July 11, 1967 R. E. RODGERS 3,330,057

IDENTIFICATION MEANS

Filed Sept. 27, 1965

FIG. 1

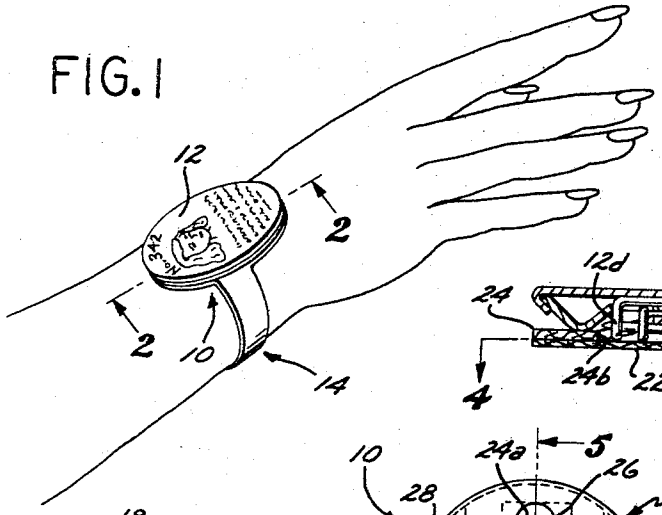
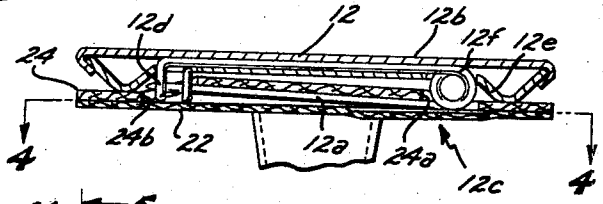


