

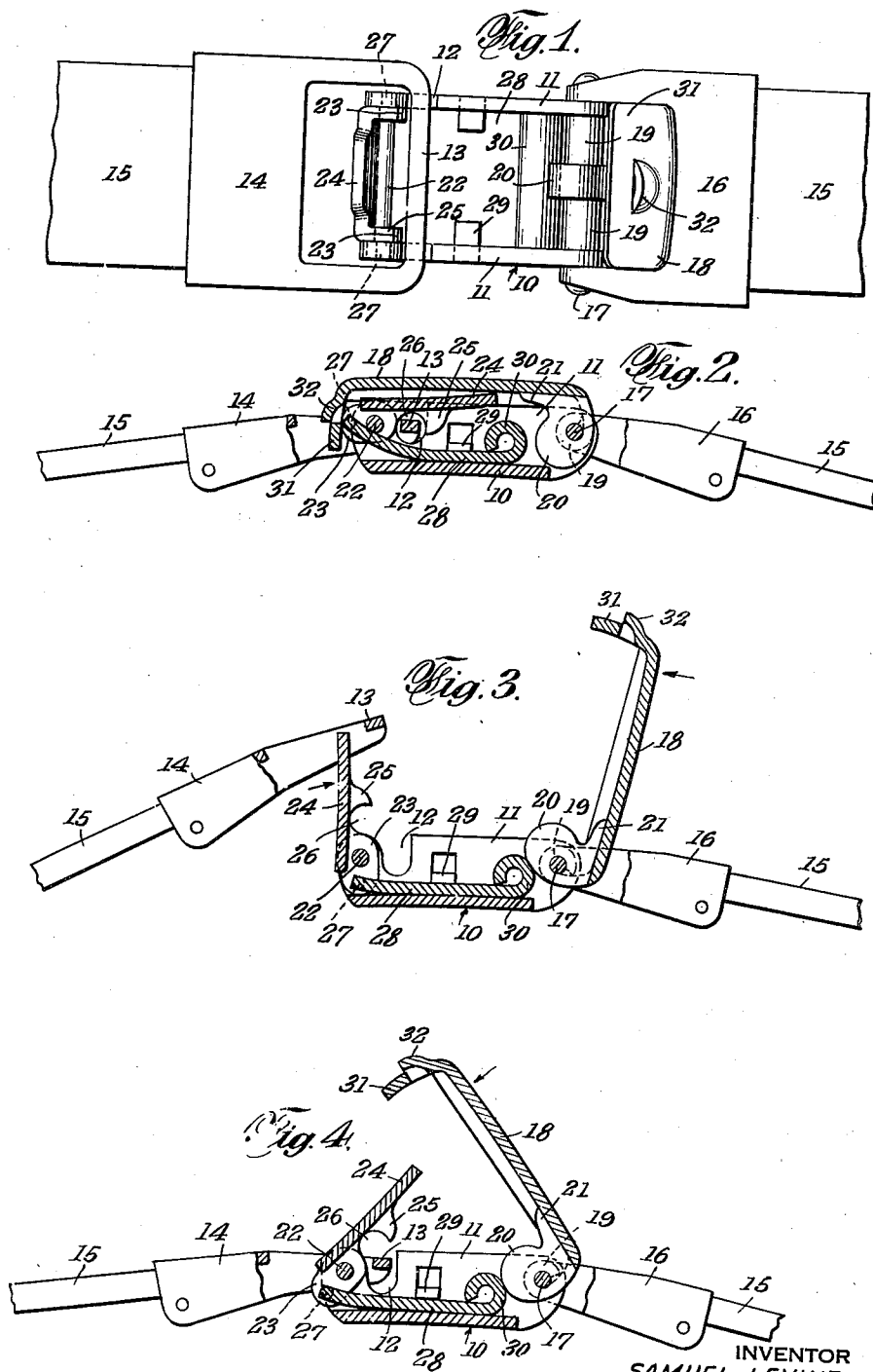
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CLASP FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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CLASP FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 24-241)

This invention relates to improvements in connectors for bracelets, straps, and the like, and pertains more specifically to improvements in means for rendering said connectors safer and easier to use.

