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BRACELET LINK

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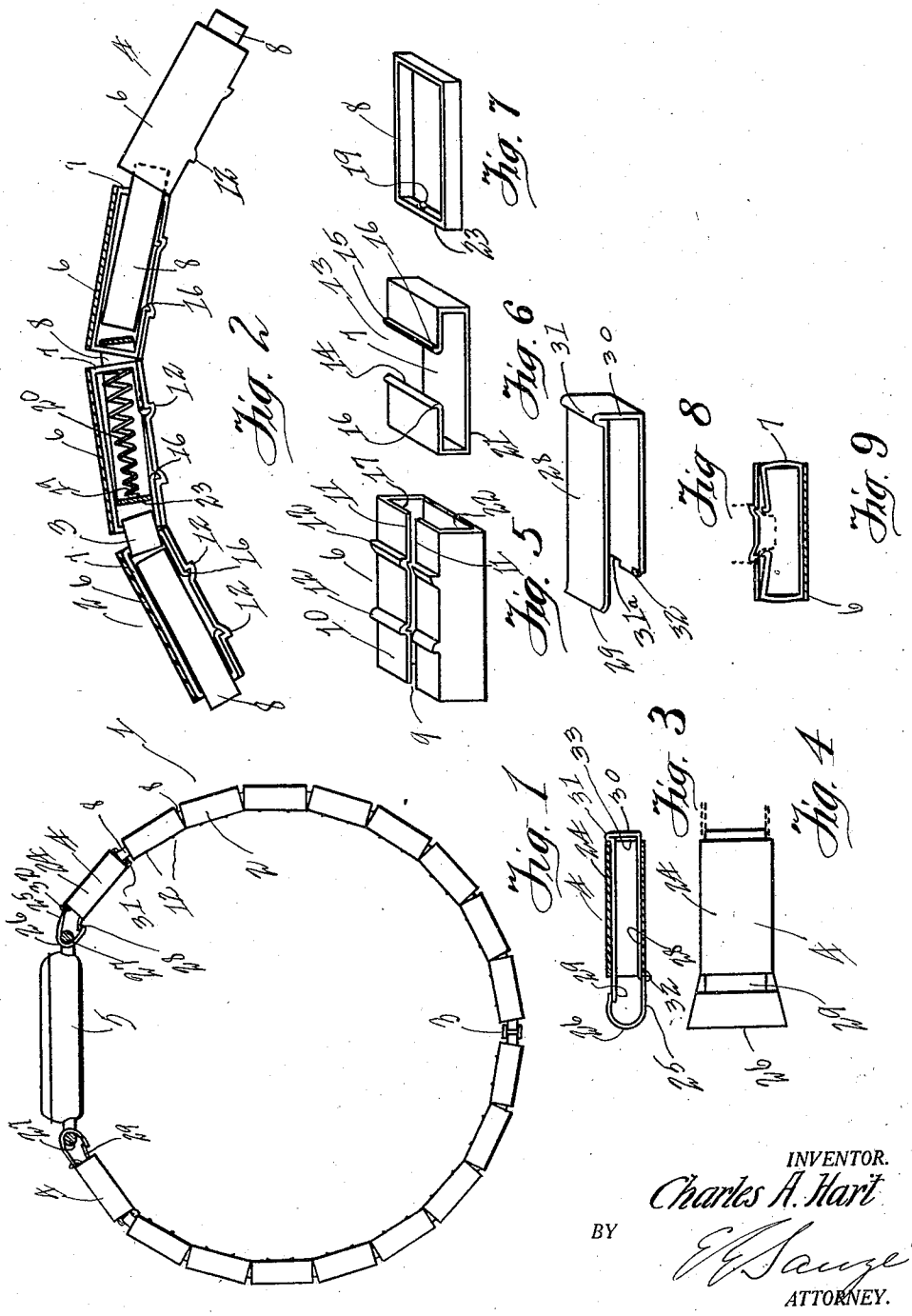


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

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BRACELET LINK.

