Sept. 18, 1928. 1,684,977

C. R. TOST

LINK STRAP

Filed June 9, 1927

Fig. 1

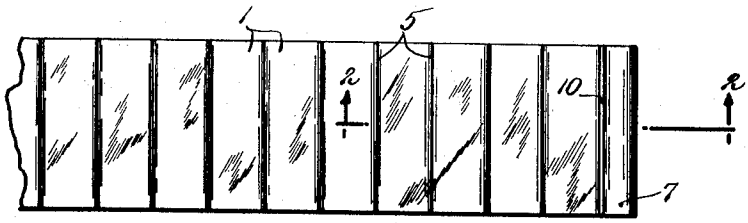


Fig. 2

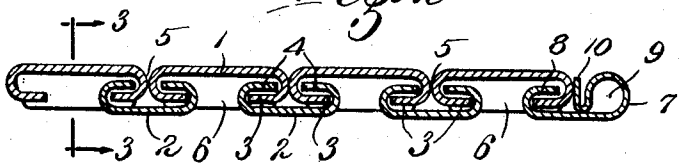


Fig. 3

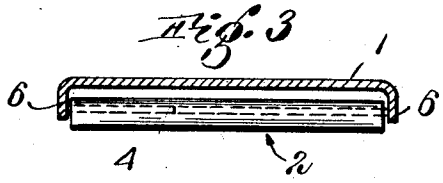


Fig. 4

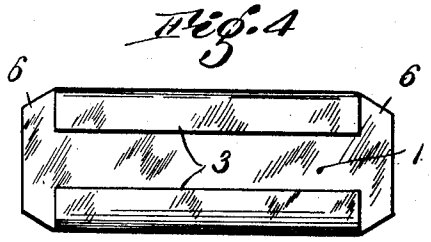
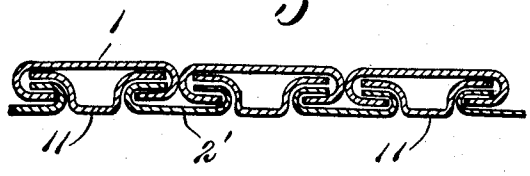


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LINK STRAP.

Application filed June 9, 1927. Serial No. 197,658.

This invention relates to link straps of the type commonly employed as bracelets or as wrist watch straps and its object is to provide a strap which may be constructed with facility and economy, which is reliable and durable in use, and which presents a substantially continuous outer surface. The salient characteristics of the invention will be evident from the following description and claims and the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view;

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan of one of the link members; and

Fig. 5 is a section similar to Fig. 2 showing a modification.

The particular embodiment of my improved link strap illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 comprises outer link members 1 and inner link members 2 interlinked together. At their juxtaposed ends the outer link members have inturned flanges 3 which may incline inwardly or outwardly but which are preferably substantially parallel with the central portions of the members as illustrated in Fig. 2. The inner link members have similar flanges 4 interlocking with the flanges 3. The degree of lost-motion between the link members may be varied to suit the intended conditions of use but where the strap is intended to be worn around to wrist there is sufficient lost-motion to permit the strap to flex enough to conform to the contour of the wrist. When the strap is intended to be used with the inner links 2 next to the wrist the lost-motion lengthwise of the strap may be made so slight that the strap will not flex outwardly in substantial degree because of the abutting relation between the outer links at points 5.

The inner and outer links are telescoped together transversely of the strap and are then held in this relationship by any suitable means such as flanges 6 on the ends of the outer links. The flanges 6 extend parallel with the central portions of the link members at the time when the links are interconnected as shown in Fig. 4 and are then bent down as shown in Fig. 3.

Any suitable end connecting means may be employed with the strap above described and for the purpose of illustration I have shown a simple fastener 7 which interlinks with one of the outer links in the same manner as the inner links as shown at 8 and which has an opening 9 for connection with a clasp or other device. The shoulder 10 holds the fastener 7 in position lengthwise of the strap.

The modification shown in Fig. 5 is similar to that shown in Figs. 1 to 4 in that it comprises inner and outer link members 1′ and 2′ but differs in that filler members 11 are provided to fill the spaces between the inner link members 2′, these filler members being held in position by end flanges on the outer link members as above described.

From the foregoing it will be evident that this improved construction is not only simple and economical but that the outer face of the strap presents a substantially continuous surface owing to the fact that the outer link members are held in abutting relation. By fitting the parts together so snugly that the strap will not flex outwardly in substantial degree, the strap may be manipulated with greater facility than in a case where it is free to flex in both directions.

It will also be evident that each of the outer and inner links comprises a central plate portion bent or folded at each end to form the interfitting hooks or flanges, the central plate portions of the outer links, which are on the outside of the bracelet, being parallel with the central plate portions of the inner links, which are on the inner side of the bracelet, when the bracelet is straightened to the position shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 5.

I claim:

1. A link strap comprising inner and outer links telescoped together transversely of the strap with sufficient lost-motion to permit longitudinal flexure of the strap and means for holding the links in telescoped relation while permitting said flexure, the outer links substantially meeting throughout substantially the width of the strap and the inner links being substantially concealed by the outer links when viewed from the outside of the strap.

2. A link strap comprising outer links having outer central plate portions with transverse inturned flanges at their juxtaposed ends, inner links having inner central plate portions parallel to said plate portions with outturned end flanges hooking over said flanges to interconnect the outer links, and inturned flanges at the sides of the outer links to restrain displacement of the inner links transversely of the strap.

3. A link strap comprising outer links having transverse inturned flanges at their justaposed ends, inner links having end flanges hooking over said flanges to interconnect the outer links, the outer links substantially meeting throughout substantially the width of the strap and the inner links being substantially concealed by the outer links when viewed from the outside of the strap.

4. A link strap comprising outer links having transverse inturned flanges at their juxtaposed ends, inner links having end flanges hooking over said flanges to interconnect the outer links, and fillers disposed between the opposing ends of the inner links.

5. The method of manufacturing link straps of the type having inner and outer links having interlocking end flanges and retaining side flanges, which comprises bending sheet metal strips at the ends to form said flanges, telescoping the flanges of adjacent links together in interlocking relationship, and then bending the sides of alternate links to form the aforesaid retaining flanges.

6. A link strap comprising inner and outer links, said inner links having inner central plate portions curving outwardly at their ends to form loops, said outer links having inner central plate portions curving inwardly at their ends to form loops, the loops of the inner and outer links interengaging to interconnect the links, and said outer links having flanges at their sides for retaining the links in assembled relationship in all angular positions of the links relatively to each other.

Signed by me at Providence, Rhode Island, this 7th day of June, 1927.

CHARLES R. TOST.