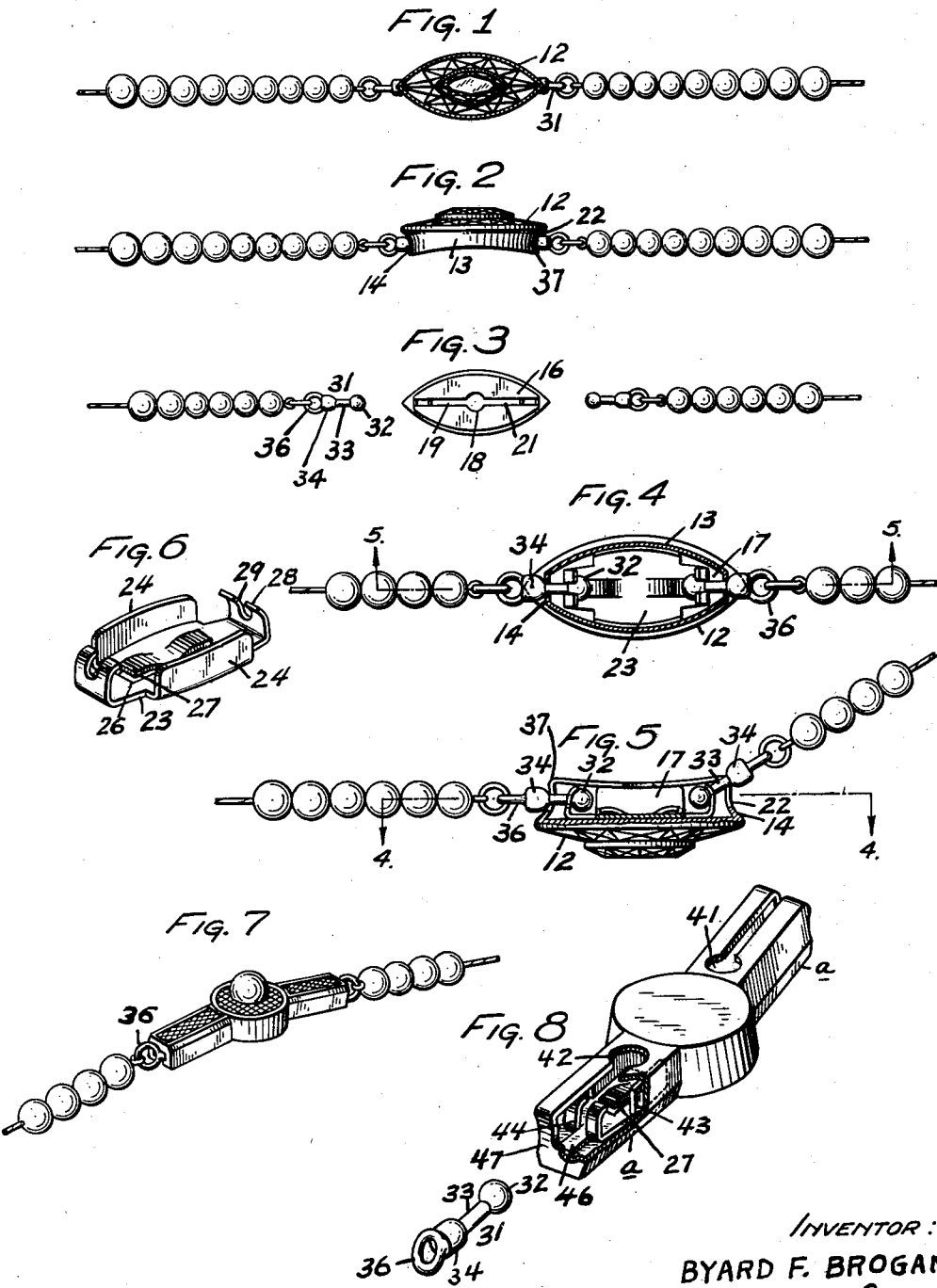


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CLASP FOR STRING JEWELRY
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CLASP FOR STRING JEWELRY

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This invention relates to clasps for string jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and the like.

