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(71) Applicant: **KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOKAI RIKA
DENKI SEISAKUSHO**
Niwa-gun,
Aichi 480-0195 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

- Niwa, Yosuke
Niwa-gun
Aichi 480-0195 (JP)
- Nishimura, Toshihiko
Toyota-shi
Aichi 471-8571 (JP)
- Nakashinchi, Akihiro
Toyota-shi
Aichi 471-8571 (JP)

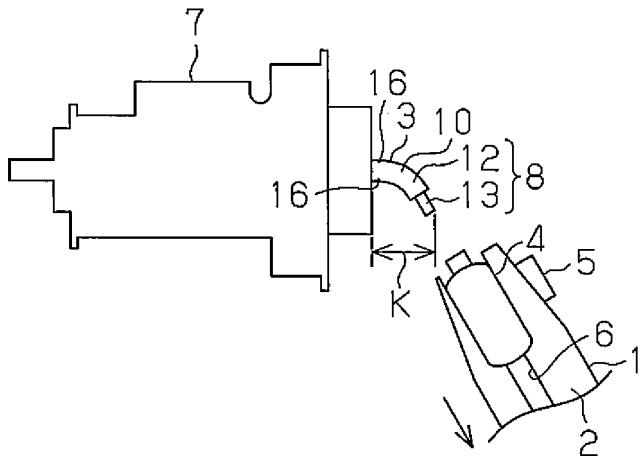
(74) Representative: **TBK
Bavariaring 4-6
80336 München (DE)**

(54) Mechanism for protecting vehicle occupant from key

(57) A mechanism that protects a vehicle occupant from a key when excessive load is applied to the key while obtaining sufficient strength for a key plate during normal usage. A support 4 pivotally couples a key plate 3 to a key case 2. The key plate 3 includes a basal end 8 fitted into and fixed to a key plate socket 9 in the support 4. The basal end 8 includes a thin portion 13 that is thinner than the key plate body 10 to facilitate separation of the

key plate 3 from the support 4. The key plate body 10 includes two grooves 16 located proximal to the basal end to aid bending of the key plate 3. When a jackknife key is inserted into a key cylinder and a vehicle occupant hits and applies excessive load to the jackknife key, the key plate 3 first bends along the grooves 16 and the thin portion 13 then deforms 13 thereby separating the key plate 3 from the key case 2.

Fig.5(c)





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 14 15 1217

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1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
50	The Hague	24 January 2017	Robelin, Fabrice
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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