# CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A key device comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion; and

at least one magnetic key combination element disposed in said shaft portion which is rotatable about a rotation axis.

2. The key device according to claim 1, wherein a magnetization direction of said at least one magnetic key combination element is not collinear with said rotation axis.

3. The key device according to claim 1, wherein a magnetization direction of said at least one magnetic key combination element is perpendicular to said rotation axis.

4. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one magnetic key combination element comprises at least one diametral magnetic key combination element which has north-polarity and south-polarity magnetic portions.

5. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said rotation axis is not parallel to said elongate shaft portion.

6. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said rotation axis is coplanar with or parallel to said elongate shaft portion.

7. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one magnetic key combination element is not movable linearly along said rotational axis.

8. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one magnetic key combination element is movable linearly along said rotational axis.

9. The key device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one magnetic key combination element can protrude from at least one side of said key device.

10. A lock and key combination comprising:

a key device comprising a generally elongate shaft portion, and at least one magnetic key combination element disposed in said shaft portion, which is rotatable about a rotation axis; and

a cylinder lock comprising a cylinder lock housing in which a plug is mounted for rotation along a shear line, said plug comprising a keyway and being operatively coupled to a cam;

wherein said plug comprises at least one magnetic plug element, and wherein after insertion of said key device into said keyway, said at least one magnetic key combination element rotates and aligns with said at least one magnetic plug element such that said at least one magnetic key combination element magnetically interacts with said at least one

magnetic plug element against a force of a biasing device and brings said at least one magnetic plug element to said shear line.

11. The lock and key combination according to claim 8, wherein said at least one magnetic plug element does not enter said keyway.