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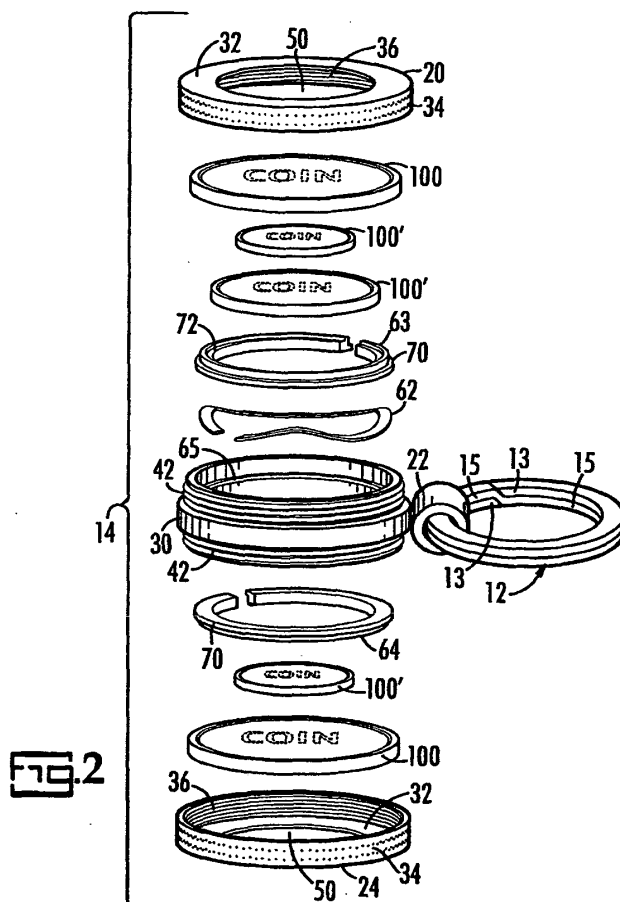
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(54) **Money holder**

(57) A money holder (10) for carrying functional coin money, such as quarters or silver and gold dollars. In particular, the money holder (10) includes a key ring portion (12) for engaging numerous keys, wherein the key

ring is attached to a holder portion (14) through means for attachment. The holder portion (14) is generally disc shaped and is dimensioned to receive the plurality of coins.



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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] On occasion, one will need to carry functional money, such as quarters, that can be used for various situations such as operating pay phones and feeding parking meters. However, many conventional methods and devices for carrying this emergency money are often cumbersome and inconvenient. Further, the need for carrying spare change is typically underestimated and ignored in view of these shortcomings.

[0002] Accordingly, there exists a need for a device for carrying emergency money that is convenient and easily stored by the user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The following presents a simplified summary of the invention in order to provide a basic understanding of some aspects of the invention. This summary is not an extensive overview of the invention. It is not intended to identify key or critical elements of the invention or to delineate the scope of the invention. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts of the invention in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented later.

[0004] According to its major aspects and briefly stated, the present invention includes a money holder for carrying functional coin money, such as quarters or silver and gold dollars. In particular, the money holder includes a key ring portion for engaging numerous keys, wherein the key ring is attached to a holder portion through means for attachment. The holder portion is generally disc shaped and is dimensioned to receive a plurality of coins.

[0005] A feature of the present invention includes the use of a key ring in combination with a holder dimensioned to receive coin money. Typical key chains and key rings that include storage capacity for money are cumbersome and unsightly. These types of key chains usually include a wallet-type holder for both paper and coin money along with a key ring. The holder of the present invention is effectively and efficiently dimensioned to receive only coin money. Therefore, the key ring is easily stored and transported. Further, the shape of the holder is such that the face of the coin money can be displayed while in the holder, which adds to the aesthetical appearance of the key chain in addition to reminding the user as to what type of coin is in the holder.

[0006] Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a careful reading of the Detailed Disclosure of the Preferred Embodiments presented below and accompanied by the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] In the drawings,

[0008] FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the money holder of the present invention;

[0009] FIG. 2 illustrates an exploded view of the preferred embodiment of the holder portion of the money holder of the present invention;

[0010] FIG. 3 illustrates a cross-sectional, exploded view of the preferred embodiment of the holder portion of the money holder of the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the holder portion of the money holder of the present invention;

[0012] FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the holder portion of the money holder of the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 6 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the holder portion of the money holder of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] As illustrated in FIG. 1, the present invention includes a money holder system **10** having a key ring **12** that is connected to a holder **14** for housing coin currency. Optionally, the holder **14** can operate separately from the key ring **12** to hold money. The key ring **12** includes end segments **13** overlapping intermediate segments **15** thereof and can be used for carrying at least one key **18**. Additional keys can be carried if desired. The key **18**, as well as the holder **14**, can be placed on and taken off of the key ring **12** by spreading apart a selected end segment **13** and a selected intermediate segment **15**.