In the usual necklace and in many bracelets the ends of the chain or string are connected together by a clasp, one part of which constitutes a socket or body part and is permanently attached to one end of the chain or string. The other part is usually made with a hook or spring snap which will fasten or snap into engagement with the body or socket and is attached to the other end of the chain or string. In such case the clasp parts are directly connected with the ends of the chain or string and must be used together. In clasps of that type the hook or snap usually has a projection extending outside of the contour of the body, for releasing same therefrom.

Furthermore, these hooks and snaps are usually of very light construction, easily broken and often causing loss of the jewelry. Even in so called safety clasps very light pins are sometimes employed for catching the snap in case of accidental release, but any severe tension will break this pin and release the clasp from the body.

One object of the present invention is to provide a clasp body for string jewelry which is provided with means for releasably attaching both ends of said string, whereby any number of clasp bodies may be worn with a single string necklace or the like, or any number of string necklaces or the like may be worn with a single clasp body.

Another object is to provide a clasp for string jewelry in which no part of the snap will show beyond the body outline.

Still another object is to provide a clasp without side projections.

A further object is to provide a clasp of simple construction without spring fasteners, and one in which the snaps or connecting members cannot be detached or broken by tension.

According to the invention the clasp for string jewelry comprises a hollow body having on its back an aperture, a slot extending from said aperture to and through the concave end of said body, a spring plate having a raised portion intermediate the aperture and body end and aligned with said slot to provide a restriction, an upturned flange on the end of said spring member forming a seat and having a slot aligned with the slot in the back and end, and a connecting member comprising a ball end, a stem and a shank, said ball end being adapted to be passed into said aperture and drawn toward the body end snapping through the restriction, and

coming to rest in the flange seat, whereupon the stem is pushed into the slot of the body end which will snap the shank into the concavity thereof.

The drawing illustrates an embodiment of said invention and the views therein are as follows:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the ends of a string of beads secured to the improved clasp.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of same.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the clasp body with the connecting members detached.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged bottom plan view with the back wall of the body removed and is taken on the line 4-4 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of the clasp on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the spring plate employed.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing another type of body member.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the body of Fig. 7 partly broken away to illustrate the modified form of spring plate employed.

The jeweled body 12 shown in Figs. 2 to 5 is of box-like structure having in addition to the ornamented face side walls 13, end walls 14 and back 16 forming a hollow interior 17.

The back 16 has a central aperture 18 and slots 19 and 21 leading therefrom to and through the end walls 14. The end walls 14 are slightly concave as shown in Figs. 2 and 5 forming seats or concavities 22.

Within the hollow interior 17 of the body is a spring metal plate 23 which rests against the ornamented face and which is provided with side wings 24 which extend to the back 16, while the contour thereof is the same as the contour of the side walls 13 so that said spring plate is restrained from movement in said hollow interior.

The spring plate is cut as at 26 and the intermediate material which is aligned with the slots 19 and 21 is pressed upwardly as at 27 to provide a restriction with the back 16 of the body.

The ends of the plate are bent upward to form curved flanges 28 and these are slotted as at 29, said slots being aligned with slots 19 and 21.

A connecting member 31 is attached to each end of the bead string or chain by any desired means and this member has a ball end 32, a stem 33, a shank 34 and attaching ring 36. This ball end is slightly greater in diameter than the width of the restriction formed by the pressed portion 27 and the back of the body. The stem diameter is slightly less than the width of the slots 19 and

21. Any number of strings may be provided with the connecting members 31.

Considering Fig. 3, let us assume that it is desired to attach the string of beads to the clasp body: The ball end 32 of the connecting member 31 is passed through the aperture 18 and drawn toward the end wall 14. Upon its engaging the pressed up portion 27 a certain tension must be exerted to draw the same over the restriction, whereupon it will seat in the curved flange 28.

