemble with the plate, and therefore inexpensive, and provides a very smooth swivel action relative to the plate 3.

My key-holder 12 is of improved construction and is formed from a single piece of sheet spring metal. It is preferably formed from ribbon stock and the blanks are punched out substantially as shown in Fig. 10 in such a manner as to leave a forked portion at one end and a tongue at the other end, the tongue coming out of the next

forked portion. The blank shown in Fig. 10 is bent at the mid-portion to form a loop 13 for one or more keys or the like and the ends are bent toward each other so as to cross as at 14 (Fig. 4) and finally the end portions are formed into hooks one of which I will describe as a forked hook 15 and the other as a single hook 16. These hooks cooperate in such a way that they form an eye 17 to receive the loop 10 of the key-holder supporting member 7. My primary purpose is to provide a key-holder having two hook-shaped portions which may be moved relative to each other preferably by manipulation of the loop 13 so that the key-holder may be easily and quickly engaged with or disengaged from the key-holder supporting member. In the specific construction that I have illustrated wherein portions of the key-holder are crossed it is merely necessary to squeeze the loop portion 13 thus forcing the hooks 15 and 16 to assume positions as illustrated in Fig. 3. This will permit the loop 10 of the key-holder supporting member to pass between the ends of the hooks as illustrated and when the squeezing pressure is released the hooks will pass through the loop 10 and form an eye 17 in swivel engagement with the loop 10, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus the key-holder may swing relative to the loop 10 and the loop 10 may turn in the aperture 5 relative to the plate 3 so that when a key carried by a key-holder is grasped it may be presented to the key-hole in a lock without it or the hardware of the case becoming tangled.

The crossing of portions of the key-holder, as well as the provision of the forked hook 15, is important. In the first place, if the crossed portion 14 is not provided on a key-holder of substantially applicant's construction the holder may become inverted on the loop 10 of the key-holder supporting member 7. This crossed portion together with the forked formation of one of the hooks prevents such inverted relation due to the fact that a complete eye 17 is formed with no opportunity for the loop 10 to enter the loop 13. Another important advantage is the interlocking feature which takes place between the forked hook 15 and the single hook 16 as shown in Fig. 5. This interlocking prevents any appreciable movement of the hook members flatwise relative to each other thus preventing the key-holder from becoming accidentally unfastened by any twisting action that may take place between the hooks 15 and 16 and the loop 10 when a key on the key-holder is being manipulated relative to a lock. If this interlocking is not provided it is possible for a twisting action to spread the hooks flatwise sufficiently to permit the loop 10 to slip out between them.

So far I have explained the advantages of my simple construction with respect to assembly, etc. It should also be noted that it is a very easy matter to assemble and disassemble a key relative to a key-holder. It is only necessary to spread the loop 13 of the key-holder 12 to force the hooks 15 and 16 apart so that one of the hooks may be inserted through the usual hole in a key and while the hooks are spread apart the key may pass down onto the loop 13. To disassemble the key from the key-holder it is merely necessary to hold the loop 13 in one hand and pull straight out on the end of the key with the other hand. During this action the key will automatically spread the hooks and it will become disassembled. Another and very simple way of assembling the key is to hold the loop portion 13 between the thumb and fore-finger of one hand and then with the key held in the other hand the end thereof near the hole in the key is pressed upon the back of one of the hooks of the forked hook 15 while the hook 16 is lifted thus spreading the hooks apart and permitting one of the hooks to enter the aperture in the key. It should, of course, be understood that when the key is being assembled with or disassembled from the key-holder that the key-holder is disassembled from the key-holder supporting member.

My invention is particularly desirable because a key-holder and its key or keys may be easily and quickly removed without disturbing any of the others as for instance when it is desired to loan the key or keys to someone. It is also important and desirable because it is easier to assemble the keys with a new case or disassemble them from a worn out one than is possible with a conventional type of hook which has been in common use and which is so stiff as to make the assembly and disassembly a difficult task. Last, but not least, the hardware parts, as shown in Fig. 2, are usually assembled at the point of manufacture and shipped to a leather goods manufacturer; therefore my improved constructions are so simple that the cost of the assembly of these parts has been considerably reduced over other well known types of constructions.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of my invention I do not wish to be limited thereby because the scope thereof is best defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, crossed means connecting said hooks with said key-carrying portion whereby said hooks are spread away from each other when said key-carrying portion is squeezed thereby to permit ready engagement with and disengagement from a key-holder supporting member, and interlocking means provided as a part of the device to prevent relative movement of the hooks at right angles to the plane of the hooks.

2. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, crossed means connecting said hooks with said key-carrying portion whereby said hooks are spread away from each other when said key-carrying portion is squeezed thereby to permit ready engagement with and disengagement from a key-holder supporting member, one of said hooks having laterally spaced portions adjacent its free end and the other of said hooks having an end portion interlocking with said first hook between said spaced portions for the purpose described.

3. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, crossed means connecting said hooks with said key-carrying portion whereby said hooks are spread away from each other when said key-carrying portion is squeezed thereby to permit ready engagement with and disengagement from a key-holder supporting member, and one of said hooks having laterally spaced portions adjacent its free end, the other of said hooks having an end portion interlocking with said first hook between said spaced portions and lying substantially in the plane of said spaced portions.

4. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, interlocking means provided as a part of said key-holder to prevent relative

movement of said hooks at right angles to the plane of said hooks while said hooks are relatively movable in the plane of said hooks for engagement with or disengagement from said key-holder supporting member.

5. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, interlocking means provided as a part of said key-holder to prevent relative movement of said hooks at right angles to the plane of said hooks while said hooks are relatively movable in the plane of said hooks for engagement with or disengagement from said key-holder supporting member, said interlocking means being in the form of a forked hook and the other hook shaped to fit into the fork of the forked hook.

6. A key-holder having a key-carrying portion, a pair of opposed hooks for engagement with a supporting member, interlocking means provided as a part of said key-holder to prevent relative movement of said hooks at right angles to the plane of said hooks while said hooks are relatively movable in the plane of said hooks for engagement with or disengagement from a key-holder supporting member, said locking means being in the form of a forked hook and the other hook shaped to fit into the work of the forked hook, said key-holder being formed from a single piece of spring sheet metal whereby said hooks may be moved away from each other when being engaged with or disengagad from said key-holder supporting member and will spring toward each other upon release thereby to cooperate in forming an eye at one end of said holder through which a supporting member passes.

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