

**KEY BLANK WITH MOVABLE ELEMENT, CORRESPONDING KEY AND
CORRESPONDING LOCK PLUG AND LOCK ASSEMBLY**

CROSS REFERENCE OF RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of the filing date of United States provisional patent application Serial Nos. 62/910,083 filed October 3, 2019, 63/060,690 filed August 4, 2020, and 63/062,016 filed August 6, 2020, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] This disclosure relates to improvements in keys, key blanks, keyways, and lock cylinders, particularly with regard to multiple, supplemental locking elements and keys having a shuttle element mounted within the blade of the key for lateral movement to actuate a supplemental sidebar control element of the cylinder lock.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Keyways formed in cylinders are generally defined by a width and height with various ridges and grooves formed in the keyway to create a unique shape (or profile) that corresponds with the same shape or profile of the keys that can be inserted into the cylinder. Only keys with matching profiles can be inserted into the cylinder. This prevents unauthorized keys with different profiles from being inserted into the lock cylinder.

[0004] Prior art keys have a limited number of unique key identifiers and locking elements. Increasing the number of locking elements in a lock can improve the security of the lock as lock picking techniques become more sophisticated and as practitioners of such techniques become more persistent. Increasing the number of supplemental locking elements on a key blade with a movable element would increase the number of unique key possibilities, reduce the ability to pick the lock, and retain control of key blade distribution with the manufacturer. The challenge, however, is providing such additional, supplemental locking

elements in an assembly having limited space for accommodating the additional locking elements.

SUMMARY

[0005] The following presents a simplified summary in order to provide a basic understanding of some aspects described herein. This summary is not an extensive overview of the claimed subject matter. It is intended to neither identify key or critical elements of the claimed subject matter nor delineate the scope thereof. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented later.

[0006] Increasing the number of supplemental locking elements on a key blade with a movable element would increase the number of unique key possibilities, reduce the ability to pick the lock, and retain control of key blade distribution with the manufacturer.

[0007] Aspects of the disclosed subject matter are embodied in keys, key blanks, keyways, and lock cylinders. The lock generally comprises a housing and a plug with a keyway formed therein. The plug is rotatably disposed within a bore formed in the housing. A sidebar is disposed within a sidebar opening formed in the plug and configured for radial movement with respect to an axis of rotation of the plug for engaging a sidebar groove formed in a wall of the bore formed in the housing for controlling rotation of the plug within the housing. Primary pins or primary side bar control elements (rotating tumblers) are aligned with the keyway for controlling rotation of the plug within the housing and for controlling radial movement of the sidebar within the sidebar opening. One or more secondary pins or secondary sidebar control elements are disposed within the plug adjacent to the keyway for controlling radial movement of the sidebar within the sidebar opening. At least one supplemental sidebar control element for further controlling radial movement of the sidebar is disposed within the sidebar opening.

[0008] In various embodiments, the keyway of the cylinder lock may include a multi-level ridge or rib that has multiple lengthwise segments or extents of different heights (i.e., different levels, planes, or surfaces) along the length of the ridge and transitions (transition zone or ramps) between the different segments. These surfaces of these different segments may interact with one or more moveable element(s) (e.g., shuttle pin(s)) in the key to thereby move

each moveable element into position to engage and control locking element(s) in the cylinder. The multi-level ridge's different levels may be located at different positions along the length of the keyway to align with different key and cylinder adaptations.

[0009] The key blank has a key blade configured to be inserted into a keyway of the lock. In various embodiments, the key blade has a primary top edge configured to receive primary bittings cut therein for controlling the primary pins of the lock when a key formed from the key blank is inserted into the keyway, a bottom edge, and first and second opposed sides extending between the primary top edge and the bottom edge. The first side includes a rib that extends longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of the key blade. The rib has a secondary top edge configured to receive secondary bittings cut therein for controlling the secondary pins of the lock when a key formed from the key blank is inserted into the keyway. A groove may be formed on the second side of the key blade to align with the multi-level ridge and to allow the shuttle pin to engage the multi-level ridge as the key is inserted. A shuttle pin is disposed within a through-hole extending through the key blade from the first side to the second side. The shuttle pin is configured to engage the multi-level ridge within the keyway as a key formed from the key blank is inserted into the keyway to move the shuttle pin between a retracted position in which one end of the shuttle pin is retracted with respect to the first side of the key blade opposite the multi-level ridge, to an extended position, in which the end of the shuttle pin is extended from the first side of the key blade opposite the multi-level ridge to actuate movement of the sidebar control element from a locked state to an unlocked state.

[0010] In various embodiments, the key has a key blade configured to be inserted into a keyway of the lock. The key blade may include a primary top edge configured with a first biting surface cut therein for controlling the primary pins of the lock when the key is inserted into the keyway, a bottom edge, and first and second opposed sides extending between the primary top edge and the bottom edge. The key blade may further include a rib extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of the key blade. The rib has a secondary top edge, wherein the secondary top edge is configured with a second biting surface cut therein for controlling the secondary pins of the lock when the key is inserted into the keyway. The key blade further includes a groove formed in the second side opposite the rib and extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of the key blade. The key blade may further

include a shuttle pin disposed within a through-hole extending through the key blade from the first side to the second side. The shuttle pin is configured to engage a surface or multi-level ridge within the keyway that fits into the groove as the key is inserted into the keyway to move the shuttle pin between a first position, where a second end of the shuttle pin extends into the groove, to a second position, where the second end of the shuttle pin is moved out of the groove and a second end of the shuttle pin extends from the first side of the key blade to actuate the supplemental sidebar control element.

[0011] The following description also describes a feature within the cylinder keyway to move the shuttle pin in the key back to a position within the key groove providing clearance during key removal.

[0012] Other features and characteristics of the subject matter of this disclosure, as well as the methods of operation, functions of related elements of structure and the combination of parts, and economies of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description and the appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated herein and form part of the specification, illustrate various embodiments of the subject matter of this disclosure. In the drawings, like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements.

[0014] FIG. 1 is an exploded top perspective view of a bitted key;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a top perspective view of a first side of a blade of the bitted key with a shuttle pin in an extended position;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a top perspective view of a second side of the blade of the bitted key with the shuttle pin in the extended position;

[0017] FIGS. 4A-4D are side views of four embodiments of a key blade with a shuttle pin and secondary bittings located in different positions along the length of the key blade;

- [0018] FIG. 5 is a top perspective view of a shuttle pin;
- [0019] FIG. 6 is a bottom perspective view of the bitted key blade;
- [0020] FIG. 7 is a longitudinal cross-section of the key blade along line VIa – VIa in FIG. 2;
- [0021] FIG. 8A is a transverse cross-section of the key blade along line VIb – VIb in FIG. 2 with the shuttle pin in a retracted position;
- [0022] FIG. 8B is a transverse cross-section of the key blade along line VIb – VIb in FIG. 2 with the shuttle pin in an extended position;
- [0023] FIG. 9 is an exploded top perspective view of a first embodiment of a cylinder lock assembly with multiple, supplemental locking elements;
- [0024] FIG. 10 is a top perspective view of a sidebar of the first embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly;
- [0025] FIG. 11A illustrates front views of various embodiments of a primary pin;
- [0026] FIG. 11B illustrates top perspective views of the embodiments of the primary pin shown in FIG. 11A;
- [0027] FIGS. 12A-C are perspective views of three embodiments of a side, or secondary, pin;
- [0028] FIG. 13 is an expanded top perspective view of the key, primary pins, secondary pins, lift pin, and a sidebar of the lock assembly of FIG. 9;
- [0029] FIG. 14A is a top view of the sidebar and secondary pins, showing the sidebar in a locked position relative to the secondary pins;
- [0030] FIG. 14B is a top view of the sidebar and secondary pins, showing the sidebar in an unlocked position relative to the secondary pins;
- [0031] FIGS. 15A-C are a front view, a right side view, and a back view, respectively, of

a lift pin;

[0032] FIG. 16 is a partial front view of one embodiment of a keyway in a plug, wherein the keyway includes a multi-level ridge for actuating a transversely movable shuttle pin within the blade of a key inserted into the keyway;

[0033] FIG. 17A is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the lift pin, with the key (omitted) partially inserted with the shuttle pin seated on a first level of the multi-level ridge and in a first position;

[0034] FIG. 17B is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the lift pin, with the key (omitted) fully inserted with the shuttle pin seated on a second level of the multi-level ridge and moved transversely with respect to the key to engage a supplemental sidebar control element on an opposite side of the keyway from the multi-level ridge;

[0035] FIG. 18A is a transverse cross-sectional view of the plug depicting the multi-level ridge configured to actuate the shuttle pin at a second location of four supplemental locking element locations and having a key fully inserted with a shuttle pin seated on the second level of the multi-level ridge and moved transversely with respect to the key to engage a supplemental sidebar control element on an opposite side of the keyway from the multi-level ridge;

[0036] FIG. 18B is a transverse cross-sectional view of the plug depicting the multi-level ridge configured to actuate the shuttle pin at a third location of four supplemental locking element locations and having a key fully inserted and a shuttle pin seated on the second level of the multi-level ridge and moved transversely with respect to the key to engage a supplemental sidebar control element on an opposite side of the keyway from the multi-level ridge;

[0037] FIG. 19A is a front cross-sectional view through the cylinder lock and shuttle pin of FIG. 17A with the shuttle pin in the first position and contained within a groove of the key;

[0038] FIG. 19B is a front cross-sectional view through the cylinder lock and the shuttle pin of FIG. 17B with the shuttle pin extending beyond a first side of the key to engage the supplemental sidebar control element on the opposite side of the keyway from the multi-level ridge;

[0039] FIG. 19C is a rear view of the keyway with the key fully inserted and a third level of the multi-level ridge fully engaging the groove of key;

[0040] FIG. 20A is a front perspective view of the key blade, shuttle pin, lift pin, and sidebar, with the shuttle pin in a retracted position;

[0041] FIG. 20B is a front perspective view of the key blade, shuttle pin, lift pin, and sidebar, with the shuttle pin in an extended position engaging the lift pin;

[0042] FIG. 21 is a perspective view of the shuttle pin and the lift pin engaged by the shuttle pin;

[0043] FIG. 22A is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18A and a fully-inserted, non-corresponding key having the shuttle pin located in a first location of four locations corresponding to supplemental locking element locations;

[0044] FIG. 22B is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18A and a fully-inserted, corresponding key having the shuttle pin located in the second location;

[0045] FIG. 22C is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18A and partially-inserted, non-corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the third location, engaging the third level of the multi-level ridge of the cylinder lock, and preventing the non-corresponding key from being inserted fully into the keyway of the cylinder;

[0046] FIG. 22D is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18A and a partially-inserted, non-corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the fourth location, engaging the third level of the multi-level ridge of the cylinder lock, and preventing the non-corresponding key from being inserted fully into the keyway of the cylinder;

[0047] FIG. 23A is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and a fully-inserted, non-corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the first location of four locations corresponding to supplemental locking element locations;

[0048] FIG. 23B is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and a fully-inserted, non-corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the second location;

[0049] FIG. 23C is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and a fully-inserted, corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the third location;

[0050] FIG. 23D is a transverse cross-sectional view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and a partially-inserted, non-corresponding key having a shuttle pin located in the fourth location, engaging the third level of the multi-level ridge of the cylinder lock, and preventing the non-corresponding key from being inserted fully into the keyway of the cylinder;

[0051] FIG. 24 is a longitudinal cross-section of the first embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly;

[0052] FIG. 25 is a transverse cross-section of the cylinder lock assembly along the line A-A in FIG. 24;

