Feb. 18, 1958 J. H. BACON 2,823,435

CUFF LINKS

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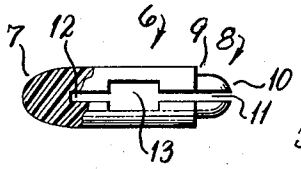


FIG. 2

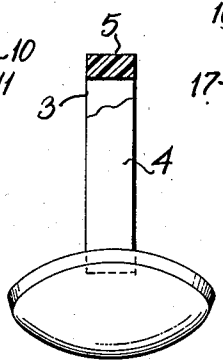


FIG. 1

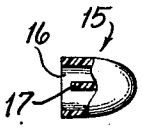


FIG. 3

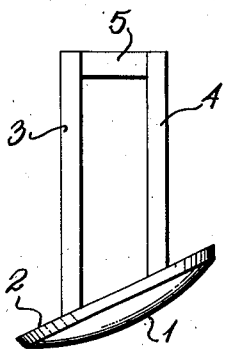


FIG. 4

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CUFF LINKS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 24—97)

The present invention relates to a cuff link structure. In the manufacture of cuff links, the structure will conventionally have an ornamental button, cross bars, trunnion and a locking bar mounted on the trunnion. The locking bars are usually mounted on the trunnion in such a manner as to provide a spring tension to maintain them in one of several selected positions. This feature of the lock bar may be obtained in several ways, as for example by providing a spring member internally located within the lock bar or alternately by severing the trunnion and placing a solid lock bar between its severed ends with the trunnion tensioned inwardly into an opening shaped so as to provide the selected tension.

Each of the previously known means of forming cuff links of this nature fail in several ways to provide a structure which is both inexpensive to manufacture and is certain of operation. Those cuff links which utilize springs are somewhat expensive to manufacture, while those which rely upon severing the trunnion to form a spring tension connection between the trunnion and lock bar are not structurally sound.

The present invention overcomes these difficulties and in addition provides a structure of improved design. The particular advantages of the structure of the present invention, will be more clearly understood when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate an embodiment fo the invention,

In the drawings,

Figure 1 represents a fragmentary front elevation of the main body portion of the cuff link including the ornamental head and cross bars and trunnion;

Figure 2 is a partially cross sectional front elevation of the locking bar;

Figure 3 is a partially cross sectioned front elevation of a cap for the locking bar; and,

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the structure illustrated in Figure 1.

Referring specifically to the drawings, there is illustrated an embodiment of the present invention which is made entirely of a plastic, preferably nylon plastic material. Other plastics may be used provided they have properties which are substantially similar in nature to nylon plastic, and include toughness and resilience as well as a degree of flexibility.

The button or cap **1** may be molded plain or with any selected ornamentation on its outer surface. Projecting from its inner surface **2** of the button and preferably angular thereto are a pair of cross bars **3** and **4**, which may be of any conventional cross sectioned shape but which are preferably oval or rectangular in shape. The upper ends of these cross bars **3** and **4** are connected together by a trunnion **5** which preferably extends normally to these cross bars **3** and **4** as is illustrated. The trunnion **5**, cross bars **3** and **4**, and button **1**, are molded as an integral and continuous piece. The trunnion **5** has a rectangular cross section as is illustrated in Figure 1.

The locking bar **6** is formed of material similar to that

from which the cross bars, trunnion and button are formed and is preferably cylindrical in cross section with a rounded end **7**. The other end **8** has a shoulder **9** from which projects a button element **10**. A slot **11** extends from the end of the button **10** longitudinally of the bar **6** to a point **12** close to the end **7**. This slot **11** has an enlarged section or recess **13**, symmetrically located. The section **13** and slot **11** extend all the way through the locking bar **6**. The enlarged recess **13** has a cross sectional shape and size adapted to snugly fit about the trunnion **5**.

