Oct. 31, 1950 H. O. DAVIDSON, JR. 2,527,710

DEVICE FOR LOCKING KNIVES IN THEIR SCABBARDS

Filed Sept. 27, 1946

FIG. 1

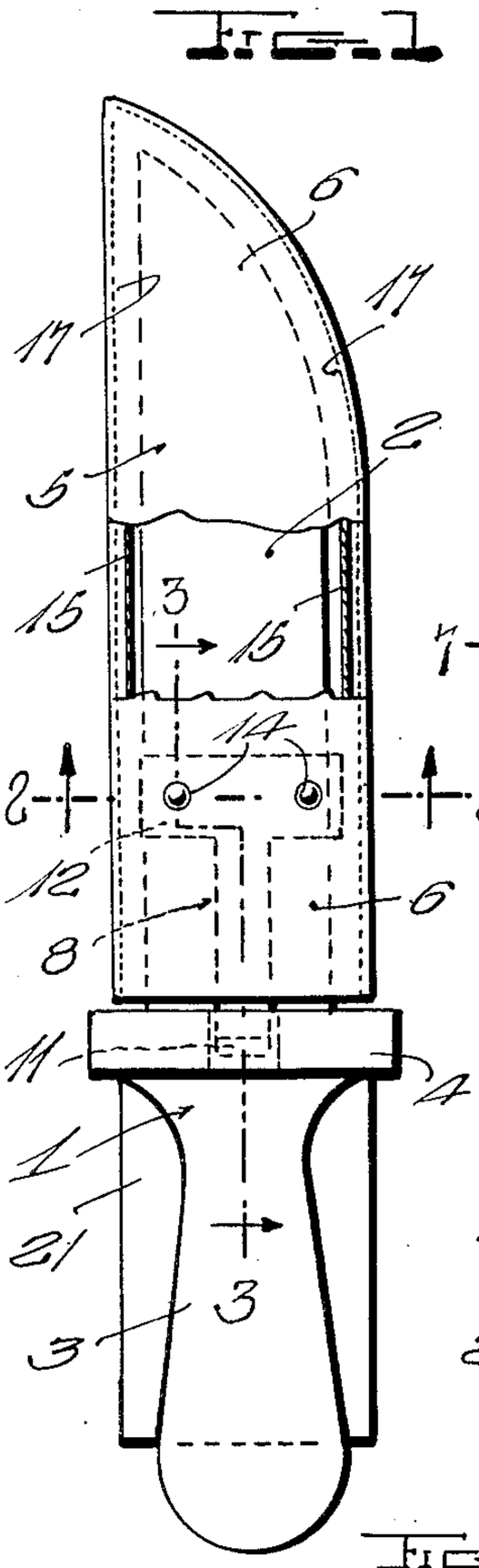


FIG. 5

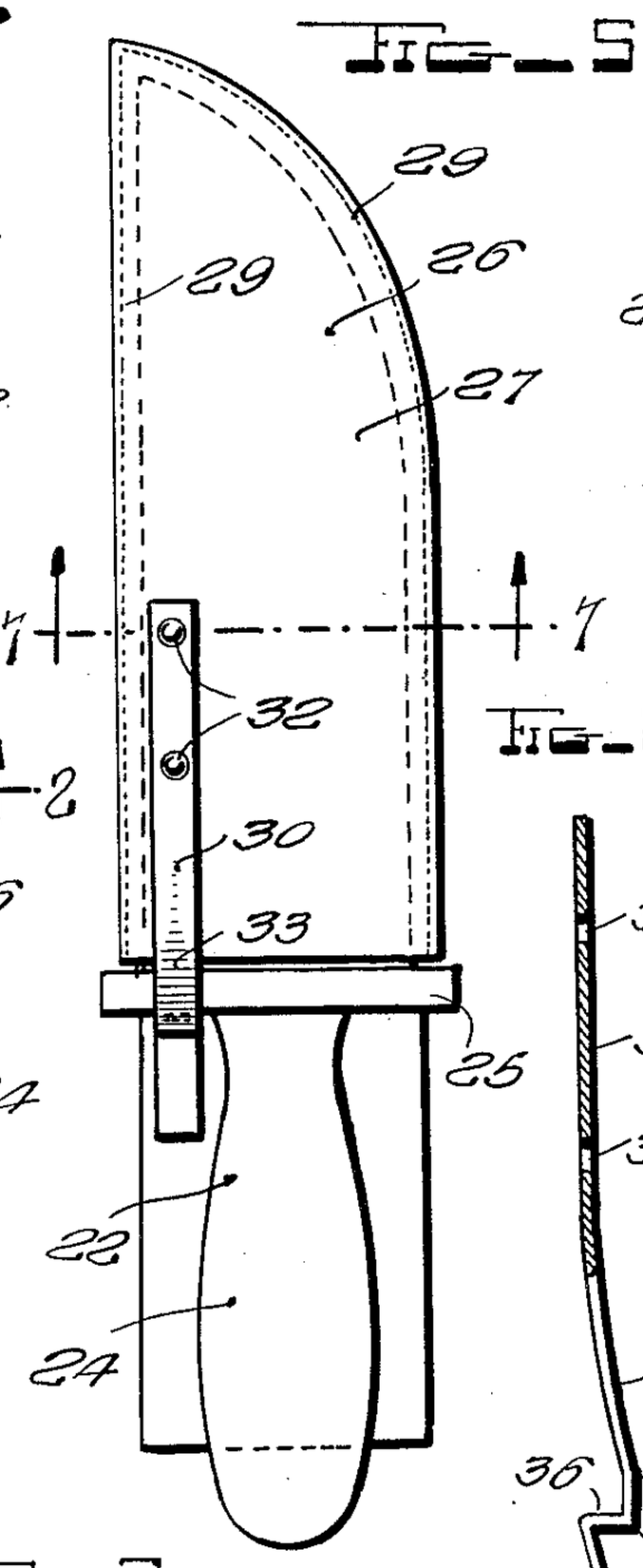


FIG. 7

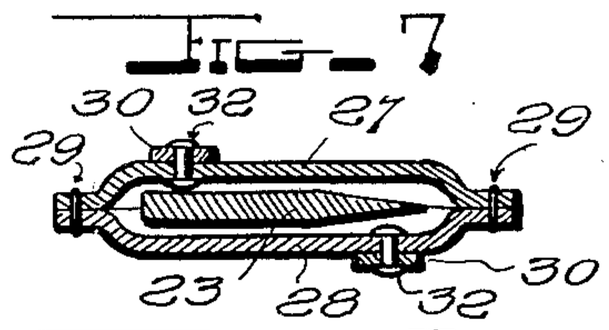


FIG. 6

FIG. 8

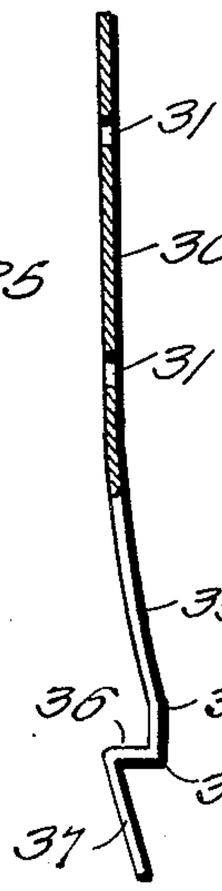


