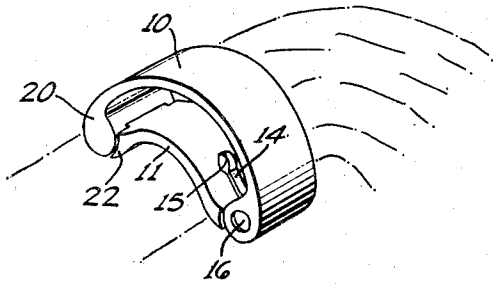
Nov. 19, 1957 F. A. FAY 2,813,533

BARRETTE

Filed March 26, 1956

FIG. 1.



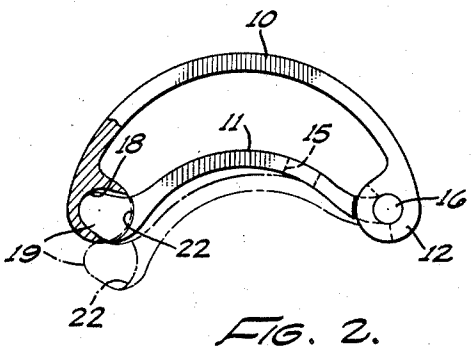
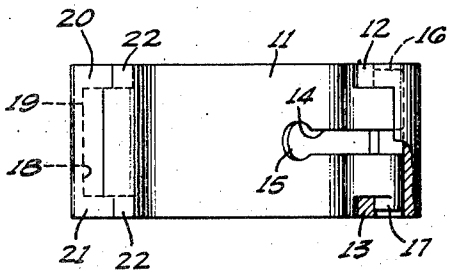


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



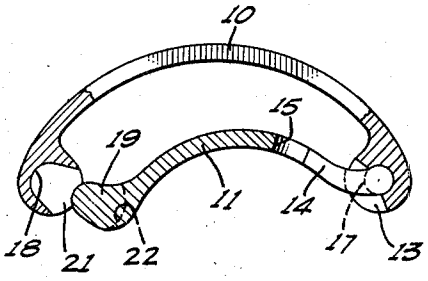


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.

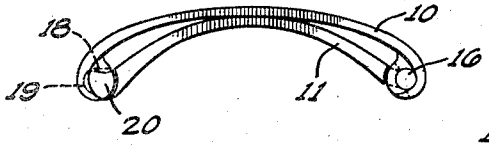
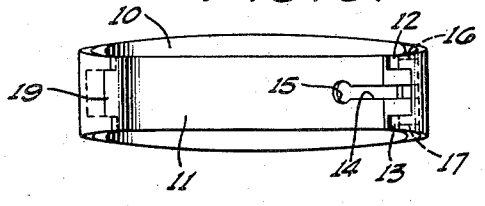




FIG. 7.

FIG. 6.



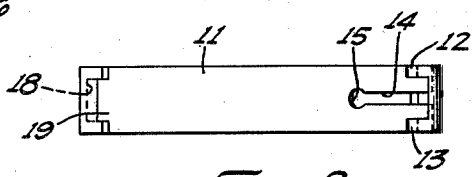


FIG. 8.

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BARRETTE

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Application March 26, 1956, Serial No. 573,739

4 Claims. (Cl. 132—48)

This invention relates to improvements in barrettes or hair clasps.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved barrette consisting of an arcuate back and a latch hingedly connected to each other adjacent one end of the back and at one end of the latch. At the other end of the back and at the swinging end of the latch a novel and highly advantageous means is provided for releasably locking the swinging end of the latch to the back so that hair confined between the latch and the back will be firmly retained therein. Furthermore, the releasable connection is so designed that in closing the barrette there is little danger of hair being caught therein and the construction is such that the barrette presents a smooth and attractive appearance. While it is possible to release or disengage the swinging end of the latch from the back of the barrette to unlock or open the barrette, this cannot ordinarily be accomplished unless the back is forcibly flexed. Consequently, once that the barrette is closed it remains closed until intentionally and forcibly opened.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be made manifest in the following detailed description and specification pointed out in the appended claims, reference is had to the accompanying drawings for an illustrative embodiment of the invention wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of barrette embodying the invention illustrating it in applied position on a "pony tail."

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the barrette shown in Fig. 1, parts being broken away and shown in horizontal section, the latch being shown in closed position in full lines and in open position in phantom lines.

Fig. 3 is a view in side elevation of the barrette shown in Fig. 2, parts being broken away and shown in vertical section.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but illustrating the manner in which the back is forcibly flexed to release and open the latch.

Fig. 5 is a top plan of an alternative form of construction.

Fig. 6 is a view in elevation of the same.

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of still another form of construction.

Fig. 8 is a view in elevation of the same.

Referring to the accompanying drawings wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout, the improved barrette consists generally of an arcuate back **10** and of a latch **11** which is preferably but not necessarily arcuate in form. Adjacent one end of the back **10** there are two apertured ears or knuckles **12** and **13** adjacent the top and bottom of the back and which have their top and bottom surfaces flush with the top and bottom edges of the back. At the corresponding end of the latch **11** there is a split or bifurcation **14**, the inner end of which terminates in a circular configuration as indicated at **15** to resist splitting of the latch. On the top and bottom of the latch there are

formed integrally therewith upper and lower pintles **16** and **17**.

