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W. FORSTNER

2,401,297

WRIST WATCH STRAP

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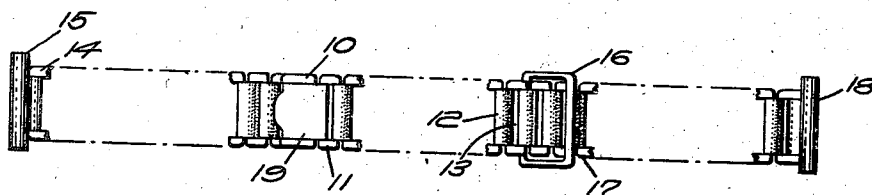


Fig. 1

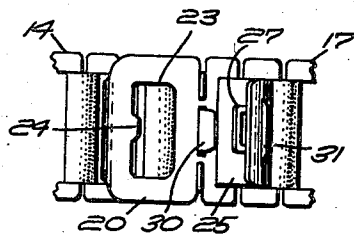


Fig. 2

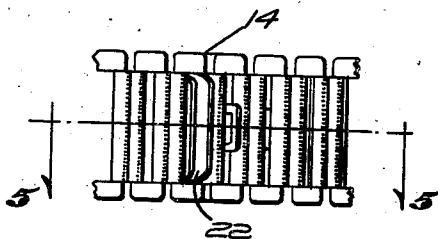


Fig. 3

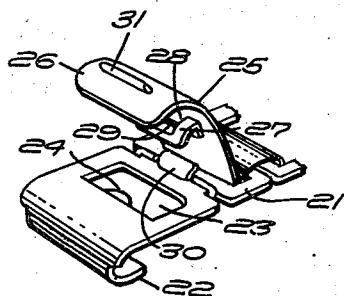


Fig. 4

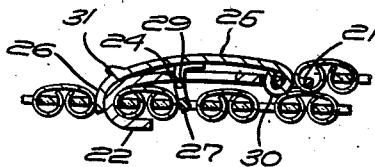


Fig. 5

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WRIST WATCH STRAP

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3 Claims. (Cl. 24-265)

1

The present invention relates to the bracelet art, and has particular reference to extension bracelets for wrist watches.

The principal object of the invention is to provide an improved clasp construction for an extension bracelet of the overlying type.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clasp construction particularly suitable for extension bracelets of the overlying type having open or frame links.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a clasp construction which positively locks the extension bracelet against accidental or inadvertent opening.

Additional objects of the invention are to provide clasp parts which are strong and sturdy and cannot become broken or loose with ordinary use, and which are readily manufactured from sheet stock, whereby ornamentation is facilitated and manufacturing costs are reduced.

With the above and other objects and advantageous features in view, the invention consists of a novel arrangement of parts more fully disclosed in the detailed description following, in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, and more specifically defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of an extension bracelet which embodies the novel clasp construction;

Fig. 2 is a detail thereof showing the clasp in open position;

Fig. 3 is a rear view of Fig. 2, the clasp being in closed position;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the clasp; and

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5-5 of Fig. 3 showing the interlocking engagement of the clasp and bracelet parts.

It has been found desirable to provide a clasp construction for an extensible bracelet of the open link type, which has a very ornamental appearance, and which positively locks the bracelet parts together against accidental or inadvertent release. To this end, I provide a clasp construction for one end of the bracelet which utilizes a base plate adapted to hook over one of the open links of the other end of the bracelet, and which has a hinged cover movable to lock the selected open link within the clasp.

Referring to the drawing, the extension bracelet is designated 10, and has a plurality of open or frame type links 11 hingedly joined together by connector links 12 which are rolled over the frame sides, whereby a hinge connection providing great freedom of movement and flexibility is obtained. The spacing of the frame links and the relative

2

width of the connector links are designed to provide openings or recesses 13 between the adjacent connector links.

The bracelet includes a lower part 14 which has a watch bail receiving link 15 at one end and an end loop 16 at the other end, the second part 17 of the bracelet extending through the end loop to overlie the part 14. The second or upper part 17 has a watch bail link 18 at one end and a clasp 19 at the other end adapted to releasably engage a selected portion of the lower part 14.