FIG. 9

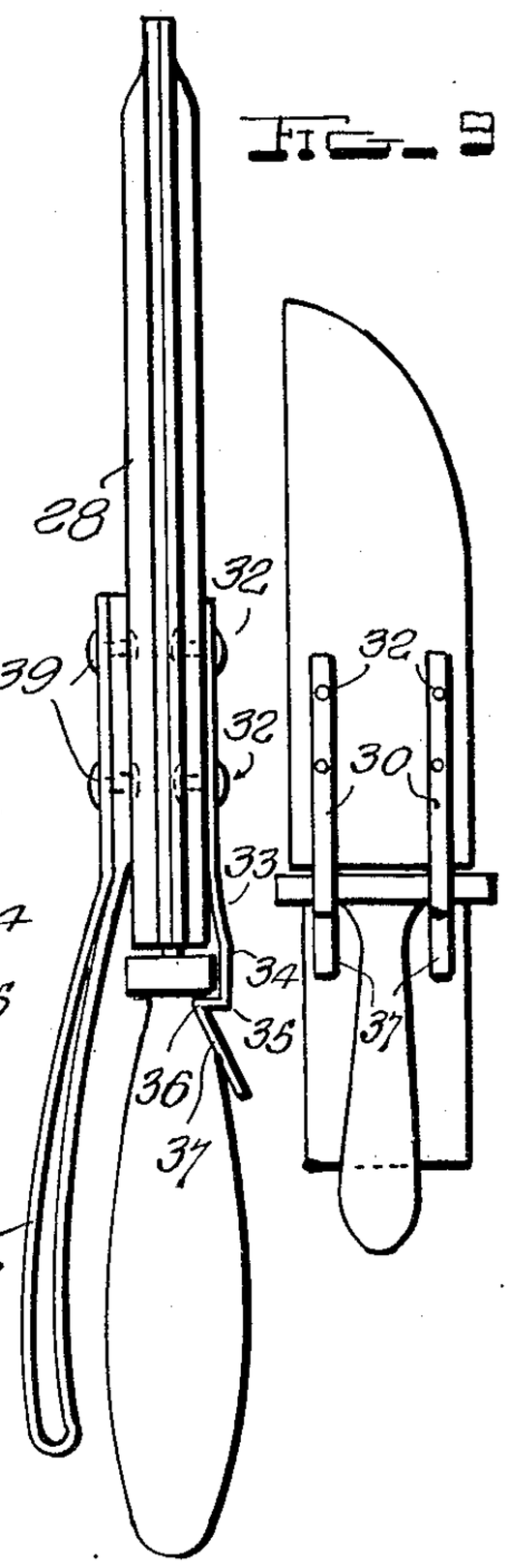


FIG. 2

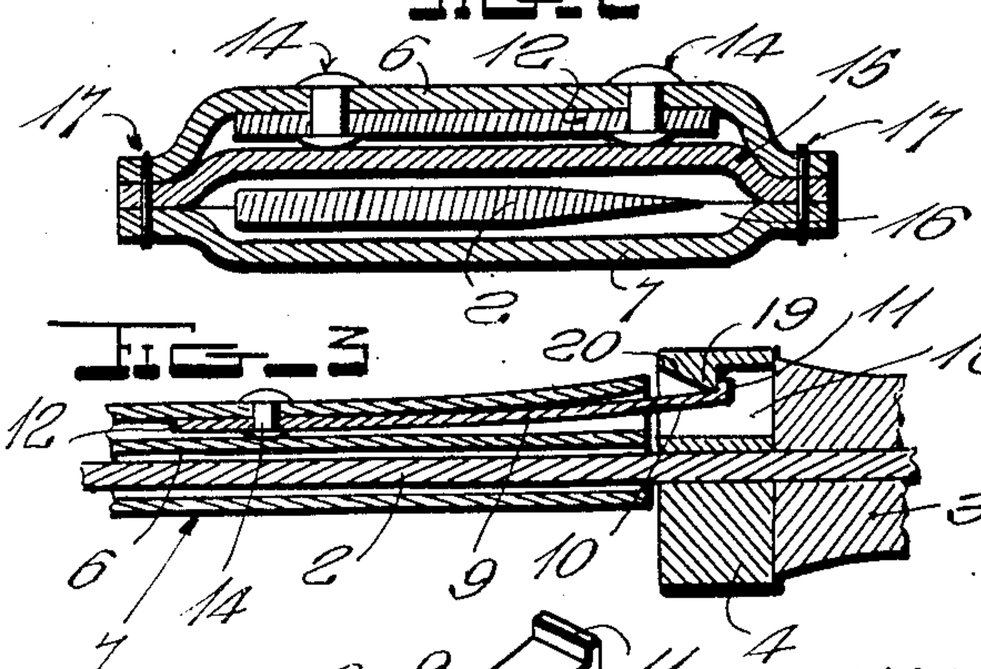
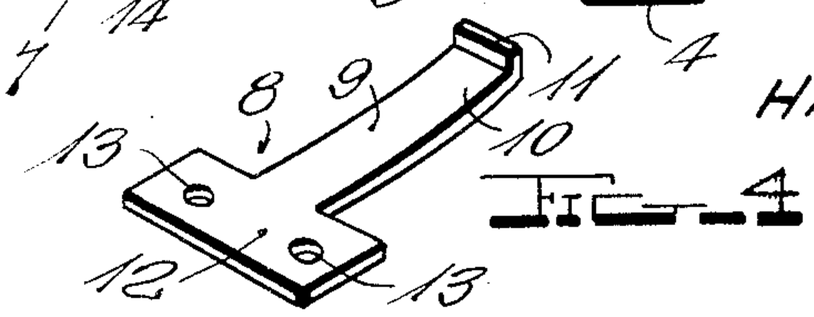


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



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DEVICE FOR LOCKING KNIVES IN THEIR SCABBARDS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 224—2)

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Generically this invention relates to a knife and scabbard or sheath therefor, but more especially it is directed to means adapted by positive action to lock the knife in the sheath until manually released, thus preventing loss of the knife.

