May 19, 1953 H. RUF 2,638,652

END CONNECTION FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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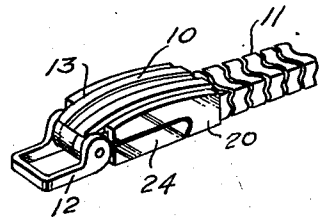


Fig. 1

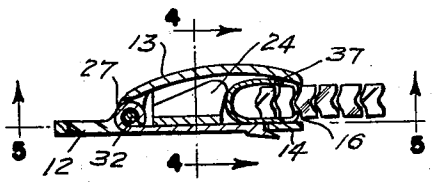


Fig. 2

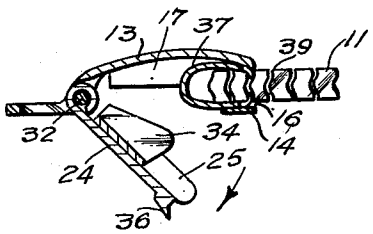


Fig. 3

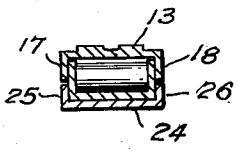


Fig. 4

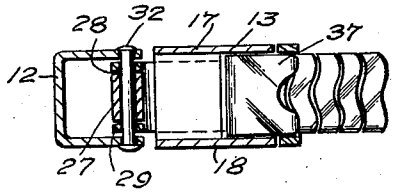


Fig. 5

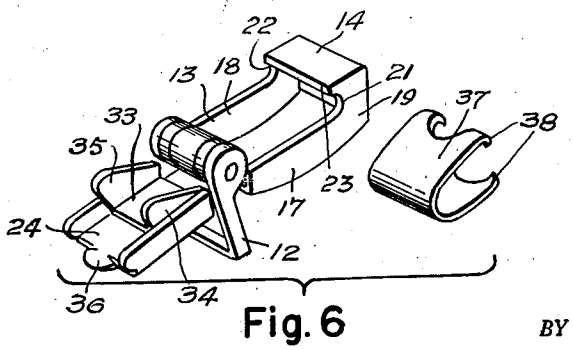


Fig. 6

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END CONNECTION FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 24—265)

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The present invention relates to the jewelry art, and has particular reference to a novel end connector for bracelets and the like.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective end connector for a bracelet, necklace, or similar jewelry article.

Another object of the invention is to provide an end connector which is particularly suitable for ornamental flexible bands of the snake chain type.

With the above and other objects and advantageous features in view, the invention consists of a novel arrangement of parts more fully disclosed in the detailed description following, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and more specifically defined in the claims appended thereto.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an end connection embodying the invention, and attached to a snake chain;

Fig. 2 is a central vertical section thereof, the parts being in closed relation;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, the parts being in open relation;

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 6 is an exploded perspective view of the connection parts.

It has been found desirable to provide an end connection of simple form for bracelets and other jewelry, and particularly for bracelets and the like made of snake chain. To this end, I have provided a casing into which the end of the chain may be inserted, the casing having a hinged cover part and a spring lock element which grips the end of the chain and is locked in gripping position when the cover is closed. This construction facilitates shortening the length of a bracelet or the like by the retail jeweler, and eliminates returning the bracelet to the manufacturer for the desired length adjustment.

Referring to the drawings, the end connection 10 is shown mounted on a length of snake chain 11, the connector 10 having an end link 12 hingedly mounted thereon. As illustrated in Fig. 6, the connector 10 includes a hollow casing 13, open at the front portion of the base 14 as indicated by the reference numeral 15 and at the rear end as indicated by the reference numeral 16 to provide an inlet for a bracelet end, the sides 17, 18 being cut away at the opening 16 and extending arcuately forwardly to provide two depending side lugs 19, 20 which have their forward edges 21, 22 curved as illustrated. The forward edge 23 of the base 14 forms a snap cam edge, as hereinafter described.

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A cover 24 is provided, having sides 25, 26 of a length to extend into the cut away portions of the casing sides 17, 18, the cover being extended rearwardly and curved to form an end hinge roll 27, and the casing having a forward extension reduced in width and terminating in two parallel hinge ears 28, 29 adapted to seat on the sides of the hinge roll 27. The link 12 is also provided with two end hinge ears 30, 31 adapted to seat on the sides of the hinge ears 28, 29, whereby a hinge pin 32 locks the parts together as shown in Fig. 6.

