

G. J. KIRBY.

KEY RING.

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932,787.

Patented Aug. 31, 1909.

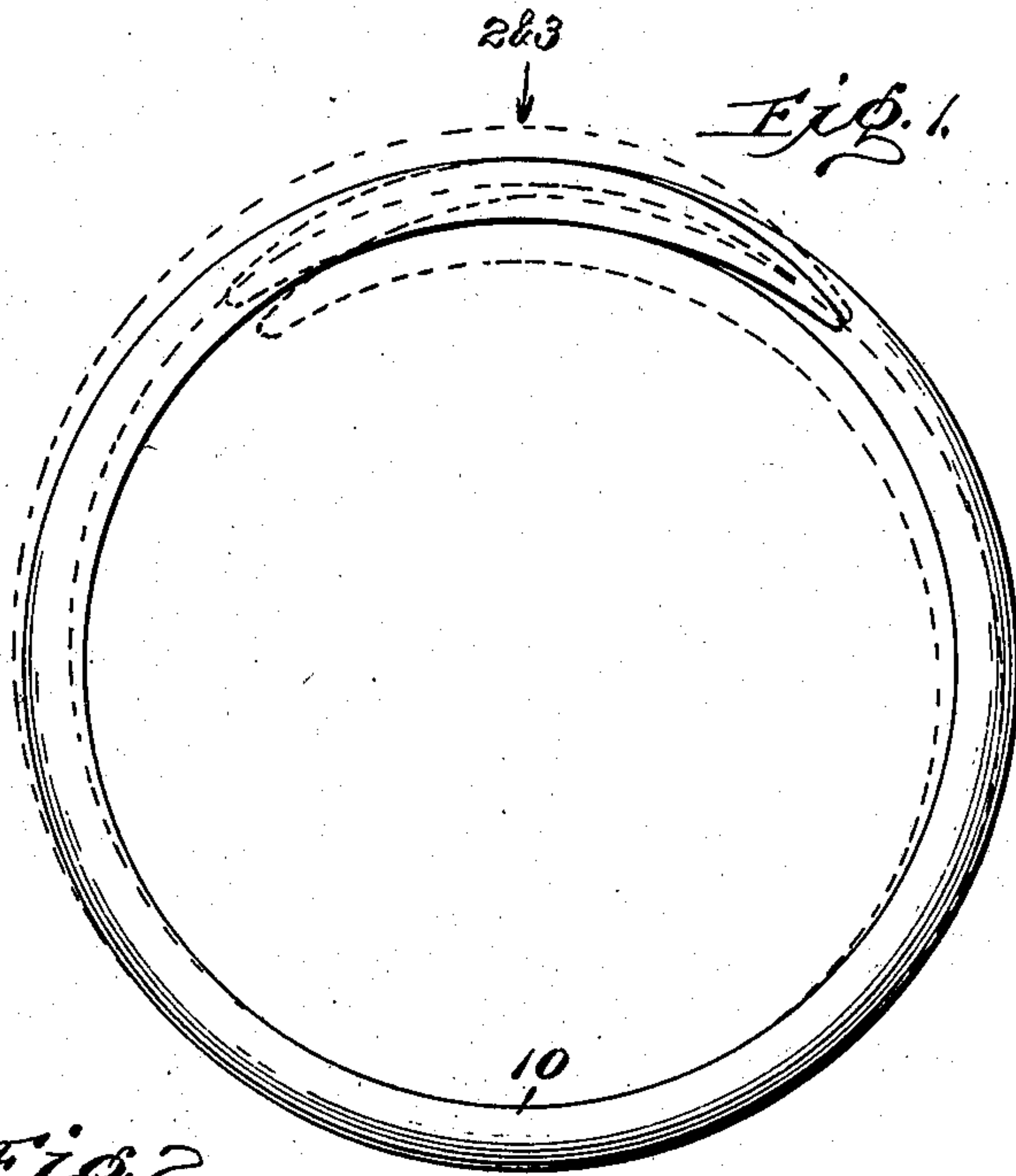


