April 30, 1968 N. ASTOR 3,380,263

RING GUARD HAVING SLOTTED ENDS

Filed Aug. 17, 1965

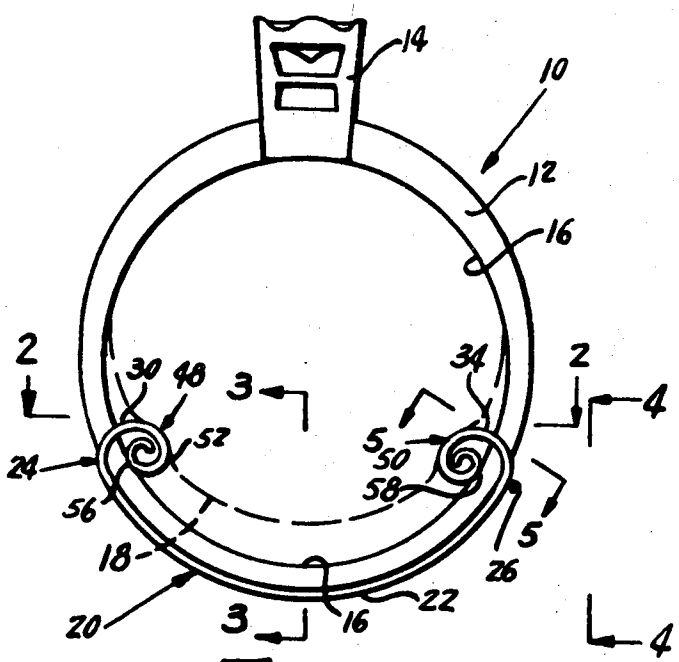


FIG. 1

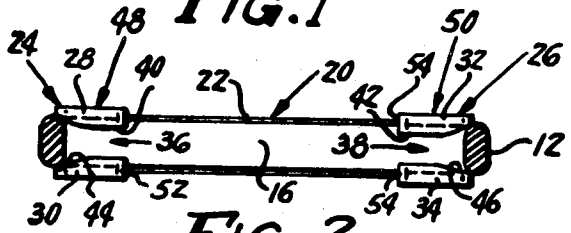


FIG. 2

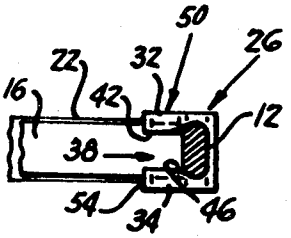


FIG. 5

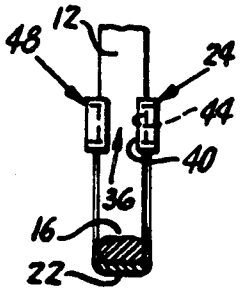


FIG. 3

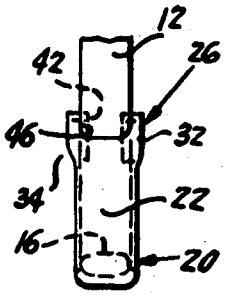


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
NATHAN ASTOR

BY Kimmel, Crowell & Weaver
ATTORNEYS.

United States Patent Office 3,380,263 Patented Apr. 30, 1968

3,380,263

RING GUARD HAVING SLOTTED ENDS

Nathan Astor, 5 Hidley Extension, Troy, N.Y. 12180

Filed Aug. 17, 1965, Ser. No. 480,266
9 Claims. (Cl. 63—15.6)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An attachment to reduce the effective inner diameter of a ring including an arcuate length of a resilient material having ends in coil form and slotted to receive sections of the ring therein in a "snap-on" connection, the coiled ends simultaneously making bearing engagement with the inner surface of the ring and extending towards the center of the ring against the finger.

This invention relates to a ring guard of the type useful in altering the effective size of a ring, and more particularly to a ring guard which may be attached by an individual without the requirement of specialized tools.

Detachable ring guards for ornamental rings are known to the prior art for effectively decreasing the internal diameter of finger hole of a ring. A ring guard is often used when the individual's ring is too large thus obviating the need for expensive resizing thereof. Ring guards are more often used by persons having knuckles that are much larger than the remainder of their finger to preclude rotation of an ornamental ring about the axis of the finger.

The ring guards of the prior art have many disadvantages, one of them being that special tools are often needed to attach and remove the ring guard from the shank of a ring. Another important disadvantage is that the ring guard must often be secured to the shank of a ring prior to insertion on an individual's finger. This latter disadvantage substantially lessens the value of a ring guard, particularly for those having large knuckles.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a ring guard which may be easily attached and removed to the shank of a ring.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a ring guard which may be secured to and removed from the shank of a ring while the ring is upon the finger of an individual.

Still another object of the instant invention is to provide a ring guard made of a material having a slight spring characteristic, such as stainless steel, gold, plastic, platinum and the like.

A further object of the instant invention is to provide a ring guard which is simple to construct, long lasting, easy to install and remove, and requires no maintenance.

A more specific object of the instant invention is to provide a ring guard providing an arcuate band portion to be juxtaposed to the shank of the ring having bifurcated ends forming a shank receiving slot bounded by a pair of slightly resilient coils or loops.