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This invention relates to bracelet links and has as one of its objects to provide a bracelet link that is expansible.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bracelet link having expansible links that may be constructed by stamping and hence are relatively cheap to manufacture, and that is simple to assemble.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bracelet link that is adaptable to the use of a solid link in its makeup, and providing a means for locking the solid link in a body portion in a manner to stand a breaking strain equal to the tensile strength of the material of which it is composed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bracelet link having clasps, and constructing the clasps on the same general principle as the links, and providing a form of clasp that is peculiarly adaptable to a horizontally positioned link member, and that is simple to assemble with said link.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bracelet link, each link being identical and a separable member, thus eliminating the necessity of an odd separable link in the construction of a bracelet, with its attendant labor of construction, assembling, dies, etc.

With these and other objects in view reference is now had to the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the bracelet links assembled together to form a bracelet;

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of several links of a bracelet showing details of construction;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the clasp;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the clasp;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the body portion of a link, upside down;

Fig. 6 is a similar view of the open link;

Fig. 7 is a similar view of the solid link;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the latch member of the clasp; and

Fig. 9 is a sectional elevation of a portion of a link showing the locking means in the unlocked position.

Having reference to the drawings like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views and the numeral 1 refers to a bracelet comprising links 2, a central link 3 consisting of a stock link of solid construction, and clasps 4 for attachment purposes to a watch 5 or other article.

Let it here be understood that while this invention covers the constituent parts of a bracelet, I do not wish to be limited to its use for bracelet purposes only, but limit myself only to such purpose to which the invention is applicable, within the scope of my claims.

Bracelets of this class are assembled generally from a central point in the circumference of the bracelet to provide expansion in both directions, and this bracelet link follows the general rule in this respect, however, it has been necessary heretofore to construct a central link that is separable to enable the bracelet to be assembled in the two directions, or that while corresponding to the other links in appearance differs in its constructional details to an extent requiring other dies and extra labor in its manufacture.

In this bracelet link it is obvious that the central link 3 may be of solid construction and may be of general stock size and form, or the particular design shown in the drawings may be substituted by other forms or designs, if deemed necessary, or desirable, without affecting the assembling or operation of the links herein described.

The adjacent and subsequent links 2 of the bracelet comprise a body portion 6, an open link 7 and a closed link 8, and will now be described;

The body portion consists of a material that may preferably be formed in a generally rectangular shape, but while this form may vary from the rectangle, as for instance the body may be oval or the like, the essential feature is a laterally formed body portion provided with a longitudinally disposed slot of keyway 9 provided by forming the body with an incomplete perimeter 10 to maintain its edges 11 at a slight distance apart.

The body portion is further provided with indentures 12 formed in the perimeter adjacent to said keyway for the purpose of providing a locking means that will be presently explained.

The open link is of a similarly described design but is formed so that when assembled in the body portion 6 its slot 13 is at right angles to the slot 9 of the body portion.

The edges 14 and 15 respectively forming the sides of the slot are upturned to provide a hook 16 as shown, or the hook may be bent back upon itself if deemed expedient,

in either case the hook is formed to register with or be engaged by the indentures 12 of the body portion to complete the locking means. By this means the open link is securely locked in the body portion, and with the body portion spanning the slot 13 of the open link and forming a closure therefor the open link is formed into a rigid continuous link, or the equivalent thereof.

As the material of the open link will be more or less resilient or yielding it is obvious that to assemble the above mentioned parts the open link should fit nicely into the body, in which case the hook will naturally intercept the edge 17 upon insertion. Now as this hook approaches the edge it is depressed to pass into the body, the second hook then is likewise depressed as it approaches the edge, and the link is then completely inserted. In completing the insertion the first hook to enter will pass by the first indenture owing to its taper being rearward, as shown, and both hooks will finally yieldingly snap into place and thus securely lock the open link in the body portion.