FIG. 2



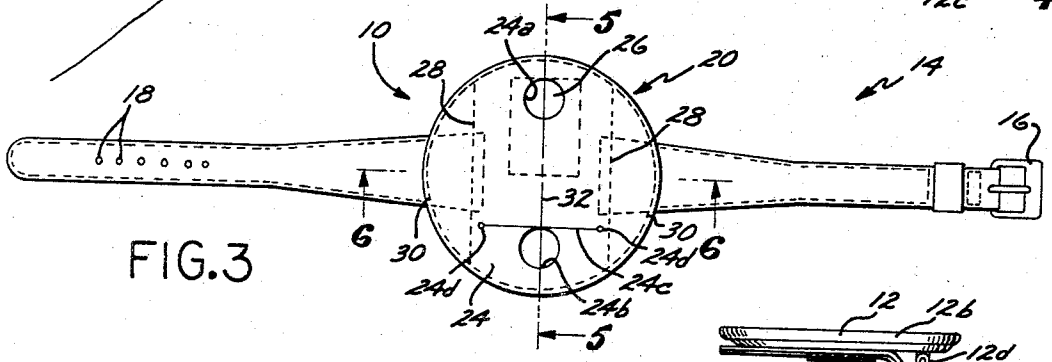


FIG. 3

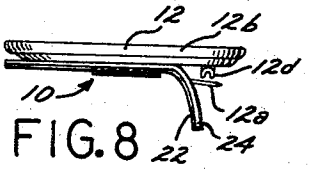


FIG. 8

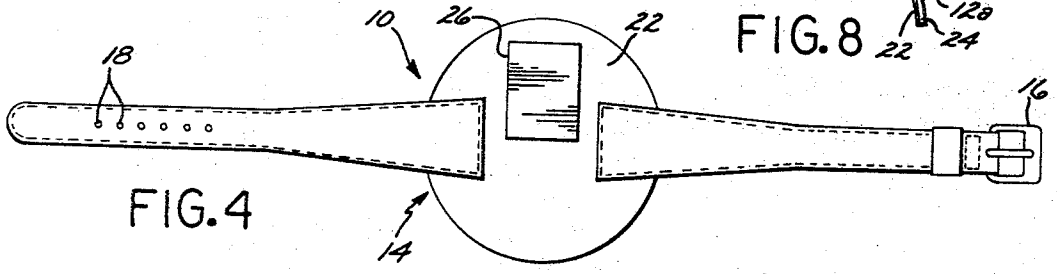


FIG. 4

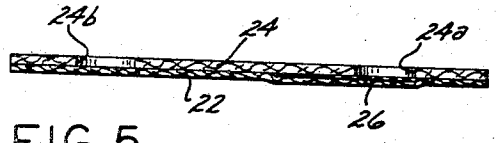


FIG. 5

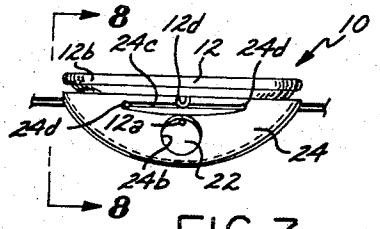


FIG. 7

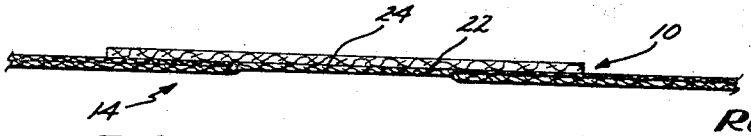


FIG. 6

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IDENTIFICATION MEANS

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6 Claims. (Cl. 40—21)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is a wrist band or strap to be worn by men or women to hold an identification badge such as used to identify employees of a given industrial organization. Such strap is characterized by being formed of several layers of flexible material in juxtaposed relation, the upper pieces of material being formed with two openings through which the prong of an identification badge is extended. A rigid plate is positioned between the several layers of flexible material to direct the prong from one through opening to another.

The present invention relates generally to identification means, and more particularly to means for identifying persons of a particular group, such as employees of a given corporation or the like.

Within the past several decades, most corporations and other industrial organizations have used identification badges for all of their employees to suitably identify them and to differentiate between certain groups of employees. That is, although in years gone by an employer may have known all of his employees by name and position in the company, today industrial enterprises are so large and impersonal that identification means is required to properly contol admittance to buildings and other corporate areas. In this regard, it is noted that many industrial firms are active in both commercial and national defense efforts, and as such must be able to quickly identify those persons having responsibilities in each of these areas.

Also prevalent in the present industrial era is the employment of large numbers of female workers. Frequently, the wearing of an identification badge or the like on the blouse or dress of a woman employee is deemed undesirable by such person due to the unfeminine nature and appearance of badges of practically any type or style. In view of this, it is desirable to provide identification means to be worn by a person, but which is particularly well adapted for use by women employees. Such identification means, it has been determined, should be simple in construction and easy to apply and remove, while nonetheless, affording identification of the person in a clear and obvious manner.

It is an object of the present invention to provide identification means which can be worn on the wrist of a person.

Another object of the present invention is to provide identification means as characterized above which employs a flexible strap to be fastened to a person's wrist and which is adapted to receive and retain an ordinary identification badge.

Another object of the present invention is to provide identification means as characterized above which retains an identification badge in substantially fixed position thereby minimizing rattling and other possible distractions.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an identification badge holder formed of leather or other materials having a pleasing appearance, said material enabling an identification badge to be firmly received and retained thereon.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide identification means as characterized above which

is simple and inexpensive to manufacture, and which is rugged and dependable in operation.

The novel features which I consider characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The device itself, however, both as to its organization and mode of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of identification means according to the present invention shown on a person's wrist;

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view of such identification means, taken substantially along line **2**—**2** of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of subject identification badge holder;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view thereof, taken substantially along line **4**—**4** of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a sectional view, taken substantially along line **5**—**5** of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken substantially along line **6**—**6** of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 7 is a fragmentary side elevational view showing an identification badge being mounted on the holder; and

FIGURE 8 is a sectional view, taken substantially along line **8**—**8** of FIGURE 7.

Like reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Referring to FIGURE 1 of the drawings, there is shown therein an identification badge holder **10** according to the present invention fastened to a person's wrist. An identification badge **12** is firmly positioned thereon as will hereinafter be explained.

Such holder **10** comprises strap means **14** formed of substantially any material such as leather, plastic or the like to encircle a person's wrist. Quite obviously, such material must be flexible and, as shown in FIGURES 3 and 4 of the drawings, may be provided at one end with a buckle **16**. The other end may be provided with suitable holes **18** for engagement with buckle **16** in the usual manner.

Attached to strap means **14** is mounting means **20** which comprises a first mounting element **22** and a second mounting element **24**. Element **22**, as shown most clearly in FIGURE 4, is fixed to the strap in any appropriate manner as by cementing, stitching or the like. The strap means **14** may be formed in two parts as shown, each such part being firmly secured to the mounting element **22**.

Positioned on element **22**, as shown most clearly in FIGURE 4 of the drawings, is a plate **26**. Such plate is secured thereto in any appropriate manner as by cementing or the like. As will hereinafter become more apparent, plate **26** is formed of non-flexible hard material such as metal or certain well-known plastics.

The second mounting element **24** is aligned with and positioned superjacent the element **22** as shown most clearly in FIGURES 3 and 5 of the drawings. Such elements may be attached together as by cementing, stitching, or the like to provide a substantially unitary structure. If cement or other bonding means is employed, it is preferable to restrict the cement to certain areas along the peripheral edges of the elements **22** and **24**, for instance to the areas defined by the dotted lines **28** and the adjacent outer peripheral edges **30**. In the alternative, or in addition to such cement, the peripheral edges of the members **22** and **24** can be stitched together with thread as shown most clearly in FIGURE 3 of the drawings.

By restricting the cement or bonding material to the opposite sides of the elements **22** and **24**, the intermediate portion of such elements are not connected together. This provides a space therebetween for use in fastening the identification badge in place, as will hereinafter become more apparent.