The passage or slot **11** is sufficiently wide and the plastic from which the locking bar **6** is formed, should be sufficiently flexible to permit the slot **11** to be opened and the trunnion **5** to slide through to the enlarged recess **13**. With the trunnion **5** positioned in the enlarged recess **13**, a cap illustrated in Figure 3 may be positioned over the boss or projection **10**. This cap **15** has a recess or opening **16** shaped and sized to fit over the member **10**. A transversely extending flange **17** extends across the recess **16** and is located within the recess so as to fit into the ends of the slot **11**, when the cap **15** is positioned over the member **10**. When the unit is assembled with the locking bar **6** positioned on the trunnion **5** and the cap **15** on the member **10**, the entire unit may be rigidly secured together by a quantity of suitable cement applied within the recess **16**, just before the cap is inserted on the member **10**. The unit thus assembled provides a structure in which the locking bar will normally be maintained either parallel with the cross bars **3** and **4**, or normal to them. If the locking bar is momentarily positioned at an angle other than as specified above, the tension created by the resilient plastic will cause the locking bars to snap into one of the aforementioned positions. For preferable operation of this device, the recess **13** and trunnion **5** should be substantially square in cross section so that the locking bar will be readily maintained in either one of the two previously mentioned positions without unnecessary tension being applied to the plastic.

The structure of the cuff links as thus illustrated is exceptionally inexpensive in nature for it does not require the utilization of metallic springs or other foreign members and the entire structure may be molded from plastic of the same type. Furthermore, the structure as illustrated is exceptionally strong in view of the integral and unitary structure of the trunnion cross bars and button.

Particular attention is directed towards slot **11** and recess **13**. The slot portions adjacent to recess **13** impart sufficient flexibility to the locking bar to permit rotation without binding. If these slots were not provided, the locking bar would in all probabilities bind or would have to be manufactured with a recess so much larger than the locking bar, that the snap action would be substantially ineffective.

Attention is also directed toward the fact that by utilization of a cap and locking bar arrangement, with the solid trunnion, plating of the button is substantially facilitated. In the present invention, the button, cross bars and trunnion may be plated and the locking bar which is normally not viewable is then applied to the trunnion without plating. Plating must be avoided on the surfaces to be cemented. For this reason it is impractical to use a structure in which the trunnion bar would have to be cemented, if plating is desirable.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A cuff link comprising a button, a pair of cross bars secured at one end to and extending from the button, a trunnion polyhedral in cross section joining the free ends of the cross bars, a locking bar of resilient material having a polyhedral opening corresponding in cross section to the cross section of the trunnion extending trans-

versely therethrough and closely fitting over the trunnion, said bar having aligned longitudinal slots which are formed therein and extend transversely through the bar from the polyhedral opening, one toward and short of one end of the locking bar and the other through the other end of the locking bar permitting the locking bar to be snapped over the trunnion to a position wherein the trunnion lies in the opening, a cap secured to said other end of the locking bar and closing the end of said other slot, said slots permitting the bar to spread apart in the region of the polyhedral opening only, in such a manner that the bar remains substantially undistorted at its ends when the locking bar is pivoted through 90° on the trunnion.

2. A cuff link as defined in claim 1 further characterized by the cap having a recess formed in one end and receiving said other end of the locking bar, and a partition formed in the recess and fitting into the end of the other slot.

3. In combination with a cuff link having a button and a trunnion secured to and spaced from the button, a locking bar, said locking bar having an opening formed therein extending transverely therethrough intermediate its ends and receiving the trunnion, said opening in the bar and the said trunnion being of such a shape that the bar can be selectively locked in one of a plurality of positions, said locking bar also having a slot formed transversely therethrough from the opening to one end so that a pair of arms are formed on opposite sides thereof for permitting the bar to be slid onto the trunnion so that the trunnion lies within the opening, said arms extending from the opening to the end of the bar, a cap having a recess formed in one end for receiving the ends of the arms, a partition formed in the recess of the cap and extending into the end of the slot, and means for securing the ends of the arms in the recess and the partition within the slot.

4. A device as set forth in claim 3 wherein said trunnion and opening have rectangular cross sections whereby said bar can be selectively locked in two positions at right angles to one another.

5. A device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said arms are formed with shoulders at their ends adapted to fit within the recess of said cap with the outer walls of said bar and cap forming a continuous surface.

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