April 19, 1955 A. M. FITZPATRICK, JR 2,706,379

WATCH CASE AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

Filed Feb. 16, 1951

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

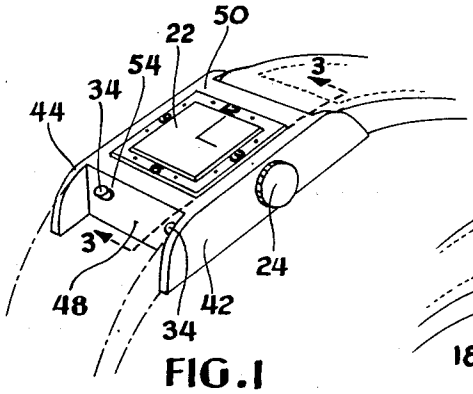


FIG. 1

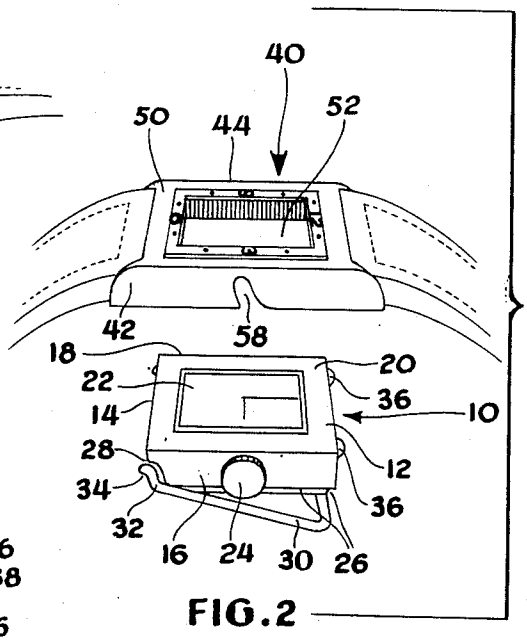


FIG. 2

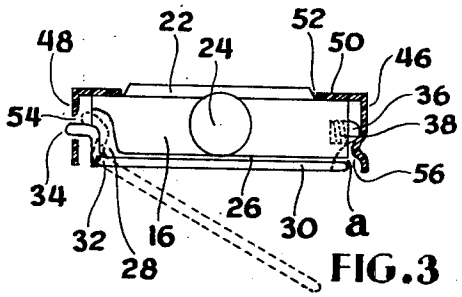


FIG. 3

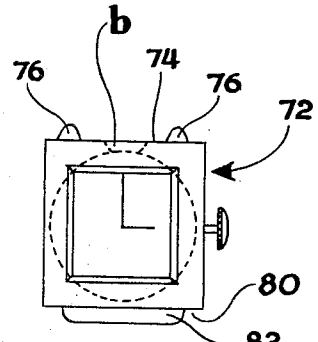


FIG. 5

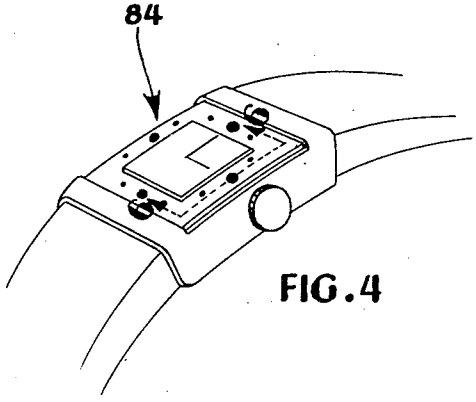


FIG. 4

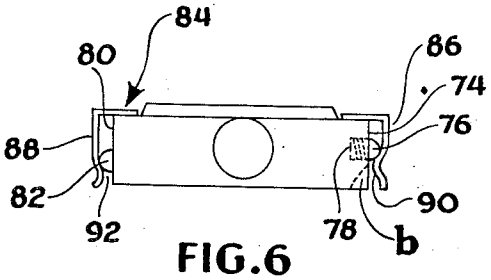


FIG. 6

INVENTOR.
ARTHUR M. FITZPATRICK, JR.
BY Alfred E. Miller
ATTORNEY

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WATCH CASE AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

