United States Patent

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Continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 697,416, Jan. 12, 1968, now Patent No. 3,521,798, dated July 28, 1970. This application Feb. 9, 1970, Ser. No. 9,549

[54] **ORNAMENTAL BAND**
9 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

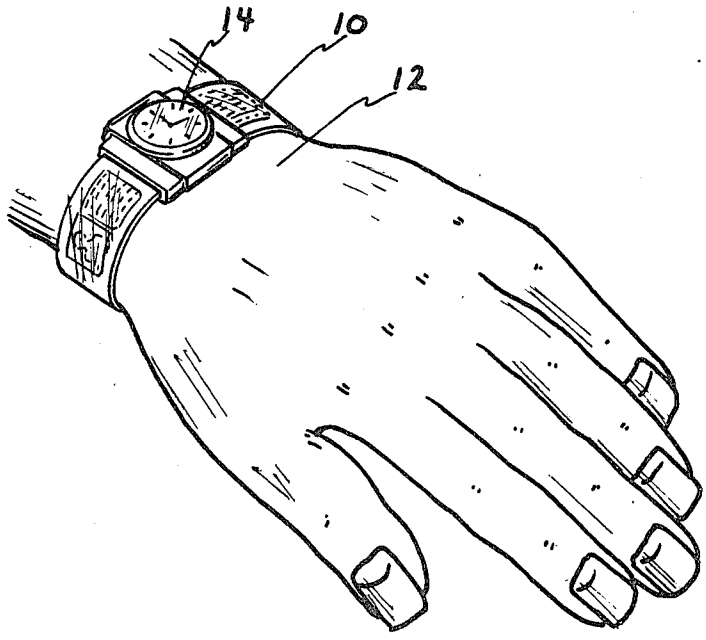
[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **40/21 C**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **G09f 3/14**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 40/10, 21, 21 C, 107, 109

[56] **References Cited**
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ABSTRACT: An ornamental band for displaying a series of inserts in a sealed transparent sleeve about the user's wrist. The band has a buckle device that allows either side of the sleeve to be displayed depending upon the manner in which the user connects the sleeve's ends together.



