Feb. 25, 1964 R. D. HORLAND 3,122,007

INTERCHANGEABLE EARRING CLAMP

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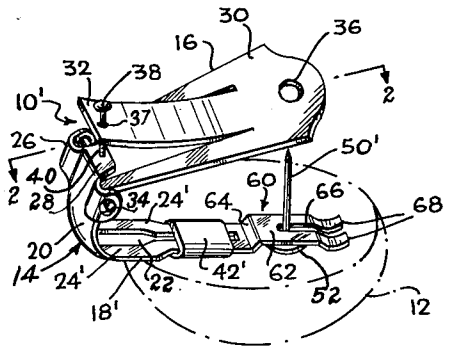


Fig. 1

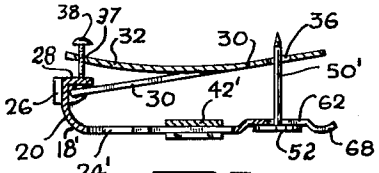


Fig. 2

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INTERCHANGEABLE EARRING CLAMP

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This invention relates generally to earring clamps or mountings and the principal object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved earring type ornament mounting, including ear gripping means so constructed and arranged that the clamp or mounting may be readily used with either pierced or non-pierced ears.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a new and improved earring type ornament clamp or mounting including a pair of hingedly connected clamp members adapted to engage the inner and outer sides of the ear lobe, the earring being convertible from a clamp type earring for use with non-pierced ears to an earring for use with pierced ears by adding a pin member adapted to pass through the lobe of a pierced ear.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a new and improved earring type ornament clamp or mounting including hinged clamp members adapted to engage the inner and outer sides of a non-pierced ear and adjustable spring means for moving one of said clamp members in a clamping direction, the clamp members being perforated to permit the use of a pin-like member as an ear attaching pin to adapt the earring for use with pierced ears.

A further object of the invention is to provide an earring clamp or mounting that is simple and rugged in construction, economical to manufacture and highly efficient for the purposes intended.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of an earring clamp construction embodying my invention, an ear ornament being shown in dot-dash lines in supported position.

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

The present invention contemplates the provision of an earring clamp or mounting which may be readily used with either pierced or non-pierced ears. By constructing the earring clamp or mounting in accordance with the present invention, it is possible for manufacturers and distributors to keep their stock inventory at a minimum and yet provide a wide range of selection for their customers. The clamp or mounting is so constructed that the clamping pressure of the clamp arms is adjustable, providing greater comfort for the wearer. Furthermore, earrings can be more easily displayed since only one type of box and display unit is required to hold the earrings properly. Earrings can be converted without use of special tools very quickly by the merchant to meet the special requirements of the purchaser.

Referring in detail to the drawings, in FIG. 1 an earring clamp or mounting is shown and designated generally by the reference numeral **10'**. An ear ornament **12** indicated in dot-dash lines is shown supported on the clamp. The clamp **10'** comprises a generally inverted U-shaped frame or yoke member **14** having spaced clamping arms **16, 18'** positionable on the opposite sides of the ear lobe to which the earring is to be fastened, the ornament being secured to the outer side of arm **18'** by soldering or in any other suitable manner.

The clamping arms **16** and **18'** are joined by a curved

bight portion **20** formed integrally with the arm **18'**. Arm **18'** is slotted along its longitudinal center as indicated at **22** forming a pair of flexible arm members **24', 24'** movable toward and away from each other. The arm members **24', 24'** continue into the curved bight portion **20**. The bight portion **20** is formed with a pair of perforated ears **26, 26** at the sides of its free end and with a perforated lug **28** extending perpendicularly to the bight portion and parallel to the arm members **24', 24'** in the same direction.

Clamping arm **16** is formed with a flat body **30** formed with an outstruck spring tongue member **32** intersecting one end of the body. The same end of the body is formed with a pair of opposed trunnions **34, 34** journalled in the perforated ears **26, 26** of the arm **18'**. The other end of the body is formed with a central hole **36**. An adjusting headed screw **38** is inserted in a threaded hole **37** in the free end of tongue member **32** and through the hole **40** in lug **28** of arm **18'**. A split sleeve bearing member **42'** is sleeved over the arm members **24', 24'** and supports the ear ornament **12**, the bearing member **42'** being soldered to the ornament.

The earring clamp or mounting **10** shown in FIG. 1 may be used with non-pierced ears by inserting the frame **14** of the clamp over the lobe of the ear with the clamping arm **16** on the inner side of the lobe and the clamping arm **18'** on the outer side of the lobe and by setting up on the screw **38** the spring member **32** with the clamping arm **16** moved toward the ear lobe thereby clamping the ear lobe between the clamping arms **16** and **18'**.

The clamping arm **18'** is formed with an integral extension **60** in the form of a solid plate **62** of the same width as the arm **18'** but connected to the arm members **24', 24'** by means of a slanting joint **64** thereby positioning the plate **62** on a different plane than the arm members **24', 24'**. Sleeve member **42'** is sleeved over arms **24', 24'**. The plate **62** is formed with a central slot **66** intersecting its outer free end thereby forming curved bifurcated ends **68, 68**. The earring clamp or mounting **10'** may be used with a pierced ear by frictionally sliding the shank of a headed pin **50'** through and along the slot **22**, with the head **52** of the pin underneath the arm members **24', 24'** and in interlocking engagement therewith, the frictional engagement of the pin shank with members **24', 24'** permitting this operation. The shank thus extends toward the clamping arm **16**. The pin may be inserted through the aperture in the ear lobe by spreading the clamping arms **16** and **18'** a sufficient distance to permit the insertion of the ear lobe and then pressing the arm **18'** with ornament **12** attached toward the lobe and forcing the pin through the pierced lobe and through the hole **36** in arm **16**. In this position, the pin will prevent the clamp or mounting **10'** from slipping off of the ear lobe of the user.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

In an earring clamp construction, a generally inverted U-shaped frame having spaced aligned clamping arms adapted to be positioned on opposite sides of an ear lobe, said arms being hingedly connected at one end, one of said clamping arms having an elongated central slot, an extension on the free end of said slotted arm, said extension including a flat plate disposed in a plane offset from the plane of the slotted arm, said extension slotted along its longitudinal center and intersecting one end thereof forming

bifurcated ends, the other of said clamping arms having a central hole at its free end and having an outstruck portion constituting a spring tongue, an adjusting screw carried by the spring tongue and contacting the other clamping arm for biasing said other clamping arm toward the slotted clamping arm, a headed pin having an end adapted to project through the opening in a pierced ear and through the hole in said other clamping arm, said pin being extended through the slot in the extension on the slotted arm between the bifurcated ends and being releasably held by said ends, said hinged connection including perforated ears on said slotted clamping arm and trunnions on the other clamping arm journaled in said perforated ears, and a split sleeve carried around the slotted clamping arm for supporting an ear ornament.

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