

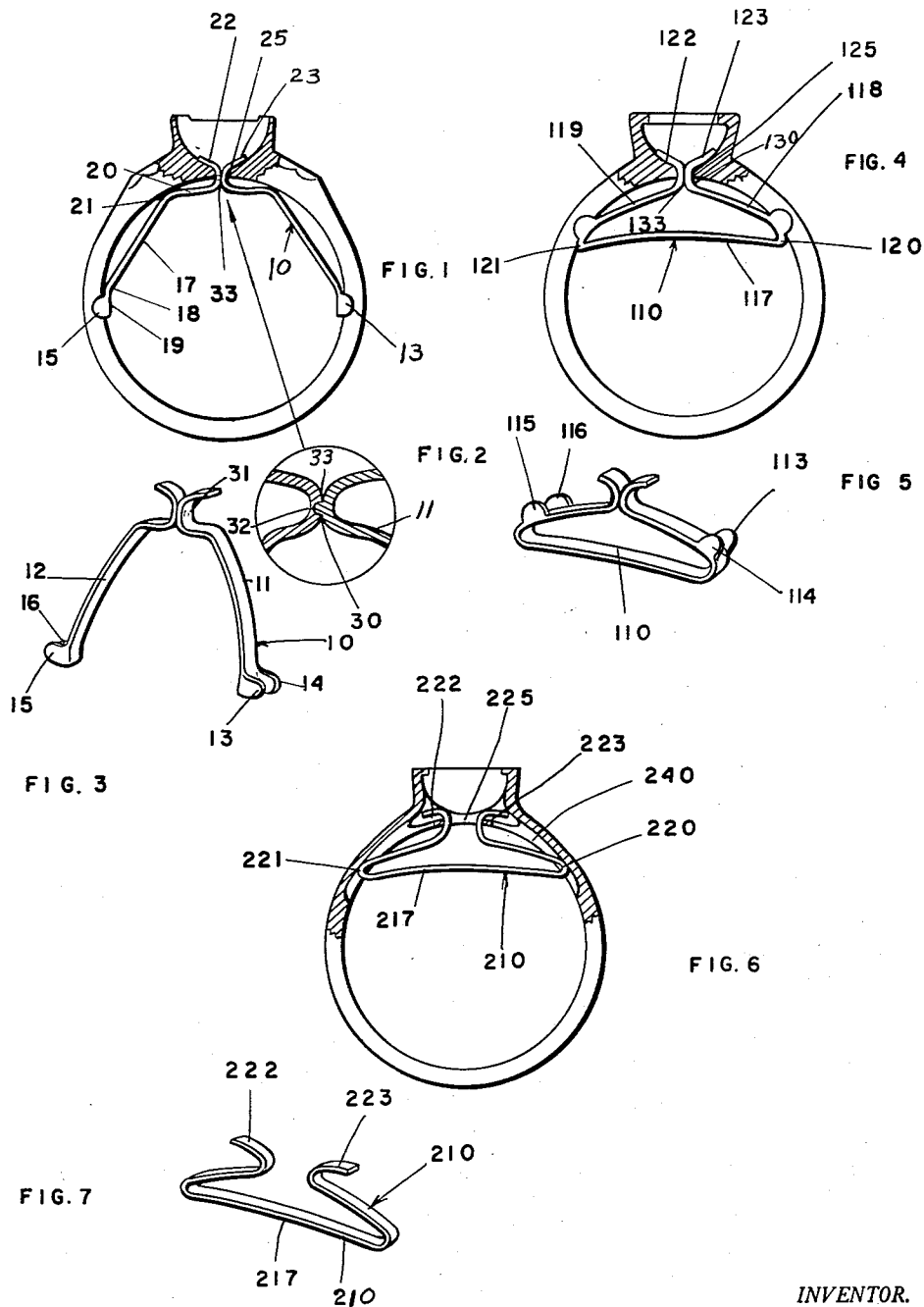
Dec. 27, 1960

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2,966,048

RING AND DETACHABLY CONNECTED RING GUARD

Filed April 17, 1958



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2,966,048

RING AND DETACHABLY CONNECTED
RING GUARD

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Filed Apr. 17, 1958, Ser. No. 729,173

3 Claims. (Cl. 63—15.6)

This invention relates to ring guards and, more particularly, to ring guards for diamond engagement rings and the like, for example, wherein the ring may be held in a desired relationship on the ring finger of the wearer.

One of the purposes of this invention is to solve the problem of enabling the wearer of a finger ring which is too large to hold the ring in its intended position. This applies especially to a diamond or an equivalent ring, keeping in mind the fact that the knuckle of the ring finger has to be cleared by the ring when it is put on the finger. The ring, if loose, will twist and turn in a manner well familiar to those whose wear rings. Various ring guards for compensating for the size of the ring are available. It has been a common difficulty with these ring guards, however, that they present sharp edges which are included to snag clothing or they are not effective in use.