Other objects and advantages of the instant invention reside in the combinations of elements, arrangements of parts, and features of construction and operation, all as will be more fully pointed out hereinafter and disclosed in the accompanying drawing wherein there is shown a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a ring having attached thereto the ring guard of the instant invention showing in dotted lines the finger of an individual;

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of the ring and ring guard of FIGURE 1 taken along line 2—2 thereof and viewing in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 3 is another cross-sectional view of the ring and ring guard of FIGURE 1 taken substantially perpendicular to the cross section of FIGURE 2 along line 3—3 of FIGURE 1 viewing in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 4 is a partial side elevational view of the ring and ring guard of FIGURE 1 as may be seen from along line 4—4 thereof viewing in the direction of the arrows; and

FIGURE 5 is yet another cross-sectional view of the ring and ring guard of FIGURE 1 taken along line 5—5 thereof and viewing in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, wherein like reference characters designate like elements throughout the several views thereof, there is shown generally at **10**, an ornamental ring having a toroidal shank **12** to which may be secured an ornamental setting **14** such as may hold a precious or semi-precious stone. Toroidal shank **12** has an interior surface **16** of generally circular configuration receiving a finger **18** of an individual as may be seen in FIGURE 1.

Releasably attached to toroidal shank **12** of ring **10** is a ring guard means shown generally at **20** and constructed according to the teachings of this invention. The ring guard **20** is preferably made of a material having ornamental and spring characteristics, such as copper, silver, gold, platinum, plastic or any other suitable material. Ring guard means **20** includes an arcuate band **22** having approximately the same radius of curvature as the lower portion of toroidal shank **12**. Arcuate band **22** preferably extends slightly beyond the edges of shank **12** as may be seen in FIGURES 2, 3 and 5. Accordingly, ring guard **20** may be made in various sizes to accommodate shanks of varying degrees of curvature and of varying widths.

Ring guard means **20** further includes a pair of bifurcated ends designated generally at **24, 26** having a pair of substantially parallel legs **28, 30, 32, 34** forming a shank-receiving slot shown generally at **36, 38** having a first portion **40, 42** of lesser extent than toroidal shank **12** and a second terminal portion **44, 46** of approximately the same extent as toroidal shank **12**.

Legs **28, 30, 32, 34** extend generally toward the center of band **22** and are curved to form two pair of substantially parallel coils shown generally at **48, 50** curved to form loops of decreasing diameter and tow pair of smooth bearing surfaces **52, 54** for a pressure engagement with finger **18** of an individual as may be seen in FIGURE 1. It will be seen that two additional pair of bearing surfaces **56, 58** are provided by the loops of coils **48, 50** and rest against inner surface **16** of ring **10** to provide another means affixing ring guard **20** to shank **12**.

One manner of securing ring guard **20** to toroidal shank **12** is by inserting shank **12** in entrance portion **40** of slot **36** and then forcibly snapping, as by pressure applied with the fingers, shank **12** into terminus **44** of slot **36**. It will be seen that terminus **46** and bearing surfaces **56, 58** coact to retain ring guard **20** on shank **12**. Band **22** may then be manipulated to juxtapose entrance portion **40** of slot **38** adjacent toroidal shank **12** and then snapping shank **12** through entrance portion **42** into terminus **46**. Since ring guard **20** is made of a material having a spring characteristic, each of arms **28, 30, 32, 34** will return to its original position thus retaining shank **12** in slots **36, 38**.

When it is desired to remove ring guard **20** from shank **12**, it is necessary only to insert a thin metallic object, such as a table knife or a letter opener, between bearing surface **52** and finger **18** of the individual and pull outwardly with the thin metal piece. So doing will cam legs **28, 30** apart allowing shank **12** to be moved through slot

36 and out of entrance portion 40. Performing a similar step on the other end of ring guard 20 will release ring 10 from ring guard 20 such that ring 10 may be readily removed from the finger of an individual.

As may be seen from FIGURE 2, it will be noted that ring guard 20 lies substantially in a plane when viewed in plan with coils 48, 50 lying substantially parallel thereto.

It is now seen that there is herein provided an improved ring guard having all of the objects of this invention and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

Since many embodiments may be made of the instant inventive concept, and since many modifications may be made of the embodiments hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that the foregoing is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A ring guard comprising a central arcuate band having a radius of curvature and a width perpendicular to said radius including two bifurcated ends, each of said ends forming two spaced apart arcuate portions providing means for securing said guard to a ring, said means including a radially inwardly opening slot adapted to receive the shank of a ring, said slot having a first portion and an enlarged terminal portion.

2. The structure of claim 1 wherein said means provided by said arcuate portions include resilient coils each providing a smooth bearing surface spaced from said band toward the center of said curvature, said bearing surface facing toward the center of said curvature.

3. The structure of claim 2 wherein said coils include loops of decreasing size providing another smooth bearing surface, said another bearing surface being positioned between said first mentioned bearing surface and said arcuate band.

4. The structure of claim 3 wherein said another bearing surfaces are spaced apart less than the extent of said enlarged terminal portion of said slot.

5. The structure of claim 1 including an ornamental ring having a toroidal shank, said shank being received in said slot.

6. A ring guard comprising a central arcuate band having a radius of curvature and a width perpendicular to said radius and two ends, one of said ends forming two spaced apart arcuate portions providing means for securing said guard to a ring, said means including a radially inwardly opening slot adapted to receive the shank of a ring, said slot having a first portion and an enlarged terminal portion.

7. The structure of claim 6 wherein said means provided by said arcuate portions include resilient coils each providing a smooth bearing surface spaced from said band toward the center of said curvature, said bearing surface facing toward the center of said curvature.

8. The structure of claim 7 including an ornamental ring having a toroidal shank, said shank being received in said slot.

9. In combination, an ornamental ring having a toroidal shank, and a ring guard including a central arcuate band forming bifurcated ends, each of said ends having two spaced apart arcuate portions forming a slot, said shank being received in said slot.

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F. BARRY SHAY, *Primary Examiner.*