The connecting member is now in the position shown at the right in Fig. 5. At this point some tension is required to press the shank 34 over the point 37 of the end wall 14 and the curved flange 28 will be flexed outwardly in such operation. As the shank passes over the point 37 it rests in the concavity 22 of the end wall and the tension exerted by the curved flange 28 will hold it therein. When in this closed position, both ball end and shank are seated with a slight spring tension resisting accidental dislodgement.

The modulus of elasticity of the metal forming the spring plate 23 and likewise the curved flange 28 is such that the bead string or chain would be broken before said flange would be permanently distorted by tension on the string or chain.

In an ornamental clasp body such as shown in Figs. 1 to 5 only one central aperture is required and the ball ends of both connecting members utilize same. However, with a clasp body of the type shown in Figs. 7 and 8 separate apertures 41 and 42 are required. The slots extending therefrom are like the slots 19 and 21 of Fig. 3, and both ends of the body are identical.

With the last type of body the metal spring plate is substantially like one half of the plate shown in Fig. 6, except that the side wings 43 are straight and abut the rear wall of the extension *a*. In order to prevent longitudinal movement of the said plate in the hollow interior, the metal removed for forming the slot 44 may be pressed outwardly into an extension 46 which engages the end wall 47. This end wall is, of course, concave like the end wall 14.

It will thus be seen that the clasp body or socket of Fig. 8 may readily be attached to the bead string of Fig. 3 in place of the body or socket therein shown.

The clasp illustrated and described herein may, of course, be modified and changed in various ways without departing from the invention herein set forth and hereafter claimed.

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a body provided with separate and discrete snap means at each end thereof and in addition thereto, and a cooperating member on each end of the jewelry string for being received and releasably held by said separate means.

2. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a body provided with separate and like snap means at each end thereof, and a cooperating member on each end of the jewelry string for being received into and releasably held in said separate means.

3. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a body provided with separate and like snap means at each end thereof, and a member having a ball and shank on each end of the jewelry string, said

ball being adapted to be received into and releasably held in said separate means.

4. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a hollow body having spring means in each end thereof, the end walls of said body being concave and provided with slots extending from an aperture in the rear wall of said body, and cooperating means on each end of a jewelry string for being releasably held between said spring means and the concave ends of said body.

5. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a hollow body having spring means in each end thereof, a seat in each end wall of said body, each of said end walls being provided with a slot extending from an aperture in the rear wall of said body, and cooperating means having a seating part on each end of a jewelry string for being releasably held by said spring means when same rests in said seat.

6. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a hollow body, an aperture in the rear wall thereof, slots of uniform dimension extending from said aperture to each end of said body, discrete snap means within each end of said body, and cooperating members on the ends of the jewelry string for being received into said aperture and drawn towards the ends thereof whereupon said members are releasably held by said snap means.

7. A clasp for a string jewelry comprising a hollow clasp body, having an aperture in the back thereof, a slot extending from the aperture and through the end wall of said body, a spring plate in said body having a raised portion aligned with said slot and intermediate the aperture and said end wall and forming a restriction with said back, and a flange on said spring plate between said raised portion and said end wall, a slot in said flange aligned with the slot in said back, and a connecting member comprising a stem, a ball on one end and a shank on the other end, said ball adapted to be passed into said aperture, and drawn toward the end wall to snap same across the restriction between said raised portion and said back, and adapted to engage said flange so that when said stem is pushed into the slot in said end wall spring tension will be exerted between said ball and shank.

8. A clasp for string jewelry comprising a hollow clasp body, having an aperture in the back thereof, a slot extending from the aperture and through the end wall of said body, said end wall being slightly concave, a spring plate in said body having a raised portion aligned with said slot and intermediate the aperture and said end wall and forming a restriction with said back, and a flange on said spring plate between said raised portion and said end wall, a slot in said flange aligned with the slot in said back, and a connecting member comprising a stem, a ball on one end and a shank on the other end, said ball adapted to be passed into said aperture, and drawn toward the end wall to snap same across the restriction between said raised portion and said back, and adapted to engage said flange so that when said stem is pushed into the slot in said end wall spring tension will be exerted between said ball and shank, with said shank resting in the concavity of said end.

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