The sides 25, 26 of the cover 24 are rounded at their ends to snap past the cam edge 23 of the base 14 and seat into the forward edges 21, 22 of the casing side lugs, and a friction lock element 33 is mounted in the cover 24, as by soldering or the like, the lock element 33 having triangular wings 34, 35 which are adapted to frictionally engage the inner surfaces of the casing sides 17, 18 when the cover is closed, the cover having a forward finger tab 36 for lifting whenever desired. A U-shaped spring 37, see Fig. 6, is provided with spaced prongs 38 at its upper and lower ends, the prongs being of a size and shape to readily enter between the spaces 39 of the snake chain; the ends of the triangular wings 34, 35 are rounded to press the spring rearwardly as the cover is closed, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

The manner of assembly of the parts is now evident. The end of the chain 11 is inserted in the rear opening 15 of the casing, in which the spring 37 has been inserted through the opening 14, and is placed between the upper and lower sides of the spring; the cover is now closed to press the sides of the spring together and to force the spring to the rear, whereupon the prongs 38 seat in the contiguous spaces 39 of the chain end, and the assembly is completed when the rounded sides 25, 26 of the cover seat in the casing lugs 18, 19 and the wings 34, 35 of the friction lock element engage the inner surfaces of the casing sides 25, 26.

If it is desired to shorten the chain, the cover is opened, the chain end is withdrawn from the end connection, and shortened, and the new end is then inserted and locked in place.

Although I have described a specific construc-

tional embodiment of the invention, it is obvious that changes in the size, shape and arrangement of the parts may be made to suit different end connection requirements, without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An end connector for a bracelet or the like, comprising a hollow casing having a top, sides, and a base, and open at one end to provide an inlet for a bracelet end, the base having an opening adjacent the other end, a cover hinged to the top and movable to close said base opening, and a U-shaped spring positioned in said casing with spaced sides extending towards the bracelet end inlet and of a size to be received in the base opening, said sides having prongs adapted to engage a bracelet end, said spring being slidable within the case to wedge between the base and the cover upon movement towards the bracelet end inlet and said cover having means pressing said spring towards said bracelet end inlet when said cover is moved to close the base opening.

2. An end connector for a bracelet or the like, comprising a hollow casing having a top, sides, and a base, and open at one end to provide an inlet for a bracelet end, the base having an opening adjacent the other end, a cover hinged to the top and movable to close said base opening, and a U-shaped spring positioned in said casing with spaced sides extending towards the bracelet end inlet and of a size to be received in the base opening, said sides having prongs adapted to engage a bracelet end, said spring being slidable within the case to wedge between the base and the cover upon movement towards the bracelet end inlet, said cover being inclined towards the base at the bracelet end inlet and said cover having means pressing said spring towards said bracelet end inlet and compressing said spring when said cover is moved to close the base opening.

3. An end connector for a bracelet or the like, comprising a hollow casing having a top, sides, and a base, and open at one end to provide an inlet for a bracelet end, the base having an opening adjacent the other end, a cover hinged to the top and movable to close said base opening, and a U-shaped spring positioned in said casing with spaced sides extending towards the bracelet end inlet and of a size to be received in the base opening, said sides having prongs adapted to engage a bracelet end, said spring being slidable within the case to wedge between the base and the cover upon movement towards the bracelet end inlet and said cover having a projection pressing said spring towards said bracelet end inlet when said cover is moved to close the base opening.

4. An end connector for a bracelet or the like, comprising a hollow casing having a top, sides, and a base, and open at one end to provide an inlet for a bracelet end, the base having an opening adjacent the other end, a cover hinged to the top and movable to close said base opening, and a U-shaped spring positioned in said casing with spaced sides extending towards the bracelet end inlet and of a size to be received in the base opening, said sides having prongs adapted to engage a bracelet end, said spring being slidable within the case to wedge between the base and the cover upon movement towards the bracelet end inlet said cover being inclined towards the base at the bracelet end inlet and said cover having a projection pressing said spring towards said bracelet end inlet and compressing said spring when said cover is moved to close the base opening.

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