Jan. 9, 1940. M. WEINER 2,186,438

JEWELRY CLASP

Filed Jan. 19, 1939

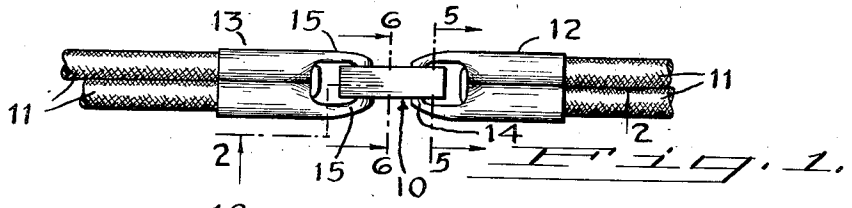


Fig. 1.

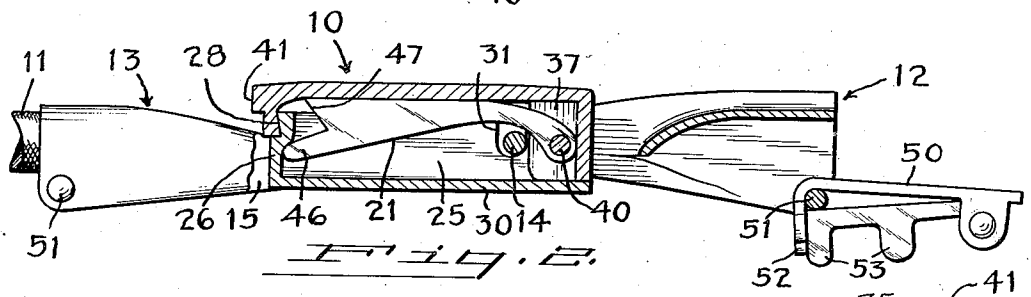
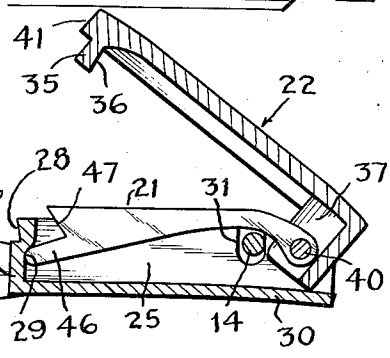


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



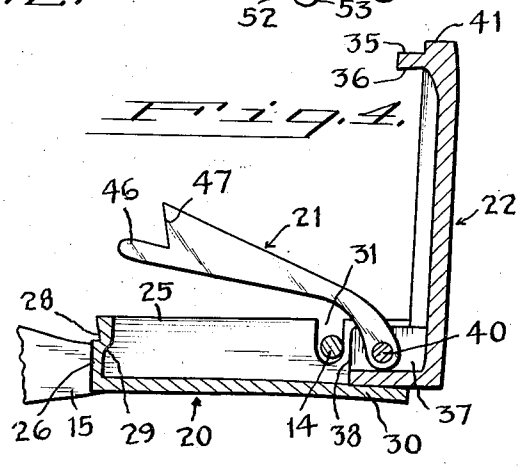


Fig. 4.

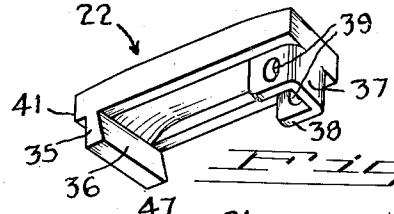


Fig. 7.

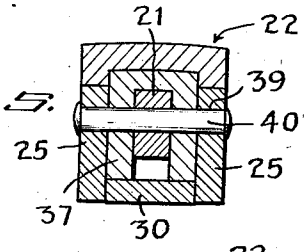


Fig. 5.

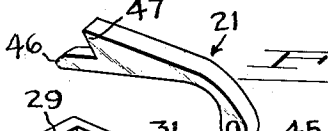


Fig. 8.

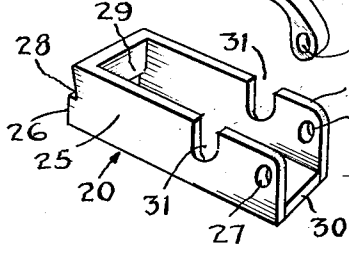


Fig. 9.

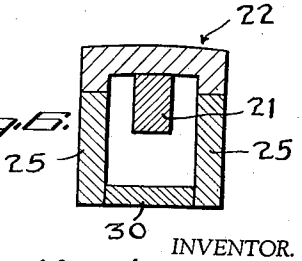


Fig. 6.