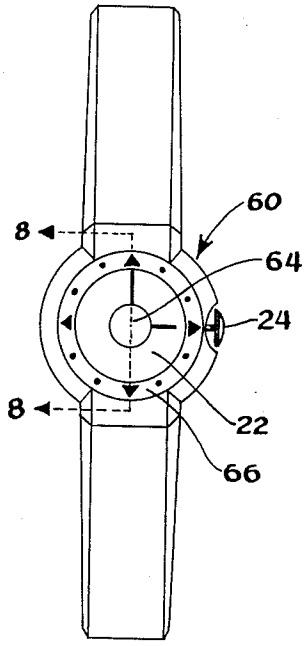


FIG.7

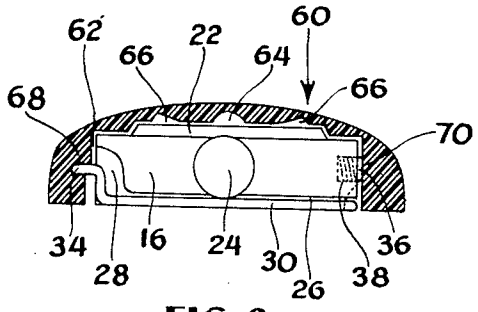


FIG.8

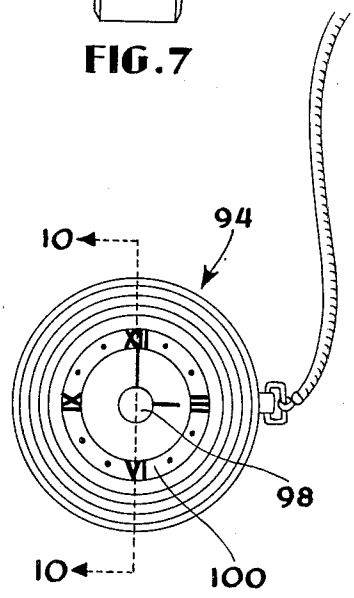


FIG.9

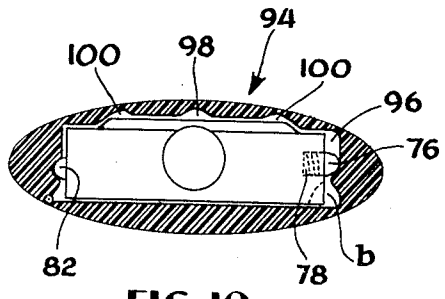


FIG.10

INVENTOR.
ARTHUR M. FITZPATRICK, JR.
BY Alfred E. Miller
ATTORNEY

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WATCH CASE AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

Arthur M. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Stamford, Conn.

Application February 16, 1951, Serial No. 211,356

2 Claims. (Cl. 58—88)

My invention relates to watches and more particularly to a watch case and mounting construction which permits the interchangeability of one watch case and its associated movement in a plurality of mountings.

It is an object of my invention to provide a single watch movement mounted in a watch case which is adapted to be rapidly and interchangeably received in a plurality of decorative mountings, so that the outward appearance of the watch is changed each time the watch case is secured in a different mounting.

Another object is the provision of means on a watch case which permits the rapid insertion and removal of the watch case from any of a plurality of mountings by manual manipulation and without the use of tools.

A further object is to provide a watch that can be rapidly changed from wrist to pocket or lapel for men; from wrist to purse, compact or lapel for women; to match color, and for business, evening or sports wear.

A further object is to provide a resilient latching means on a watch case to compensate for slight variances in the production of mounting openings, thus assuring a secure fit of the watch case in a plurality of mountings.

Another object is to provide an economical watch that presents the appearance of several watches although it actually contains a single movement and watch case.

And still another object is to promote efficiency in time keeping since one watch wound and worn regularly keeps better time than several watches worn interchangeably and at intervals.