The back and latch are preferably formed of a stiff but nevertheless resilient material such as, for example, a synthetic resin plastic so that the back and latch will normally retain their shaped conditions. However, as will hereinafter be explained, these parts can be forcibly flexed or bent. In assembling the latch and the back the sides of that end of the latch **11** which are above and below the split or bifurcation **14** are compressed toward each other so that the pintles **16** and **17** will be collapsed toward each other sufficiently to enter between the ears or knuckles **12** and **13**. When the pintles are in registration with the apertures in the areas the top and bottom of the latch are released and the pintles **16** and **17** expand into their respective ears, thus hingedly connecting the latch to the back. This hinged connection may be regarded as a permanent connection until such time as the top and bottom of the latch above and below the split **14** are compressed toward each other to cause the pintles to be withdrawn from their respective ears or knuckles.

The improvement primarily relates to the opposite end of the latch and back and to the configurations employed to detachably connect the swinging end of the latch to that end of the back which is remote from the hinge. In the mentioned end of the back there is formed a recess indicated at **18** which has its top and bottom terminating short of the top and bottom of the back. The swinging end of the latch is equipped with a corresponding protuberance **19** which is shaped to enter the recess and substantially fit it. The top and bottom of the protuberance **19** terminate inwardly of the top and bottom of the latch. In effect therefore the recess **18** is equipped not only with side walls but with top and bottom walls **20** and **21** which fit over and below respectively the top and bottom of the protuberance **19**. These top and bottom walls **20** and **21** are also shaped to fit the shoulders **22** at the top and bottom of the protuberance. Consequently when the latch is in closed or locked position the top surfaces of the socket containing the recess **18** are flush with the top and bottom surfaces of the latch.

The side walls of the recess **18** converge outwardly and are arranged on opposite sides of an imaginary center line which center line is approximately radial from the center of curvature of the back **10**. The side surfaces of the protuberance **19** are likewise arranged on opposite sides of an imaginary center line which is arranged approximately radial from the center of curvature of the back. This arrangement causes a firm interlock to be formed between the swinging end of the latch and that end of the back which is remote from the hinge. This interlock will persist regardless of the quantity of hair that may be confined between the latch **11** and the back **10**. It is possible however to disengage the latch from the back which is accomplished by forcibly flexing the back **10** from the position or condition shown in Fig. 2 to the position shown in Fig. 4. When the back is flexed or straightened, it has the effect of moving the socket or recess **18** outwardly a sufficient distance so that the protuberance **19** will clear the forward edge of the recess as illustrated in Fig. 4. In this position the latch **11** can be swung into open position after which the back can be released and will automatically return to the condition shown in Fig. 2. In closing the barrette the top and bottom of the protuberance **19** enter between the top **20** and the bottom **21** at the top and bottom of the recess to some extent as soon as the latch is pressed toward the back from the phantom line position shown in Fig. 2 toward the full line position. Consequently, the top and bottom **20** and **21** serve somewhat as guides for the top

and bottom of the protuberance while the protuberance cams its way from the open line position into the closed position. During this camming action the back **10** may be flexed to some extent and some slight flexure may occur in the latch itself. The arrangement is such that there is little danger or likelihood of hair becoming clamped between the protuberance **19** and the walls of the recess **18**.

The construction shown in Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8 is substantially the same as that previously described, the differences being principally in the degree of curvature of the back and the latch. In other respects the constructions illustrated in these figures are the same and the advantages and the operation are substantially the same. These barrettes are so shaped that they may be used to advantage on side sweeps and top sweeps of the hair.

Various changes may be made in the details of construction without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A barrette comprising an arcuate back formed of stiff material which can be flexed, a latch hingedly connected thereto adjacent one end, the other end of the back having a socket formed therein terminating at its top and bottom inwardly of the top and bottom of the back, the swinging end of the latch having a protuberance thereon adapted to enter the socket to lock the latch in closed position, and the top and bottom of the protuberance terminating inwardly of the top and bottom of the latch.

2. A barrette comprising an arcuate back formed of stiff material which can be flexed, a latch hingedly connected thereto adjacent one end, the other end of the back having a socket formed therein terminating at its top and bottom inwardly of the top and bottom of the back, the swinging end of the latch having a protuberance thereon adapted to enter the socket to lock the latch in closed position, the top and bottom of the protuberance terminating inwardly of the top and bottom of the latch, and the top and bottom of the latch and back being flush with each other when the barrette is closed adjacent the socket and protuberance.

3. A barrette comprising an arcuate back formed of stiff material which can be flexed, a latch hingedly connected thereto adjacent one end, the other end of the back having a socket formed therein terminating at its top and bottom inwardly of the top and bottom of the back, the swinging end of the latch having a protuberance thereon adapted to enter the socket to lock the latch in closed position, the top and bottom of the protuberance terminating inwardly of the top and bottom of the latch, the top and bottom of the latch and back being flush with each other when the barrette is closed adjacent the socket and protuberance, and the center lines of the socket and protuberance being arranged approximately radial with respect to the center of curvature of the back.

4. A barrette comprising an arcuate back formed of stiff material which can be flexed, a latch hingedly connected thereto adjacent one end, the other end of the back having a socket formed therein terminating at its top and bottom inwardly of the top and bottom of the back, the swinging end of the latch having a protuberance thereon adapted to enter the socket to lock the latch in closed position, the top and bottom of the protuberance terminating inwardly of the top and bottom of the latch, the top and bottom of the latch and back being flush with each other when the barrette is closed adjacent the socket and protuberance, and the center lines of the socket and protuberance being arranged approximately radial with respect to the center of curvature of the back and the sides of the protuberance and socket converging outwardly from said center of curvature.

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