This is a companion application to the application for Device for Locking Knives in their Scabbards, executed even date herewith.

One of the principal objects of this invention is the provision of a means for releasably securing a knife, such as a hunting, camping, or fishing knife, in its scabbard or sheath completely concealed when the knife is in the sheath and adapted to prevent accidental displacement of the knife from the scabbard with consequent loss or damage thereto.

Another important object of this invention is the provision of a flat locking or catch spring member secured within the sheath adapted to extend within the quillon or guard portion of the handle and/or hilt to automatically lock the knife upon sheathing thereof and, when in locked position adapted to be completely protected, whereby accidental release of said locking means by contacting bushes or other objects while being carried by a belt supporting medium or otherwise with consequent loss of the knife, is prevented.

A further object of this invention is the provision of another form of locking means embodying one or a pair of spring locking elements adapted to be positioned on the same side of the sheath or on opposite sides thereof for automatically and lockingly engaging the quillon upon sheathing of the knife to effect a double lock to prevent removal of the knife from the sheath unless manually released.

With these and other objects in view, which will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several figures of which:

Fig. 1 is a side view with parts broken away and in section of a sheathed knife showing my improved device in locking position.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the spring plate locking member.

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Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of locking means.

Fig. 6 is an edge view of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a horizontal section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 5 showing a locking member mounted on opposite sides of the sheath.

Fig. 8 is a view of one of the locking members partly in section.

Fig. 9 is a diagrammatic reduced side view, similar to Fig. 5, showing a pair of locking members in locking position.

In the illustrated embodiment characterizing this invention there is shown a knife 1, comprising a blade 2, a handle or hilt 3, and a quillon or guard 4, and a sheath or scabbard 5, adapted to receive blade 2 of a knife as shown in Fig. 1.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1–4, inclusive, said sheath or scabbard 5 comprises, for the purposes of description, a top or front portion 6, and a similar bottom or rear portion 7, of a configuration corresponding to that of the blade to be housed therebetween, formed of leather or other suitable material.

A locking plate 8, in the present instance, T-shaped, constructed of spring steel or other suitable material comprising a stem portion 9 which is slightly curved upwardly as at 10 and formed at its free end with a right angular bent up catch 11 and at the opposite end with a cross-head or cap portion 12 formed with a pair of openings 13. Said member 8 is secured to the under surface of top portion 6 with its free end extending slightly beyond or below the open end of sheath 5 and is attached to said member 6 by rivets 14.

Superimposed on the inner surface of portion 6 and conforming in configuration thereto is a liner 15 and which with portion 7 forms the blade receiving space or chamber 16 so that any possible contact of the knife with rivets 14 is prevented. The circumscribing laminated edges of said portions 6, 7, and liner 15, in the present instance, preferably are united by a line of stitching 17, but may be secured by lacing or otherwise. as desired.

Instead of rivets 14, if it is desired, locking member 8 may be secured to top 6 by a circumscribing row of stitching, with the exception of the free end at the mouth of the scabbard, or otherwise as desired. The quillon or guard 4 at a point in alignment with stem portion 9, when the knife is in sheathing position, is formed with an opening 18, and formed on the inner wall of said opening is an anchor catch 19 formed with a cam surface 20 so that as the knife is inserted in the sheath the lip or catch 11 of the flat plate

or locking member 8 will engage and be depressed by cam 20, and when the knife reaches the limit of its sheathing movement said lip 11 will automatically engage anchor catch 19 and lock the knife in said scabbard until manually released by pressing down on said portion 6 depressing member 9 and releasing catch 11. Therefore to lock the knife 1 in scabbard 5 it is only necessary to insert the knife to complete sheathing position wherein to automatically lock it in said sheath as will be well understood. A belt loop 21 is suitably secured to scabbard 5 and attached to the rear wall 7 in any suitable manner and by means of which the sheathed knife is carried as will be well understood.

Another form of the invention is shown in Figs. 5–9, inclusive, comprising a knife 22, including a blade 23, a handle or hilt 24, and a quillon or guard 25, and a sheath 26, said sheath comprising an upper or front portion 27, and a rear or back portion 28 conforming in configuration to the blade 23, the overlapping meeting edges of members 27 and 28 being united by a line of stitching 29.