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JEWELRY CLASP

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Application January 19, 1939, Serial No. 251,680

4 Claims. (Cl. 24—241)

The invention relates to jewelry clasps or snaps which act as connectors or coupling devices for the ends of wrist watch bands or cords, bracelets, necklaces, and other jewelry.

The principal object of the invention is to provide an extremely simple and efficient safety catch. In devices of this nature the main catch ofttimes becomes loose and the watch or piece of jewelry is dropped and may be broken or lost. In accordance with the present invention if the main catch should be inadvertently released the safety catch will positively hold the ends of the watch cord or bracelet in proper relation to each other. In removing the piece of jewelry from a person the main catch is first released and then the safety catch, both by a simple operation. In replacing the piece of jewelry both the main catch and safety catch are simultaneously closed, likewise by a simple and natural operation.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent as the specification proceeds. Referring to the drawing forming a part thereof and in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated:

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing the clasp connecting the ends of wrist watch cords;

Fig. 2 is a view partly in longitudinal section and partly in elevation and is taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, both the safety and main catches being in their closed or locked positions;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken in the same plane as Fig. 2, showing the main catch open and the safety catch in its closed or locked position;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Figs. 2 and 3 showing both catches in their open or released position;

Figs. 5 and 6 are detail cross-sectional views taken on the lines 5—5 and 6—6 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of the main catch element;

Fig. 8 is a detail perspective view of the safety catch element; and

Fig. 9 is a detail perspective view of the box or body element of the catch.

Referring again to the drawing, in Fig. 1 the clasp or snap is designated by the reference numeral 10. The cords 11 are retained in end members 12 and 13. The end member 12 is provided with the conventional loop 14 for engagement with the clasp as hereinafter described and the end member 13 has a pair of arms 15—15 which simulate the loop 14 and these arms may be soldered or otherwise secured to the side walls of the clasp.

The clasp proper is of extremely simple construction comprising only three parts, the body member 20 which as shown in Fig. 9 is of box-like formation, the safety catch 21, Fig. 8, and the main catch 22, Fig. 7.

The box-like body member is open at one end and has side walls 25 and an end wall 26. The side walls 25 are provided with openings 27 for a pivot pin hereinafter described. The outer edge of the end wall is undercut at 28 to provide a seat for the main catch as hereinafter described. On its inner side the end wall 26 is formed as indicated at 29 to act as a seat for the safety catch hereinafter described. The foregoing makes for a simple construction and one that is economical to manufacture as both seats are made on opposite sides of the same wall and may be formed with one die operation. The bottom wall 30 is free from the side walls and acts as a spring member for purposes hereinafter described. The side walls of the body member are provided with open ended slots 31 to accommodate the loop 14 on the end member 12.

The main catch member 22 is of shallow box formation and has at one end a downwardly extending projection 35 which may be slightly sloped on its inner side, as indicated at 36, for locking engagement with the seat 28 on the body member. At its opposite end the main catch is provided with a depending lug 37 which comprises the hinge member and in addition, when in the locked position, provides the closure for the open end of the body member as shown in Fig. 2. The lug 37 is U-shaped in cross-section and its lower flat face 38 engages the spring bottom 30 of the body member. Thus the main catch is spring-pressed either to its open or closed position, as will be evident from an inspection of Figs. 2, 3 and 4. This construction has two advantages, one being that should the seat on the main catch member become worn the catch will still be urged to its closed position and held there, and the other being that when the catch is urged and held in the open position as shown in Fig. 4, it will be positively held out of the way to permit easier manipulation of the safety catch, as will become more apparent hereinafter. The side walls of the lug are provided with openings 39 which are aligned with the openings 27 in the side walls of the body member for the reception of the pivot pin 40. On the end of the main catch carrying the projection 35 is a slight extension 41 under which the thumb nail may be inserted to facilitate opening the catch.

The safety catch member 21, shown in Fig. 8,

is provided with an opening 45 which in the assembled position is aligned with the openings 27 and 39 and the hinge pin 40 passes through all of these openings. Thus the main catch and safety catch have a common hinge. This makes for a simple and economical arrangement both as to manufacturing and assembling. In its assembled position the pivotal end of the safety catch is embraced by the walls of the depending hinge lug 37 thus making for a strong and rigid construction. The safety catch member is somewhat resilient and has a tongue 46 on its free end which co-operates with the seat 29 to hold the safety catch in its locked position. The free end of the safety catch member is also provided with an undercut projection 47 which is engaged by the thumb nail to facilitate releasing the safety catch.