Fig. 2

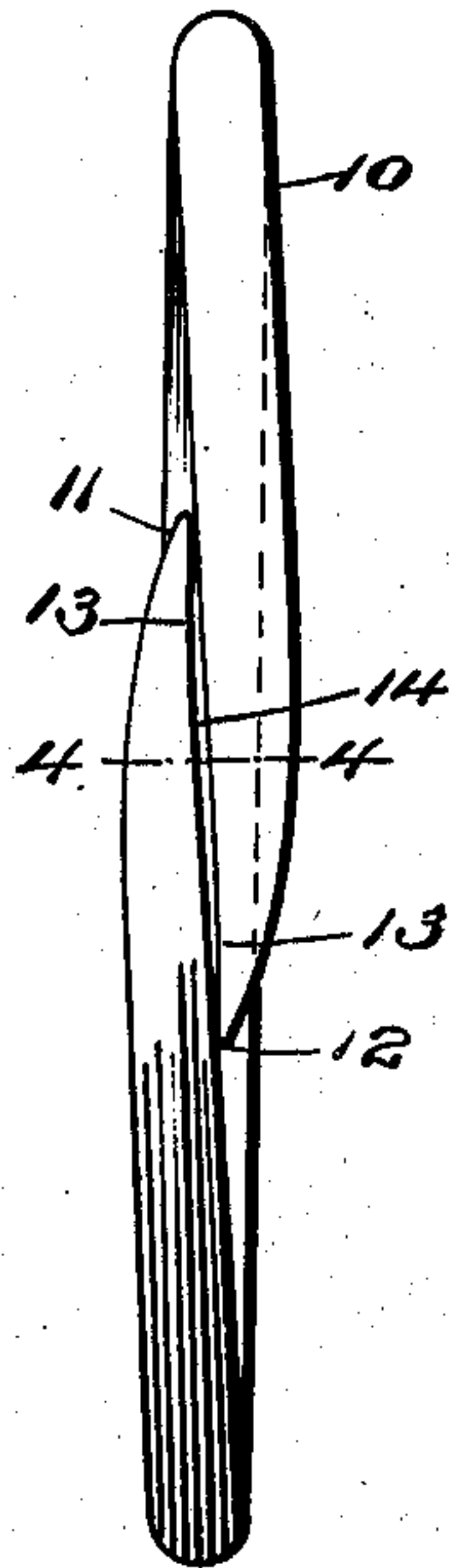


Fig. 4



Fig. 3

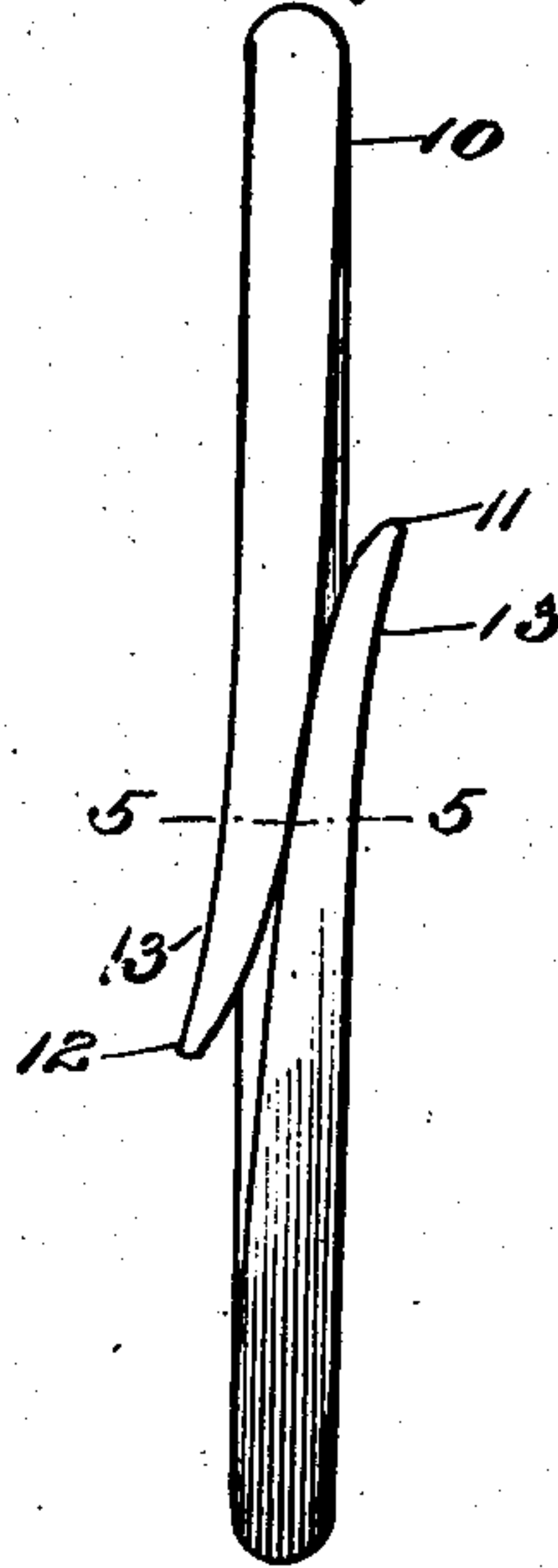
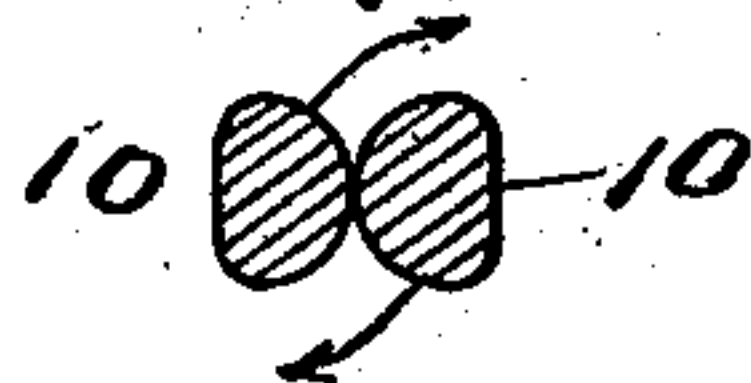