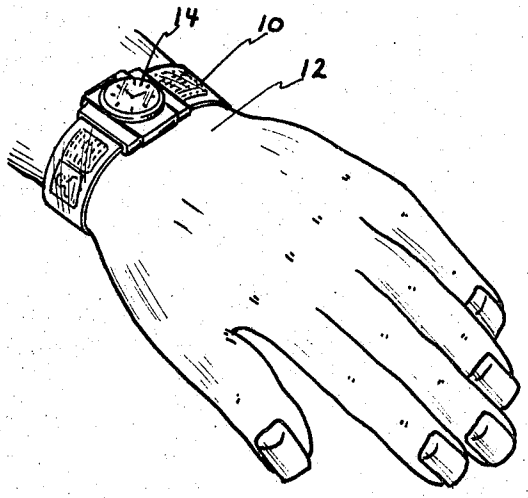


FIG-1

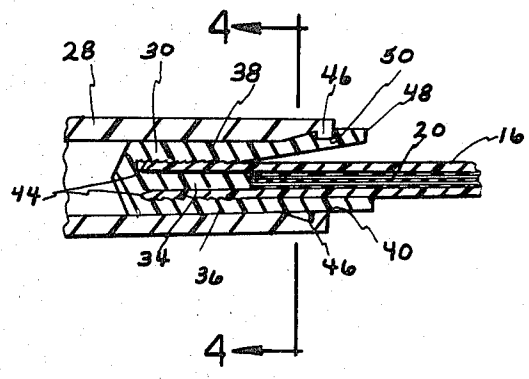


FIG-3

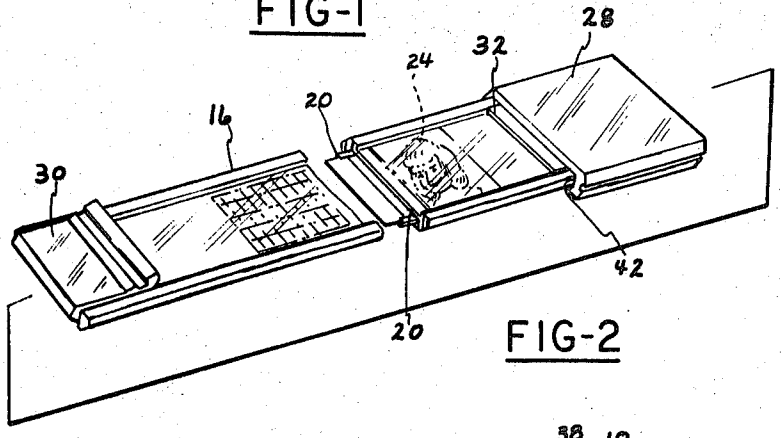


FIG-2

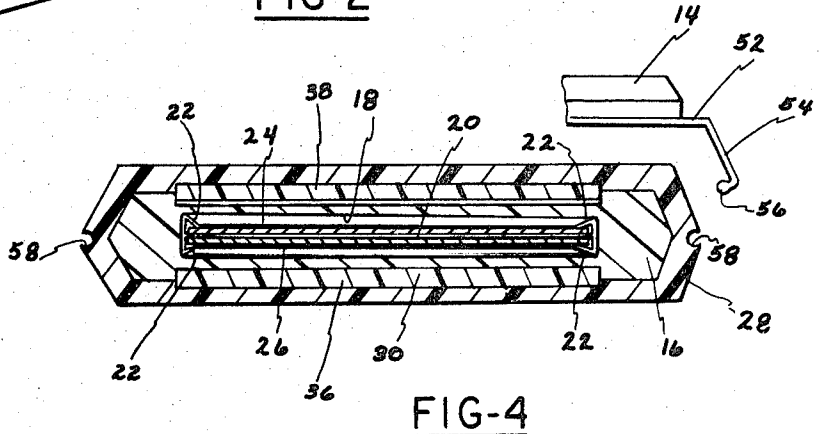


FIG-4

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ORNAMENTAL BAND

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of my copending application, Ser. No. 697,416 filed Jan. 12, 1968 for "Wrist Frame" which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 3,521,798 on July 28, 1970.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention is related to devices for displaying identification or ornamental material about a body member, and in particular to a band having a flat transparent sleeve for enclosing such material and buckle means which releasably connect the sleeves ends together to permit the material to be replaced.

Several devices have been disclosed in the prior art for displaying printed information, photos and the like in some form of band carried by the user. For instance, plastic identification bands are often strapped on the wrist of hospital patients. Such bands are not intended to be reused and therefore must be cut from the user's wrist because of the permanent manner in which the straps are fastened together.

A band having a transparent sleeve for containing displayed material was disclosed in my aforementioned copending application. The material is contained in such a manner that it can be replaced by opening the end of the sleeve, removing the material and inserting other material.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One of the broad purposes of the present invention is to provide an improved band for displaying material in a sealed transparent sleeve that protects the material from dust, moisture and the like while permitting its replacement.

In the preferred embodiment, which will be disclosed in a greater detail, the material or inserts are mounted on an elongated frame which is introduced through the end of the sleeve. A pair of clasps plug the sleeves ends and are connected together by a buckle when the band is being worn. Either clasp can be released from the buckle in order to remove the band, and can be removed from the sleeve in order to replace the inserts.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a band in which either side of the band can be viewed without reversing the position of the buckle, depending upon the manner in which the band is clasped to the buckle. This reversible structure allows the user to mount decorative material on one side of the band, and photographs, a calendar, memorabilia and the like on the opposite side. The band can then be worn with either side being readily visible, and the other side being hidden.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a band having a novel clasp that can be readily connected to or released from its buckle. A still further object is to provide a band that is manufactured of a relatively few components of extruded plastic materials. The preferred embodiment employs only five components that can be assembled without any special tools.

Still further objects and advantages will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains upon reference to the following detailed description.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The description refers to the accompanying drawing in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an ornamental band, illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, being worn on a user's wrist;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary view showing the preferred band removed from the user's wrist and showing the buckle without the watch mechanism;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of one end of the band clasped to the buckle; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along lines 4—4 of FIG. 3.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawing, a preferred ornamental band **10** is shown in FIG. 1, worn about the wrist **12** of a user. It is to be understood, however, that by suitably enlarging the bands components, an ornamental device could be provided for other body members such as the user's neck or waist. A watch mechanism **14** is mounted on the band **10**, however, it is contemplated that the band can be worn as an ornamental article without watch mechanism **14**.

The band **10** comprises an elongated sleeve **16** formed of a transparent, flexible material. For illustrative purposes, sleeve **16** is an extrusion about 8 inches long having a cavity **18** about 1 1/16 1inches wide and 1/16 inch thick. As shown in FIG. **4**, cavity **18** has a rectangular cross section.

An elongated frame **20** of flexible material is disposed in sleeve **16**. Frame **20** is flat and about 7 inches long, or about 1 inch shorter than sleeve **16**. The width of frame **20** accommodates the cavity **18** which allows the frame to be inserted or removed through either end of sleeve **16**. A pair of lips **22** are disposed along each side edge of frame **20**. The lips **22** on each side of the frame are bent toward one another to prevent the frame from either rolling up or curling from side-to-side. Frame **20** provides means for mounting the inserts that are to be contained in sleeve **16**. The lips **22** engage the side edges of the inserts to retain them in their respective positions.

As shown in FIG. **4**, typical inserts **24** and **26** are mounted on opposite sides of the frame with their side edges being received in the lips **22**. The inserts **24** and **26** may take the form of photographs, licenses, a calendar, a decorative element or other suitable flat material. The lips **22** allow a series of such inserts to be mounted along opposite sides of the frame and retained in their respective positions as the frame is either placed in or removed from cavity **18**.