It is well recognized that connectors and clasps of the type herein contemplated are rendered safer to use when a double lock is employed, i. e., when two superimposed members are arranged to serially close over the connecting loop which is fastened to the strap or chain forming part of the bracelet. Thus, should the outer locking member become unlocked, the inner one will serve to maintain the loop connected to the clasp or connector, hence, obviating loss of the bracelet.

Whereas this double locking feature is desirable in connectors, it becomes complicated and confusing to use during the locking operation since the user must first move the inner locking member into place and then the outer locking member.

With the above in mind, the present invention contemplates the provision of a connector having double locking members which must be separately and serially opened to free the strap loop from the connector but which will provide a double lock upon manual manipulation of only one of said members. Thus, the two locking members must be separately actuated when opening the connector and both locking members are moved to locking position when closing the connector by manual actuation of only one of the members.

The structural arrangement, compactness, and neatness of the device also comprise features of the invention.

The invention may be realized in its present preferred form in the illustrative embodiment thereof, which is shown in the accompanying drawing and described in detail in the following specification.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a connector such as contemplated in this invention, said connector being shown in an open condition.

Fig. 2 is a side longitudinal sectional view thereof, the connector being shown in a closed and locked condition.

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the connector in open condition, the parts being in the position shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is also a longitudinal sectional view, the connector being shown in a partially open condition and during the closing movement thereof.

Referring to the drawing in greater detail, the

connector comprises a base box portion 10 formed with the lateral walls 11 which are each provided with a notch 12 in which may be engaged the crossbar 13 of a strap loop 14 connected on the end of a bracelet strap or the like 15. The other end of said bracelet strap is preferably provided with a loop 16 having pivotal engagement with the ends of a rivet 17 mounted between the walls 11 of the box 10.

The device is provided with an outer locking member 18 which is formed with an ear 19, said ear being engaged around the rivet 17 for pivotal mounting of said outer locking member on said box.

In its present disclosed form, the ear 19 is bifurcated and in the bifurcation there is disposed a cam-shaped member 20 which is formed with a foot 21 having engagement with the locking member 18 to obviate relative rotation between said cam and said locking member. Hence, these two parts may be rotated about the rivet 17 as a unit.

At the other end of the box 10, the walls 11 thereof serve to support another rivet 22 and upon this rivet, as by means of the ears 23, there is pivotally mounted an inner locking member 24. Said latter locking member is preferably formed with laterally disposed projections 25, each having frictional engagement with the inner surface of the walls 11. The extensions 25 are so disposed in relation to the ears 23 as to define the notches 26 which, together with the notches 12 formed in the walls 11, serve to confine the crossbar 13 of the loop member 14.

The ears 23 are provided with extensions and these extensions are apertured for the reception of laterally extending tongues 27 of a slide member 28 disposed within the box 10 and engaged against the bottom thereof. In order to maintain the slide in the mentioned position, the portion of each wall 11 is inwardly bent to overstand said slide, as illustrated by the tongues 29, thus formed. The end of the slide opposite the projections 27 is preferably rounded or curled over as at 30 and this portion is adapted for cooperative engagement with the cam 20 on the outer locking member.

The mentioned frictional engagement between the projections 25 and the walls 11 serves to maintain the inner locking member 24 in locking relation, and the downreaching extension 31 of the outer locking member 18 having frictional engagement with the mentioned extension of the ears 23, serves to hold the outer locking member

in locked relation. This condition is best seen in Fig. 2.

