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A. L. NEWMAN

BRACELET OR LIKE ARTICLE OF JEWELRY

Filed March 8, 1922

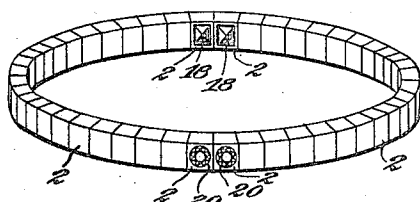


Fig. 1.

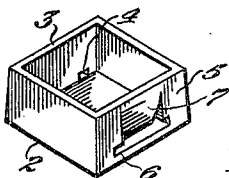
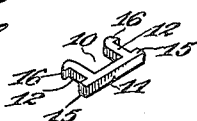
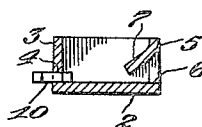


Fig. 2. Fig. 3. Fig. 4.

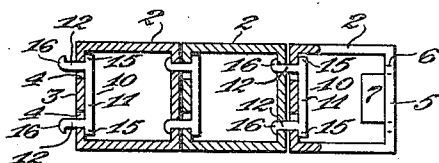


Fig. 5.

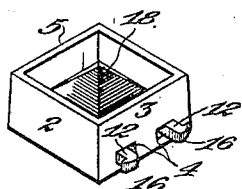
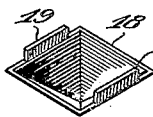
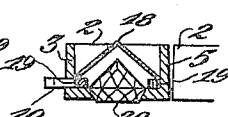


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7. Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALMYR L. NEWMAN, OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR TO A. L. NEWMAN & COMPANY, OF CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND, A PARTNERSHIP CONSISTING OF ALMYR L. NEWMAN, AUGUSTUS L. NEWMAN, ANDREW O. BURGESS, AND HENRY ZIRUTH.

BRACELET OR LIKE ARTICLE OF JEWELRY.

Application filed March 8, 1922. Serial No. 542,114.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALMYR L. NEWMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Warwick, in the county of Kent, State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bracelets or like Articles of Jewelry, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to articles of jewelry and particularly to improvements in flexible bracelets of the so-called box-link type.

One object of the improvement is to provide an article of the type specified which may be constructed of relatively light stock while being strong and durable in use.

Another object of the improvement is to render the device simple in construction and economical to manufacture.

Another object of the improvement is to provide a device comprising a minimum number of parts which may conveniently be constructed from sheet-metal stampings.

Another object of the improvement is to provide a bracelet of neater and more ornamental appearance and susceptible of being embellished in various ways as by setting it with jewels.

Other objects of the improvement are set forth in the following specification which describes a preferred embodiment of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a completed bracelet embodying one form of the invention;

Fig. 2, a greatly enlarged perspective view of one of the link-members of the bracelet;

Fig. 3, an enlarged view of one of the connecting-hooks or hinge-elements for the links of the bracelet;

Fig. 4, an enlarged cross-sectional view of one of the link-members;

Fig. 5, an enlarged inverted plan view of a plurality of the link-members showing them partly in section to illustrate the manner in which they are joined together by their connecting-hooks or hinge-elements;

Fig. 6, a perspective view of one of the link-members in its completed state, show-

ing the hook or hinge-element applied thereto;

Fig. 7, a perspective view of the bottom closure or finishing element for the link-member; and

Fig. 8, a transverse sectional view of one of the finished link-members, showing it set with a jewel and its finishing closure applied to its open side.

As before stated, the present improvement is directed to a bracelet or other article of jewelry comprising a series of box-like link-members which are hinged or connected together to form a flexible chain. The link-members 2 are preferably struck up from sheet-metal in hollow, box-like form and may be of rectangular shape as shown in Fig. 2. Usually the sides of the box or member 2 are slightly tapered so that when the links are assembled in alinement, as shown in Fig. 1, they form the partial segments of a circle, thus fitting closely together to present a smooth, unbroken surface on the exposed sides of the bracelet.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, one side 3 of the link- or box-member 2 is pierced or cut through with two openings or holes 4, while the opposite side 5 is formed with a transverse slot 6, see also Fig. 5. Inwardly from the ends of the slot 6 the side 5 is slitted upwardly as shown in Fig. 2, and the intervening strip of metal is bent back in a tab or flap 7 for a purpose as later explained.

The connecting- or hinge-element for the link-members 2 of the bracelet consists in a substantially U-shaped yoke 10, shown in detail in Fig. 3, and comprising a cross-bar 11 with two spaced-apart legs 12. The legs 12 project at right-angles to the crossbar 11 and are spaced inwardly a slight distance from the ends thereof to provide two opposite abutments or lugs 15. The ends of the legs 12 are formed with hooks 16 having rounded extremities.