From the foregoing it is thought to be apparent that should the main catch 22 be inadvertently released the safety catch will hold the parts in locked position. When both catches have been opened the loop 14 may be lifted from the slots 31. In locking the clasp the relation of the main catch to the safety catch is such that in closing the main catch it contacts the safety catch and both are thus closed simultaneously with one operation.

The end members 12 and 13 are provided with means for holding the cords 11 in position. Plates 50 are pivoted at 51 in the end members. These plates have teeth 52 which impinge on the cords and spreaders 53 which are entered between the cords and force them against the side walls of the end members.

Such changes in details of construction and arrangements of parts as would occur to one skilled in the art are to be considered as coming within the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A clasp for securing the end members of a piece of jewelry together, said clasp having in combination, a body member of box-like formation, the bottom of said body member acting as a spring, open slots in the side walls of said body member to accommodate a loop on one of said end members, a main catch member pivoted in the side walls of said body member at one end thereof and acting as a cover for said body member, a depending hinge lug formed on the hinged end of said main catch member, said hinge lug having flattened areas for engaging the spring bottom in said body member so as to normally urge said main catch member to an open or closed position, and said hinge lug being U-shaped in cross-section and acting as a closure for that end of said body member where said main catch member is hinged, a safety catch member, the pivoted region of which is embraced by the arms of said hinge lug, and a pivot pin passing through said safety catch member, the arms of said hinge lug, and the side walls of said body member, said safety catch member in the closed position of the clasp resting over said loop in said open slots so as to confine said loop in said slots, and the upper surface of said safety catch member being in contact with the under side of said main catch member.

2. A clasp for securing the end members of a piece of jewelry together, said clasp having in combination, a body member of box-like formation, open slots in the side walls of said body member to accommodate a loop on one of said end members, a main catch member pivoted in the side walls of said body member adjacent one end thereof and acting as a cover for said body member, a safety catch member pivoted in said body member on a common pivot with said main catch member, said safety catch member in the closed position of the clasp resting over said loop in said open slots so as to confine said loop in said slots, and the upper surface of said safety catch member being in contact with the under side of said main catch member and seats formed in the end wall of said body member opposite to the end in which the catches are pivoted, one of said seats being formed in the outer edge of said end wall to engage the free end of the main catch member and maintain it in its closed position, and the other of said seats being formed on the inner side of said end wall to engage the free end of said safety catch member and maintain it in its closed position.

3. A clasp for securing the end members of a piece of jewelry together, said clasp having in combination, a body member of box-like formation, the bottom of said body member acting as a spring, open slots in the side walls of said body member to accommodate a loop on one of said end members, a main catch member pivoted in the side walls of said body member at one end thereof and acting as a cover for said body member, a depending hinge lug formed on the hinged end of said main catch member, said hinge lug having flattened areas for engaging the spring bottom in said body member so as to normally urge said main catch member to an open or closed position, a safety catch member pivoted in said body member on a common pivot with said main catch member, said safety catch member in the closed position of the clasp resting over said loop in said open slots so as to confine said loop in said slots, and the upper surface of said safety catch member being in contact with the under side of said main catch member and seats formed in the end wall of said body member opposite to the end in which the catches are pivoted, one of said seats being formed in the outer edge of said end wall to engage the free end of the main catch member and maintain it in its closed position, and the other of said seats being formed on the inner side of said end wall to engage the free end of said safety catch member and maintain it in its closed position.

4. A clasp for securing the end members of a piece of jewelry together, said clasp having in combination, a body member of box-like formation, the bottom of said body member acting as a spring, open slots in the side walls of said body member to accommodate a loop on one of said end members, a main catch member pivoted in the side walls of said body member at one end thereof and acting as a cover for said body member, a depending hinge lug formed on the hinged end of said main catch member, said hinge lug having flattened areas for engaging the spring bottom in said body member so as to normally urge said main catch member to an open or closed position, and said hinge lug being U-shaped in cross-section and acting as a closure for that end of said body member where said main catch member is hinged, a safety catch member, the pivotal region of which is embraced by the arms of said hinge lug, a pivot pin passing through said safety catch member, the arms of said hinge lug and the side walls of said body member, said safety catch member in the closed position of the clasp resting over said loop in said open slots so as to confine said loop in said slots,

and the upper surface of said safety catch member being in contact with the under side of said main catch member and seats formed in the end wall of said body member opposite to the end in which the catches are pivoted, one of said seats being formed in the outer edge of said end wall to engage the free end of the main catch member and maintain it in its closed position, and the other of said seats being formed on the inner side of said end wall to engage the free end of said safety catch member and maintain it in its closed position.

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