[0053] FIG. 26 is a transverse cross-section of the cylinder lock assembly along the line B-B in FIG. 24;

[0054] FIG. 27 is a transverse cross-section of the cylinder lock assembly along the line C-C in FIG. 24;

[0055] FIG. 28A is a bottom view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and the key (omitted) fully inserted with the shuttle pin seated on the second level of the multi-level ridge and moved transversely with respect to the key to engage the supplemental sidebar control element on the opposite side of the keyway from the multi-level ridge;

[0056] FIG. 28B is a bottom view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and the key (omitted) being withdrawn from the cylinder with the shuttle pin contacting a third transition feature of the keyway to reposition the shuttle pin from extended position to the retracted position as the key moves the shuttle pin from the second level to the first level of the multi-level ridge;

[0057] FIG. 28C is a bottom view of the cylinder lock of FIG. 18B and the key (omitted) with the shuttle pin located at the first level of the multi-level ridge;

[0058] FIG. 29 is an exploded top perspective view of a second embodiment of a cylinder lock assembly with multiple, supplemental locking elements;

[0059] FIGS. 30A and 30B are a top perspective view and bottom perspective view, respectively, of one embodiment of a slider of the second embodiment of the lock assembly;

[0060] FIG. 31 is a bottom perspective view of a sidebar of the second embodiment;

[0061] FIG. 32 is a perspective view of the key, the primary pins, the secondary pins, the slider, and the sidebar of the lock assembly of FIG. 29;

[0062] FIG. 33 is an exploded, top perspective view of the key, the primary pins, the secondary pins, the slider, and the sidebar of the lock assembly of FIG. 29;

[0063] FIG. 34A is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the slider, with the key omitted from the figure and with the shuttle pin in a retracted position;

[0064] FIG. 34B is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the slider, with the key omitted from the figure and with the shuttle pin in an extended position engaging the slider;

[0065] FIG. 35A is a top longitudinal cross-section of the second embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the slider in a locked, blocking position;

[0066] FIG. 35B is a top longitudinal cross-section of the second embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the slider in an unlocked position and with the sidebar in a locked position engaging a sidebar groove in a housing;

[0067] FIG. 35C is a top longitudinal cross-section of the second embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the slider in an unlocked position and with the sidebar in an unlocked position disengaged from the sidebar groove in the housing;

[0068] FIG. 36 is a transverse cross-section of the cylinder lock assembly with the shuttle pin in an extended position to move the slider to an unlocked position;

[0069] FIG. 37 is an exploded, top perspective view of a third embodiment of a cylinder lock assembly with multiple, supplemental locking elements;

[0070] FIGS. 38A and 38B are a top perspective view and a side view, respectively, of one embodiment of a flipper pin of the third embodiment of the lock assembly;

[0071] FIG. 39 is a top view of the flipper pin;

[0072] FIG. 40 is a bottom perspective view of a sidebar of the third embodiment;

[0073] FIG. 41 is a top perspective view of the sidebar, secondary pins, flipper pin, shuttle pin, and sidebar springs;

[0074] FIG. 42 is a top perspective view of the key, the primary pins, the secondary pins, the flipper pin, the flipper pin spring, the shuttle pin, and the sidebar of the third embodiment of the lock assembly;

[0075] FIG. 43A is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the flipper pin, with the key omitted from the figure and with the shuttle pin in a retracted position;

[0076] FIG. 43B is a bottom view of the plug, the shuttle pin, and the flipper pin, with the key omitted from the figure and with the shuttle pin in an extended position, engaging the flipper pin;

[0077] FIG. 44 is a transverse cross-section of the third embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the shuttle pin of the key in a retracted position and the flipper pin in a locked, blocking orientation;

[0078] FIG. 45 is a transverse cross-section of the third embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the shuttle pin of the key in an extended position moving the flipper pin to an unlocked orientation with the sidebar in a locked position engaging a groove in a housing;

[0079] FIG. 46 is a transverse cross-section of the third embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly with the flipper pin in the unlocked orientation and with the sidebar in an unlocked position disengaged from a groove in a housing;

[0080] FIG. 47A is a partial top view of a flipper cutout of the sidebar of the third embodiment;

[0081] FIG. 47B is a partial top view of the flipper cutout of the sidebar of the third embodiment and the flipper pin in a blocking orientation;

[0082] FIG. 47C is a partial top view of the flipper cutout of the sidebar of the third embodiment and the flipper pin in a non-blocking orientation;

[0083] FIG. 48 is a top perspective view of a first side of a key blade blank with a first shuttle pin in an extended position and a second shuttle pin in an extended position;

[0084] FIG. 49 is a top perspective view of a second side of the key blade blank with the first shuttle pin in the extended position and the second shuttle pin in the extended position;

[0085] FIG 50 is an exploded top perspective view of a fourth embodiment of a cylinder lock assembly with multiple, supplemental locking elements;

[0086] FIG 51 is a top perspective view of a sidebar of the fourth embodiment of the cylinder lock assembly;

[0087] FIG 52 is a bottom view of the plug, the first shuttle pin, the second shuttle pin, a first lift pin, a second lift pin, and a key (omitted) fully inserted, with a multi-level ridge configured to actuate the first shuttle pin at a first location of four supplemental locking element locations and the second shuttle pin at a third location of four supplemental locking element locations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0088] While aspects of the subject matter of the present disclosure may be embodied in a variety of forms, the following description and accompanying drawings are merely intended to disclose some of these forms as specific examples of the subject matter. Accordingly, the subject matter of this disclosure is not intended to be limited to the forms or embodiments so described and illustrated.

[0089] Unless defined otherwise, all terms of art, notations and other technical terms or terminology used herein have the same meaning as is commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. All patents, applications, published applications and other publications referred to herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety. If a definition set forth in this section is contrary to or otherwise inconsistent with a definition set forth in the patents, applications, published applications, and other publications that are herein

incorporated by reference, the definition set forth in this section prevails over the definition that is incorporated herein by reference.

[0090] Unless otherwise indicated or the context suggests otherwise, as used herein, “a” or “an” means “at least one” or “one or more.”

[0091] This description may use relative spatial and/or orientation terms in describing the position and/or orientation of a component, apparatus, location, feature, or a portion thereof. Unless specifically stated, or otherwise dictated by the context of the description, such terms, including, without limitation, top, bottom, above, below, under, on top of, upper, lower, left of, right of, in front of, behind, next to, adjacent, between, horizontal, vertical, diagonal, longitudinal, transverse, radial, axial, etc., are used for convenience in referring to such component, apparatus, location, feature, or a portion thereof in the drawings and are not intended to be limiting.

[0092] Unless otherwise indicated, or the context suggests otherwise, terms used herein to describe a physical and/or spatial relationship between a first component, structure, or portion thereof and a second component, structure, or portion thereof, such as, attached, connected, fixed, joined, linked, coupled, or similar terms or variations of such terms, shall encompass both a direct relationship in which the first component, structure, or portion thereof is in direct contact with the second component, structure, or portion thereof or there are one or more intervening components, structures, or portions thereof between the first component, structure, or portion thereof and the second component, structure, or portion thereof.

[0093] Furthermore, unless otherwise stated, any specific dimensions mentioned in this description are merely representative of an exemplary implementation of a device embodying aspects of the disclosure and are not intended to be limiting.

[0094] The use of the term “about” applies to all numeric values specified herein, whether or not explicitly indicated. This term generally refers to a range of numbers that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider as a reasonable amount of deviation to the recited numeric values (i.e., having the equivalent function or result) in the context of the present disclosure. For example, and not intended to be limiting, this term can be construed as including

a deviation of ± 10 percent of the given numeric value provided such a deviation does not alter the end function or result of the value. Therefore, under some circumstances as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art a value of about 1% can be construed to be a range from 0.9% to 1.1%.

[0095] As used herein, the term “adjacent” refers to being near or adjoining. Adjacent objects can be spaced apart from one another or can be in actual or direct contact with one another. In some instances, adjacent objects can be coupled to one another or can be formed integrally with one another.

[0096] As used herein, the terms “substantially” and “substantial” refer to a considerable degree or extent. When used in conjunction with, for example, an event, circumstance, characteristic, or property, the terms can refer to instances in which the event, circumstance, characteristic, or property occurs precisely as well as instances in which the event, circumstance, characteristic, or property occurs to a close approximation, such as accounting for typical tolerance levels or variability of the embodiments described herein.

[0097] As used herein, the terms “optional” and “optionally” mean that the subsequently described, component, structure, element, event, circumstance, characteristic, property, etc. may or may not be included or occur and that the description includes instances where the component, structure, element, event, circumstance, characteristic, property, etc. is included or occurs and instances in which it is not or does not.

[0098] In the appended claims, the term “including” is used as the plain-English equivalent of the respective term “comprising.” The terms “comprising” and “including” are intended herein to be open-ended, including not only the recited elements, but further encompassing any additional elements. Moreover, in the following claims, the terms “first,” “second,” and “third,” etc. are used merely as labels, and are not intended to impose numerical requirements on their objects.

[0099] All possible combinations of elements and components described in the specification or recited in the claims are contemplated and considered to be part of this disclosure. It should be appreciated that all combinations of the foregoing concepts and

additional concepts discussed in greater detail below (provided such concepts are not mutually inconsistent) are contemplated as being part of the subject matter disclosed herein. In particular, all combinations of claimed subject matter appearing at the end of this disclosure are contemplated as being part of the subject matter disclosed herein.

Key and Key Blank

[00100] FIGS. 1-3 show, respectively, a key 110 having a key blade 116, a first side 124 of the key blade 116, and a second side 126 of the key blade 116, configured to operate a lock as disclosed herein. In an embodiment, key 110 includes a bow 112 and a shoulder 114, or key stop, with the blade 116 extending from the key stop 114. Key 110 includes a primary top edge 118 with primary biting cuts 120, a bottom edge 122, and first 124 and second 126 opposed sides extending between the primary top edge 118 and the bottom edge 122. Note that the designation of sides 124 and 126 as first and second is arbitrary. In some embodiments, the primary biting cuts may 120 be skew type bittings that provide elevation and rotational positioning to the primary pins.

[00101] Each side of blade 116 may include warding grooves and ridges extending longitudinally along the blade, such as groove 128 and ridge 130 on the first side 124 and groove 127 and ridge 133 on the second side 126. As further described below, groove 127 is located to align with and accept a multi-level ridge of a cylinder keyway as the key 110 is inserted into the lock.

[00102] First side 124 may include a rib 132 extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of the key blade 116. Rib 132 defines a secondary top edge 134 on which may be formed secondary bittings 136. Rib 132 may include warding grooves and ridges, such as groove 129 and ridge 131, extending longitudinally along the rib. Groove 127 extends longitudinally along key blade 116 on a side of the blade 116 opposite the rib 132.

[00103] Key 110 further includes a movable element, such as a shuttle pin 138, disposed within a through-hole 140 extending transversely through the key blade 116 from the first side 124 to the second side 126. Although the concepts disclosed herein are described in the context of shuttle pin 138, these concepts also encompass other forms of “movable elements” configured

to extend transversely through the key blade 116 from the first side 124 to the second side 126.

[00104] The shuttle pin 138 may be positioned within the key blade 116 at different longitudinal locations. FIGS. 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D are side views of varying embodiments of keys 110a, 110b, 110c, 110d including primary bittings 120a, 120b, 120c, 120d and secondary bittings 136a, 136b, 136c, 136d, respectively. The shuttle pin 138 and through-hole 140 are positioned at a first location, second location, third location, and fourth location along the key blade 116a, 116b, 116c, 116d. Note that primary bittings 120a, 120b, 120c, 120d may each be the same or different and secondary bittings 136a, 136b, 136c, 136d may each be the same or different.

