

S/N 12/851,270

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Loughlin, Robert	Examiner	Barrett, Suzanne Lale Dino
Serial No.:	12/851,270	Group Art Unit	3673
Filed:	Aug 5, 2010	Docket No.:	SCI0010-06CT
		Confirmation No.:	1413
Title:	Multiple Function Lock		

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A method for opening a dual function padlock having a body and a shackle, the body containing a first locking mechanism and a second locking mechanism, comprising:

an authority receiving a key, wherein the key has a differentiated pattern adapted to open the first locking mechanism and the key is larger than a length of the body and the shackle of the dual function padlock;

the authority engaging the differentiated pattern of the key with the first locking mechanism in the dual function padlock, wherein the first and the second locking mechanisms can each independently unlock a shackle of the dual function padlock; and

the authority non-destructively moving the first locking mechanism with the key from a locked state into an unlocked state, wherein the key cannot disengage from the body of the dual function padlock after the key has been engaged with the first locking mechanism and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked state.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

moving the first locking mechanism from the unlocked state into the locked state; and
the authority disengaging the key from the first locking mechanism.

PRE-PUBLICATION

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the second locking mechanism is a combination lock that can be opened by a person who is not the authority.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first locking mechanism secures a toe of the shackle.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second locking mechanism secures a heel of the shackle inside the body of the dual function padlock.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second locking mechanism secures a heel of the shackle inside the body of the dual function padlock and wherein the first locking mechanism secures a toe of the shackle
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second locking mechanism is a combination lock secures a heel of the shackle inside the body of the dual function padlock.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the key is enabled to open the first locking mechanism in a plurality of dual function padlocks.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first locking mechanism secures a toe of the shackle.
10. A method of using a dual function padlock comprising:
 - distributing a key only to an authority, the key having a differentiated pattern adapted to open a second locking mechanism in the dual function padlock and the key being larger than a length of a body and a rigid shackle_of the dual function padlock;
 - the authority engaging the key with the dual function padlock;
 - wherein the dual function padlock comprises the body, the rigid shackle, a first locking mechanism and the second locking mechanism, wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are each able to independently unlock the rigid shackle from the body, and wherein the second locking mechanism can be unlocked by the key; and
 - the authority using the key to non-destructively unlock the second locking mechanism of the the dual function padlock.

PRE-PUBLICATION

11. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
the authority disengaging the key from the dual function padlock.
12. The method of claim 15, wherein possession of the key is regulated by the authority.
13. The method of claim 15, wherein the key cannot disengage from the dual function padlock while the second locking mechanism is unlocked.