Assuming the position shown in Fig. 2, in order to open the connector the outer locking member 19 is lifted as by means of the finger nail projection 32. When this is done, the inner locking member 24 will remain in locked condition. Upon lifting of the free end of this member to open the slots 12, the loop 14 is freed for removal from the connector. This condition is shown in Fig. 3. Thus, it is obvious that the connecting relation between the loop 14 and the connector is doubly safeguarded since the connector may be opened only by the separate and sequential manipulation of the two respective locking members.

From the position shown in Fig. 3, when it is desired to lock the connector over the loop 14, said loop is first engaged by means of its bar 13 within the notches 12 and the outer locking member is moved around the rivet 17 in the direction of the arrow. During this movement, the cam 20 will move the slide 28 which, through its connection with the inner locking member, causes opposite rotation in the direction of the arrow, of the inner locking member. This condition is best seen in Fig. 4. Now, when the high point of the cam 20 has moved the slide 28 to its furthestmost position toward the left, the free end of the inner locking member will engage the under-surface of the outer locking member, and continued rotation of said outer locking member will cause the two locking members to assume the locked position shown in Fig. 2. It will be noted from this figure that the slide has now become completely disassociated from the cam, since the latter part of the movement of the inner locking member has drawn the slide still further toward the left. It is apparent from the above that the simple manual manipulation of one of the locking members has accomplished the positive locking positioning of both of said locking members.

While the foregoing is descriptive of a preferred form of connector, many changes in the structure may be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention.

For instance, the connection between the slide 28 and the ears 23 may be replaced by a modified form of gearing, or differently designed members to replace the cam 20 and the rolled portion 30 may be used. While at present it is preferred that during the opening of the connector the movement of the outer locking member shall not affect the inner member, it may be desired, under certain conditions, to have the raising of the outer member also cause the raising of the inner member. While this form is not illustrated, it is quite obvious of attainment.

From the foregoing it is apparent that the scope of the invention should not be confined to this specific disclosure and the scope of the claims should be interpreted only in the light of the prior pertinent art.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A bracelet connector comprising a base box having an open top, an outer locking member

pivoted to one end of said box, a cam on said member, an inner locking member pivoted to the other end of said box, a slide in said box connected with the inner locking member, said slide having operative engagement with said cam whereby upon movement of the outer locking member to locking position over said open box top said cam will move the slide to cause movement of the inner locking member to its locking position underneath the outer locking member.

2. A bracelet connector comprising a base box having an open top, an outer locking member pivoted to one end of said box and swingable to close the box when in locking position, a cam on said member, an inner locking member pivoted to the other end of said box, a slide in said box connected with the inner locking member, said slide having operative engagement with said cam whereby upon movement of the outer locking member to locking position said cam will move the slide to cause movement of the inner locking member to its locking position beneath the outer locking member and between the walls of the box, said outer locking member in locked position having frictional engagement with said inner locking member, and said inner locking member having frictional engagement with said base box.

3. In combination with the end fitting of a bracelet, a connector comprising a base box having notches for receiving a portion of said fitting, and means for locking said fitting against displacement from said notches, said means comprising an inner locking member pivoted to one end of said box to overlie the notches when in locked position, an outer locking member pivoted to the other end of said box, swingable to overlie the inner member for locking position, a cam carried by said outer locking member and a slide member connected to the inner locking member and having separable operative engagement with the cam on the outer locking member so that movement of the outer locking member toward locking position will cause movement of the inner locking member toward locking position.

4. In combination with the end fitting of a bracelet, a connector comprising a base box having notches for receiving a portion of said fitting, and means for locking said fitting against displacement from said notches, said means comprising an inner locking member pivoted to one end of said box to overlie the notches when in locked position, an outer locking member pivoted to the other end of said box, swingable to overlie the inner member for locking position, a cam carried by said outer locking member and a slide member connected to the inner locking member and having separable operative engagement with the cam on the outer locking member so that movement of the outer locking member toward locking position will cause movement of the inner locking member toward locking position, said outer member having frictional engagement with a portion of said inner locking member, and said inner locking member having frictional engagement with a portion of said base box.

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