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Noury, Jr.

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[54] **ORNAMENTED SUPPORT COLLAR FOR MICROPHONE AND THE LIKE**

[76] Inventor: **Jerry Lewis Noury, Jr.**, 522 W. 29th St., New York, N.Y. 10001

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **179/157**

[51] **Int. Cl.²** **H04M 1/05**

[58] **Field of Search** 179/156, 157

[56] **References Cited**

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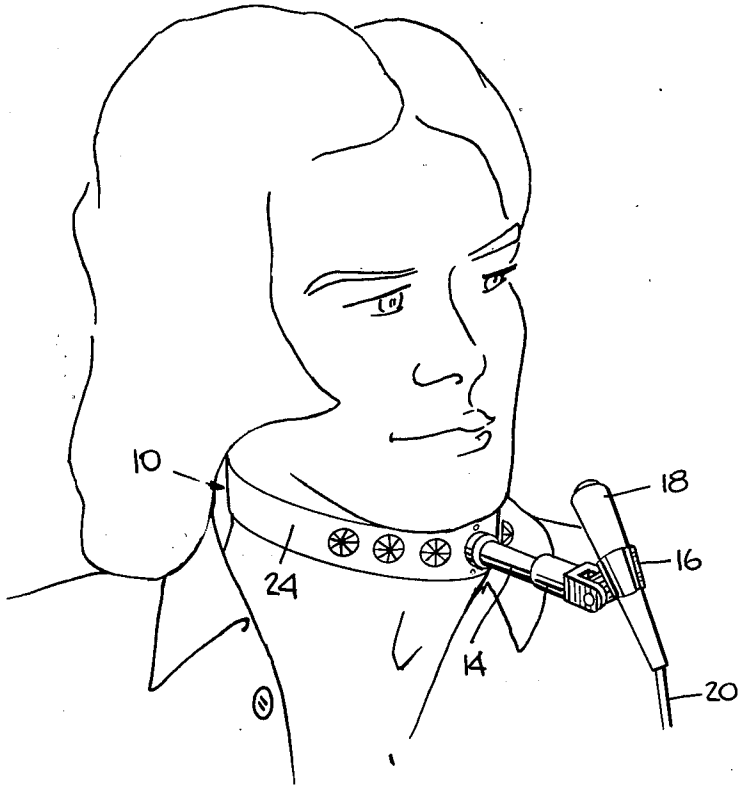
Primary Examiner—William C. Cooper

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Sydney B. Schlessel, Esq.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An ornamented rigid collar adjustable to the wearer's neck size and provided with a protective lining, with a socket secured through the collar portion and exposed therefrom, having a post removeably secured through the socket and extending therefrom, and a support member secured to the free end of the post and adapted to receive and support a microphone or the like, the support member rotatively adapted to position the microphone with respect to the wearer's mouth. A stud replaces the post in the socket when the post is removed. The support member may be formed to engage and hold a mouth organ.

9 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures



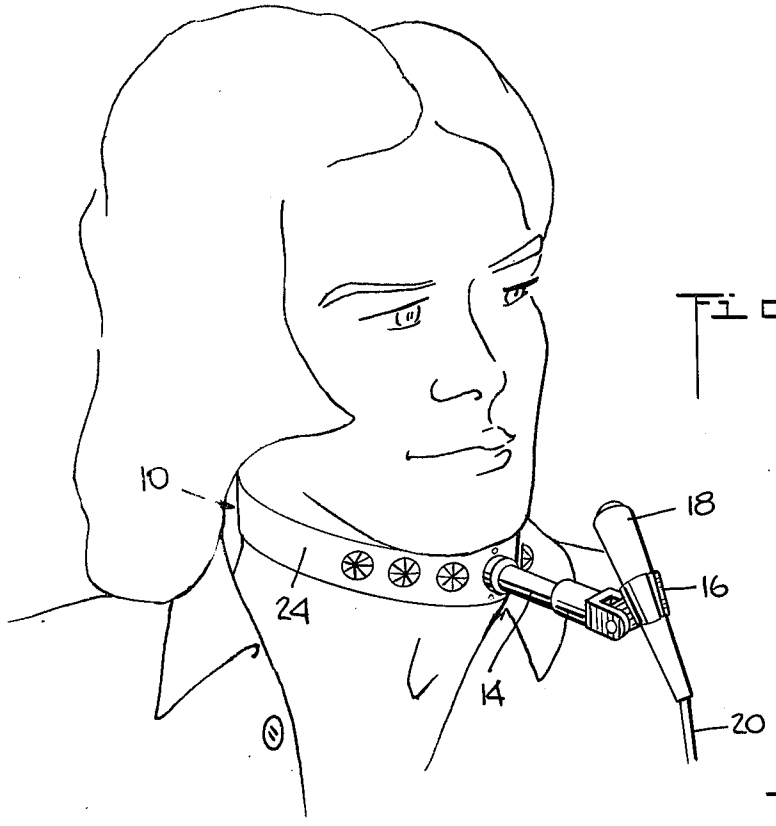


Fig. 1.

