# United States Patent [19]

**Weiss**

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[54] **CLASP CONSTRUCTION FOR BRACELET**


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[73] Assignee: **Kestenman Bros., Mfg. Co.**, Providence, R.I. ; a part interest



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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **24/78**, 24/191

[51] **Int. Cl.** ..... **A44b 11/25**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 24/78, 77, 170, 191, 192



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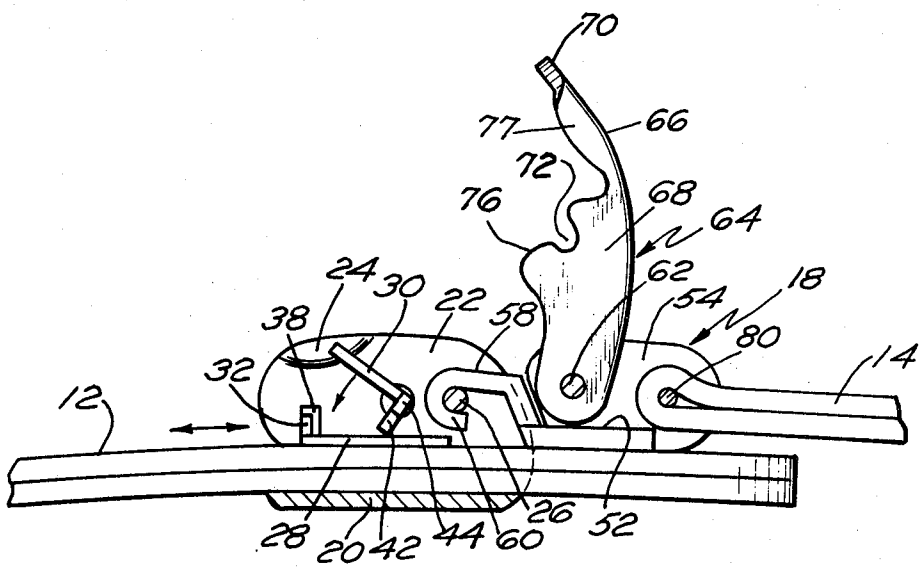
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*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Salter & Michaelson



[57] **ABSTRACT**

A clasp construction for use in adjustably interconnecting the free ends of a bracelet on the wrist of a wearer, including a clamp assembly that receives one of the free ends of the bracelet therein in slidable, adjustable relation and a coupling assembly that is secured to the other free end of the bracelet, the coupling assembly including a coupling member that engages the clamp assembly for removably mounting the bracelet on the wrist of the wearer.