In assembling the link-members 2 to form the bracelet the hinge-elements 10 are inserted within their cavities and the legs 12 projected through the openings 4, as shown in Figs. 4 and 6. The projecting hook-ends 16 of the legs 12 are next inserted through the slot 6 in the next adjacent link-member 2 to be connected, and the strip or flap 7 is

then bent back into place between the ends of the legs as shown in Fig. 5. That is to say, the flap 7 is forced back into alignment with the side 5 of the member 2 and is thus wedged between the rounded extremities of the legs 12, thereby tending to force the legs apart whereby to engage their hooks 16 with the ends of the slot 6 in the opposite link-member 2. Stated briefly, the flap 7 serves as a wedge to spread the legs 12 of the hinge-element 10 to cause the hooks 16 to be locked in the ends of the slot 6 to prevent them from being released therefrom. In this way each pair of link-members 2 is coupled together and locked in hinged relation, and so on with as many links as required to complete the bracelet. Usually the chain or string of links has its free ends provided with suitable clasp-members by means of which it may be clasped around the wrist of the wearer. Any conventional clasping-means may be employed for this purpose, but as such devices are well known to those versed in the art this part of the bracelet is not herein shown or described. The structure of the link-members and the method of hinging or linking them together as above described constitutes the essential feature of the present invention and provides a complete article, suitable for use as a bracelet of various sorts, and as a chain, necklace, or other article of jewelry.

As a further feature of the invention I have provided a method of finishing and embellishing the links of the chain or bracelet as next explained: With the form of construction first described the underside of the links 2 is left open with the connecting- or hinge-elements 10 exposed to view. It is desirable therefore to provide a bottom or closure for the underside of the links so that they may present a more finished appearance, and this may be accomplished in any suitable manner as now explained.

In most cases bracelets of the present type are set with precious or semi-precious stones or gems which are let into the outer or exposed sides of the link-members 2. This is done by simply piercing the walls of the link-members and turning up prongs or burrs for holding the stones 20 in place in the seats thereby provided, see Fig. 8. To finish the rearward or underside of the link-member, I prefer to provide a closure 18 of pyramidal form as shown in Fig. 7. This may be constructed from extremely thin sheet-metal stamped out to the required form to fit within the sides of the link-member 2, as shown in Figs. 6 and 8. On the rim of the closure-member 18 are formed two ears or tabs 19 which may be sprung outwardly to frictionally engage the sides of the link-member. In most cases the tabs

19 are forced down between the legs 12 of the hinge-elements 10 to hold the closure in place in the link-members or, if required, the tabs may be soldered to the sides of the members 2.

The beveled sides of the closure-member 18 are intended to simulate the facets on the underside of the jewels or stones 20 set in the face of the link-members 2. The sides of the closure being highly polished serve as a foil for the stones, besides providing a more finished appearance for the back of the bracelet, see Fig. 1.

It will be observed from the foregoing description that the present improvement provides a particularly simple and neat construction for the mechanical elements of the bracelet, besides presenting an artistic and highly ornamental appearance in the completed article. Moreover, my improved construction makes for more economical manufacture by eliminating soldering and other hand operations, thus providing a high grade article at a relatively low cost.

Various modifications may be made in the form and structure of the parts of the device without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention; therefore, without limiting myself to the exact embodiment herein shown and described, I claim:

1. An article of jewelry comprising a series of box-like link-members having openings in their sides, connecting-elements having parallel legs extending through the openings in adjacent link-members and provided with means at their ends for engaging the edges of the openings, and means on the link-members adapted to be inserted between the legs on the connecting members to hold the latter in locking engagement with the edges of the openings in the link-members.

2. In a bracelet or like article of jewelry, the combination of a plurality of box-like link-members having openings in their sides, hinge-elements having opposite legs formed with hooked extremities extending through the openings in adjacent link-members, and means adapted to be wedged between the legs of the hinge-elements to cause their hooked portions to be engaged with the edges of the openings to connect the link-members in a flexible chain.

3. In an article of the type specified, the combination of a plurality of box-like link-members provided with openings pierced through their sides, yoke-like hinge-elements having hooked legs projecting from the openings of one member through the openings of an adjacent member, and means on each link-member adapted to be engaged with the hinge-element to spread its legs to lock the hooks in the openings.

4. In an article of the type specified, the combination of a plurality of box-like link-

members having openings in their sides and flap-like strips adjacent thereto, and yoke-like hinge-elements provided with hooked legs projecting through the openings, the flaps being adapted to be bent into place between the legs of the hinge-elements to hold them in locking engagement with the edges of the openings.

5. In an article of the type specified, the combination of a plurality of box-like link-members each provided with openings in one of its sides and a slot in its opposite

side having slits extending therefrom to provide a flap, and U-shaped hinge elements having hooked legs projecting through the openings in one member and engaged with the ends of the slot in an adjacent member, the flap on said last-named member being bent back between the legs of the hinge-element to hold its hooks in locking engagement with the edges of the slot.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALMYR L. NEWMAN.