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- (71) Applicant: **WORDLOCK, INC.** [US/US]; 2855 Kifer Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051 (US).
- (72) Inventor: **BASCHE, Todd**; 1060 Estrellita Way, Los Altos, CA 94022 (US).
- (74) Agent: **SPATZ, William J.**; Lucas & Mercanti LLP, 475 Park Avenue South-15th Floor, New York, NY 10016 (US).
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(54) Title: WORD-BASED LOCK AND KEY

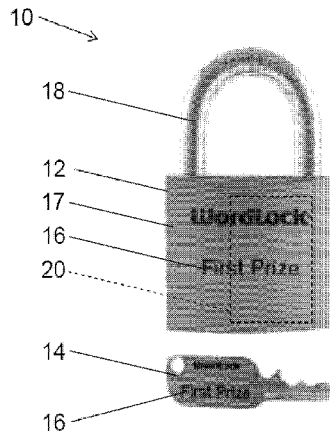


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: Embodiments of the present invention are directed to locks, and more particularly to locks opened with a key. Many conventional locks are designed to be opened with a key specifically configured for the locking device within the lock. Users often have a very difficult time locating which key is the proper key for a particular lock. Systems have been developed to help the user match keys with locks. For example, users can put colored rings or bumpers on a key for a lock to distinguish that key from other keys.

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### CLAIMS

1. A process for the manufacture of a production of key-based lock assemblies having a finite number of unique mating key and lock configurations, said lock assemblies having indicia thereon to facilitate the identification of mating key and locks, comprising:  
applying the same indicia to the key and lock of each mating key and lock configuration, wherein the indicia applied to said key and lock configurations are selected from a finite set of different indicia comprised of words, alphanumeric characters, symbols, colors and shapes, and combinations thereof, and wherein said set of applied indicia is larger in number than the number of unique mating key and lock configurations in the production, and different indicia from the set of indicia is applied to each different mating key and lock configuration within said production.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein the indicia applied to the key and lock of each unique mating key and lock assembly comprises only words or alphanumeric characters.
3. The process of claim 1, wherein the indicia applied to the key and lock of each unique mating key and lock assembly comprises a color in combination with a word or alphanumeric characters.
4. The process of claim 13, wherein the color is applied to the keys of said key and lock assemblies by making the keys, or a portion thereof, of material having said color.

5. The process of claim 13, wherein the color is applied to the locks of said key and lock assemblies by affixing a cover having said color to at least a portion of said locks.

6. The process of claim 13, wherein the locks of said key and lock assemblies are cable locks and the color is applied to the locks by applying a material having said color to the locks' cables.

7. The process of claim 14, wherein the color is applied to the locks of said key and lock assemblies by affixing a cover having said color to at least a portion of the locks.

8. The process of claim 14, wherein the locks of said key and lock assemblies are cable locks and the color is applied to the locks by applying a material having said color to the locks' cables.

**STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)****VIA FACSIMILE 011-41-22-338-82-70**

International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Dear Sir:

Applicant has canceled original claims 1-10 and replaced them with new claims 1-8. Replacement pages 9 and 10 effectuate the foregoing. No new matter has been added.

The Written Opinion which accompanied the International Search objected to claims 1-3 and 6-10 as lacking clarity. The Written Opinion also rejected claims 1-9 as lacking novelty in view of Master Lock 142DCM Brass Lock with Blue Cover ("Master Lock"). Claim 10 is rejected as lacking inventive step over Master Lock and Tomsich.

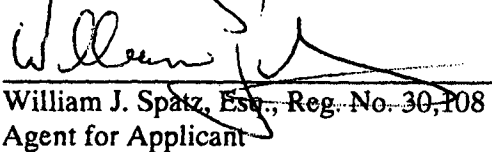
**Claim Differences and Basis for Claims**

Claim 1 is a new claim. Claim 1 is directed to a process for manufacturing a production of key-based lock assemblies which have a finite number of unique mating key and lock configurations, wherein each unique mating key and lock pair are marked with the same indicia, and different matching indicia are applied to each mating key and lock combination within the production. The basis for new claim 1 can be found in the Specification at paragraph 0010 and 0014.

Claims 2-8 are new. Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. The basis for claims 2-8 can be found in paragraphs 0010 and 0014 of the Specification.

The Applicant requests that International Bureau acknowledge the receipt of this document along with its attachments to the person identified below.

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Spatz, Esq., Reg. No. 30,108  
Agent for Applicant

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LUCAS & MERCANTI LLP  
30 Broad Street - 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10004  
Telephone No. (212) 661-8000  
Facsimile No. (212) 661-8002