[0015] The coin holder **14** of the present invention is further illustrated in FIG. 2. As shown, the holder **14** is generally disc shaped and includes a plurality of annular members that can be threadably engaged. In particular, the holder **14** includes an upper cover **20** and a lower cover **24** that are held in place by a coupling member **30** at its opposing ends. The upper and lower covers **20**, **24** each includes a base wall **32** and an annular sidewall **34**. As further shown, the upper and lower covers **20**, **24** can each further include an opening **50** in their base walls **32** so that the coins stored within the holder **14** remain visible. Alternatively, only either the upper cover **20** or the lower cover **24** can include an opening for such visibility.

[0016] The upper and lower covers **20**, **24** can be connected to the coupling member **30** in a variety of ways. For example, the covers **20**, **24** can be threadably engaged with the coupling member **30**. As illustrated in the figures, the coupling member **30** includes an external annular wall **40**, which can have external threads **42** thereon, and an internal annular wall **44**. In order to con-

nect the upper cover **20** and the lower cover **24** to the coupling member **30**, the annular sidewall **34** of each of the covers can include internal threads **36** thereon, which engage the external threads **42** located at the opposing ends of the external annular wall **40** of the coupling member **30**. Further, the annular sidewall **34** of the covers **20, 24** can be knurled to facilitate the gripping of the upper and lower covers **20, 24**. It is also contemplated by the present invention that other means for engagement than threads can be used to secure the upper and lower covers **20, 24** to the coupling member **30**, such as corresponding male and female members (not shown) or interlocking internal and external ribs (not shown).

[0017] Because the coupling member **30** of the present invention includes a generally tubular body that is hollow, as shown in FIGS. 2-6, the coupling member **30** can further include means for securing coins **60** within the body of the coupling member **30**. Not only does this feature prevent the coins from sliding about during transportation, but also the securing means **60** alleviates the need to keep the holder full of coins at any given time. In particular, the securing means **60** includes a spring **62** that is disposed between an upper rib **63** and a lower rib **64**. The upper and lower ribs **63, 64** are respectively held in place by an upper and lower annular flange **65, 66** formed along the internal annular wall **44** of the coupling member **30**. As illustrated, the upper and lower ribs **63, 64** are generally C-shaped and each includes rib flanges **70** dimensioned to be received by and to engage the upper and lower annular flanges **65, 66**, respectively, of the coupling member **30**. The upper and lower ribs **63, 64** each further include ledges **72** that can act as a coin rest when the ribs **63, 64** are engaged with the coupling member **30**. Although many materials may be used for making the various features of the holder **14**, these materials can include metals (ferrous or non-ferrous), plastics, glass, stone, and wood.

[0018] Although a variety of connectors can be used to place the holder **14** onto the key ring **12**, an embodiment of the holder **14** can include means for attaching **22** as shown in FIG. 3. The attaching means **22** includes an aperture **25** through which the key ring **12** can be engaged. Alternatively, a second aperture **26** can be included to engage additional useful attachments. However, the second aperture **26** is not a necessary feature to the present invention. The attaching means **22** can be formed integrally with the holder **14**, or, alternatively, it can include a male connector member **23** that is engageable with the holder **14** through a corresponding female member **27**. Further, the attaching means **22** can be rotatable about the longitudinal axis (FIG. 3) of the connector member **23**. This feature allows for enhanced flexibility and comfort in the operation of the money holder **10**.