A buckle **28** and a pair of clasps **30** and **32** are employed for connecting the ends of sleeve **16** together. The two clasps are identical in shape and are mounted on opposite ends of the band. As best shown in FIG. **3**, typical clasp **30** is formed with a tongue **34** between a pair of sides **36** and **38**. The tongue is formed slightly thicker and wider than the cavity **18** in order to form a snug fit as it is inserted into the end of the band. The purpose of the tongue **34** is to plug or "cork" its end of the band.

The buckle **28** is in the form of a housing with a pair of openings **40** and **42** in opposite sides of the housing for receiving the clasps **30** and **32**, respectively. The width and thickness of each of the openings **40** and **42** accommodates the clasps which contact the top and bottom sides of their respective openings when in a clasped position as shown in FIG. **3**. The sides **36** and **38** of each clasp have a series of teeth **44** which clamp the tongue **30** and the end of the sleeve **16** between them as the clasp is being inserted into buckle **28**. Thus each clasp seals its end of the sleeve as well as connects the sleeve end to the buckle.

The top and bottom sides of each of the openings **40** and **42** are formed with a recess that defines a lip **46**. The clasp side **38** has a tab **48** with a groove **50** receiving one of the lips **46** to lock the clasp in its clasped position. The tab **48** is so formed that as the clasp is received by the buckle **28**, the tab is moved toward the opposite clasp side **36** until the groove **50** mates with the lip **46**. To release the clasp from the buckle **28**, the user must move the tab **48** toward the opposite side of the buckle opening until the lip **46** is removed from the groove **50**. The clasp can then be removed from the buckle.

Each of the clasps **30** and **32** can be clasped in either of the buckle openings **40** or **42**. Furthermore, each clasp can be reversed in its respective opening and locked in position by mating the tab **48** with the lip **46** on the opposite side of the buckle opening.

Watch mechanism **14** is mounted on an adapter **52** formed with a pair of resilient legs **54**. Each leg **54** has a lip **56** which is received into a groove **58** in the buckle **28**. The adapter **52** is mounted on the buckle **28** by straddling the legs **54** on opposite sides of the buckle until the lips **56** snap into their respective grooves. The user can remove the adapter **52** by bending the legs **54** away from the buckle sides until the lips **56** snap out of their grooves **58**.

It is apparent that I have described in detail a novel band for displaying relatively flat inserts in a readily visible manner. The preferred band eliminates the conventional visible buckle and the unsightly strap holes, and can be assembled without any special assembly tools, sewing and the like. For this reason the preferred band can be sold at a lower price and assembled by the user. The band assembly can be sold with several buckles of different colors thereby allowing the user to wear a buckle that matches her clothes while still retaining the same sleeve and identification contents.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. An ornamental band suitable for wearing about a body member such as a wrist, neck or waist to display an insert, comprising:

an elongated frame having means along its longitudinal side edges for removably mounting a substantially flat insert;

an elongated sleeve formed of flexible, transparent material for receiving the frame to an enclosed position in the sleeve;

a pair of clasps carried on opposite ends of the sleeve, each clasp being formed to close its sleeve end; and

a buckle having a pair of openings, each receiving a clasp in a clasped position to connect the ends of the sleeve to the buckle to form a band and each buckle opening being formed to release its clasp to open said band.

2. An ornamental band as defined in claim **1**, in which each clasp has a tab formed so as to be movable with respect to the buckle between a first position in which the clasp is locked against removal from the buckle, and a second position in which the clasp is removable from the buckle.

3. An ornamental band as defined in claim **1**, in which each buckle opening is formed to receive each of said clasps in a clasped position.

4. An ornamental band as defined in claim **1**, in which each of said buckle openings is formed to receive a clasp in either of a pair of clasped positions.

5. A band suitable for wearing about a body member to display an insert comprising:

an elongated sleeve having a transparent portion, and an end for receiving an insert to a position in the sleeve in which the insert can be viewed through the transparent portion;

a clasp mounted on the sleeve to close one end thereof, the clasp being removable from the sleeve to allow removal of the insert from the sleeve, and having a pair of relatively movable sides; and

a buckle connected to the end of the sleeve opposite to the end closed by the clasp, the buckle having an opening for receiving the clasp to a clasped position in which the buckle is connected to opposite ends of the sleeve, and in which the relatively movable clasp sides are engaged with opposite sides of the buckle opening such that the clasp can be released from the buckle by moving one of the clasp sides toward the other clasp side.

6. A band as defined in claim **5**, in which the clasp has a tongue receivable in the sleeve for sealing the sleeve's interior.

7. A band as defined in claim **5**, in which the clasp has a pair of relatively movable sides engaged with opposite sides of the buckle opening, and a tongue between said movable clasp sides received in the sleeve.

8. A band as defined in claim **5**, including an elongated frame disposed in the sleeve, and lips along opposite side edges of the frame for receiving the edges of the insert.

9. A band as defined in claim **8**, in which the frame and the sleeve each have a substantially uniform transverse cross section along their full length.

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