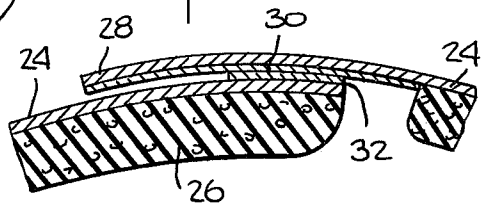


Fig. 4.

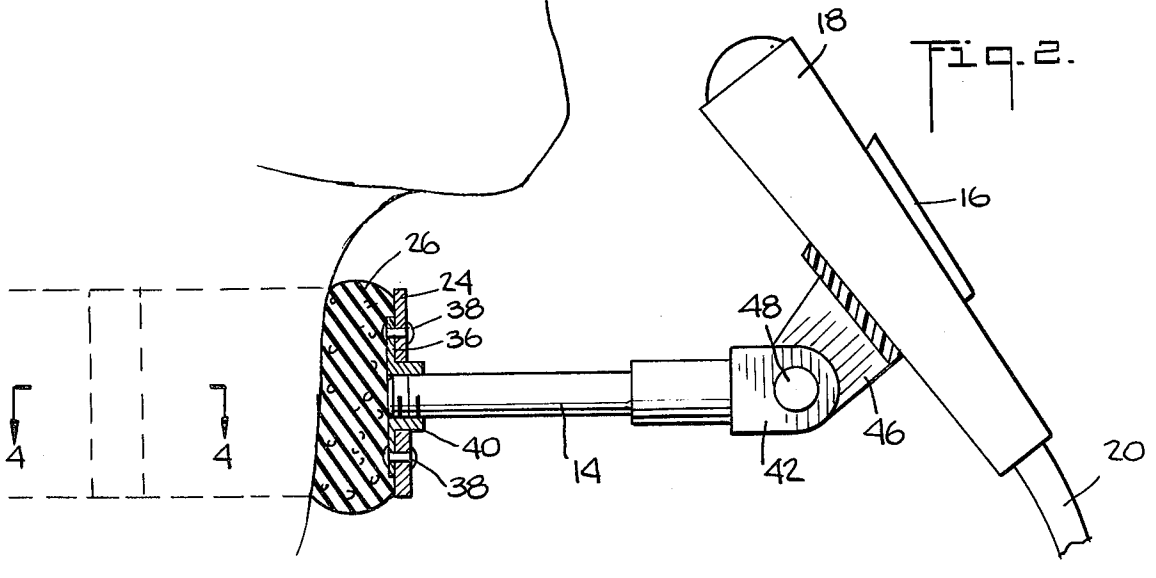


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

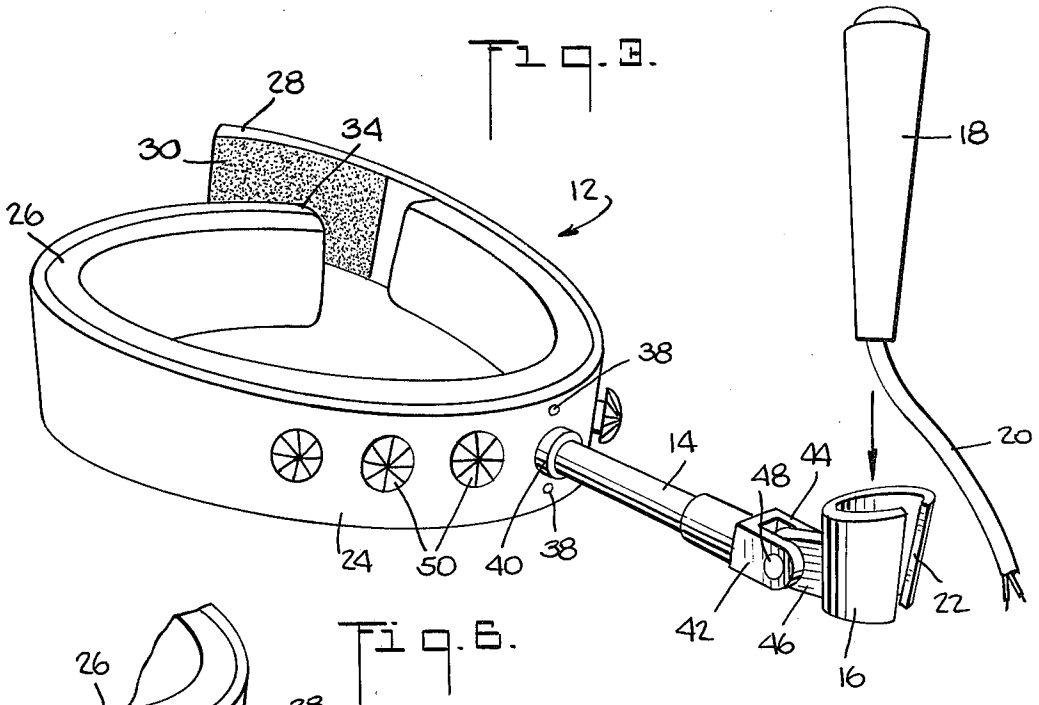


Fig. 6.