**4 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures**



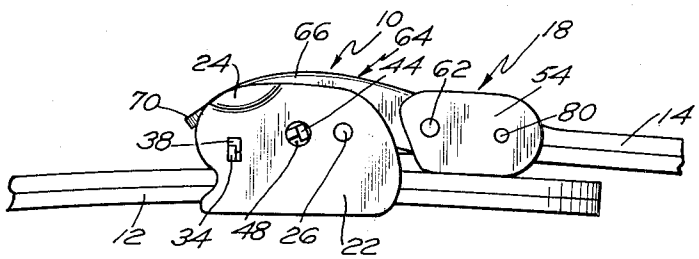



FIG. 1

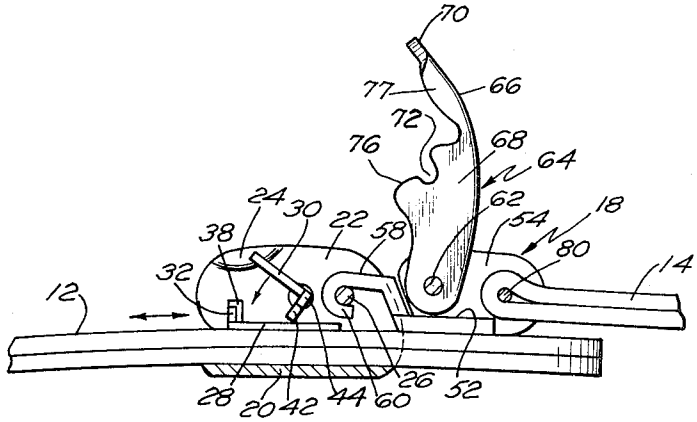



FIG. 2

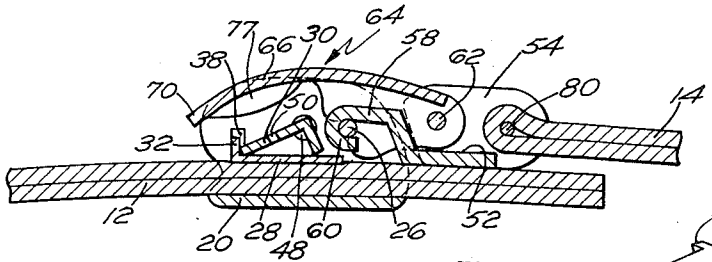



FIG. 3

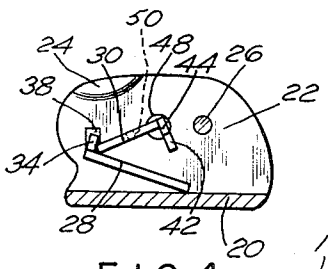



FIG. 4

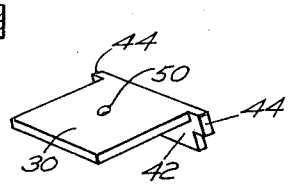



FIG. 5

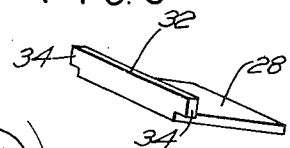
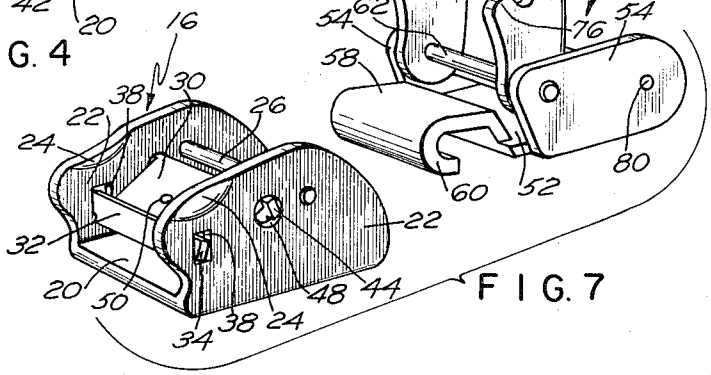



FIG. 6



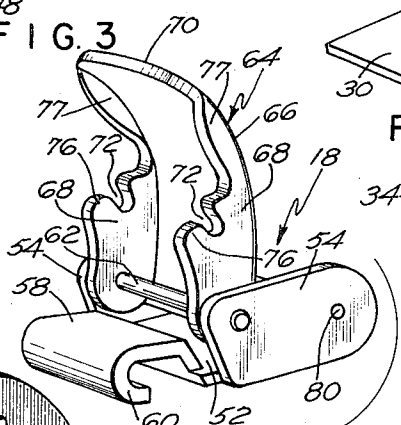




FIG. 7

# CLASP CONSTRUCTION FOR BRACELET

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a clasp construction that is used with straps, bands or bracelets, and the like, and interconnects the ends of a bracelet for mounting the bracelet in fastened position on the wrist of a wearer.

