July 7, 1925. 1,544,619

F. J. WAKEFIELD

ORNAMENTAL CHAIN

Filed Sept. 15, 1924

Fig. 1.

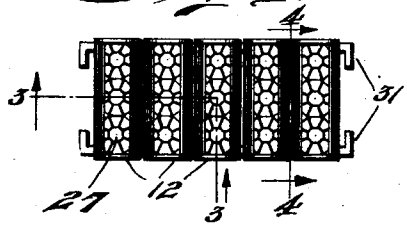


Fig. 2.

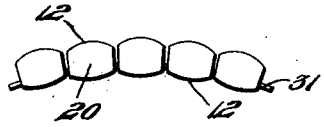


Fig. 3.

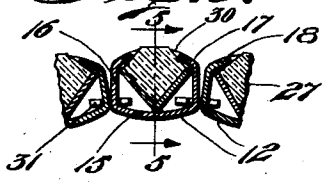


Fig. 4.

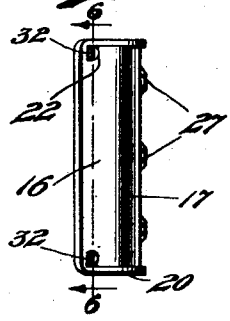


Fig. 5.

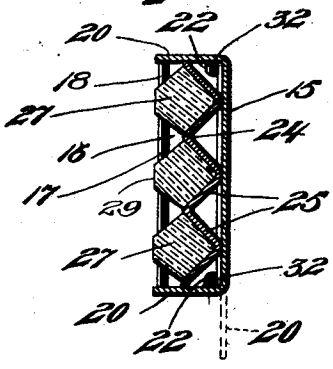


Fig. 6.

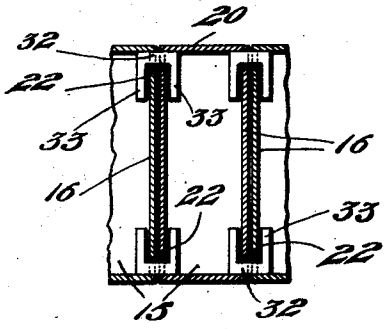


Fig. 9.

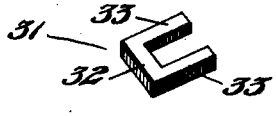


Fig. 7.

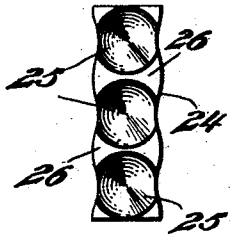




Fig. 8.

Inventor
Francis J. Wakefield
By Horatio E. Bellows
Attorney

Patented July 7, 1925. 1,544,619

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS J. WAKEFIELD, OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO THE LEACH & MILLER COMPANY, OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS, A FIRM.

ORNAMENTAL CHAIN.

Application filed September 15, 1924. Serial No. 737,707.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS J. WAKEFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Attleboro, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ornamental Chains, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to chains employed for use in jewelry for personal adornment, such as bracelets, armlets, girdles, necklaces, and the like.

The primary purposes of this invention are to enable the construction of the article from stamped and bent up sheet metal blanks and without the use of solder; to render the unit connections invisible; to afford a great degree of flexibility, and to insure security of the ornaments.

To the above enumerated ends essentially my invention consists in such parts and in such combinations of parts as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification—

Figures 1 and 2 are a front and side elevation respectively of a portion of my chain,

Figure 3, a fragmentary section of the same on line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4, a transverse section on line 4—4 of Figure 1,

Figures 5 and 6, sections on lines 5—5 and 6—6 respectively of Figures 3 and 4,

Figures 7 and 8, a front and side elevation respectively of the ornament carrier, and

Figure 9, a detail view of a yoke.

Similar reference characters indicate similar parts throughout the views.

The chain comprises a series of connected units or links 12 of uniform construction. Each unit consists of an oblong shell with an open front. It is cut and bent up from thin sheet metal to form a back wall 15; side walls 16 integral with the back wall; inwardly directed flanges 17 upon the side walls with preferably reduced or thin edge portions 18 at their free margins; and end walls 20, initially consisting of lugs continuous with the back as illustrated in broken lines in Figure 5 and ultimately bent up against the ends of the side walls. At the ends of the side walls adjacent the back wall are openings 22. Carriers for ornaments consist of oblong plates 24 formed into a series of substantially conical cups 25 connected by webs 26. These carriers have the apices of the cup portions 25 resting upon the back wall, their ends in contact with the end walls 20, and their lateral edges in contact with or adjacent the side walls 16 of the shell. In assembling the parts of the carrier is slid into the shell lengthwise before bending up one end wall, after which the latter is bent from the position shown in broken lines in Figure 5. Prior to this insertion of the carrier ornaments 27, in this instance stones or gems with conical back portions 28 and faceted faces 29, are placed in the cups 25, and their faces 29 enter the shell longitudinally in the opening 30 in the front of each shell. After insertion of the carrier with its stones the flange portions 18 of the shell are if necessary downwardly pressed in contact with the margins of the faces of the ornaments.

Each unit is connected with its adjacent units by flat yokes or links 31 cut from thin sheet metal, and each comprises a body 32 and legs 33. The bodies 32 are longer than the combined thickness of two adjacent walls and extend loosely through the openings 22 of adjacent units. One leg 33 of each yoke extends longitudinally into an adjacent unit, a side wall and preferably slightly spaced therefrom. It is apparent that the yokes serve not only as connecting members for the units, but that they serve as pivot members to permit a degree of flexibility to the chain.

I claim:—

1. In an ornamental chain, a series of hollow units, each unit comprising a back wall, end walls, side walls provided with lateral openings, inturned flanges upon the front portions of the side walls, and ornaments supported by the back wall and engaged by the flanges, and a series of connecting yokes, each yoke comprising a body traversing the openings of adjacent walls, and legs in the adjacent units.

2. In an ornamental chain, a series of hollow units, each unit comprising a back wall, forwardly foldable end walls, forwardly bent side walls provided with openings in their ends, retaining flanges inwardly bent from the forward margins of the side walls, and ornaments engaged by the retaining flanges, and yokes in the openings of adjacent side walls engaged by adjacent end

walls, and legs extending within the adjacent units.

3. In an ornamental chain, a series of hollow units, each unit comprising a back wall, end walls, side walls, retaining flanges on the side walls, a carrier plate having a plurality of gem-receiving cups and supported by the back wall, and ornaments supported by the carrier plate and engaged by the flanges, and means for interengaging the units.

4. In an ornamental chain, a series of hollow units, each unit comprising a back wall, end walls, side walls, retaining flanges on the side walls, a carrier plate comprising cups engaging the inner face of the back wall and a web connecting the cups, and ornaments seated in the cups and overlapped by the flanges, and means for flexibly interengaging the units.

5. In an ornamental chain, a series of hollow units, each unit comprising a back wall, forwardly directed end walls, forwardly directed side walls on the back wall independent of the end walls provided with lateral end openings closed by the end walls and located adjacent the back wall, inturned flanges on the forward portions of the side walls, ornaments in the unit overlapped by the flanges, and a series of connecting yokes, each yoke comprising a body loosely traversing adjacent openings of adjacent walls and of greater length than the combined thickness of the contiguous walls, and legs extending loosely in the adjacent units.

6. In an ornamental chain, a unit comprising an oblong shell with an open front and bent to form a back wall, side walls with inwardly directed flanges, and end walls, there being openings at opposite ends of the side walls adjacent the back wall for the reception of yokes for loosely connecting adjacent units.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

FRANCIS J. WAKEFIELD.