May 1, 1962 C. FREUNDLICH 3,031,864

EARRING

Filed June 30, 1959

Fig. 1

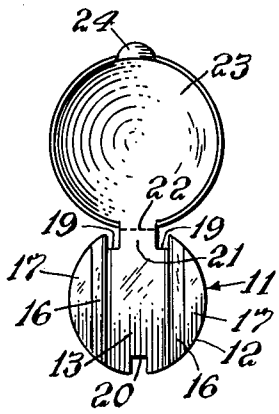


Fig. 2

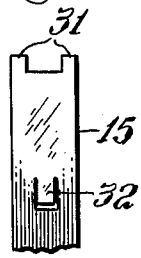


Fig. 3

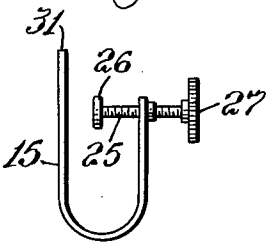


Fig. 4

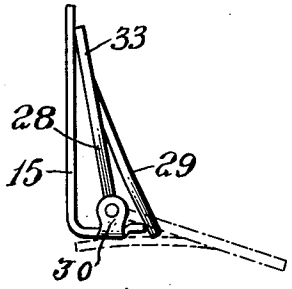


Fig. 5

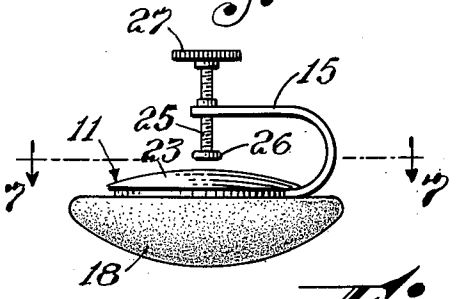


Fig. 6

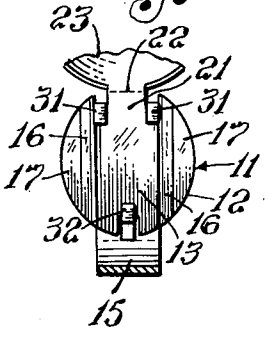


Fig. 7

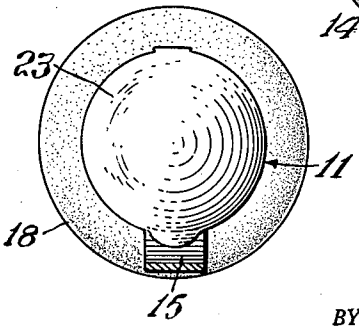
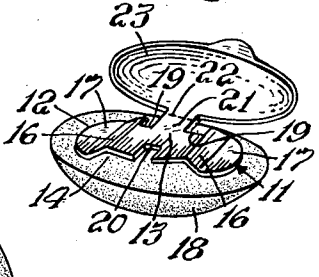


Fig. 8



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EARRING

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1 Claim. (Cl. 63—14)

My invention relates generally to an earring, and specifically to an earring fastener mounting.

It is among the objects of my invention to provide an earring having a mounting to which the retail merchant may readily apply either a screw type or clip type fastening.

Yet another object of my invention is to enable the retail merchant to reduce his total stock by eliminating the necessity for stocking earrings with different types of fasteners.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a partially assembled earring to which a chosen type of fastener may be easily and semi-permanently applied.

These objects and advantages as well as other objects and advantages may be achieved by the device shown by way of illustration in the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of an open earring-fastener mounting made in accordance with my invention;

FIGURE 2 is a view of an attachment prong of a fastener;

FIGURE 3 is a side view of a fastener;

FIGURE 4 is a side elevation of a clip-type fastener;

FIGURE 5 is a side elevation of a screw-type fastener attached to an earring ornament;

FIGURE 6 is a partial top plan view of the earring fastener mounting and the fastener itself attached together.

FIGURE 7 is a partial top plan view of the earring fastener mounting and fastener itself attached together with the cover-plate folded down; and

FIGURE 8 is a view in perspective of the earring ornament and mounting plate attached together before the fastener is inserted and attached to the mounting plate.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, my earring-fastener mounting **11** provides a mounting plate **12**, made of non-resilient, deformable, metal. The mounting plate **12** has a raised center portion **13** defining a channel **14** underneath it. The channel is adapted to slidably receive the earring-fastener prong **15**.