Prior to the instant invention, various kinds of clasps have been used in bracelet constructions or with wristwatch straps or bands for fastening the bracelet on the wrist of the wearer. However, in most instances, the clasp merely joined the ends of the bracelet together; and unless the band were made of leather and included the conventional buckle, the band could not be adjusted by the wearer to fit his wrist. Adjustable clasps for use with bracelets have been known heretofore, but normally they were not conveniently usable with metal bands and were moreover somewhat complicated in construction that not only made such clasps difficult to use but prohibitively increased the cost thereof.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an adjustable clasp for use in interconnecting the free ends of a band, strap or bracelet on the wrist of a wearer and includes a clamp assembly that receives one of the free ends of the bracelet therein in slidable, adjustable relation. A clamp element is located in the clamp assembly for engaging the bracelet as received in the adjusted position thereof, and a lock element is also mounted in the clamp assembly for engagement with the clamp element for securing the clamp assembly to the bracelet after adjustment thereon. In order to join the free ends of the bracelet, a coupling assembly is secured to the other free end thereof and includes a coupling member for removably engaging the clamp assembly, thereby coupling the bracelet ends together on the wrist of the wearer. The coupling assembly also includes a pivotal cover member that is movable to a closed position wherein it engages the clamp assembly in overlying, locking relation after the coupling member has interconnected the coupling assembly to the clamp assembly. Since the coupling member is easily engaged and disengaged from the clamp assembly, the bracelet may be easily locked around the wrist of the wearer or removed therefrom as required.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an adjustable clasp construction for use with a bracelet or the like, wherein the clasp construction interconnects the ends of the bracelet for fastening the bracelet on the wrist of a wearer.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clasp construction having a clamp assembly that is adjustably clamped in fixed position on an end of a bracelet, the clasp construction further including a coupling assembly that is fixed to another end of a bracelet and that is removably secured to the clamp assembly when the bracelet is located on the wrist of the wearer.

Still another object is to provide an adjustable clamp assembly for use in a clasp construction of a bracelet, wherein the clamp assembly is adjusted to size the bracelet to the wrist of a wearer after manipulation of a lock plate that releases the clamp assembly from the clamped position thereof on the bracelet.



Still another object is to provide a safety lock for use in a bracelet clasp construction, wherein a cover member is secured to a coupling assembly and is interlocked to a clamp assembly to securely fasten the bracelet on the wrist of a wearer.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention shall become apparent as the description thereof proceeds when considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

## DESCRIIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings which illustrate the best mode presently contemplated for carrying out the present invention:

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of the clasp construction embodied in the present invention as mounted on a bracelet and is shown in the closed and clamped position thereof;

FIG. **2** is a side elevational view with parts shown in section of the clasp construction illustrated in FIG. **1**, wherein the clamp assembly is located in the unlocked position on the bracelet for adjustment thereon, the cover member of the coupling assembly being located in the open position thereof;

FIG. **3** is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the clasp construction illustrated in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary view of the clamp and lock members as located in the unlocked position prior to the mounting of the clamp assembly on the bracelet;

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of the lock plate that is mounted for pivotal movement in the clamp assembly;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the clamp plate that is mounted for pivotal movement in the clamp assembly; and

FIG. **7** is an exploded perspective view of the clasp construction showing the clamp and coupling assemblies as embodied in the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawing, the adjustable clasp construction embodied in the present invention is generally indicated at **10** and as shown has general application for use on a bracelet, strap or band. In this connection, the adjustable clasp construction **10** is designed for use on a bracelet that is normally formed in two sections, indicated at **12** and **14**, one end of each of the sections **12** and **14** being connected to a watch or the like. It is understood that the adjustable clasp construction **10** may also be used with other ornamental jewelry articles in which a bracelet, band or strap is disconnected at the free ends thereof for mounting on the wrist of a wearer.

Referring particularly to FIG. **7**, the adjustable clasp construction **10** includes a clamp assembly generally indicated at **16** that is mounted on the free end of the bracelet section **12** in adjustable relation as will hereinafter be described. Permanently fixed to the free end of the bracelet section **14** is a coupling assembly generally indicated at **18**; and as will be described, the coupling assembly **18** is removably interconnected to the clamp assembly **16** for joining the bracelet sections **12** and **14** when the bracelet is mounted on the wrist of a wearer.

