

## Claims

1. A karabiner (100;200) comprising a generally C-shaped body (102), with its free ends  
 5 (104,106) curved towards each other and forming a gap (108) therebetween, and a gate (110)  
 for closing the gap (108), the gate (110) being located on one free end (104) of the body (102),  
 and the other end (106) of the body (102) and a free end (114) of the gate (11) being shaped  
 for mutual engagement when the gate (110) is closed, characterized by the free end (104) of  
 10 the body (102) having a shaped end with a first part having converging sides (122,124) rather  
 than mutually parallel sides leading to an enlarged end part (120), and wherein the converging  
 part of the shaped end lies within a slot (116) of the gate (110) when the gate is closed, which  
 slot (116) is of keyhole type having a narrower lead-in portion (118) and an enlarged end  
 portion (120), the lead-in portion (118) having its sides (122, 124) converging and leading to  
 15 the enlarged end portion (120), whereby the slot is shaped so as to be complementary in shape  
 to the shaped end of the body, and wherein the carabiner includes locking means for locking  
 the gate, which locking means comprises a sleeve movable to prevent separation of the free  
 end (114) of the gate (110) from the body (102), which sleeve is rotatably mounted on and  
 slidable along the gate.

~~2. A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the slot (116) has a first part (118)  
 20 with converging sides (122,124) leading to a wider enlarged part (120) to accommodate the  
 shaped end of the body (102) or the gate (110).~~

~~3. A karabiner as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the gate (110) pivots in  
 the plane of the body (102).~~

~~4. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the sleeve  
 25 (112) is resiliently biased towards a locking position.~~

~~5. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim, characterized in that the sleeve (112) is  
 screw-threadedly mounted on the gate (110).~~

65. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim, characterized in that the sleeve (112) is relieved to allow the gate (110) to be opened.

76. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim, characterized in that the sleeve (112) is thicker on its side (140) opposite to the opening direction of the gate (110) when the sleeve (112) is in a locking position.

87. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim, characterized by having a ring (142) at one end thereof.

98. A karabiner as claimed in any preceding claim, characterized in that the free end (106) of the body (102) has convergent sides (130,132) normal to the plane of the body (102)