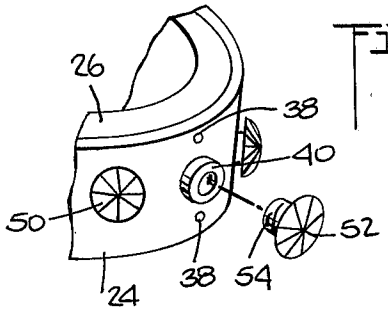


Fig. 5.

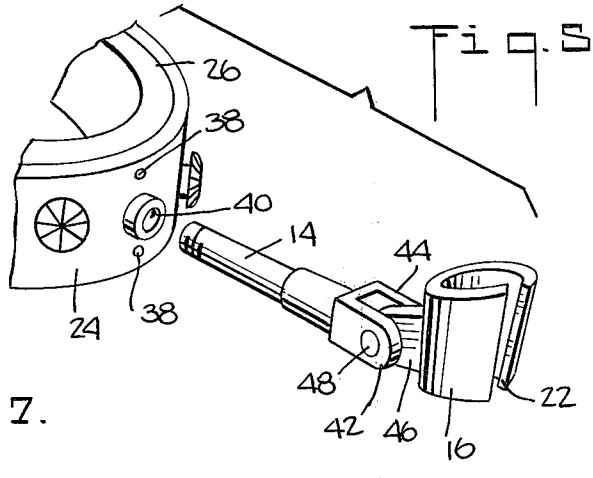


Fig. 7.

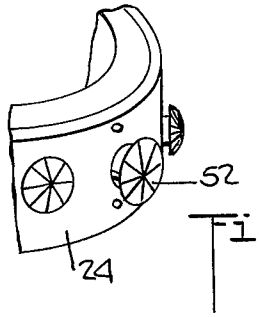
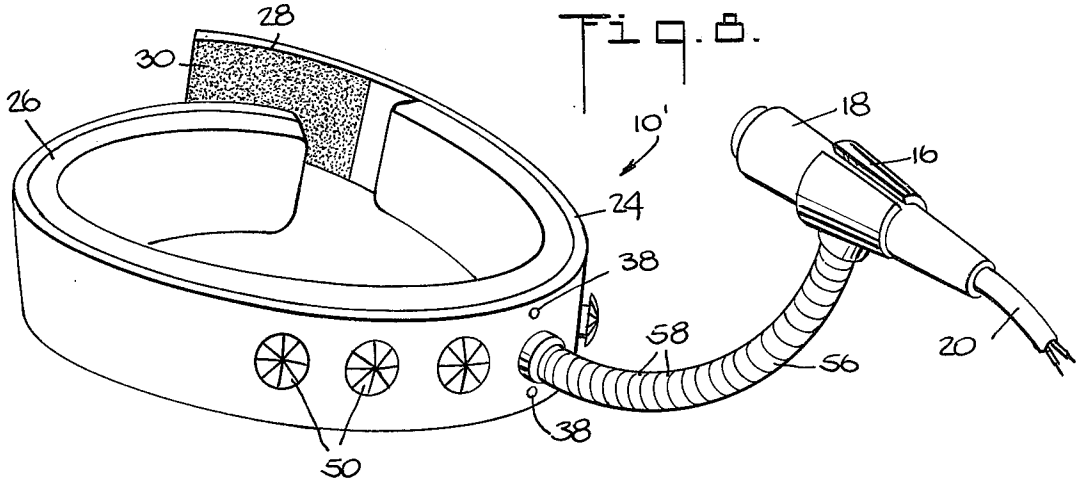


Fig. 8.