[0019] In operation, a user disengages the upper and lower covers **20, 24** from the coupling member **30**. Next, the user places a coin **100** on the ledge **72** of either or

both of the upper and lower ribs **63, 64**. As shown in FIG. 3, the diameter of the coin **100** is preferably less than the diameter of the opening **50** of the base wall **32** of each of the covers **20, 24** so that the coin **100** will not fall through the opening **50**. Although it is contemplated by the present invention that various sizes and dimensions can be employed to the various features depending on the types of coins needing to be carried, preferably, the securing means **60** is dimensioned so that coins approximately the size of quarters or gold and silver dollars can rest on the ledges **72** of the upper and lower ribs **63, 64**. After resting a coin **100** on the ledge **72** of either or both of the upper and lower ribs **63, 64**, the upper and lower covers **20, 24** are once again engaged to the coupling member **30**. As shown in FIG. 4, upon securing the covers **20, 24**, the coin(s) **100** become urged towards the base wall **32** of the upper and lower covers **20, 24** by the spring **62**, wherein the coin **100** placed on the ledge **72** of the upper rib **63** becomes urged toward the base wall **32** of the upper cover **20**, and wherein the coin **100** placed on the ledge **72** of the lower rib **64** becomes urged toward the base wall **32** of the lower cover **24**.

[0020] Depending on how many coins are placed on each of the ledge **72** of the upper and lower ribs **63, 64**, the spring **62** will become compressed to provide more space to accommodate additional coins, as shown in FIG. 5. Furthermore, because the securing means **60** is generally hollow, coins **100'** smaller than those resting on the ledge **72** of the upper and lower ribs **63, 64** can be placed between the larger coins **100**, as illustrated in FIG. 6.

[0021] Those skilled in the art of money holders will recognize that many substitutions and modifications can be made in the foregoing preferred embodiment with departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A money holder, comprising:

a key ring; and
a holder connected to said key ring, wherein said holder includes an upper cover, a lower cover and a coupling member, said upper cover and said lower cover being connected to said coupling member.

2. A money holder, comprising a holder including an upper cover, a lower cover and a coupling member, said upper cover and said lower cover being connected to said coupling member.

3. The money holder as recited in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said upper cover and said lower cover are threadedly engaged to said coupling member.

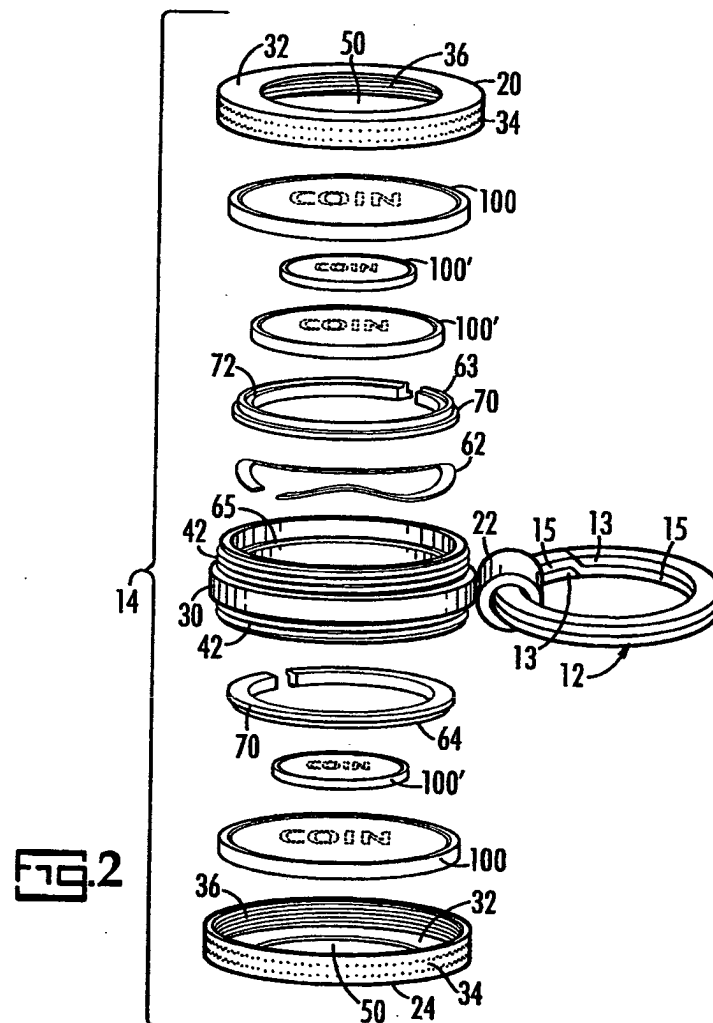
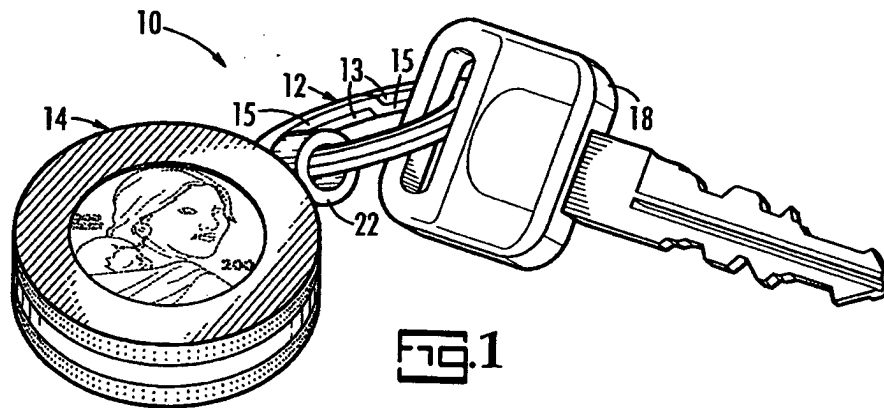
4. The money holder as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said upper cover and said lower cover each includes a base wall having an opening.
5. The money holder as recited in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said upper cover and said lower cover each includes an annular sidewall that is knurled. 5
6. The money holder as recited in any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising means for securing coins within said coupling member. 10
7. The money holder as recited in claim 6, wherein said securing means includes a spring, an upper rib and a lower rib, said spring being disposed between said upper rib and said lower rib. 15
8. The money holder as recited in claim 7, wherein said coupling member includes an internal annular wall having an upper annular flange and a lower annular flange, and wherein said upper rib and said lower rib each includes a rib flange, said upper annular flange and said lower annular flange being dimensioned to engage said rib flange of said upper rib and said lower rib, respectively. 20
25
9. The money holder as recited in claim 7 or claim 8, wherein said upper rib and said lower rib each includes a ledge dimensioned to provide a coin rest. 30
10. The money holder as recited in claim 1 or any one of claims 3 to 9 as dependent on claim 1, wherein said key ring and said holder are made of metal.
11. The money holder as recited in claim 2 or any one of claims 3 to 9 as dependent on claim 1, wherein said holder is made of metal. 35