It is, accordingly, an object of this invention to provide a ring guard which will be an improvement over those previously known and which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and simple and efficient to wear.

Another object of the invention is to provide a ring guard which will not be conspicuous and apparent to a person viewing the ring on the finger of a wearer.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view partly in cross section of a ring guard in place in a ring in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross sectional view of a part of the ring guard shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view of the ring guard shown in Fig. 1 apart from the ring;

Fig. 4 is a view of another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a view of the ring guard shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a partial cross sectional view of another embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 7 is a view of the ring guard embodiment shown in Fig. 6.

Now with more specific reference to the drawing, as seen in the figures of the drawing, the ring guard may be made of a relatively light weight springy material, preferably metal of some non-corrosive properties such as German silver, fourteen carat gold, or the like. The ring guard of the present invention in some embodiments thereof, especially Figs. 6 and 7, is illustrated as bent in the form of a single piece or strip of material but it need not be so formed and could be formed of a plastic

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material which would produce the same results and, particularly, if the device were made of a non-metallic material such as one of the synthetic plastics.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, a ring guard 10 is shown made of two separable pieces of material 11 and 12. Each of the pieces 11 and 12 is formed at its lower end with outwardly directed lugs 13, 14, 15, and 16. The lugs 13, 14, 15, and 16 lie on either side of the body of the ring as shown. The material of each half of the ring guard 10 has a straight portion 17 which is bent slightly inwardly at 18 and then downwardly in a straight fashion at 19 to support the lugs 13, 14, 15, and 16. The ring guard 10 is so constructed that the inner ends are under tension and are biased outwardly toward the inside surface of the ring.

An upper portion 20 of the ring guard 10 is bent inwardly at 21 and then is formed with an upwardly and outwardly extending hook 22 which extends through an opening 25 in the top part of the ring below the setting and holds the ring guard 10 fast in that position. The lugs 13, 14, 15, and 16 are rounded at their distal ends so that they will not snag or catch clothing and the like.

A pintle member 30 is formed on the piece 11 by punching the material of the piece 11 at 31. An opening 32 is formed by similarly punching the material of the piece 12 to receive the pintle member 30 in the curved portion of the piece 12. The two pieces 11 and 12 each are generally flat at the junction of their hook members 22 and 23. The pintle member 30 engaging the opening 32 prevents the pieces 11 and 12 from sliding relative to each other and since the two pieces 11 and 12 engage each other at 33, the ring guard 10 does not have a tendency to come out of the ring.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 4 and 5, a ring guard 110 is shown made of one continuous piece of flat material and having lugs 113, 114, 115 and 116 formed thereon by bending the material upwardly at points 120 and 121. A bight portion 117 of the ring guard 110 is slightly arched upwardly to generally conform to the shape of the wearer's finger and ends 118 and 119 are turned inwardly and upwardly at 130 to integrally attach to hook members 122 and 123 which have a flat engaging portion 133 along which the ends 118 and 119 engage each other. The hook members 122 and 123 extend up through an opening 125 and hold the ring guard 110 in place.

In order to remove the ring from the finger, it is only necessary to push one side down. The lugs 113, 114, 115, and 116 will then move out of engagement with one side of the ring and the ring guard 110 may then be rotated ninety degrees relative to the ring. Then the hook members 122 and 123 can be sprung out of the receiving openings and the guard 110 removed.

The ring guard shown in Figs. 6 and 7 is indicated at 210 and it is similar to that shown in Figs. 4 and 5; however, it is made of narrower material. The ring guard 210 is made so that it fits up into an inner peripheral slot 240 in the ring and hook members 222 and 223 extend up into an opening 225. The ring guard 210 is not apparent to a casual observer of the ring. The ring guard 210 is bent at 220 and 221 at the ends of an intermediate portion 217 and extends upwardly and inwardly from the ends 220 and 221 to the hook members 222 and 223.

The foregoing specification sets forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but it is understood that the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. In combination, a ring and a ring guard, said ring guard being made of a single piece of resilient material, said piece having a bight portion contacting the ring portion defining the bore with its ends to form a chord therein, arms extending from the ends of said bight portion overlying said bight portion in spaced relation thereto, said arms having the ends thereof bent back on themselves to form mutually adjacent U-shaped hooks on the ends of said ring guard to connect it to said ring, said ring having an ornamental outer portion, an undercut recess opening into said ring bore behind said ornamental portion, said hooks engaging the surface of the undercut of said recess, said bight portion being adjacent the side of said ring having said recess, said bight extending beneath said recess and adapted to engage a finger on the side of said bight facing away from said recess, and means at the ends of said bight on one of said bight and ring members engaging the other of said members to hold said members against relative lateral movement.

2. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein said means comprises lugs on said bight portion adjacent the ends thereof and said lugs lie along the edges of said ring to retain said bight portion therein.

3. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein said means at the ends of said bight portion on one of said bight and ring members comprises the ends of said bight portion disposed in a slot in the inner periphery of said ring.

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