ORNAMENTED SUPPORT COLLAR FOR MICROPHONE AND THE LIKE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to the field of support structures, and has for its particular objective the provision of a collar, adapted to be worn around an entertainer's neck and which is provided with an extention adapted to receive and support a microphone in a fixed position relative to the wearer's mouth, so that the wearer may be able to stand, sit or walk about freely, within the limits of the microphone cord, and have both his hands free to play a musical instrument, or any other desired purpose.

2. Prior Art

In the present state of the art various forms of holding devices for the support of microphones by a speaker or entertainer have been devised. Among the more common forms are to be found the support stand, which requires the user to stand in one spot as he sings, speaks or plays an instrument. If he desires to move about he may remove the microphone from its stand and carry it with him, but in such case at least one of his hands is encumbered thereby, and he cannot use both of his hands where required to play an instrument, etc. Another common form of microphone support, known as the "lavalier" type, is suspended around the neck of the wearer. Some of the disadvantages found with this type of support are that the microphone position, with respect to the wearer's mouth, is often changed with body movement and turning, and becoming covered by the wearer's clothing, thereby affecting uniformity of transmission, as well as generally being some distance from the wearer's mouth. Other types of supports include body, shoulder and head harnesses, which are often cumbersome, and unattractive cosmetically.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aforementioned disadvantages are overcome by my invention, which comprises a cosmetically attractive collar that is provided in its front portion with a socket adapted to receive and support a post provided at its free end with an adjustable support member into which a microphone is removeably seated, the support member adapted to be selectively adjusted with respect to the distance between the microphone and the wearer's mouth, and thereafter remain in such position as long as desired, in accordance with the wearer's needs. A further important feature of my invention is to be found in that the holder or support member and post can be selectively removed from the collar, and an ornamental stud replaced in the socket, thereby transforming the support collar into an ornamental article of wear.

It is therefore the principal object of my invention to provide a support collar for a microphone or the like whereby the microphone is supported by the collar in a fixed position with respect to its distance from the wearer's mouth, thereby allowing him to move about freely with full use of both of his hands.

A second important object of my invention lies in the provision of a support collar whereby the supporting structure may be quickly and easily removed from the collar and replaced by a decorative stud.

A third important object of my invention lies in the provision of a support collar of the type described, which can be adjusted to the neck size of any wearer.

Still another important object of my invention lies in the provision of a support collar of the type described, which can be donned or removed in a matter of seconds.

These and other salient objects, advantages and functional features of my invention will become more readily apparent from an examination of the following specification, taken with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a prospective view of a preferred embodiment of my invention, disposed on the wearer's neck;

FIG. **2** is an enlarged view, partly in cross-section, showing engagement of the various parts of the embodiment;

FIG. **3** is an enlarged perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. **1** and of a microphone adapted to be secured thereto;

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view, taken on lines **4—4** of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **5** is an exploded view of a section of the collar and attachments;

FIG. **6** is a view similar to FIG. **5**, showing the stud adapted to be secured into the collar socket;

FIG. **7** is a view similar to FIG. **6**, but showing the stud secured in the socket; and

FIG. **8** is a view, similar to FIG. **3**, but showing a modified embodiment of the invention.

Similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout the different views.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Illustrative of the embodiment of FIGS. **1–7**, my support collar **10** comprises a collar element **12** to which is secured a post **14** supporting a bifurcated support member **16** adapted to seat a microphone **18**, with the microphone cord **20** passing through the frontal opening of the member **16** to permit the seating of the microphone **18**.

The collar element **12** is formed as a strap **24** of a substantially strong and rigid material, such as leather, provided with a protective lining **26** of soft and resilient material, such as sponge rubber or a similarly soft material. Although not shown the surface of the lining **26** may be covered with a further protective layer, such as velvet or the like.

As seen by FIGS. **3** and **4**, the outer strap **24** is open at its free ends, with one end **28** extending beyond the lining **26**, the unlined inner surface thereof provided with a section **30** of loop or pile material releaseably engageable to a section **32** of barb material secured to the outer surface of end **34** of the strap **24**, thereby to secure the collar **12** around the wearer's neck in any selective neck size, the combined sections **30** and **32** comprising a fastening material known by the trademark Velcro. Of course, other fastening means, as is well known in the art, may be substituted.

