

# KEY FOB WITH COMPANY OR PRODUCT LOGO

## Design Element A: Presentation and Justification of the Problem

Non-electronic key fobs are typically attached to a set of keys by a keyring or "split ring", forming a loop that holds keys and other small items. Either end of the loop can be pried open to allow a key to be inserted and slid along the spiral until it becomes wholly engaged onto the ring. Other forms of rings may use a single loop of metal or plastic with a mechanism to open and securely close the loop. Keyrings are sometimes connected to keychains as well as key fobs.



**Key Ring**

Key fobs date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The word *fob* may be linked to the low German dialect for the word *Fuppe*, meaning "pocket"; however, the real origin of the word is uncertain. Fob pockets (meaning 'sneak proof' from the German word Foppen) were pockets meant to deter thieves. A short "fob chain" was used to attach to items, like a pocket watch, placed in these pockets.



**Leather Key Fob with Key Ring**

Key fobs today are generally decorative and at times useful items that many people often carry with their keys on a ring or a chain for ease of tactile and/or visual identification, to provide a better grip, or to make a personal statement. Key fobs also help to prevent loss by making it more difficult for keys to fall out of pockets and pocketbooks. Some retail establishments such as gasoline stations keep their bathrooms locked and customers must ask for the key from the attendant. In such cases, the keychain has a very large fob to make it difficult for customers to walk off with the key.

Fobs vary considerably in size, style and functionality. Most commonly they are simple discs of smooth metal or plastic, typically with a message or symbol such as that of a logo (as with conference trinkets) or a sign of an important group affiliation. A fob may be symbolic or strictly aesthetic, but it can also be a small tool. Many fobs are small flashlights, compasses, calculators, penknives, discount cards, bottle openers, security tokens, and USB flash drives. As electronic technology continues to become smaller and cheaper, miniature key-fob versions of (previously) larger devices are becoming common, such as digital photo frames, remote digital photo frames, remote control units for garage door openers, barcode scanners and simple video games or other gadgets such as breathalyzers.

The goal of this project is to design and prototype a key fob that shows group affiliation and support by displaying a company or product logo. In this case, the key fob is intended for use by members and supporters of the MyDesign team and to draw attention to work performed and the MyDesign web application. The key fob should fit easily into pockets and pocketbooks and should

be easily identified by look and feel. 3D printing has been chosen as the production method, resulting in a plastic key fob that can have a variety of colors. The key fob should be designed to accommodate the attachment of a keyring or keychain and should be strong enough to withstand typical wear and tear.

#### REFERENCES:

Historical and descriptive information in this document was derived from information downloaded from [www.Wikipedia.com](http://www.Wikipedia.com) on April 8, 2016, using keyword searches on “Key Ring”, “Key Chain” and “Key Fob”. Relevant references from Wikipedia include:

- *["Keyrings and Key Fobs"](#)*. Pttwater Online News. 6 May 2012. Retrieved 22 May 2015.
- *["fob - alphaDictionary \\* Free English On-line Dictionary"](#)*. Alphadictionary.com. Retrieved 14 August 2012.