[00105] In the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1-4D, shuttle pin 138 extends through rib 132 and groove 127. Alternatively, shuttle pin 138 may be located at a position along the length of the key blade 116 before the rib 132, after the rib 132, or on a key blade having no rib 132.

[00106] FIG. 5 shows features of the shuttle pin 138 having a first end or enlarged head portion 142 and second end or enlarged head portion 144 at opposite longitudinal ends connected by a narrower, generally cylindrical center portion 146.

[00107] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, shuttle pin 138 is retained within the through-hole 140 and is configured to be moveable within the through-hole 140 across the width of the key 110 from a retracted or first position, in which the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 extends into the groove 127, to an extended or second position, in which the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 is moved out of the groove 127 and the first end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 extends from the first side 124 of the key blade 116 to actuate a supplemental sidebar control element. *See also* FIGS. 8A and 8B. As will further be described below, shuttle pin 138, or other movable element, is configured to engage a multi-level ridge within a keyway of a lock as key 110 is inserted into the keyway. The multi-level ridge moves the shuttle pin, or other moveable element, from the first position to the second position.

[00108] FIG. 6 depicts the bottom edge 122 of the key blade 116. A shuttle pin retainer 148 is disposed in a retainer hole 150 extending vertically from the bottom edge 122 upwards towards the top edge 118 and intersecting through hole 140. FIG. 7 is a cross sectional view of FIG. 6 cut longitudinally through the blade 116 and shuttle pin 138, looking down on key 110

inverted and the top edges 118 and 134 are facing downwards (i.e., a longitudinal cross-section of the key blade 116 along line VIa – VIa in FIG. 2). FIG. 7 illustrates the position of the retainer 148 relative to the shuttle pin 138. The shuttle pin retainer 148 extends into the through-hole 140 to contact the shuttle pin center portion 146 and blocks enlarged head portions 142, 144 to retain the shuttle pin 138 within through-hole 140 while allowing limited axial movement of the shuttle pin 138 within the through-hole 140. FIGS. 8A and 8B are transverse cross-sections of the key blade along line VIb – VIb in FIG. 2 and show the shuttle pin 138 disposed within through hole 140 extending through the rib 132 within groove 127 extending longitudinally along key blade 116 on a side of the blade opposite the rib 132. In FIG. 8A, shuttle pin 138 is retracted within the through hole 140 with the first end 142 flush with or recessed from an outer edge of the rib 132 on the first side 124 of the key blade 116 and the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 extended into a longitudinal groove 127 on the second side 126 of the key blade 116. In FIG. 8B, shuttle pin 138 is extended within the through hole 140 with the first end 142 extending beyond the outer edge of the rib 132 on the first side 124 of the key blade 116. The shuttle pin can be caused to move from the retracted position shown in FIG. 8A to the extended position shown in FIG. 8B when inserted into a keyway by a projecting rib or multi-level ridge in the keyway that extends into the groove 127 to contact the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138.

[00109] The present disclosure further contemplates a key blank from which key 110 may be formed. Such a key blank may include all features shown and described above with respect to key 110, key blade 116, and shuttle pin 138, except the primary bittings 120 and the secondary bittings 136, which are later formed (e.g., cut, machined) on the primary top edge 118 and secondary top edge 134, respectively, with a key cutting machine to operate a specifically coded lock.

Lock Assembly – First Embodiment

[00110] FIG. 9 is an exploded, top perspective view of a first embodiment of a cylinder lock assembly 100 that may be operated by key 110 described above. Lock assembly 100 includes a housing 152 having an axial bore 154 in which a cylindrical plug or cylinder 160 is rotatably disposed. A sidebar 222 is positioned in a sidebar cavity 166 formed in the side of the plug 160 and a beveled projection, or nose, 232 extends into an axial sidebar groove 156 (not

shown in FIG. 9, *see* FIGS. 25, 26, 27) formed in the sidewall of the axial bore 154 in the housing 152. The sidebar 222 is urged radially outwardly from the rotational axis of the plug 160, for example, by springs 234 located in the sidebar 222 spring holes, and the beveled projection 232 is urged into the sidebar groove 156 to prevent rotation of the plug 160 within the axial bore 154. The plug 160 cannot be rotated to the unlocked position until the sidebar 222 is moved radially upon application of a torque about the rotational axis of the plug 160, and the beveled projection 232 forces the end of the sidebar 222 from the sidebar groove 156.

[00111] Primary pin sets or primary sidebar control elements 186 (e.g., tumbler pins) may control rotation of the plug 160 within the bore 154 and control movement of the sidebar 222 out of engagement with the sidebar groove 156, as will be described below. Each primary set 186 comprises a top, or primary, pin 188, a top pin driver 190, and a top pin spring (not shown). In the illustrated embodiment, the lock assembly 100 includes six pin sets 186. Alternatively, the lock assembly may have a different number of pin sets 186.

[00112] Lock assembly 100 may further include a secondary sidebar control element in the form of secondary pins, or side pins 204, that are positioned by the secondary biting cuts 136 of key 110, and a supplemental sidebar control element comprising a supplemental pin, e.g., in the form of a lift pin 238, that is positioned by the shuttle pin 138 of the key 110. The side pins 204 and lift pin 238 control movement of the sidebar 222 out of engagement with the sidebar groove 156, as will be described below. In the illustrated embodiment (FIG. 9), the lock assembly 100 includes three side pins 204 and one lift pin 238. Alternatively, as further described below, the lock assembly may have a different numbers of secondary pins 204 and lift pins 238 located at various positions within the plug 160. In some embodiments, the lock assembly may have no side pins 204. In various embodiments, the sidebar may be controlled by only one or more supplemental sidebar control elements (e.g., one or more lift pins), or by any combination of primary pins, secondary pins, and supplemental sidebar control elements.

[00113] FIG. 10 illustrates features of one embodiment of the sidebar 222. The sidebar 222 has a first side 223 having the beveled projection 232 and a second side 225 having various blocking elements to block the sidebar 222 from moving radially when the lock assembly 100 is in the locked state and allow radial movement of the sidebar 222 when the lock assembly 100 is

in the unlocked state. The various blocking elements include primary blocking lugs 224 projecting from the second side 225, secondary pin cutouts 226 formed in the second side 225 between adjacent pairs of blocking lugs 224, secondary blocking shelves 228 extending across each cutout 226, and supplemental blocking elements (e.g., supplemental cutout 256 and supplemental blocking feature, such as supplemental blocking shelf 258 extending across cutout 256). The second side 225 further includes spring holes 235 to house the springs 234 (not shown in FIG. 10, *see* FIG. 9). The spring holes 235 may be positioned below primary blocking lugs 224. FIG. 10 depicts two spring holes 235 positioned below the second outer-most primary blocking lugs 224 on each end of the sidebar 222. Other embodiments may include various quantities and positions of the spring holes 235.

[00114] Referring again to FIG. 9, the plug 160 and the housing 152 have top, or primary, pin holes 180, 158, respectively, in which the top, or primary, pin sets 186 are positioned. Plug 160 further includes a keyway 162 extending longitudinally therein and aligned with the primary pin holes 180. The top pins 188 have beveled tips 194, and can be properly positioned to permit rotation of the plug 160 within the housing 152 by inserting a properly bitted key 110 into the keyway 162 to elevate the top pins 188 to align a shear line between the top pin 188 and the corresponding top pin driver 190 of each top pin set 186 with a shear line between the plug 160 and the housing 152. Each top pin 188 may further include a sidebar recess 196 formed in a side of the pin (e.g., a longitudinal slot or hole) to permit movement of the sidebar 222 when the top pins 188 are properly oriented rotationally by beveled primary cuts 120 of the key 110. Each top pin 188 may optionally include one or more false longitudinal sidebar recesses 198 to foil lock picking as further explained below.

[00115] FIGS. 11A and 11B illustrate alternate embodiments of the primary pin, specifically embodiments designated by reference numbers 188a, 188b, 188c, 188d. Each embodiment includes a different variation of a side bar recess 196a, 196b, 196c, 196d, respectively. The sidebar recesses 196a can extend the full length of the pin 188a, as with primary pin 188. Alternatively, the sidebar recess 196b, 196c, 196d can extend a limited or partial length of the pin 188b, 188c, 188d. In some embodiments, e.g., embodiment 188d, the recess 196d can be shaped as a hole. To accommodate recess 196d, the sidebar primary blocking lugs 224 can be shaped as a round post (not shown). When the lock assembly is in the locked

state, the primary blocking lugs 224 contact the primary pins 188 to block the sidebar 222 from moving radially. When the lock assembly is in the unlocked state, as shown in FIGS. 24 and 25, the primary pins 188 are rotationally oriented by the primary bittings and the sidebar recesses 196 are aligned with the primary blocking lugs 224, so the primary pins 188 will not block axial movement of the sidebar 222.

[00116] Referring to FIG. 9, plug 160 has side pin holes, or secondary pin holes 184, in which side pins 204 and associated springs 208 are positioned. Secondary pin holes 184 are laterally offset with respect to the keyway 162, extend into the sidebar cavity 166, and may be oriented so as to be generally parallel with the primary pin holes 180.

[00117] Plug 160 further includes a lift pin hole 262 in which the lift pin 238 is disposed. Lift pin hole 262 is laterally offset with respect to the keyway 162, extends into the sidebar cavity 166, and may be oriented so as to be generally parallel with the primary pin holes 180 and aligned with the secondary pin holes 184.

[00118] Referring to FIGS. 12A, 12B, and 12C, each secondary pin may comprise a different configuration, as shown by pins 204a, 204b, and 204c. Each pin 204a, 204b, 204c has a pin body 202, which may be generally cylindrical in shape, a transversely extending projection 212 extending from a lower end of the body 202, and a top axial projection 213 that may be seated into the corresponding coil spring 208. The transversely extending projection 212 extends laterally into the keyway 162 from the body 202 by a width sufficient to contact top edge 134 of a rib 132 and engage secondary cuts 136 of the rib 132 on the key 110. On the opposite side of the transversely extending projection 212, the secondary pins 204a, 204b, and 204c have a second transversely extending projection 211 to limit rotation of the pins 204a, 204b, 204c within the secondary pin holes 184.

[00119] Each secondary pin 204 includes a transverse sidebar slot 216 formed transversely across the body 202 on an opposite side of the body 202 from the projection 212. The sidebar slots 216 receive the secondary blocking shelves 228 on the sidebar 222, to permit radial movement of the sidebar 222 when the secondary pins 204 are properly elevated by the secondary bittings 136 to align the sidebar slots 216 with the blocking shelves 228, as will be described below. The sidebar slot 216 of each secondary pin 204a, 204b, and 204c is located at a

different axial position on the pin body 202, thereby allowing for different key code variations depending on the pins used and where they are positioned within the lock. Each secondary pin 204 may optionally further include one or more false sidebar slots 218 to foil lock picking, as further explained below.

[00120] With the secondary pin 204 and spring 208 disposed within a secondary pin hole 184, the projection 212 extends into the keyway 162, and, upon inserting a properly bitted key, each secondary pin 204 can be properly elevated by secondary cuts 136 on the rib 132 of the key 110 engaging the projection 212.

[00121] FIG. 13 is an exploded perspective view of the key 110, the primary pins 188, the secondary pins 204, the lift pin 238, and the sidebar 222 and shows the relative positions of key 110 inserted into plug 160 (not shown for clarity), primary pins 188, secondary pins 204 and springs 208, lift pin 238 and spring 250, and sidebar 222, with the secondary pins 204 and sidebar 222 exploded laterally from the key 110.