Fig. 5



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KEY-RING.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE J. KIRBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Willimantic, in the county of Windham and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Key-Rings; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to key rings and has for an object to provide a ring embodying new and improved features of convenience, reliability, economy and strength.

A further object of the invention is to provide in a key ring means for maintaining the ring in retaining position with the greatest convenience for changing the same to releasing position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises certain novel constructions, combinations and arrangements of parts, as will be hereafter fully described and claimed.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a view of the improved key ring in side elevation. Fig. 2 is a view in edge elevation of the key ring in retaining or locked position as taken on the arrow of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view of the key ring in edge elevation similar to Fig. 2 except that the device is shown in unlocked or releasing position. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view through the overlapped ends taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2 and in unlocked or retaining position. Fig. 5 is a transverse, sectional view through the overlapped ends taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3 and in unlocked or releasing position.

Like characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

The improved key ring forming the subject-matter of this application comprises a ring portion 10 composed of wire or similar resilient material and in any approved form here shown as circular. The ends of the wire forming the ring overlap as shown particularly in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, and the ends are tapered as at 11 and 12 whereby the extremities of the overlapped ends fit snugly against the sides of the ring at some distance removed from the extremities when in locked position. To insure the extremities fitting more snugly against the sides of the ring the ends are preferably curved slightly

as shown at 13 so that in locked position there is a slight space as 14 between the respective overlapped ends and also between the extremities.

When the ring is in locked or retaining position as shown in Fig. 2 the key may be moved over the overlapped ends without interference from such ends owing to the tapered form of the extremities.

To unlock the ring or position the same in releasing condition the extremities are moved rotatably about each other as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 4 whereby the extremities of the ring are disposed in reverse relation to each other as shown in Fig. 3, and owing to the curved formation of such extremities the extremities are spaced away from the body of the ring forming a V-shaped aperture upon each side of the meeting point of such ends. It will be noted that by reason of the curvature of the extremities at 13 the said extremities flare outwardly to a greater extent than as though the curved formation were not provided.

When the extremities are disposed relative to each other as shown in Fig. 3 a key may be moved about the ring and passed between the engaging ends owing to the resilient formation of the material, but owing to the fact that the ends engage each other a key upon the ring will not be accidentally displaced therefrom, even though the ring become accidentally moved to unlocked or releasing position.

When a key has been taken off or put on with the ring in the position shown in Fig. 3 the points are again rotated about each other as indicated by the arrow in Fig. 5 to the locked position shown in Fig. 2.

It is intended to make the ring of such material that the movement of the ends about each other will be resisted with some force and with the points once disposed in locking relation to each other will not be accidentally displaced by ordinary usage of the key ring in the pocket or otherwise.

In Fig. 1 is shown in dotted lines the relative positions of the ends in the act of being rotated about each other to change from locking to unlocking position or vice versa. While in Figs. 4 and 5 arrows are shown to indicate the movement of the ends about each other it is to be understood that the ends may be moved as readily and satisfactorily in the directions opposite those indicated by the arrows.

It will be noted from the drawings that when the end portions of the key ring are in normal position, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the extremities bear against the flattened
5 sides of the said end portions and have no tendency toward springing said end portions away from each other, as it is in this manner obviated.

What I claim is:—

10 A key ring comprised of a whirl of resilient wire cylindrical in cross section throughout the major portion of its extent, the wire being bent so that its end portions overlap in either one of two relative positions,
15 the said end portions being pointed and curved laterally in opposite directions, one side of each end portion being flattened, the

said end portions being normally positioned with the pointed extremity of each end bearing against the flattened side of the other 20 producing a space between the members between the incurved points, and being adapted to be rotated one about the other to bring their convex sides in contact at points inwardly of their extremities, and with the 25 point now curved outwardly and spaced from the rounded sides of the adjacent member.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE J. KIRBY.

Witnesses:

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