W. S. HICKS.

WATCH-KEY.

No. 181,074. Patented Aug. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.

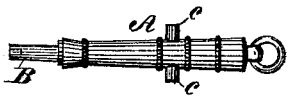


Fig. 2.

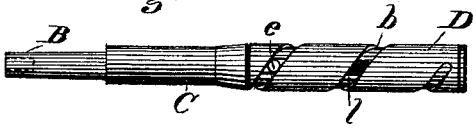


Fig. 3.

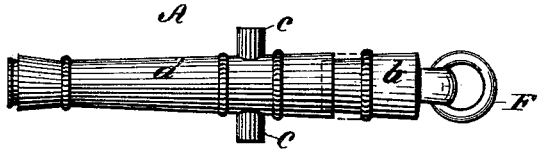
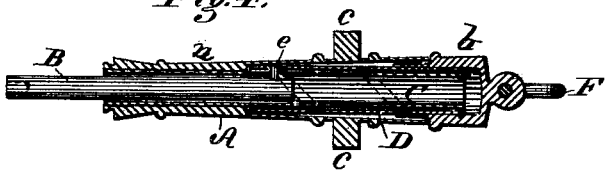


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. HICKS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN WATCH-KEYS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,074**, dated August 15, 1876; application filed July 17, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. HICKS, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Watch-Keys, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists of a watch-key having its case made in the style or form of a cannon, with the bit of the key arranged to be forced in or out of the case by means of a screw, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the key complete. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are views of the same enlarged and partly in section, to illustrate the details of construction.

To construct a key on my plan I make the case A of two parts, *a* and *b*, as represented in Fig. 3, the part *a* having the trunnions *c* secured to it, as shown, while the part *b* has a ring, F, secured to its end, as a means of attaching or suspending the key. The internal parts or mechanism consists, in this instance, of three parts—the rod B, which has a square hole or socket in its outer end, as indicated in dotted lines in Figs. 1, 2, and 4, and a pin, *e*, projecting laterally from near its opposite end, as shown in Fig. 4. This is fitted within a tube, C, which has a longitudinal slot, *l*, for the pin *e* to slide in, as shown in Fig. 2, and over the upper part of this tube C is fitted the spirally-slotted tube D, as shown in Fig. 2. When these three parts, B, C, and D, are put together, as represented in Fig. 2, they will operate the same as an ordinary screw-pencil, so that by turning the slotted tube D and holding the tube C stationary the key bit B will be forced out or in, the same as a pencil-point is. The parts being thus constructed, the part *b* of the case is slipped upon the end of the screw mechanism, and is soldered fast to the screw sleeve or tube D. The part *a* of the case is also slipped on, and soldered or otherwise fastened at its lower end to the tube C. As the two parts *a* and *b* of the case are thus left free to turn separately with the parts of the mechanism to which they are respectively attached, it will be seen that the key-bit B can be readily protruded or retracted at will. If desired, the screw mechanism known as the "magic movement" may be substituted for that above described, and made to answer the same purpose. A key thus made is highly ornamental, and the socket or bit is protected by being drawn within the case.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

In combination with the case A, composed of the parts *a* and *b*, the bit or tube B and the screw mechanism, substantially as described.

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