[00122] As noted above, each primary pin 188 may optionally include one or more false sidebar recesses 198 extending longitudinally along the length of the primary pin 188. In the event the lock assembly is being manipulated in an attempt to pick the lock, a blocking lug 224 of the sidebar 222 may engage the false sidebar recess 198. The false sidebar recess 198 is not deep enough to allow sufficient radial movement of the sidebar 222 to disengage the nose 232 from the sidebar groove 156 of the bore 154, but engagement of the false sidebar recess 198 by the blocking lug 224 will prevent further manipulation of the lock assembly, thereby foiling the pick attempt.

[00123] As shown in FIGS. 14A and 14B, the secondary pin cutouts 226 of the sidebar 222 are located between the blocking lugs 224 and correspond to the number and shape of the secondary pins 204. A secondary blocking shelf 228 (e.g. rectangular or curved projection) extends across a portion of each secondary pin cutout 226. When the lock assembly 100 is in the locked state, as depicted in FIG. 14A, the blocking shelves 228 contact the secondary pins 204 to block the sidebar 222 from moving radially inwardly. When the lock assembly 100 is in the unlocked state, as depicted in FIG. 14B, the secondary pins 204 are elevated by the secondary bittings 136 on a properly bitted key 110 and their transverse sidebar slots 216 are aligned with

the blocking shelves 228 so that the blocking shelves 228 can enter the sidebar slots 216, and the secondary pins 204 will not block axial movement of the sidebar 222. *See also* FIGS. 12A, 12B, 12C.

[00124] As noted above, each secondary pin 204 may also optionally include one or more false sidebar slots 218 extending transversely across the body 202 of the secondary pin 204 above and/or below the sidebar slot 216. In the event the lock assembly is being manipulated in an attempt to pick the lock by lifting a secondary pin 204, a secondary blocking shelf 228 of the sidebar 222 may engage the false sidebar slot 218. The false sidebar slot 218 is not deep enough to allow sufficient radial movement of the sidebar 222 to disengage the nose 232 from the sidebar groove 156 of the bore 154, but engagement of the false sidebar slot 218 by the secondary blocking shelf 228 will prevent further manipulation of the lock assembly, thereby foiling the pick attempt.

[00125] FIGS. 15A, 15B, and 15C depict various views of one embodiment of the lift pin 238. The lift pin 238 has a generally cylindrically-shaped body 246 with a top axial projection 248 that may be seated into a corresponding coil spring 250. On a first side 252, the lift pin 238 has shuttle pin cutout 240 at its lower end and a shuttle pin engaging portion or downwardly pointing beveled edge (or shuttle pin engaging portion) 260. The beveled edge 260 of the lift pin 238 is laterally offset from the transversely extending projection 212 of the side pin(s) 204 so that the lift pin 238 is not actuated by the secondary cuts 136 of the rib 132 on the key 110. On a second side 254, the lift pin 238 has a sidebar engagement feature, such as a transverse sidebar slot 242 extending transversely across the body 246 of the lift pin 238. The second side 254 further has a transversely extending projection 264 to limit rotation of the lift pin 238 within the lift pin hole 262 in the plug 160.

[00126] Optionally, the lift pin 238 may have one or more false sidebar slots 244 above and/or below the sidebar slot 242. As with the false sidebar slot 218 on the secondary pins 204, the false sidebar slot 244 on the lift pin 238 extends transversely across the body 246 of the lift pin 238. If the lock assembly is being manipulated in an attempt to pick the lock by lifting the lift pin 238, the supplemental blocking shelf 258 on the sidebar 222 may engage the false sidebar slot 244. The false sidebar slot 244 is not deep enough to allow sufficient radial movement of the

sidebar 222 to disengage the nose 232 from the sidebar groove 156 of the bore 154, and engagement of the false sidebar slot 244 by the supplemental blocking shelf 258 will prevent further manipulation of the lock assembly, thereby foiling the pick attempt.

[00127] FIG. 16 show one embodiment of the keyway 162 that includes a multi-level ridge, or rib, 164 (forming part of the profile of the cylinder keyway 162) having ridge 164 features of different heights and located at different locations along the length of the cylinder keyway 162 for actuating a movable element, such as shuttle pin 138, movably mounted within key blade 116. As further described below, these features interact with elements of key 110 to operate the cylinder lock 100.

[00128] As shown in FIG. 16, multi-level ridge 164 in the keyway 162 is located at a vertical height 163 within the keyway 162, has different heights (e.g., first height 266, second height 268, and third height 270) along the length of the ridge 164, and may take on different transverse shapes, or profiles, to correspond to the shape of a corresponding groove 127 in the key 110. The multi-level ridge 164 may not run the entire length of the keyway 162.

[00129] FIGS. 17A, and 17B show one embodiment of keyway 162 within the plug 160 having multi-level ridge 164 extending into the keyway 162, the relief 165, and a hole for a sidebar control element (e.g., lift pin hole 262 for lift pin 238). The shuttle pin 138 is shown within the keyway 162 as it would be positioned if disposed within the key 110 inserted into the keyway 162 but, to illustrate the manipulation of the shuttle pin 138, the key is omitted from FIGS. 17A, and 17B. Although the embodiment shown in FIGS. 17A and 17B depict multi-level ridge 164 configured to engage one shuttle pin 138, as further explained below, multi-level ridge 164 may be configured to engage more than one shuttle pin 138 within key blade.

[00130] As the key 110 (not shown) is inserted into the cylinder keyway 162, the shuttle pin 138 (located in the groove 127 of the key 110) engages the multi-level ridge 164 and moves across the width of the key 110 to engage the lift pin 238 on an opposite side (first side) 161 of the keyway 162. For the key 110 to successfully unlock the lock 100, a correct alignment between the shuttle pin 138 and the lift pin 238 must occur. The multi-level ridge 164 must be in a location along the length of the cylinder keyway 162 that corresponds to the location of the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160 and the shuttle pin 138 in the key 110. This alignment occurs when

the key 110 is fully inserted into the cylinder 160 keyway 162. In addition, the shuttle pin 138 must be moved the correct distance across the width of the key 110 to properly engage the lift pin 238.

[00131] In traditional keyway designs, ridges begin at a front end of the cylinder and are continuous through the length of the cylinder. As disclosed herein, the multi-level ridge 164 is located a distance back from a front end 280 of the keyway 162 to provide clearance for the shuttle pin 138 during initial insertion of the key 110. The location of the multi-level ridge 164 features (referred to herein as levels, planes, or surfaces of different heights and transitions between the levels) is different depending on the location of the lift pin 238 of the cylinder lock 100.

[00132] Referring to FIGS. 17A and 17B, the multi-level ridge 164 may have three distinct levels, or planes or surfaces, (first level 266, second level 268, and third level 270) at different heights from a multi-level ridge side (second side) 167 of the keyway 162. The multi-level ridge 164 may further include two transition zones or ramps (first transition ramp 272 between first level 266 and second level 268 and second transition ramp 274 between second level 268 and third level 270) utilized to engage and interact with the shuttle pin 138 in the key 110. The first transition ramp 272 moves the shuttle pin 138 from the first level 266 to the second level 268 as the key 110 is inserted into the cylinder 160 keyway 162. The second transition 274 blocks the shuttle pin 138 from progressing past the second level 268, thus preventing the key 110 from further insertion as will be described below.

[00133] The extent of the multi-level ridge 164 having the first level 266 may be referred to as a first segment of the multi-level ridge 164, the extent of the multi-level ridge 164 having the second level 268 may be referred to as a second segment of the multi-level ridge 164, and the extent of the multi-level ridge 164 having the third level 270 may be referred to as a third segment of the multi-level ridge 164.

[00134] Keyway 162 may further include a distal transition feature 288 and a third transition feature (e.g., ramp) 276 on side 161 of the keyway 162 opposite the multi-level ridge 164. The distal transition feature 288, in combination with the second transition 274 and third level 270, blocks the shuttle pin from traveling further into the keyway and prevents further

insertion of an improper key as further described below. Referring to FIG. 17B, a dimension 290 from the front end 280 of cylinder keyway 162 to distal transition feature 288 is determined by the location of the lift pin 238 in cylinder 160.

[00135] The third transition feature 276 moves the shuttle pin 138 back to the first position primarily contained within the groove 127 of the key 110 as the key 110 is being removed from the cylinder keyway 162. This is required to allow clearance for the shuttle pin 138 in the keyway 162 as the key 110 is removed. Referring to FIG. 17A, a dimension 278 from the front end 280 of cylinder keyway 162 to third transition feature 276 is determined by the location of the lift pin 238 in cylinder 160. Note that as the key blade is retracted from the keyway 162, the left side of head 142 (i.e., the side of head 142 closest to the front end 280) moves down transition 276 while the right side of head 144 (i.e. the side of head 144 furthest from front end 280) moves down transition 272. The left side of head 142 reaches the end of transition 276 at the same time the right side of head 144 reaches the end of transition 272.

[00136] As the key (not shown) is inserted into the keyway 162, the shuttle pin 138 travels through the keyway 162 to a first position as shown in FIG. 17A. In the first level 266, the multi-level ridge 164 is sufficiently removed from the keyway 162 (i.e., the height of first level 266 from the side 167 of the keyway 162 is small (possibly zero)) to provide clearance for the shuttle pin 138 when the key 110 is being inserted into the keyway 162 and the shuttle pin 138 is primarily contained in the groove 127 of the key 110 so that the shuttle pin blocks the groove 127. Without the shuttle pin clearance provided by the first level 266, the key 110 could not be inserted into the cylinder 160 keyway 162. FIG. 19A is a front view section showing the shuttle pin 138 positioned in the first position at first level 266 (first plane) of multi-level ridge 164. Shuttle pin 138 is not engaged with the multi-level ridge 164 at this point and has clearance to pass through keyway 162. In this position, as also shown in FIG. 20A, the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 extends into a groove 127 on the second side 126 of the key blade 116 and the lift pin 238 is in a position (or locked state) where the sidebar slot 242 is not aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258 (*see* FIG. 10), preventing the sidebar 222 from moving radially.

[00137] Referring to FIG. 17B, as the key 110 continues through the keyway 162 in the insertion direction A, the shuttle pin 138 engages the first transition ramp 272 (i.e., the shuttle

pin 138 contacts the first transition ramp 272) in the key 110 groove 127, and the first transition ramp 272 pushes the shuttle pin 138 from the first level 266 to the second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164. Positioning the shuttle pin 138 to the second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164 moves the shuttle pin 138 across the width of the key 110, into a relief 165 formed in the keyway 162. When the key 110 is fully inserted into the keyway 162, the shuttle pin 138 aligns with the lift pin hole 262. As further shown in FIGS. 20B and 21, the enlarged head portion 142 of the shuttle pin 138 contacts the beveled edge 260 of the lift pin 238, which causes the beveled edge 260 to ride up onto the enlarged head portion 142 and elevate the lift pin 238. The shuttle pin 138 remains in the extended position, resting in the cutout 240 of the lift pin 238, and holding the lift pin 238 in the elevated position (or unlocked state). In the elevated position, the sidebar slot 242 is aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258 (*see* Fig. 10) so the supplemental blocking shelf 258 can enter the sidebar slot 242, and the sidebar 222 is no longer blocked by the lift pin 238.