As illustrated in FIG. **7**, the clamp assembly **16** which is adjustably fixed on the bracelet section **12** includes a bottom wall **20** to which side walls **22** are integrally joined. Formed on the side walls **22** and extending inwardly thereof are protuberances **24**, which provide for

receiving a cover member of the coupling assembly **18** between the walls **22** in frictional relation. Extending between the walls **22** and joined thereto adjacent to an end thereof is a pin **26** that defines the means by which the coupling assembly is joined to the clamp assembly **16**, as will hereinafter be described.

In order to adjustably mount the clamp assembly **16** on the bracelet section **12**, a clamp plate **28** and a lock plate **30** are provided. As shown in FIG. **6**, the clamp plate **28** is formed with an end flange **32** having outwardly extending projections **34**, the projections **34** extending beyond the edges of the plate **28**. The clamp plate **28** is mounted for pivotal movement in the clamp assembly **16** by locating the projections **34** in rectangularly shaped openings **38** that are formed in the side walls **22**. The openings **38** are somewhat enlarged with respect to the projections **34**, thereby providing for shifting as well as pivotal movement of the plate **28**. As illustrated in FIG. **4**, the clamp plate **28** is shown in the position prior to the sliding of the bracelet section **12** thereunder when the clamp assembly **16** is mounted on the bracelet section **12**. As will be described, the clamp assembly **16** is adjusted longitudinally of the bracelet section **12** to the required adjusted position; and thereafter, the clamp plate **28** is locked in place by the lock plate **30**. For this purpose, the lock plate **30** includes a flange **42** having outwardly extending projections **44**, the projections **44** extending through circular openings **48** formed in the side walls **22**. Referring to FIG. **2**, the lock plate **30** is shown in the release position thereof, wherein the clamp plate **28** is resting on the bracelet section **12**. In this position the clamp assembly **16** is shiftable longitudinally of the bracelet end **12** to the required adjusted position. Once the clamp assembly **16** has been located in the required adjusted position, the lock plate **30** is pivoted as indicated by the arrow in FIG. **2** to the over-center position on the clamp plate **28** illustrated in FIG. **3**, wherein the lock plate **30** forces the clamp plate **28** into positive engagement with the bracelet section **12** to lock the clamp assembly **16** in the adjusted position on the bracelet. The lock plate **30** is further formed with a hole **50** that receives a suitable instrument for lifting the lock plate **30** from the locked to the open position thereof.

In order to join the bracelet section **14** to the bracelet section **12** around the wrist of the wearer, the coupling assembly **18** is provided; and as illustrated in FIG. **7**, the coupling assembly **18** includes a bottom wall **52** to which are joined side walls **54**. Joined to the bottom wall **52** is an offset outwardly extending tongue **58** that has a hook portion **60** formed on the outer end thereof and that is engageable with the pin **26** when the coupling assembly **18** is connected to the clamp assembly **16**. The lateral dimension of the tongue **58** is somewhat less than the space between the side walls **22** of the clamp assembly **16** so that when the tongue **58** engages the pin **26**, portions of the pin **26** are exposed adjacent to the walls **22**, the purpose of which will hereinafter be described.

Extending through the walls **54** of the coupling assembly **18** and secured thereto is a pin **62** on which a cover member generally indicated at **64** is pivotally mounted. The cover member **64** includes a curved cover plate **66** to which side flanges **68** are joined and that depend therefrom. The outermost end of the cover plate terminates in a finger grip **70** for lifting the cover member from the closed position thereof. Suitable openings are formed in the side flanges **68** of the cover member **64** through which the pin **62** extends for pivotally mounting the cover member **64** on the coupling assembly **18**. Formed in the flanges **68** are slots **72**, which are defined by edges **76**; and extending forwardly of the slots **72** and formed as part of the flanges **68** are downwardly turned edges **77**. The coupling assembly **18** is joined to the bracelet section **14** by a rear pin **80** that projects through the side walls **54**, the bracelet section **14** extending around the pin **80** and being secured in any convenient manner for attachment thereof to the coupling assembly **18**.