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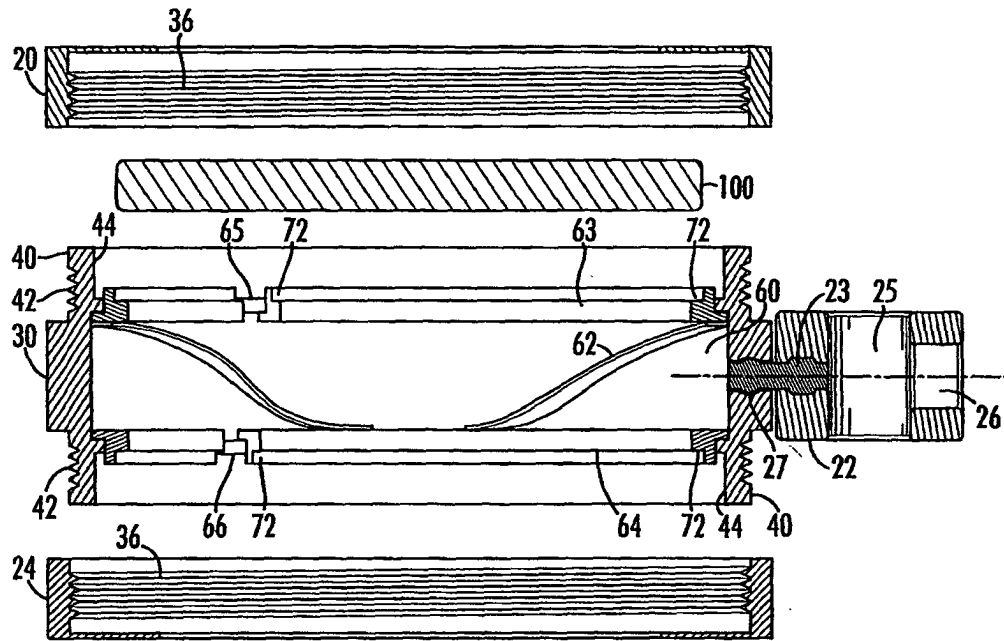