[00138] FIG 19B is a front view section showing shuttle pin 138 positioned at second level 268 (second plane) of multi-level ridge 164. Shuttle pin 138 is properly engaging the lift pin 238 on the opposite side 161 of the keyway 162. FIG. 18A is a section view of shuttle pin 138 in position two (i.e., the second of four possible supplemental locking element locations) with the key 110 fully inserted and the shuttle pin 138 seated on second level 268 (second plane) of the multi-level ridge 164 and moved across key 110 to engage the lift pin 238 on the opposite side 161 of keyway. FIG. 18B is a section view of shuttle pin 138 in position three (i.e., the third of four possible supplemental locking element locations) with the key 110 fully inserted and the shuttle pin 138 seated on second level 268 (second plane) of the multi-level ridge 164 and moved across key 110 to engage the lift pin 238 on the opposite side 161 of keyway.

[00139] Referring to FIGS. 18A and 18B, the first transition ramp 272 is precisely located to be aligned with the position of the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160. Since the shuttle pin 138 in the key 110 and the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160 can be in different locations along the keyway 162 length, the first transition ramp 272 must be in the proper location to allow the shuttle pin 138 in a correct key 110 to align with and cause the shuttle pin 138 to engage the lift pin 238. In other words, a dimension 282 from the front end 280 of cylinder keyway 162 to first transition ramp 272 is determined by the location lift pin 238 in cylinder 160.

[00140] The location of the second level 268 is determined by the location of the first transition ramp 272 and is specific to the location of the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160. The width of the second level 268 relative to how far it extends into the keyway 162 determines the amount of travel the shuttle pin 138 is moved within the groove 127 of key 110 to engage the lift pin 238 on the opposite side 161 of the keyway 162 (*see* FIG. 19B). If the second level 268 is too shallow, the shuttle pin 138 will not fully engage the lift pin 238 and will not unlock the lock 100. If the second level 268 is too wide, the shuttle pin 138 located in the key 110 groove 127 will jam and the key 110 will not operate the lock 100.

[00141] The second transition ramp 274 is located beyond the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160 where the second level 268 will transition to the third level 270. Second transition ramp 274 is located at a distance 284 from the first transition ramp 272 determined by the position of the lift pin 238 in the cylinder 160.

[00142] The third level 270 is where the multi-level ridge 164 extends to its maximum height into the keyway 162 and completely engages in the corresponding groove 127 of the key 110. The third level 270 prevents the shuttle pin 138 disposed within the groove 127 from passing and also provides alignment and tracking of the key 110 in the cylinder keyway 162. FIG. 19C is a rear view of keyway 162 with a fully inserted key 110. The multi-level ridge 164 at third level 270 (third plane) is fully engaged with groove 127 of the key blade 116. As shown in FIGS. 18A and 18B, shuttle pin 138 in key 110 does not have clearance to engage third level 270 (i.e. traverse the second transition 274). In some embodiments, the third level 270 of the multi-level ridge 164 extends across a centerline 286 bisecting the width of the keyway 162 in the cylinder 160 (paracentric) (*see* also FIG. 16). The groove 127 in the key 110 may also be paracentric to the centerline of the key 110.

[00143] The shuttle pin 138 located in the key 110 prevents the key 110 from being inserted beyond the point where the shuttle pin 138 contacts the distal transition feature 288 and second transition ramp 274. This causes the shuttle pin 138 of a non-matching key to jam into the multi-level ridge 164. This becomes important when keys 110 with different shuttle pin 138 positions are inserted into cylinders 100 without matching multi-level ridge 164 locations.

[00144] FIGS. 22A – 22D show a cylinder 160 with the second level 268 of the multi-

level ridge 164 in the second position (i.e., the second from the front end 280 of four possible supplemental locking element locations) and keys 110a, 110b, 110c, and 110d having different locations of shuttle pin 138.

[00145] FIG. 22A shows key 110a with shuttle pin 138 located in the first location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the second position. Shuttle pin 138 does not extend far enough into the keyway 162 to reach the second level 268, and thus shuttle pin 138 will not be extended to engage the lift pin 238, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00146] FIG. 22B shows key 110b with shuttle pin 138 located in the second location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the second position. Shuttle pin 138 extends far enough into the keyway 162 to reach the second level 268, and thus shuttle pin 138 is extended to engage lift pin 238, in which case the cylinder 160 will rotate.

[00147] FIG. 22C shows key 110c with shuttle pin 138 located in the third location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the second position. The right side of head 142 (i.e., the side of head 142 furthest from the front end 280) contacts and begins traveling down distal transition feature 288 while the right side of head 144 (i.e. the side of head 144 furthest from front end 280) contacts and begins traveling up transition 274 until the clearance between distal transition feature 288 and transition 274 (and between side 161 and third level 270) is too small for the shuttle pin 138 to continue through the keyway. The engagement of shuttle pin 138 by the distal transition feature 288 and the second transition ramp 274, thereby prevents the key 110c from being inserted completely, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00148] FIG. 22D shows key 110d with shuttle pin 138 located in the fourth location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the second position. Shuttle pin 138 contacts the distal transition feature 288 and the second transition ramp 274, thereby preventing the key 110d from being inserted completely, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00149] FIGS. 23A-23D show a cylinder 160 with the second level 268 of the multi-level

ridge 164 in the third position (i.e., the third from the front end 280 of four possible supplemental locking element locations) and keys 110a, 110b, 110c, and 110d having different locations of shuttle pin 138.

[00150] FIG. 23A shows key 110a with shuttle pin 138 located in the first location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the third position. Shuttle pin 138 does not extend far enough into the keyway 162 to reach the second level 268, and thus shuttle pin 138 will not be extended to engage lift pin 238, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00151] FIG. 23B shows key 110b with shuttle pin 138 located in the second location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the third position. Shuttle pin 138 does not extend far enough into the keyway 162 to reach the second level 268, and thus shuttle pin 138 will not be extended to engage lift pin 238, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00152] FIG. 23C shows key 110c with shuttle pin 138 located in the third location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the third position. Shuttle pin 138 extends far enough into the keyway 162 to reach the second level 268, and thus shuttle pin 138 is extended to engage lift pin 238, in which case the cylinder 160 will rotate.

[00153] FIG. 23D shows key 110d with shuttle pin 138 located in the fourth location fully inserted into a cylinder 160 with second level 268 of multi-level ridge 164 in the third position. Shuttle pin 138 contacts the distal transition feature 288 and the second transition ramp 274, thereby preventing the key 110d from being inserted completely, in which case the cylinder 160 will not rotate.

[00154] FIG. 24 shows a top cross sectional view of lock assembly 100 having shuttle pin (not shown) located in the fourth location fully inserted into cylinder 160 with second level of multi-level ridge (not shown) and lift pin 238 in the corresponding fourth position. As the key 110 is inserted into the keyway (not shown), the primary bittings 120 elevate and rotate the primary pins 188 to positions shown in FIGS. 24 and 25, the secondary bittings 136 elevate the secondary pins 204 to positions shown in FIGS. 24 and 26, and the shuttle pin 138 elevates the

lift pin 238 to a position shown in FIGS. 24 and 27. In FIG. 25, the top pin 188 and the corresponding top pin driver 190 of each top pin set 186 are aligned with a shear line 168 between the plug 160 and the housing 152. Further, the sidebar recesses 196 are aligned with the blocking lugs 224 of the sidebar 222. In FIG. 26, the secondary pins 204, aligned with the cutouts 226 of the sidebar 222 are elevated so that the transverse sidebar slots 216 are aligned with the blocking shelves 228 of the sidebar 222. In FIG. 27, the first end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 is extended into the cutout 240 of the lift pin 238 and elevates lift pin 238 so that the sidebar slot 242 is aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258 of the sidebar 222.

[00155] Referring to FIG. 24, with the components of the lock assembly 100 aligned, as torque is applied to the key 110, the blocking lugs 224 on the sidebar 222 can move into the respective longitudinal sidebar recesses 196 of primary pins 188, the blocking shelves 228 of sidebar 222 can move into the respective transverse sidebar slots 216 of secondary pins 204, and the supplemental blocking shelf 258 of sidebar 222 can move into the sidebar slot 242 of the lift pin 238 so as to allow the sidebar 222 to move radially inwardly from a locked position to an unlocked position. The longitudinal sidebar recesses 196, transverse sidebar slots 216, and lift pin sidebar slot 242 are deep enough to allow sufficient radial movement of the sidebar 222 to disengage the nose 232 from the sidebar groove 156 of the bore 154. With the sidebar nose 232 disengaged from the sidebar groove 156 the plug 160 may rotate within the housing 152.

[00156] Referring to FIGS. 28A-28C, the third transition feature 276 opposite the multi-level ridge 164 engages the shuttle pin 138 in the key 110 as the key 110 is removed from the cylinder 160 and the extended end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 leaves the relief 165 and moves the shuttle pin 138 from a position previously determined by the second level 268 back to a position primarily contained within the key 110 groove 127 at the first level 266. Movement of the shuttle pin 138 back to the retracted position allows clearance for the shuttle pin 138 in the keyway 162 as the key 110 is removed.

[00157] FIG. 28A shows the position of the shuttle pin 138 with the correct key fully inserted (key is omitted from the figure for clarity). Shuttle pin 138 is seated on the second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164 and moved across keyway 162 to engage lift pin 238.

[00158] FIG. 28B shows the position of shuttle pin 138 with the correct key being

withdrawn from the fully-inserted position (key is omitted from the figure for clarity). As the key is withdrawn from cylinder 160, shuttle pin 138 contacts third transition 276 and is moved back toward the key groove 127.

[00159] FIG. 28C shows the position of shuttle pin 138 with correct key being further withdrawn from the fully-inserted position (key is omitted from the figure for clarity). As the key is further withdrawn from the cylinder 160, the shuttle pin 138 has been moved by third transition 276 to first level 266 of the multi-level ridge 164 such that the shuttle pin 138 has clearance in the keyway 162 to permit the key to be fully withdrawn.

Lock Assembly - Second Embodiment

[00160] FIG. 29 illustrates a second embodiment of lock assembly 300, which is a variation of lock assembly 100 configured for a slider 304 instead of a lift pin 238 as the supplemental sidebar control element. As with lock assembly 100, described above, lock assembly 300 may include housing 152 having a bore 154 and sidebar groove 156 (not shown), primary pin sets 186, and secondary pins 204. A plug 354 is disposed in the bore 154 of the housing 152 with a keyway 356 extending longitudinally through the plug 354. Like plug 160 described above, plug 354 may include sidebar cavity 366, primary pin holes 180, and secondary pin holes 184. Additionally, plug 354 includes a slider hole 326 in which the slider 304 resides. A sidebar 328 is positioned in the sidebar cavity 366 formed in the side of the plug 354 and a beveled projection, or nose, 342 on a first side of the sidebar 328 extends into the sidebar groove 156 (*see* FIG. 36) formed in the sidewall of the axial bore 154 in the housing 152.

[00161] FIGS. 30A and 30B depict one embodiment of the slider 304. The slider 304 has a body 306 with a sidebar blocking lug 320 projecting above a top surface 322 and a shuttle pin engaging portion or projection 324 which extends into the keyway 356 on a medial side 308 (or inner side facing the keyway 356) of the body 306 when the slider is disposed in the slider hole 326. The projection 324 is laterally offset from a transversely extending projection 212 of the side pin(s) 204, and thus the projection 324 is not engaged or contacted by secondary cuts 136 of the rib 132 on the key 110. On a first end 312 of body 306, the slider 304 has a cylindrical hole 316 to receive a spring 318, which spring-biases the slider 304 within the slider hole 326 in a blocking position (*see* FIG. 35A) whereby a portion of the sidebar 328 contacts blocking lug

320, which prevents the sidebar 328 from moving radially into an unlocked position.