In use of the adjustable clasp construction **10**, the coupling assembly **18** is permanently attached to the bracelet section **14**, and the clamp assembly **16** is mounted on the other bracelet section **12** for adjustment thereon in accordance with the size of the wrist of the wearer. In this connection and in order to obtain the required adjustment of the clamp assembly **16**, the lock plate **30** is moved to the position illustrated in FIG. **2**, wherein the clamp plate **28** is released from positive engagement with the bracelet section. The clamp assembly **16** is then shifted longitudinally of the bracelet section **12** to the required adjusted position. The enlarged openings **38** in the walls **22** of the clamp assembly **16** provide for shifting of the clamp plate **28** therein so that the clamp assembly **16** can be moved on the bracelet to the adjusted position thereof. The clamp assembly **16** is locked in place in the adjusted position by pivoting the lock plate **30** to the over-center position thereof as illustrated in FIG. **3**, wherein the clamp plate **28** is firmly engaged with the bracelet section **12**.

Assuming now that the wearer wishes to mount the bracelet and watch secured thereto on his wrist, the hook portion **60** of the tongue **58** is hooked around the pin **26** and; thereafter, the cover member **64** is moved to the closed position thereof. In moving the cover member **64** to the closed position, the curved cover plate **66** is pivoted on the pivot pin **62**, the slots **72** being received on the portion of the pin **26** adjacent to the walls **22**. The cover member **64** then overlies the clamp assembly **16** as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **3**, and it is locked in place by snapping the edges **77** over the inner protuberances **24**. The bracelet is removed from the wrist of the wearer by simply grasping the finger grip **70** and lifting the curve plate **66** to the open position; whereafter, the tongue **58** is removed from the pin **26** to release the coupling assembly **18** from the clamp assembly **16**.

While there is shown and described herein certain specific structure embodying the invention, it will be manifest to those skilled in the art that various modifications and rearrangements of the parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the underlying inventive concept and that the same is not limited to the particular forms herein shown and described except insofar as indicated by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

**1.** An adjustable clasp for interconnecting sections of a bracelet on the wrist of a wearer, comprising a clamp assembly for receiving one of the bracelet sections in slidable, adjustable relation and a coupling assembly secured to the other bracelet section and being engageable with said clamp assembly for interlocking the bracelet on the wrist of a wearer, said clamp assembly including a bottom wall and opposed side walls joined

to said bottom wall in perpendicular relation thereto, a clamp plate mounted for pivotal movement on said side walls and being engageable with the bracelet section that is received in said clamp assembly, a lock plate pivotally mounted on said side walls and engageable with said clamp plate for locking said clamp plate to the bracelet section with which it is engageable, thereby fixing said clamp assembly in adjusted position thereon, a cross pin extending between said side walls and joined thereto, said coupling assembly including a frame having a bottom wall to which opposed side walls are joined, a hook shaped tongue joined to the bottom wall of said frame and extending outwardly therefrom to define an extension with respect thereto and being engageable with said cross pin for interconnecting said coupling assembly to said clamp assembly, a pin joined to the side walls of said coupling assembly and a cover member being mounted on said pin for pivotal movement with respect to said coupling assembly side walls, said cover member including an elongated curved plate to which side flanges are joined adjacent to the rear end thereof, aligned openings formed in said flanges through which said pin extends for mounting said cover member thereon, said cover member being movable into overlying relation with respect to said clamp assembly to conceal said clamp plate and lock plate after the tongue has been engaged with said cross pin, wherein said cover member is located in the closed position.

**2.** An adjustable clasp as claimed in claim **1**, the forward edges of the flanges of said cover member having slots formed therein that receive the cross pin of said clamp assembly therein for firmly locating said cover member in the closed position thereof.

**3.** An adjustable clasp as claimed in claim **2**, the flanges of said cover member being frictionally engageable with the opposed walls of said clamp assembly when said cover member is moved to the closed position thereof.

**4.** An adjustable clasp as claimed in claim **3**, the lateral dimension of said cover member being less than the dimension between the spaced walls of said clamp assembly, wherein the cover member is received between the spaced walls of the clamp assembly in the closed position thereof.

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