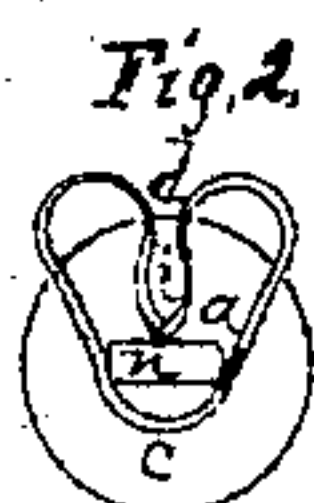


J. Lawrence,
Button.

No. 44,771.

Patented Oct. 18, 1864.



Witnesses.

Chas. A. Duerksen
Rufus Sanford.

James Lawrence
Inventor.
By his atty
John E. Earle

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES LAWRENCE, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO
MILO PECK, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUTTON-KEYS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,771, dated October 18, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES LAWRENCE, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Protected Button-Key; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, the key complete, and in Figs. 2 and 3 the manner of using the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in keys for securing metal-eyed buttons to clothing, &c.; and it consists in the peculiar manner of bending or forming the key so that the ends or points are protected to prevent them catching in or tearing the clothing or otherwise inconveniencing the wearer.

In all button-keys now in use (except it be the common button-ring) the ends are exposed and cause no small annoyance to the wearer by catching in the clothing, which trouble is much increased by the loose manner in which the keys, owing to their form, hang in the button-eye. These objections are entirely removed in my invention.

In a machine constructed for the purpose similar to the machine used for forming hooks and-eyes, and other articles similar formed from wire, the wire is cut into proper lengths and bent into the form substantially as shown in Fig. 1, the two ends *a* turned into

the center to form the end of the button-key, protected by the last bevel *c*, the two ends of the wire are bent to form a swell, as at *i*, and contracted again as at *d*, so that the ends close together, passing through the button-eye to pass the swell and expand as soon as the contracted part is in the eye.

In Fig. 2 the key is represented as set over a button-eye, *n*, as in the act of insertion; in Fig. 3, as forced down or in through the eye to secure the button.

The peculiar triangular form of my button-key prevents its turning or hanging loosely in the eye, and the ends are so perfectly protected by the last bend that the points cannot catch or otherwise inconvenience the wearer, while the construction is so simple that the manner of attaching them is seen at a glance.

To remove the key simply press the key out from the position in Fig. 3 to that in Fig. 2, and from their peculiar form they are not liable to be bent out of shape in using.

Having, therefore, described my invention, I do not broadly claim a button-key formed by curving a single piece of wire; but

What I do claim as a new article of manufacture, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The within-described protected button-key.

JAMES LAWRENCE.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARL,
RUFUS SANFORD.