[00162] FIG. 31 shows one embodiment of a sidebar 328 corresponding to the slider 304. Similar to the sidebar 222 in lock assembly 100, the sidebar 328 has a first side 332 having a beveled projection or nose 342 and a second side 334 having various blocking elements to block the sidebar 328 from moving radially when the lock assembly 300 is in the locked state (*see* FIG. 35A) and allow radial movement of the sidebar when the lock assembly is in the unlocked state (*see* FIGS. 35B and 35C). The sidebar 328 includes primary pin blocking lugs 336, secondary cutouts 338 formed in the second side 334 between adjacent pairs of blocking lugs 336, secondary blocking shelves 340 extending across each cutout 338, and a slider cutout 330 corresponding to the slider 304. The slider cutout 330 comprises a first cutout portion 346, a second cutout portion 348, and a third cutout portion 350. In one embodiment, the slider cutout 330 is generally in the shape of a trefoil cutout. The first cutout portion 346 and the second cutout portion 348 are shallow and receive the blocking lug 320 of the slider 304 in a locked, blocking position (*see* FIG. 35A). That is the blocking lug 320 when residing in cutout portion 346 or cutout portion 348 will contact a back wall of the respective cutout portion to block the sidebar 328 from inward radial movement. The third cutout portion 350 is deeper than the first 346 and second 348 cutout portions and receives the blocking lug 320 of the slider 304 in an unlocked, non-blocking position (*see* FIGS. 35B and 35C).

[00163] Referring to FIGS. 32 and 33, the key 110 may be the same key 110, described above, used in lock assembly 100 with key blade 116, primary bittings 120 on a top edge 118, secondary bittings 136 on a secondary top edge 134 of rib 132, and a shuttle pin 138 contained within a through-hole 140 extending transversely through the key blade 116.

[00164] The slider 304 resides in the slider hole 326 in the plug 354 (*see* FIG. 29), and is spring-biased by a spring 318 in a locked position. The illustrated embodiment of FIG. 29 depicts two secondary pins 204 with one slider 304 disposed to one side of the two secondary pins 204, and this is also shown in FIGS. 32 and 33. In other embodiments, the secondary pin(s) may be located on an opposite side of the slider, or one or more secondary pins may be located on either side of the slider. As shown in FIGS. 4A-4D, the shuttle pin 138 can be positioned at varying longitudinal positions along the length of the blade 116a-116d to accommodate various

numbers and arrangements of the secondary pins and supplemental lift pins or slider. In some embodiments, the lock assembly may have no secondary pins. In various embodiments, the sidebar may be controlled by only one or more supplemental sidebar control elements (e.g., one or more sliders), or by any combination of primary pins, secondary pins, and supplemental sidebar control elements.

[00165] FIGS. 34A and 34B show the keyway 356 within the plug 354 having a multi-level ridge 164 and a slider 304 disposed within slider hole 326. The slider 304 is shown within the keyway 356 as it would be positioned by the shuttle pin 138 of a key 110 inserted into the keyway 356. To illustrate the manipulation of the shuttle pin 138 more clearly, the key 110 is omitted from FIGS. 34A and 34B.

[00166] Referring to FIG. 34A, as the key 110 is inserted into the keyway 356, the shuttle pin 138 travels through the keyway 356 to a first position. In the first position, a second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 extends into a groove 127 on the second side of the key blade 116. The slider 304 is in a resting position where the blocking lug 320 is in a locked position, not aligned with the third cutout portion 350 of sidebar 328, as shown in FIG. 35A, and the sidebar 328 is prevented from moving radially inwardly to retract from the groove 156.

[00167] Referring to FIG. 34B, as the key 110 continues through the keyway 356 in the insertion direction A, the shuttle pin 138 engages a first transition ramp 272 of the multi-level ridge 164 extending into the groove 127 in the key blade 116 and moves from a first level 266 to a second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164. Positioning the shuttle pin 138 at the second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164 pushes the shuttle pin 138 into the slider hole 326 opposite the multi-level ridge 164. In this position, as shown in FIG. 36, the enlarged first end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 extends out of the first side 124 of the key blade 116. As the key 110 moves forward into a fully inserted position, the first end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 slides forward to contact the projection 324 on the slider 304 and pushes the slider 304 forward until the top blocking lug 320 on the slider 304 is aligned with the third cutout portion 350, as shown in FIG. 35B.

[00168] The shuttle pin 138 remains in the extended position holding the slider 304 in the unlocked, forward position with the top blocking lug 320 aligned with the third cutout portion

350. As a torque is applied to the key 110, the sidebar 328 may move radially into the plug 354, with the third cutout portion 350 receiving the blocking lug 320, as shown in FIG. 24c. The third cutout portion 350 is sufficiently deep to enable the sidebar 328 to move radially inward. As the sidebar 328 moves radially inward, the beveled projection 342 withdraws from the axial groove 156 and permits the plug 354 to rotate within the housing 152.

[00169] As the key blade 116 is removed from the plug 354, the extended end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 engages third transition feature 275 opposite the multi-level ridge 164. The third transition feature 275 moves the shuttle pin 138 from a position previously determined by the second level 268 back to a position primarily contained within the key blade 116 groove 127 at the first level 266. Movement of the shuttle pin 138 back to the retracted positions allows clearance for shuttle pin 138 in the keyway 356 as the key blade 116 is removed.

[00170] In an alternate embodiment, the sidebar includes a protruding blocking lug and the slider includes a lug-receiving recess (not shown). Movement of the slider from a locked state or position to an unlocked state or position comprises engaging the slider with the shuttle pin as described above to move the slider from a first position, in which the lug-receiving recess is not aligned with the blocking lug of the sidebar so that the blocking lug contacts the slider to prevent lateral (e.g., radial) movement of the sidebar within the sidebar cavity, to a second position, in which the lug-receiving recess is aligned with the blocking lug of the sidebar so that the blocking lug can enter the lug-receiving recess to permit lateral (e.g., radial) movement of the sidebar within the sidebar cavity.

Lock Assembly - Third Embodiment

[00171] FIG. 37 illustrates a third embodiment of a lock assembly 500. As with lock assembly 100, described above, lock assembly 500 includes housing 152 having axial bore 154 in which a cylindrical plug 562, having a longitudinally-extending keyway 564, is rotatably disposed. Primary pin sets 186, as described above, control rotation of the plug 562 within the bore 154 and secondary pins 204, as described above, are positioned by the secondary biting cuts 136 of key 110. Lock assembly 500, includes a side bar 536 disposed within a sidebar cavity 566 formed in plug 562 and is operable to engage a sidebar groove 156 formed in the wall of bore 154 as described above. Sidebar 536 includes a beveled nose 550 that engages the sidebar

groove 156. The lock assembly 500 includes a supplemental sidebar control element comprising a supplemental pin, e.g., in the form of a flipper pin 502 rotationally oriented by shuttle pin 138 of key 110 to control movement of the sidebar 536 out of engagement with the sidebar groove 156, as will be described below.

[00172] As shown in FIGS. 4A-4D, the shuttle pin 138 can be positioned at varying longitudinal positions along the length of the blade 116a-116d to accommodate various numbers and arrangements of the supplemental sidebar control element. In some embodiments, the lock assembly may have no secondary pins. In various embodiments, the sidebar may be controlled by only one or more supplemental sidebar control elements (e.g., one or more flipper pins), or by any combination of primary pins, secondary pins, and supplemental sidebar control elements.

[00173] FIGS. 40 and 41 illustrate features of one embodiment of the sidebar 536. Similar to sidebar 222 in lock assembly 100, sidebar 536 has various blocking elements to block the sidebar 536 from moving radially when the lock assembly 500 is in the locked state and allow radial movement of the sidebar 536 when the lock assembly 500 is in the unlocked state. The sidebar 536 includes primary pin blocking lugs 544 projecting from a second side 542 of the sidebar 536, secondary pin cutouts 546 formed in the second side 542 between adjacent pairs of blocking lugs 544, secondary pin blocking shelves 548 (e.g., curved) extending across each cutout 546, and a supplemental blocking feature, such as a flipper pin cutout 538. The flipper pin cutout 538 is a cutout that received a portion of the flipper pin 502 in the unlocked state after the shuttle pin 138 rotates the flipper 502. As shown in FIG. 47A, the flipper pin cutout 538 includes first and second initial cutouts 535, 537 extending from the second side 542 of the sidebar 536, and a center cutout 539 between the initial cutouts 535, 537 and extending deeper into the sidebar 536 than the initial cutouts 535, 537.

[00174] FIGS. 38A and 38B depict one embodiment of the flipper pin 502. The flipper pin 502 has a body 504, which is generally cylindrical in shape. On a first side 506 of the flipper pin 502 near a bottom end 512, a transversely extending shuttle pin engaging portion (lobe, or flipper) 522 extends into the keyway 564 to be engaged by shuttle pin 138 on key blade 116. The flipper 522 is laterally offset from a transversely extending projection 212 of the side pin(s) 204, and thus the projection 324 is not engaged or contacted by secondary cuts 136 of the rib 132 on

the key 110.

[00175] On a second side 508 of the flipper pin 502, near a top end 510, the flipper pin 502 has a lateral projection 524 with a cutout 526. In the illustrated embodiment, the top end 510 has two cutouts 518, 520 on opposite sides of the body 504 to form a sidebar engagement feature, such as sidebar engaging lug 528, on the top end 510 of the flipper pin 502. As shown in FIG. 39, cutout 518 is defined by a first portion 515 and a second portion 517, and cutout 520 is defined by a first portion 519 and a second portion 521. Sections 515 and 519 may be parallel to one another, thereby defining the sidebar engaging lug 528. Portions 517 and 521 diverge away from each other extending from the first portions 515, 519, respectively, toward the outer periphery of the body 504. Other embodiments may contemplate various shapes on the top end 510, which are configured to operate with the sidebar 536. The flipper pin 502 is spring-biased by a spring 516 (*see* FIG. 37) to maintain a position with the flipper 502 positioned into the keyway 564. The spring 516 is positioned off-center from a longitudinal center line through the body 504 and engages projection 524, thereby creating a rotational bias on the flipper pin 502.

[00176] As shown in FIG. 42, the key 110 may be the same key 110, described above, used in lock assembly 100 with key blade 116, primary bittings 120 on a top edge 118, secondary bittings 136 on a secondary top edge 134 of rib 132, and a shuttle pin 138 contained within a through-hole 140 extending transversely through the key blade 116. FIG. 42 further shows the positional relationship between the key 110, primary pins 188, secondary pins 204, flipper pin 502, flipper spring 516, and sidebar 536. The beveled tips 194 of the primary pins 188 engage the primary bittings 120 on the top edge 118 of the key 110 to elevate and rotate the primary pins 188. The transversely extending projections 212 of the secondary pins 204 engage the secondary bittings 136 on the secondary top edge 134 of the rib 132 to elevate the secondary pins 204. The shuttle pin 138 is protruding from the first side 124 of the key 110 in an unlocked position, and the flipper pin 502 is rotated into an unlocked orientation by the shuttle pin 138. The sidebar 536 is engaging the primary pins 186, secondary pins 204, and flipper pin 502.

[00177] FIGS. 43A and 43B show the keyway 564 within the plug 562 having a multi-level ridge 164, a flipper pin hole 530 with the flipper pin 502 in a spring-biased resting position, and a flipper pin recess 532 extending from the flipper pin hole 530. The flipper pin 502 is

shown within the keyway 564 as it would be positioned by the shuttle pin 138 of a key 110 inserted into the keyway 564. To illustrate the manipulation of the shuttle pin 138 more clearly, the key 110 is omitted from FIGS. 43A and 43B.