The second mounting element **24** is formed with a pair of spaced openings **24***a* and **24***b* located within the non-cemented area between the elements. Such openings are provided to enable the prong **12***a* of badge **12** to be inserted between the elements **22** and **24**, through opening **24***a* and returned from between the elements through opening **24***b*. Element **24** is further formed with an elongated slot or slit **24***c* which is substantially normal to the center line **32**, extending between the openings **24***a* and **24***b*. This slot extends equidistant on opposite ends of such center line and may terminate in smaller holes **24***d* in element **24**, which holes prevent tearing or ripping of the material.

The usual identification badge **12** is formed with an identification portion **12***b* and a mounting clasp **12***c*. The latter comprises the prong **12***a* and a reversely bent latch member **12***b*. The mounting clasp **12***c*, as shown most clearly in FIGURE 2, may encircle a backup member **12***e*, the latter of which is attached to the identification means **12***b*.

Badge **12** is mounted on the holder **10** by insertion of the prong **12***a* through the openings **24***a* and **24***b*. To accomplish this, the flexible material of the elements **22** and **24** is flexed so as to expose the opening **24***a*. However, to prevent engagement of the sharp, pointed tip of prong **12***a* with the soft, flexible material of element **22** upon insertion of prong **12***a* in opening **24***a*, the plate **26** is provided. Since this plate is formed of hard and smooth material, the tip of the prong is directed by such plate away from element **22** and toward the opening **24***b*.

As shown most clearly in FIGURES 7 and 8 of the drawings, the elements **22** and **24** are then bent or flexed to enable the prong **12***a* to protrude through the opening **24***b*. The elongated transverse slot **24***c* in element **24** enables such elements to be easily flxed at this point to permit the prong **12***a* to extend therefrom.

After the prong **12***a* has been suitably inserted as described, it is then positioned on the reversely bent latch member **12***d*. This member is of such size with respect to opening **24***b* in mounting element **24** as to firmly seat therewithin to prevent the badge **12** from rattling or moving on the mounting means **10**. In this regard, it should be noted that the clasp **12***c* is also provided with a looped or reversely bent portion **12***f* which firmly fits within the opening **24***a* of element **24** to further assist in securing the badge **12** in a firm position.

Although the mounting elements **22** and **24** may be shaped to substantially any desired configuration and size, it has been found most desirable to have such elements conform to the size and shape of the badge **12**. As such, the identification badge holder **10** is relatively unobtrusive and obscure. It is thus sufficiently attractive to be worn with substantially any female apparel.

It is thus seen that the present invention provides identification means which can be easily worn on the wrist of a person of either sex. It is so constructed as to enable an identification badge to be quickly and firmly secured thereto. A further advantage, of course, is that the badge is so secured to the badge holder as to prevent rattling and other distracting movement of the badge.

Although I have shown and described certain specific embodiments of my invention, I am fully aware that many modifications thereof are possible. My invention, therefore, is not to be restricted except insofar as is necessitated by the prior art and by the spirit of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An identification badge holder comprising in combination, a flexible strap to be fastened to a person's wrist, mounting means comprising a first element fixed to said strap and a second element aligned with and positioned superjacent said first element, said second element being formed with a pair of spaced openings and being fixed to said first element at its peripheral edge, and a plate fixed to said first element at one of said openings in said second element whereby the prong of an identification badge can be inserted into said one of said openings and returned through the other thereof, said plate preventing said prong from engaging said first element upon insertion thereof.

2. An identification badge holder according to claim **1** wherein said first and second elements are formed of flexible material permitting them to be flexed adjacent said openings to assist in placing said badge on said second element.

3. An identification badge holder according to claim **2** wherein said second element is formed with an elongated slot intersecting said other of said openings and extending substantially normal to the center line through said openings, whereby said elements can be flexed to permit passage of said prong through said other of said openings.

4. Identification means according to claim **6** wherein said mounting means comprises a first element fixed to said strap and a second element aligned with and positioned superjacent said first element, said second element being secured to said first element at predetermined locations, said second element being further formed with a pair of spaced openings spaced from said locations affording space between said elements between said openings, whereby the prong of said identification badge is positioned between said first and second elements by insertion thereof through one of said openings and returns thereof through the other of said openings.

5. Identification means according to claim **4** wherein a plate is fixed to said first element adjacent the said one of said openings in said second element to prevent said prong from engaging said first element upon insertion thereof.

6. Identification means comprising in combination a flexible strap to be fastened to a person's wrist, mounting means on said strap formed of flexible material and formed with a pair of spaced openings, and an identification badge having an identification portion and a mounting prong attached thereto for relative movement, said prong being inserted through one of said openings and returned through the other to thereby cause said badge to be firmly secured to said mounting means, said badge being further provided with a reversely bent latch member for receiving said prong and positioned within the said other of said openings to thereby retain said identification badge in fixed position on said mounting means.

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