CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A key device comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion having a length and a width that respectively define longitudinal and lateral positions along said elongate shaft portion, said elongate shaft portion comprising first and second oppositely directed side surfaces, at least one of which is cuttable to form key cuts that define a key combination surface; and

first and second key combination elements, disposed in said elongate shaft portion, side-by-side one another at different lateral positions along the width of said elongate shaft portion and located at overlapping longitudinal positions along the length of said elongate shaft portion, wherein said first and second key combination elements are each pivotable about a pivot axis,

and wherein said first and second key combination elements are independently active biasing elements, capable of providing a biasing force independently from one another.

2. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said first and second key combination elements are capable of resiliently protruding outwards, independently from one another, beyond at least one of said first and second side surfaces.

3. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said pivot axis extends along a width of said elongate shaft portion.

4. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said first and second key combination elements are each pivotable about a common pivot axis.

5. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said first and second key combination elements are each disposed in a recess formed in said elongate shaft portion.

6. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said first and second key combination elements are disposed in a common recess formed in said elongate shaft portion.

7. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said overlapping longitudinal positions are identical longitudinal positions.

8. The key device according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second key combination elements comprises a pair of resilient arms extending from a common base which is pivotally mounted in an insert mounted in said elongate shaft portion.

9. A key device and lock assembly comprising:

a cylinder lock housing comprising a driver pin movable to a shear line;

a plug having a keyway and rotatable relative to said cylinder lock housing along the shear line said plug comprising a plug pin aligned with said driver pin and movable to the shear line; and

a key device comprising a generally elongate shaft portion having a length and a width that respectively define longitudinal and lateral positions along said elongate shaft portion, said elongate shaft portion comprising first and second oppositely directed side surfaces, at least one of which is cuttable to form key cuts that define a key combination surface; and

first and second key combination elements, disposed in said elongate shaft portion, side-by-side one another at different lateral positions along the width of said elongate shaft portion and located at overlapping longitudinal positions along the length of said elongate shaft portion, wherein said first and second key combination elements are each pivotable about a pivot axis; and

wherein insertion of said key device into said keyway aligns one of said first and second key combination elements with said plug pin to urge said plug pin to the shear line to allow rotation of said plug and the other one of said first and second key combination elements abuts against a portion of said plug and not against said plug pin,

and wherein said first and second key combination elements are independently active biasing elements, capable of providing a biasing force independently from one another.

10. The key device and lock assembly according to claim 9, wherein a first biasing device is configured to urge said driver pin towards the shear line and a second biasing device is configured to urge said driver pin away from the shear line.

11. The key device and lock assembly according to claim 10, wherein said first and second biasing devices are disposed in said cylinder lock housing.

12. The key device and lock assembly according to claim 10, wherein said second biasing device adds to an urging force of said one of said first and second key combination elements to urge said plug pin to the shear line.

13. The key device and lock assembly according to claim 9, wherein said plug pin and said driver pin comprise telescoping pins.