These and other features, objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a watch embodying my invention;

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the watch in Figure 1 showing the watch case detached from its mounting;

Figure 3 is a sectional view through the watch mounting along the lines 3—3 of Figure 1 and showing the watch case in side elevation;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a watch embodying a modification of my invention;

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the watch case thereof;

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the watch mounting taken along the lines 6—6 of Figure 4 and showing the watch case in side elevation;

Figure 7 is a top plan view of the watch case shown in Figure 2 employed with a different mounting;

Figure 8 is a sectional view of the watch mounting taken along the lines 8—8 of Figure 7 and showing the watch case in side elevation;

Figure 9 is a top plan view of the watch case shown in Figure 5 employed with a different mounting;

Figure 10 is a sectional view of the watch mounting taken along the lines 10—10 of Figure 9 and showing the watch case in side elevation.

Referring to the drawings in detail and especially to Figure 2, the watch case which houses the watch mechanism or movement is indicated generally by the numeral **10**. Watch case **10** is preferably but not necessarily limited to a substantially rectangular shape and contains a movement therein (not shown). Watch case **10** has end walls **12** and **14** respectively, side walls **16** and **18** respectively, a top wall **20** and a conventional

watch crystal **22**. Said movement is preferably designed for winding by a stem **24** projecting through the side wall **16** of the watch case.

End wall **12**, and each side wall **16** and **18** have their bottom portions cut away to form a three-sided recess **26**. Each side wall **16** and **18** is also cut away at one of its sides, and end wall **14** is cut away at both its sides adjacent to side walls **16** and **18** to form recesses **28**. It is to be understood that although the recesses **26** and **28** shown in side wall **18** are not shown in the drawing they are identical with the recesses **26** and **28** shown in side wall **16**. Locking bar or bail **30** is mounted for pivotal movement on watch case **10** by pivot **32**. Projections or free ends **34** of locking bar **30** are adapted to move into and out of recesses **28** depending upon the position of the locking bar. End wall **12** is preferably provided with a pair of movable lugs **36**, and a pair of springs **38** serve to project lugs **36** laterally (Figure 3). It is to be understood, however, that a fixed projection may be satisfactorily employed in lieu of movable lugs **36**.

The watch mounting or holder shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 is referred to generally by the numeral **40**. Although watch case **10** is adapted to fit securely within the mounting **40** it may also fit securely and interchangeably in other mountings, as will hereinafter be described. Mounting **40** has side walls **42** and **44** respectively, end walls **46** and **48** respectively, and top wall **50**. Top wall **50** has suitable numerals thereon to indicate the time. The top wall is also provided with a rather large opening **52** shaped to correspond to the watch crystal **22**. End wall **48** is provided with apertures **54** through which the free ends **34** of the locking bar **30** protrude when the watch case **10** is locked in its mounting **40**. As seen in Figure 3, end wall **46** has an indentation forming a projection **56** on its inner surface. Lugs **36** motivated by compression springs **38** are sprung above said projection when the watch case is locked in its watch mounting. Side wall **42** is provided with an inclined slot **58** as seen in Figure 2.

In order to place the watch case in its mounting **40**, the watch case is held angularly in relation to the mounting with the locking bar **30** in the dotted line position shown in Figure 3, and movable lugs **36** are inserted above the projection **56**. The watch case is then rotated in a clockwise direction until watch crystal **22** projects through opening **52** in the top wall **50** of the mounting, and top wall **20** of the watch case abuts the under surface of top wall **50** of the mounting. Simultaneously the watch stem **24** enters and moves up inclined slot **58**. When this is accomplished, as seen in Figure 3, the locking bar is moved from the dotted line position to the full line position into recess **26** with the free ends **34** of the locking bar projecting through apertures **54** of the watch mounting thereby securely locking the watch case **10** in its mounting **40**.