[00178] Referring to FIG. 43A, as the key (not shown) is inserted into the keyway 564, the shuttle pin 138 travels through the keyway 564 to a first position. In the first position, as shown in FIG. 44, the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 extends into a groove 127 on the second side 126 of the key blade 116. The flipper pin 502 is in a spring-biased resting position where sidebar engagement lug 528 on the top end 510 does not align with the flipper pin cutout 538 on the sidebar 536, and the sidebar 536 is prevented from moving radially inwardly to retract from the groove 156.

[00179] Referring to FIG. 43B, as the key 110 continues through the keyway 564 in the insertion direction A, the shuttle pin 138 engages a first transition ramp 272 of the multi-level ridge 164 extending into the groove 127 in the key blade 116 and moves from a first level 266 to a second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164. Positioning the shuttle pin 138 at the second level 268 of the multi-level ridge 164 pushes the shuttle pin 138 into a shuttle pin relief 568 formed in the keyway 564 opposite the multi-level ridge 164. In this position, the enlarged first end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 extends out of the first side 124 of the key blade 116 (*see* FIG. 45), and contacts the flipper 522 that is rotated into the relief 568. As the key 110 moves forward into a fully inserted position, the second end 144 of the shuttle pin 138 continues up the multi-level ridge 164 and moves the shuttle pin 138 forward to rotate the flipper 522 into the flipper recess 532 in the flipper hole 530, thereby rotating the flipper pin 502. In the rotated position, the sidebar engagement lug 528 of the flipper pin 502 is now aligned with center cutout 539 of the flipper cutout 538 on the sidebar 536. This is illustrated in FIGS. 47B and 47C. In FIG. 47C, with the flipper pin 502 rotationally biased into a locked orientation, the sidebar engagement lug 528, is oriented transversely to the center cutout 539 of the flipper cutout 538. Thus, the initial cutouts 535, 537 of the flipper cutout 538 contact the flipper pin 502, thereby blocking radial movement of the sidebar 536. In FIG. 47C, the flipper pin 502 is rotated by the shuttle pin 138 of the inserted key 110 into an unlocked orientation, the side bar engagement lug 528 is aligned with the center cutout 539 of the flipper cutout 538, and the sidebar 536 is able to move radially into an unlocked position.

[00180] The shuttle pin 138 remains in the extended position holding the flipper pin 502 in the unlocked rotational orientation with flipper 522 in the flipper recess 532 and sidebar engagement lug 528 of the flipper pin 502 aligned with the center cutout 539 of the flipper cutout 538 on the sidebar 536. Once a torque is applied to the plug 562, the sidebar 536 may move radially into the plug 562. As the sidebar 536 moves radially inward, the beveled projection 550 withdraws from the axial groove 156 and permits the plug 562 to rotate within the housing 152 (*see* FIG. 46).

[00181] As the key blade 116 is removed from the plug 354, the extended end 142 of the shuttle pin 138 engages third transition feature 275 opposite the multi-level ridge 164. The third transition feature 275 moves the shuttle pin 138 from a position previously determined by the second level 268 back to a position primarily contained within the key blade 116 groove 127 at the first level 266. Movement of the shuttle pin 138 back to the retracted positions allows clearance for shuttle pin 138 in the keyway as the key blade 116 is removed.

Key, Key Blank, and Lock Assembly - Fourth Embodiment

[00182] As noted above, in other embodiments, lock assemblies 100, 300, and 500 may be configured to have two or more supplemental sidebar control elements (i.e., various combination of two or more lift pins, sliders, and/or flipper pins located at various positions along the length of the keyway).

[00183] To operate lock assemblies having two or more supplemental sidebar control elements, key blades/blanks and the corresponding bitted key may have two or more shuttle pins in a single key blade. FIGS. 48 and 49 depict first side 124 and second side 126, respectively, of a key blade blank 117 having a first shuttle pin 138a disposed within a through-hole 140a and a second shuttle pin 138b disposed within a through-hole 140b. Key blade blank 117 and shuttle pins 138a, 138b may have all features shown and described above with respect to key blade 116 and shuttle pin 138, respectively, except key blade blank 117 has two shuttle pins 138a, 138b instead of single shuttle pin 138 in key blade 116.

[00184] Blade 117 extends from key stop 114 and includes a primary top edge 118 configured to receive primary biting cuts, a bottom edge 122, and first 124 and second 126

opposed sides extending between the primary top edge 118 and the bottom edge 122. Each side may include warding grooves and ridges extending longitudinally along the blade, such as groove 128 and ridge 130 on the first side 124 and groove 127 and ridge 133 on the second side 126. The first side 124 may further include a rib 132 extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of the key blade 117. Rib 132 defines a secondary top edge 134 configured to receive secondary biting cuts. Rib 132 may include warding grooves and ridges, such as groove 129 and ridge 131, extending longitudinally along the rib.

[00185] Shuttle pin 138a is positioned at a first longitudinal location proximally located near key stop 114 and extending transversely through blade 117 from the first side 124 to groove 127 on second side 126 of blade 117. Shuttle pin 138a is moveable within the through-hole 140a across the width of the blade 117 by a corresponding multi-level ridge within a keyway of a lock. In some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 48, the shuttle pin 138a may extend through rib 132.

[00186] As further described below, multi-level ridge engages shuttle pin 138a and moves shuttle pin 138a from a first position, in which a second end 144a of the shuttle pin 138a extends into the groove 127, to a second position, in which the second end 144a of the shuttle pin 138a is moved out of the groove 127 and a first end 142a of the shuttle pin 138a extends from the first side 124 of the key blade 117 to actuate movement of a supplemental sidebar control element from a first locked state to an unlocked state. A retainer pin disposed in a retainer hole (not shown) blocks enlarged head portions of first end 142a and second end 144a to retain the shuttle pin 138a within through-hole 140a while allowing axial movement of the shuttle pin 138a within the through-hole 140a.

[00187] Shuttle pin 138b is positioned at a second longitudinal location at a distance further along the length of the blade 117 from key stop 114 and in line with shuttle pin 138a along the length of the key blade 117. Shuttle pin 138b extends transversely through blade 117 the first side 124 to groove 127 on second side 126 of blade 117 and is moveable within the through-hole 140b across the width of the blade 117 by the corresponding multi-level ridge within the keyway. In some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 48, the shuttle pin 138b may extend through rib 132.

[00188] As further described below, multi-level ridge engages shuttle pin 138b and moves

shuttle pin 138b from a first position, in which a second end 144b of the shuttle pin 138b extends into the groove 127, to a second position, in which the second end 144b of the shuttle pin 138b is moved out of the groove 127 and a first end 142b of the shuttle pin 138b extends from the first side 124 of the key blade 117 to actuate movement of the lift pin 238b. A retainer pin disposed in a retainer hole (not shown) blocks enlarged head portions of first end 142b and second end 144b to retain the shuttle pin 138b within through-hole 140b while allowing axial movement of the shuttle pin 138b within the through-hole 140b.

[00189] Although the embodiment in FIGS. 48 and 49 show two shuttle pins 138a, 138b, disposed within key blade blank 117, other embodiments may include more than two shuttle pins and the shuttle pins may be located in various positions along the length of the key blade. Moreover, the key blade blanks may be machined into bitted keys having primary bittings machined or cut into the top edge and/or secondary bittings machined or cut into the second edge.

[00190] FIG. 50 illustrates one embodiment of a lock assembly 700 having a first lift pin 238a and a second lift pin 238b configured to be operated by a properly bitted key from key blade blank 117. Lock assembly 700 may have all features shown and described above with respect to lock assembly 100 except lock assembly 700 is configured for two lift pins 238a, 238b instead of single lift pin 238.

[00191] Referring to FIG. 50, as with lock assembly 100 (*see* FIG. 9), lock assembly 700 includes housing 152 having bore 154 and sidebar groove 156 (not shown), primary pin sets 186, and secondary pins 204. Plug 712 is disposed in the bore 154 of the housing 152 with a keyway 702 extending longitudinally through the plug 712. Like plug 160 described above, plug 712 may include sidebar cavity 166, primary pin holes 180, and secondary pin holes 184. Additionally, plug 712 includes a first lift pin hole 262a to house lift pin 238a and a second lift pin hole 262b to house lift pin 238b. A sidebar 710 is positioned in the sidebar cavity 166 formed in the side of the plug 712 and a beveled projection, or nose, 232 on a first side of the sidebar 223 extends into the sidebar groove 156 (not shown) formed in the sidewall of the axial bore 154 in the housing 152. In various embodiments, the sidebar may be controlled by only two or more supplemental sidebar control elements, or by any combination of primary pins, secondary pins, and

supplemental sidebar control elements.

[00192] FIG. 51 shows one embodiment of a sidebar 710 corresponding to lock assembly 700 having first lift pin 238a and second lift pin 238b. Similar to sidebar 222 in lock assembly 100, the sidebar 710 has first side 223 having beveled projection or nose 232 and a second side 225 having various blocking elements to block the sidebar 710 from moving radially when the lock assembly 700 is in the locked state and allow radial movement of the sidebar 710 when the lock assembly 700 is in the unlocked state. The sidebar 710 includes primary pin blocking lugs 224, secondary cutouts 226 formed in the second side 225 between adjacent pairs of blocking lugs 224, and secondary blocking shelves 228 extending across each cutout 226. Sidebar 710 further includes a first supplemental cutout 256a and first supplemental blocking shelf 258a extending across cutout 256a to correspond with first lift pin 238a, and second supplemental cutout 256b and second supplemental blocking shelf 258b extending across cutout 256b to correspond with second lift pin 238b.

[00193] FIG. 52 shows the keyway 702 within the plug 712 having a multi-level ridge 704, first lift pin 238a disposed in first lift pin hole 262a, and a second lift pin 238b disposed in second lift pin hole 262b. Lift pin 238a is shown within the keyway 702 as it would be positioned by shuttle pin 138a of key blade 117, and lift pin 238b is shown within the keyway 702 as it would be positioned by the shuttle pin 138b of key 117. To illustrate the manipulation of the shuttle pin 138a and shuttle pin 138b more clearly, the key blade 117 is omitted from FIG. 52.

[00194] As shown in FIG. 52, first lift pin 238a has a shuttle pin cutout 240a and a downwardly pointing beveled edge 260a on a first side and a transverse sidebar slot (not shown) on a second side. Second lift pin 238b has a shuttle pin cutout 240b and a downwardly pointing beveled edge 260b on a first side and a transverse sidebar slot (not shown) on a second side. *See also* FIGS. 15A, 15B, 15C.

[00195] Multi-level ridge 704 is designed with transition ramps and levels to support two shuttle pins in a single key interacting with two lift pins in a single keyway. Multi-level ridge 704 may be referred to as having two sections – a first section 704a corresponding to lift pin 238a and shuttle pin 138a and a second section 704b corresponding to lift pin 238b and shuttle

pin 138b when key blade 117 is fully inserted. Lift pin 238a is in position one (i.e., a first location of four possible supplemental locking element locations in plug 712) and closest to a front end 280 of keyway 702. The first section 704a of multi-level ridge 704 is on a side (second side) 716 of the keyway 702 opposite lift pin 238a. Lift pin 238b is in position three (i.e., a third location of four possible supplemental locking element locations in plug 712) and is the furthest supplemental sidebar locking element from the front end 280 of keyway 702. The second section 704b of multi-level ridge 704 is on the side 716 of the keyway 702 opposite lift pin 238b. In various embodiments, the second section 704b may be in any location along the length of keyway 702 on side 716 opposite the furthest supplemental sidebar locking element from the front end 280. The first section 704a may be in multiple locations and in any location along the length of the keyway on side 161 opposite a supplemental sidebar control element located before the second section 704b (i.e., located before the furthest supplemental sidebar locking element from the front end).