The novel clasp 19, see Fig. 2, includes a base plate 20 which is hingedly connected as indicated at 21 to the forward portion of the upper bracelet part 17, and has a terminal hook 22 adapted to be selectively hooked over a connector link 12 for obtaining the desired length adjustment of the bracelet and a central opening 23 provided with a snap lug 24 at its forward edge. Hingedly mounted on the base plate 19 is a cover plate 25 of a length slightly greater than the length of the base plate, which is provided with a forward terminal hook 26 adapted to seat over the base plate hook 22 for snapping engagement and a depending detent 27 which is adapted to extend through the opening 23 to lock the selected connector link between the base plate hook and the detent, the detent having a central opening or recess 28 into which the snap lug 24 snaps to engage a resilient cross rod 29 after the cover plate is pressed down on the base plate. The cover plate is also provided with a rear extension lug 30, see Fig. 2, which is bent at right angles to the plane of the cover plate and is adapted to snap over the rear edge of the base plate 21 when the cover plate is fully open, to thus releasably retain the cover plate in full open position. The cover plate is also provided with a finger engageable lift ledge or bar 31 for facilitating manual lifting by means of a fingernail or the like. All the clasp parts are preferably stamped out of sheet metal, but may be made of any suitable material.

When it is desired to secure the bracelet parts together for adjusting the length of the bracelet or for positioning the bracelet on the wrist, the base plate terminal hook 22 is passed over a selected connector link of the lower bracelet part. The cover plate 25, which has been retained in open position by the resilient holding action of the lug 30, is snapped forwardly, whereupon the detent 27 passes through the opening 23 of the base plate and into the opening 13 of the lower strap which is on the opposite side of the selected connector link; the forward terminal hook 26 of the cover plate snaps over the forward terminal

3

hook 22 of the base plate and the snap lug 24 of the base plate snaps past the cross rod 29 of the detent 27. In this position, which is illustrated in Fig. 5, the hooked portions of the base plate and the cover plate extend over one side of the selected connector link and the detent of the cover plate extends over the opposite side of the same connector link, so as to securely lock the selected connector link within the clasp parts. When it is desired to adjust the bracelet or to remove the bracelet from the wrist, the cover plate is easily lifted by upward pressure on the lift ledge 31 to release the clasp parts.

Although I have described the novel clasp construction as used with an extensible bracelet made of open or frame links connected with connector links, it is obvious that the novel clasp may be used with any extensible bracelet or strap having a lower part and an overlying upper part with the lower part having spaced transverse openings or recesses and that the clasp parts may be readily modified to provide a clasp arrangement suitable for necklace clasps, buckles, and similar articles, as changes in the shape, size and material used for the parts and in their proportions may be made to suit the requirements for different clasp designs, without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A clasp for an extension bracelet having a lower part with an end loop and an upper part extending through the end loop and overlying the lower part, the lower part having separate links and connector links hingedly connecting the separate links and spaced to provide openings between the connector links, said clasp having a base plate with a terminal hook at one end extending downwardly for hooking over a selected connector link, said base plate having an opening therethrough, and a cover plate hingedly connected to the other end of the base plate and having a terminal hook extending downwardly, the length of the cover plate being slightly greater than the length of the base plate to permit snapping engagement of its hook over the base plate hook, said cover plate having a downwardly extending detent adapted to extend through the base plate opening and spaced from the cover

4

plate hook to seat behind the selected connector link.

2. A clasp for an extension bracelet having a lower part with an end loop and an upper part extending through the end loop and overlying the lower part, the lower part having separate links and connector links hingedly connecting the separate links and spaced to provide openings between the connector links, said clasp having a base plate with a terminal hook at one end extending downwardly for hooking over a selected connector link, said base plate having an opening therethrough, and a cover plate hingedly connected to the other end of the base plate and having a terminal hook extending downwardly, the length of the cover plate being slightly greater than the length of the base plate to permit snapping engagement of its hook over the base plate hook, said cover plate having a downwardly extending detent adapted to extend through the base plate opening and spaced from the cover plate hook to seat behind the selected connector link, the detent and the contiguous edge of the base plate opening having cooperating snap engageable parts.

3. A clasp for an extension bracelet having a lower part with an end loop and an upper part extending through the end loop and overlying the lower part, the lower part having separate links and connector links hingedly connecting the separate links and spaced to provide openings between the connector links, said clasp having a base plate with a terminal hook at one end extending downwardly for hooking over a selected connector link, said base plate having an opening therethrough, and a cover plate hingedly connected to the other end of the base plate and having a terminal hook extending downwardly, the length of the cover plate being slightly greater than the length of the base plate to permit snapping engagement of its hook over the base plate hook, said cover plate having a downwardly extending detent adapted to extend through the base plate opening and spaced from the cover plate hook to seat behind the selected connector link, the detent having a recess and the cover plate having a snap lug engageable with the detent recess.

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