A socket plate **36** is secured to the inner surface of the strap **24** by means of rivets **38**, with the socket **40** extending through the strap **24**, as shown, and the socket **40** is internally threaded. As seen particularly in FIG. **2**, the lining **26** covers the back of the plate **36**, so as to protect the wearer's neck from contact with it. A post **14**, provided with an external thread at one end, is

adapted to be engaged thereby with the socket **40**, and the post **14** extends into a pair of parallel open arms **42** and **44** at its free end. A support member **16**, which is bifurcated at its front end and provided with an arm **46** extending rearwardly therefrom, is secured to the post **14** by engagement of the arm **46** between the arms **42** and **44** by means of a bolt **48** secured through the arms **42** and **44** and the arm **46**, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the engagement being such that the support member **16** is selectively rotatable, but frictionally maintainable in any desired position therein. The support member **16** is shaped as the inverted frustum of a cone, so that, as seen in FIGS. **1–3**, the microphone **18** can be inserted through the top of the member **16** and slipped downward until it contacts the inner surface of the member **16**, with the cord **20** passing through the open bifurcated section.

Referring now to FIGS. **5–7**, the outer surface of the strap **24** is decorated with a series of decorative studs **50**, which are permanently secured thereto. Additionally there is provided a free stud **52** having a threaded neck **54** which is adapted to be secured to the socket **40** when the post **14** is removed therefrom.

MODIFIED EMBODIMENT

If FIG. **8** there is shown a modified form **10'** of my invention, wherein a post **56** is substituted for the post **14**, the post **56** being formed of a series of jointed sections **58**, forming a structure commonly known as a "gooseneck" and capable of being twisted into various positions. In this embodiment the post **56** is threaded to the socket **14** in the same manner as in the preferred embodiment, but is secured directly to the bifurcated support member **16**, as shown.

OPERATION OF THE INVENTION

In the use of my support collar **10**, the post **14** is threaded into the socket **40** and the collar **12** is placed around the neck of the wearer, and secured thereon by the engagement of the fastening members **30** and **32**. The microphone **18** is then inserted into the support member **16** and the latter rotated by the wearer to a position wherein the microphone is spaced from his mouth the desired distance, and it then remains fixed in this position. Where the collar **12** is desired to be worn as a decorative piece the post **14** is removed from the socket **40** and replaced by the stud **52**.

While my invention has thus been described and shown as a support collar for a microphone, it is also to be noted that it may be employed for other uses, as well. For example, referring to FIG. **8**, instead of the support member **16** a clamping member (not shown) may be attached to the post **56** to hold a mouth organ in position where it may be played by the wearer without use of his hands.

It is thus to be noted that the embodiments shown and described are by way of illustration and not of limitation, and that various changes may be made in the construction, composition and arrangement of parts without limitation upon or departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof inherent therein, all of which are herein claimed.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A support for a microphone or the like comprising a collar formed of a substantially rigid outer portion and a protective lining covering the inner surface thereof, means to removably secure the collar around a wearer's neck, a single straight post extending from the front of the collar, means to removably secure the post to the collar, a support member for a microphone or the like, and means to frictionally secure the support member to the free end of the post for selective rotation of the support member to any fixed position with respect to the wearer.

2. A support as described in claim **1**, the means to secure the collar around the wearer's neck comprising pile material secured to the inner surface of one end of the outer portion of the collar, and barb material secured to the outer surface of the other end.

3. A support as described in claim **2**, the means to removeably secure the post to the collar comprising an internally threaded socket secured to and through the outer portion of the collar, and an external thread on one end of the post, adapted to mesh with the internal thread of the socket.

4. A support as described in claim **3**, the support member comprising a bifurcated element, in the shape of an inverted cone frustum, adapted to receive and seat a microphone by passing the microphone cord through the opening therein.

5. A support as described in claim **4**, the means to secure the support member to the free end of the post for selective rotation of the support member comprising a pair of parallel arms formed at the free end of the post, a rearwardly extending arm on the support member disposed between the parallel arms, and a bolt passing through all of said arms.

6. A support as described in claim **3**, the outer surface of the collar being ornamented.

7. In combination with a support as described in claim **6**, a stud provided with an externally threaded neck adapted to be threaded into the collar socket upon removal of the post.

8. A support as described in claim **3**, the post being rigid.

9. A support as described in claim **3**, the post formed of a series of interconnected jointed segments, whereby the post may be twisted for selective positioning of the support member.

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