[00196] As the key blade 117 is inserted into keyway 702, multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a engages and moves shuttle pin 138b across the width of the key 117 to engage lift pin 238a on an opposite side (first side) 714 of the keyway 702. As the key blade 117 continues through the keyway 704, shuttle pin 138b disengages from lift pin 238a and moves away from multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a to multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b. The multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a then engages and moves shuttle pin 138a across the width of the key 117 to engage lift pin 238a on opposite side 161 of the keyway 702. Concurrently, multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b engages and moves shuttle pin 138b across the width of the key 117 to engage lift pin 238b on side 161 of the keyway 702. For the key blade 117 to successfully unlock the lock 700, a correct alignment of both shuttle pin 138a with lift pin 238a and shuttle pin 138b with lift pin 238b must occur. When key 117 is fully inserted into the keyway 702, the first section 704a of multi-level ridge location along the length of the cylinder keyway 702 corresponds to the location of lift pin 238a in the keyway 702 and shuttle pin 138a in the key blade 117, and the second section 704b of multi-level ridge location corresponds to the location of lift pin 238b in the keyway 702 and shuttle pin 138b in the key blade 117.

[00197] Referring to FIG. 52, the first section 704a of multi-level ridge is similar to the multi-level ridge 164 described above in connection with lock 100 except the first section 704a

of multi-level ridge 704 has a regression ramp 706 as opposed to the second transition ramp 274 and third level 270 of lock 100. Multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a has two distinct levels (first level 266a and second level 268a) at different heights from the second side 716 of the keyway 702 and two transition zones or ramps (first transition ramp 272a between first level 266a and second level 268a and regression ramp 706 between second level 268a and a first level 266b of the second section 704b). Second transition ramp 274 and third level 270 are omitted from first section 704a of multi-level ridge 704 to allow shuttle pin 138b to travel over multi-level ridge first section 704a to second section 704b without being blocked by third level.

[00198] In the first level 266a of the first section 704a, the multi-level ridge 704 is sufficiently removed from the keyway 702 to provide clearance for both the first shuttle pin 138a and second shuttle pin 138b when the key blade 117 is inserted into the keyway 702 and the shuttle pins 138a, 138b are primarily contained in groove 127 of the key blade 117. Without the shuttle pin clearance provided by the first level 266a, the key blade 117 could not be inserted into the cylinder keyway 702.

[00199] The first transition ramp 272a moves the second shuttle pin 138b and thereafter the first shuttle pin 138a from the first level 266a, across the width of the key blade 117, into a relief 165a formed on side 714 of the keyway 702, and onto the second level 268a. When the key blade 117 is fully inserted, first shuttle pin 138a is seated on the second level 268a and first shuttle pin 138a properly engages the first lift pin 238a in the plug 712 as shown in FIG. 52.

[00200] Regression ramp 706 allows the shuttle pin 138b to move from the second level 268a of first section 704a to the first level 266b of second section 704b as the key blade 117 is inserted into the keyway 702. Referring to FIG. 52, keyway 702 includes a fourth transition feature (e.g., ramp) 708 on side 714 of the keyway 702 opposite multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a to move the second shuttle pin 138b down the regression ramp 706 and back to the retracted first position primarily contained within the groove 127 of the key blade 117. A dimension 718 from the front end 280 of cylinder 712 keyway 702 to fourth transition feature 708 is determined by the location of the first lift pin 238a in cylinder 712. Regression ramp 706 and fourth transition feature 708 are necessary to allow clearance for the shuttle pin 138b to continue traveling through the keyway 702 after engaging the first section 704a of the multi-level

ridge 704 and to allow shuttle pin 138b to properly engage a beveled edge 260b of lift pin 238b.

[00201] The second section 704b of multi-level ridge may include all features shown and described above with respect to multi-level ridge 164 in lock 100. Multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b has three distinct levels, (first level 266b, second level 268b, and third level 270) at different heights from side 716 of the keyway 702 and two transition zones or ramps (first transition ramp 272b between first level 266b and second level 268b and second transition ramp 274 between second level 268b and third level 270) utilized to engage and interact with the shuttle pin 138b in the key blade 117.

[00202] In the first level 266b, the multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b is sufficiently removed from the keyway 702 to provide clearance for shuttle pin 138b to travel through the keyway 702 from the first section 704a to the second section 704b as the key blade 117 is being inserted into the keyway 702. Without the shuttle pin clearance provided by the first level 266b, shuttle pin 138b may engage side 716 of the keyway 702 or other supplemental locking elements (e.g., side pin 204) and prevent key blade 117 from fully inserting into the cylinder keyway 702.

[00203] The first transition ramp 272b moves the second shuttle pin 138b from the first level 266b to the second level 268b as the key blade 117 travels through the keyway 702. Positioning shuttle pin 138b at the second level 268b of the multi-level ridge 704 moves shuttle pin 138b across the width of the key blade 117, into a relief 165b formed in the keyway 702, and onto the second level 268b to properly engage the lift pin 238b in the cylinder 712 when the key blade 117 is fully inserted. As shown in FIG. 52, shuttle pin 138b, positioned at second level 268b of multi-level ridge 704, is properly engaging lift pin 238b on the opposite side 714 of the keyway 702.

[00204] The second transition 274 blocks the shuttle pin 138b from progressing past the second level 268b. The third level 270 is where the multi-level ridge 704 extends to its maximum height into the keyway 702 and completely engages in the corresponding groove 127 of the key blade 117. The third level 270 prevents the shuttle pin 138b disposed within the groove 127 from passing and also provides alignment and tracking of the key blade 117 in the cylinder keyway 702.

[00205] Referring to FIG. 52, as the key blade 117 is inserted into the keyway 702, second shuttle pin 138b travels through the keyway 702 to the first level 266a of multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a. At this point, a second end 144b of shuttle pin 138b extends into groove 127 on the second side 126 of the key blade 117. The first lift pin 138a and second lift pin 138b are in a resting position where sidebar slots 242 on first lift pin 138a and second lift pin 138b are not aligned with supplemental blocking shelf 258a and supplemental blocking shelf 258b, respectively, and the sidebar 710 is prevented from moving radially inwardly to retract from the groove 156.

[00206] As the key blade 117 is inserted further into the keyway 702, the first transition ramp 272a engages the second end 144b of shuttle pin 138b (i.e., the second shuttle pin 138b contacts the first transition ramp 272a) in the key blade 117 groove 127 and moves shuttle pin 138b from the first level 266a to the second level 268a of the multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a. Positioning the shuttle pin 138b to the second level 268a of the first section 704a moves the shuttle pin 138b across the width of key blade 117, into relief 165a formed in the keyway 162, to properly engage the first lift pin 238a in the cylinder 712. In this position, the sidebar slot 242 on the first lift pin 138a is aligned with supplemental blocking shelf 258a, but second lift pin 138b remains in a resting position where sidebar slots 242 on second lift pin 138b are not aligned with supplemental blocking shelf 258b. The sidebar 710 is prevented from moving radially inwardly to retract from the groove 156.

[00207] As the key blade 117 moves forward, shuttle pin 138b disengages lift pin 238a and continues traveling in the insertion direction A at a position or height within the keyway 702 determined by the second level 268a. The extended end 142b of shuttle pin 138b contacts the fourth transition feature 708 opposite the multi-level ridge 704. The fourth transition feature 708 moves the shuttle pin 138b from the position previously determined by the second level 268a to the regression ramp 706 and to a position primarily contained within the key blade 117 groove 127 at the first level 266b of second section 704b. Movement of the second shuttle pin 138b back to the retracted position allows clearance for shuttle pin 138b in the keyway 702 as the key blade 117 continues traveling in the insertion direction.

[00208] In continuing through the keyway 702 in the insertion direction A, the second

shuttle pin 138b travels to the first level 266b of multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b. Concurrently, as second shuttle pin 138b leaves the first section 704a of multi-level ridge 704 and travels to the second section 704b of multi-level ridge 704, first shuttle pin 138a enters the keyway 702 and travels through the keyway 702 to the first level 266a of multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a. In this position, a second end 144a of the shuttle pin 138a extends into groove 127 on the second 126 side of the key blade 117. The lift pins 238a, 238b are in a resting position and not aligned with supplemental blocking shelves 258a, 258b.

[00209] In continuing through the keyway 702 in the insertion direction A, shuttle pin 138b engages first transition ramp 272b extending into the groove 127 in the key blade 117. First transition ramp 272b pushes shuttle pin 138b from the first level 266b to the second level 268b of the multi-level ridge second section 704b. Positioning the shuttle pin 138b to the second level 268b of the multi-level ridge 704 moves the shuttle pin 138b across the width of the key blade 117, into relief 165b formed in the keyway 702. As shown in FIG. 52, the enlarged first end 142b of the shuttle pin 138b extends out of the first side 124 of the key blade 117 and contacts the beveled edge 260b of the lift pin 238b, which causes the beveled edge 260b to ride up onto the enlarged head portion 142b and elevate the lift pin 238b. The shuttle pin 138b remains in the extended position and holding the lift pin 238b in the elevated position. In the elevated position, the sidebar slot 242b is aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258b.

[00210] As shuttle pin 138b is engaging the first transition ramp 272b and moving to the second level 268b of second section 704b, shuttle pin 138a is simultaneously engaging first transition ramp 272a of first section 704a and moving to the second level 268a. First transition ramp 272a extending into the groove 127 in the key blade 117 pushes shuttle pin 138a across the width of the key 110, into relief 165a and onto second level 268a of the multi-level ridge 704 first section 704a. The enlarged first end 142a of the shuttle pin 138a extends out of the first side 124 of the key blade 117 and contacts the beveled edge 260a of the lift pin 238a, which causes the beveled edge 260a to ride up onto the enlarged head portion 142 and elevate the lift pin 238a. In the elevated position, the sidebar slot 242a is aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258a.

[00211] With both lift pin 238a and lift pin 238b in the elevated position having the

sidebar slots 242 aligned with the supplemental blocking shelf 258a and supplemental blocking shelf 258b, respectively, the supplemental blocking shelves 258a, 258b can enter the sidebar slots 242, and the sidebar 710 is no longer blocked by lift pin 238a and lift pin 238b. As the sidebar 710 moves radially inward, the beveled projection 232 withdraws from the axial groove 156 and permits the plug 712 to rotate within the housing 152.

[00212] As the key blade 117 is removed from the cylinder 712, the extended end 142a of the shuttle pin 138a leaves the relief 165a and engages third transition feature 276a opposite the multi-level ridge 704 first side 704a, and the extended end 142b of the shuttle pin 138b leaves the relief 165b and engages third transition feature 276b opposite the multi-level ridge 704 second section 704b. The third transition feature 276a moves the shuttle pin 138a from a position previously determined by the second level 268a back to a position primarily contained within the key blade 117 groove 127 at the first level 266a. Third transition feature 276b moves the shuttle pin 138b from a position previously determined by the second level 268b back to a position primarily contained within the key blade 117 groove 127 at the first level 266b. Movement of the shuttle pin 138a and shuttle pin 138b back to the retracted positions allows clearance for shuttle pin 138a and shuttle pin 138b in the keyway 702 as the key blade 117 is removed.

[00213] While the subject matter of this disclosure has been described and shown in considerable detail with reference to certain illustrative embodiments, including various combinations and sub-combinations of features, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate other embodiments and variations and modifications thereof as encompassed within the scope of the present disclosure. Moreover, the descriptions of such embodiments, combinations, and sub-combinations is not intended to convey that the claimed subject matter requires features or combinations of features other than those expressly recited in the claims. Accordingly, the scope of this disclosure is intended to include all modifications and variations encompassed within the spirit and scope of the following appended claims.