The raised center portion **13** is formed integral with sloping side-portions **16**, **16** which are also formed integral with the planar side-portions **17**, **17**. The side-portions **17**, **17** are adhesively secured, riveted, or attached in some other way, to an ornament **18** which is the display portion of the earring.

The earring-fastener mounting plate **12** has a pair of top slots **19**, **19** at one end of the raised center portion **13**, and a single bottom slot **20** at the other end of the raised center portion **13**. Between the slots **19**, **19** there is a neck **21** which has a scored line **22** that defines the point at which a domed cover plate **23** will fold to cover the mounting plate **12**. A tab **24** is provided on the cover plate **23**, for use in lifting the cover plate **23** if the prong **15** is to be removed from the mounting plate **12**.

The earring fastener mounting **11** serves as a mounting for an earring fastener. Earring fasteners of any type provided with a prong **15** may be used. There are two types of earring fasteners in general use; the one is the screw type shown in FIGURE 5; the other is the clip type shown in FIGURE 4. The provision of either type

is merely a matter of choice and is no part of the present invention. Only the interchangeability by use of the prong **15** is a feature of the present invention. Either type may be attached to the mounting plate **12** if provided with the prong **15**.

The screw type fastener shown in FIGURE 5 has a threaded pin **25** having a pad **26** at one end, and a knob **27** for turning it at the other. Turning the knob **27** will bring the pad **26** into engagement with the ear-lobe of the wearer and grip it against the domed cover plate **23**. The clip type fastener shown in FIGURE 4 has a clip **28** normally urged toward the prong **15** by a spring **29**. Of course, when the prong **15** is mounted on the mounting plate **12**, the domed cover plate **23** will be bent down and will be in contact with the gripping area **33**, which will bear on the domed cover plate **23**. The clip **28** is pivotally mounted on pairs of opposite ears **30** on the prong **15**.

To assemble an earring with the chosen clip or screw fastener, the prong **15** of the chosen fastener is inserted under the raised center portion **13** of the mounting **11**. The prong **15** is provided with a pair of end tabs **31**, **31** and a central tab **32**. The insertion of the prong **15** is carried on until the end tabs **31**, **31** coincide with the slots **19**, **19** and the central tab **32** coincides with the slot **20**. The top tabs **31**, **31** are then raised and bent over into the slots **19**, **19**. The central tab **32** is then raised and bent over into the bottom slot **20** as shown in FIGURE 6. The domed cover plate **23** is then folded on the scored line **22** until the mounting plate **12** and the prong **15** are completely covered by it so that the ear-lobe of the wearer, when held by the fastener, is gripped between a pair of smooth surfaces which will not irritate or abrade the skin. In order for the cover plate **23** to clear the pad **26** of the screw type fastener shown in FIGURE 3, the fastener may have to be slightly deformed to allow the cover plate **23** to pass the pad **26** as the cover plate **23** is folded over. If the screw type fastener is deformed beyond its elastic limits, it may easily be bent back to proper position as shown in FIGURE 3.

Ornaments incorporated into earrings provided with my earring-fastener mounting may be sold without the clip or screw fastener portion assembled, so that when the customer chooses an ornament, it may easily be provided with either a screw or clip type fastener, depending on the purchaser's choice. It is now no longer necessary for the merchant to carry in stock, two of the same style earrings with different type fasteners in order to satisfy the desires of every customer.

The foregoing description is merely intended to illustrate an embodiment of the invention. The component parts have been shown and described. They each may have substitutes which may perform a substantially similar function; such substitutes may be known as proper substitutes for the said components and may have actually been known or invented before the present invention; these substitutes are contemplated as being within the scope of the appended claim, although they are not specifically catalogued herein.

I claim:

An earring comprising an ornament, a slotted plate attached to the back of the ornament, a raised center portion on the plate defining a socket channel located between said plate and back, a neck on the plate, a domed foldable cover-plate integral with the neck, a prong positioned in the socket channel, a pair of tabs on the prong folded into engagement with the plate through a pair of

corresponding slots in the plate adjacent to the neck, a central tab on the prong folded into engagement with the plate through a corresponding slot in the plate opposite the pair of slots, said folded tabs lying transversely of surfaces on said plate which face opposite ends of said channel, a fastener attached to the prong, and the domed cover plate folded over the socket channel and the end of the prong.

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