FIG. 3

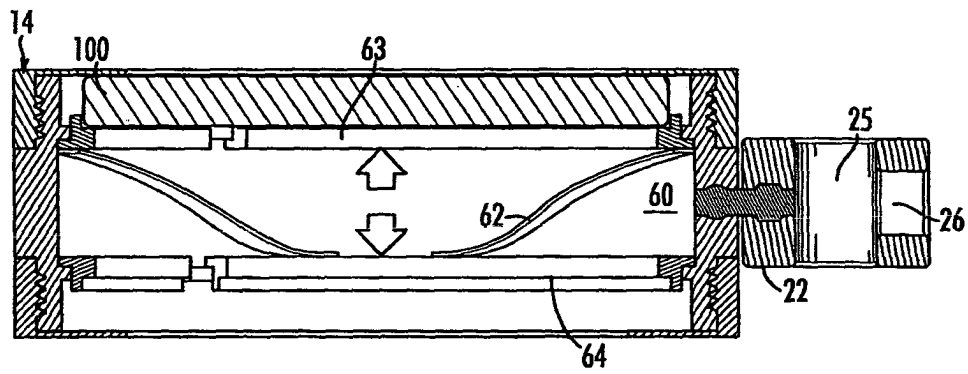
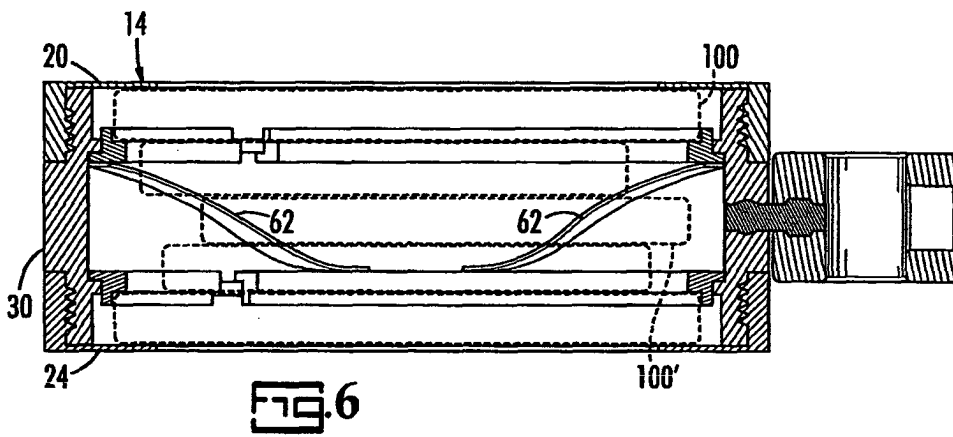
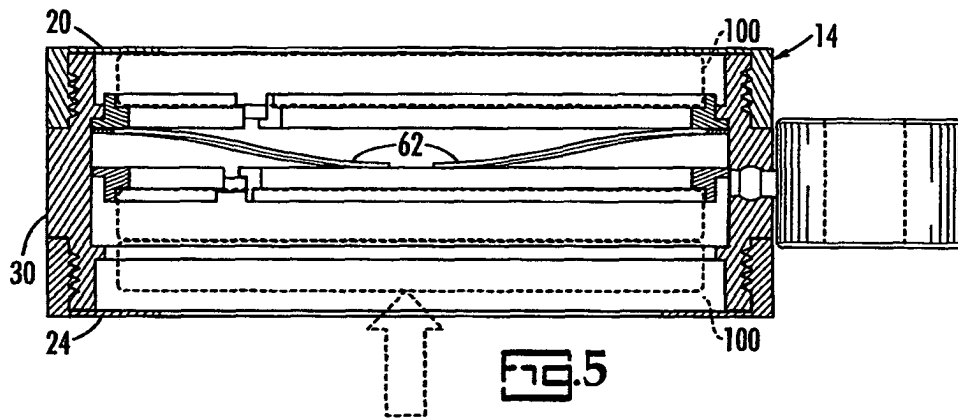


FIG. 4





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 25 0422

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 3 473 648 A (GUIRINO W. PALUZZI) 21 October 1969 (1969-10-21) * column 3, line 34 - line 40; figure 12 *	1,6	A44B15/00 A45C1/10
X	US 6 302 777 B1 (ZOLDAN ROMEO) 16 October 2001 (2001-10-16) * column 4, line 1 - line 10; figure 5 *	2-9	
A	WO 03/011712 A (ABAZIA S.P.A; RACIOPPA, GIOVANNI) 13 February 2003 (2003-02-13) * abstract; figure 1 *	1-11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 May 2005	Examiner Westermayer, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 05 25 0422

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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12-05-2005

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