For removal of the watch case **10** from mounting **40**, one's finger is inserted in the space *a* (Figure 3) to engage the locking bar **30** and move said locking bar to the dotted line position and cause the free ends **34** thereof to withdraw from apertures **54**. The watch case is then rotated in a counterclockwise direction with lugs **36** as a fulcrum and removed from mounting **40**.

It is apparent from the above description that the insertion and removal of the watch case **10** from mounting **40** is a simple and rapid manual operation which does not require the use of tools of any kind.

Figures 7 and 8 show the same watch case illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3 secured in an entirely different mounting **60**. Mounting **60** has a large opening **62** shaped to correspond with watch case **10** which is removably received therein. The mounting **60** is preferably of a different design and may be of a different material. As here shown, the mounting is made of a clear plastic composition which permits the watch face to be observed through the mounting when the watch case is inserted therein. It will be noted from Figure 8 that for decorative effect opening **62** in its surface adjacent to watch crystal **22** has a semi-circular recess **64** surrounded by an annular recess **66**. These re-

cesses may be painted or plated, and as seen in Figure 7 they appear raised when viewed from the outside of the watch mounting.

One end wall of mounting **60** has a recess **68** for the reception of the free ends **34** of the locking bar **30**, while the other end wall has a recess **70** for the reception of movable lugs **36**. It will be noted that the springs **38** coacting with the movable lugs **36** furnish the necessary resiliency for said lugs to compensate for the slight variances in distances between the end walls of the mounting openings, which often occur in mass production, thus assuring a secure fit of the watch case in a plurality of mountings.

A modification of my present invention is shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6. As clearly seen in Figure 5, watch case **72** has an end wall **74** with a pair of movable lugs **76** projected laterally by compression springs **78**, and end wall **80** has a bar **82** horizontally disposed relatively to watch case **72**. Watch mounting **84** has end walls **86** and **88** respectively. As seen in Figure 6 both end walls have indentations forming projections **90** and **92**, respectively, on the inner surface of said walls. The operation required to insert and remove watch case **72** from mounting **84** is similar to that explained before in connection with the watch case and mounting shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. Obviously, to remove the watch case from its mounting, pressure is applied to the side of the watch crystal adjacent to the movable lugs **76**, and the beveled edge of projection **90** along with the compression of spring **78** permit the movable lugs **76** to ride over projection **90**, and consequently watch case **72** is easily removed from its mounting.

In Figures 9 and 10 the watch case **72** is seen housed in an entirely different mounting **94**. The mounting instead of being in the form of a wrist strap or bracelet, as heretofore shown, is in the form of a pocket or lapel watch. The mounting, as here disclosed, is preferably of clear plastic composition and has a large opening **96** therein. It will be noted from Figure 10 that the surface of the opening **96** adjacent to the watch crystal has recesses **98** and **100** similar to that shown in Figure 8. Similarly, these recesses are painted or plated to heighten the decorative effect of the watch mounting.

In order to remove the watch case **72** from its mounting, one's finger is placed in space *b* of the opening to engage the watch case and pivot the same in a clockwise direction using the bar **82** as a fulcrum. Consequently said watch case is easily removed from its mounting.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that certain changes in the details of construction and in the arrangement of the parts may be made without departing from the underlying idea or principles of the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In combination, a watch mounting being provided with an opening therethrough and having time indicia thereon, a watch case housing a watch movement and having a crystal, said watch case being adapted to be releasably retained in said opening, at least two retaining means in said opening, at least one fixed lug and one movable lug on said watch case adapted to coact with said retaining means to secure said watch case in said mounting, said watch crystal projecting out of said mounting when said watch case is secured therein.

2. In combination, a watch mounting being provided with an opening, a watch case housing a watch movement and adapted to be removably received in said opening, retaining means in said opening, a fixed projection on one end of said case, a yielding projection on an opposite end of said case, both of said projections being adapted to be received and held by said retaining means whereby in one position of said yielding projection the watch case is held against dislodgement from said mounting by said retaining means, and in another position of said yielding projection the latter is disengaged from said retaining means to permit the removal of said watch case from said mounting.

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