In order to interconnect or lock the knife when attached to the sheath or scabbard, a flat spring steel catch or locking strap-like member 30 formed with openings 31 adapted to receive rivets 32 is secured by the latter to portion 27 adjacent one edge thereof. The lower end of said member 30 is slightly curved outwardly as at 33, downwardly as at 34 and inwardly as at 35 to provide the right angular catch 36 and downwardly and outwardly therefrom to form the cam finger release portion 37 so that in the course of sheathing the knife the quillon or guard 25 engages cam surface 37 forcing said catch 36 outwardly and as said knife reaches complete sheathing position catch 36 automatically engages under said guard 25 locking the knife in the sheath until manually released by moving member 37 outwardly thereby permitting withdrawal of the knife as will be well understood.

When it is desired to employ a double-lock as shown in Fig. 7, in addition to member 30 secured to portion 27 (Fig. 5), another member 30 is secured to the opposite sheathed portion 28, and when it is desired to employ a double lock on the same side of the scabbard, a pair of members 30 are secured by rivets 32 as shown in Fig. 9. A hand or belt loop 38 is secured to member 28 by rivets 39.

The operation of the different forms would seem to be sufficiently clear from the above description as to warrant further explanation unnecessary.

From the above it is apparent that my invention without in any way departing from the principle or scope thereof is utilizable in different forms, wherein a manually releasable locking element is carried by the scabbard adapted for locking engagement with the quillon or guard to secure the knife within the scabbard against accidental displacement and loss, adapted for utilization as an attachment without material modification to existing structures, yet simple in construction, manufacturable at a negligible cost, and efficient for the purposes intended.

Although in practice it has been found that the form of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings and referred to in the above description as the preferred embodiment is the most efficient and practical, yet realizing that conditions concurrent with the adoption of the invention will necessarily vary, it is desired to

emphasize that various minor changes in details of construction, proportion and arrangement of parts, may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from or sacrificing any of the principles of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is desired protected by Letters Patent is as set forth in the following claims:

1. The combination with a knife including a guard formed with an opening, an anchor catch within said opening, of a scabbard for said knife comprising opposite side members and a liner member, said members being united adjacent their opposite edges, a manually releasable resilient locking member intermediate said liner and one of said side members and secured to the latter, said liner and said other side member forming a blade receiving chamber, said resilient member terminating in a latching lip adapted for automatic locking engagement with said anchor catch to retain the knife in the scabbard, said locking member being completely concealed when said knife is in locked position.

2. A knife assembly comprising, in combination, a knife including a blade, a handle, and a guard member intermediate the blade and the handle, a sheath for the blade completely enclosing the blade and having a contour corresponding to the blade, the said sheath having an upper wall and a lower wall, means peripherally securing the said walls together, a liner intermediate the walls and secured by the said peripheral securing means and longitudinally dividing the sheath interiorly into two compartments, one of which is a blade-receiving compartment having a contour corresponding to the blade, the other compartment being a locking compartment, a resilient locking strip in the locking compartment secured therein and having an end projecting therefrom, and a latching means on the projecting end of the strip, the said guard member on the knife having an opening therein aligned with the locking strip, the said opening having an inner wall defining a cam-surfaced anchor catch adapted to engage the latching means on the said locking strip and to actuate the latching means to cause the same to latch with the said anchor catch.

3. A knife assembly comprising, in combination, a knife including a blade, a handle, and a guard member intermediate the blade and the handle, a sheath for the blade completely enclosing the blade and having a contour corresponding to the blade, the said sheath having an upper wall and a lower wall, means peripherally securing the said walls together, a partition member intermediate the walls and secured by the said peripheral securing means and longitudinally dividing the sheath interiorly into two separate compartments one of which is a blade-receiving compartment having a contour corresponding to the blade, the other compartment being a locking compartment, a resilient locking strip in the locking compartment, means securing the strip to the adjacent wall of the compartment, the said partition member maintaining the blade of the knife continuously out of contact with the strip, the said strip having an end projecting outwardly from the locking compartment, and latching means on the projecting end of the strip including an upstanding latching lip, the said guard member on the knife having an opening therein aligned with the locking strip, the said opening having an inner wall defining an anchor catch for engaging the latching means on the strip, and

a cam surface for the anchor catch adapted to engage and to displace the said strip as the knife approaches the limit of its sheathing movement and causes the latching lip of the strip to snap into latching engagement with the anchor catch in the said opening.

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