The slot 9 provides for accessibility to the locking means and the open link may be removed by inserting a suitable tool, shown dotted in Fig. 9, through the slot 9 and pressing the hooks 16 out of the indentures 12, then with the tool in the slot of the open link forcing the link in a longitudinal direction out of the body portion 6.

The solid link 8 consists of a continuous link and is preferably provided on the inner side of one end 23 with a stud 19 to which will be suitably secured a spring 20.

The solid link is slidably and yieldingly engaged by the open link, the two being assembled by inserting the end 23 of the solid link under the edge 15 of the open link and then forcing the free end of the spring under the opposite edge 14.

After assembling these two parts the whole link is assembled by inserting the open link into the body portion, the open link now carrying the solid link, when the open link forms means to lock the solid link movably and removably in the body portion.

As a matter of detail the open link is of a width to afford a space between its outer edge 21 and the inner wall 22 of the body portion that will receive the side of the solid link and permit of a free longitudinal movement therein, and the height of the open link will likewise be such as to provide for a free movement of the end 23 of the solid link in the open link.

The spring is interposed between the opposite ends of the two links and is preferably tapered with the small end adapted to engage the stud 19 and with its free end flattened so that this end will be maintained in its proper position in the end of the open link. This design also affords sufficient width to the spring so that the spring, which is obviously delicate, will not double up or move out of shape as it is compressed during the expansion of the links.

Now in assembling the bracelet the central link 3 is passed over one edge of one of the open links, the end 23 of the solid link is then inserted under this same end and moved against the central link, and the free end of the spring will then be inserted under the opposite end of the open link. The open link is now inserted in the body portion as above explained which completes the assembling operation of the first link. The edge of the next succeeding open link now engages the outer end of the solid link, a second solid link is inserted in this open link, and these assembled in the related body portion, as before.

The operation is now continued until the bracelet proper is completely assembled, from both sides of the central link, and clasps 4 are then added to each end link to complete the bracelet.

The clasps consist of a body portion 24 formed to correspond to the links of the bracelet, and may be formed with an incomplete perimeter, or not as desired, and has a part 25 extended to be bent into a hook 26, the hook in turn being engageable with the ring 27 of the watch 5, or the article to which it is desired to attach it.

The clasp is now provided with a yielding latch 28 comprising a generally U shaped piece, having one of its end 29 longer than the other, with the bend 30 shaped to form a shoulder 31, and with its other end 31ª having a portion bent over to form a hook 32.

Assembling is carried on in a similar manner as that of the link by inserting the clasp and raising the hook to avoid the end of the body portion, and, when assembled, the long end 29 rests yielding against the underside of the hook 26 of the body portion and forms with that member a secure clasp. The hook 32 of the other end now enters a slot (not shown) in the extended portion 25 thus securing the latch in the body, where it is maintained in proper register with the body by the shoulder 31 which now rests against the end of the body portion. The shoulder also provides for a space 33 between the end of the U and the end of the body to receive and to provide for ample freedom of movement of the solid link that is engaged by the latch before the clasp is assembled.

It will now be noted that the solid links lay flat, and that the last link is readily engageable by the latch which has a natural formation as against a twisted or otherwise bent member, that would have to conform to a link laying on edge.

It will also be noted that all the parts are so formed that the strength of the bracelet will equal the tensile strength of the mate-

rial of which it is composed, and that the only part of the bracelet that is not secured at both ends is the hook 26 and that this hook is strengthened by enlarging its width, as shown in Fig. 4, and thus will be prevented from straightening out under a severe strain.

In use the bracelet is clasped to the article to be held, and by the expansion of the many links, multiplying the relatively large expansion of each link, the bracelet is permitted to be placed on either a large or small wrist, and be retained there by the tension of the spring.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a bracelet link, a laterally formed body portion provided with a longitudinally disposed keyway, laterally formed indentures provided in said body portion, an open link mountable in said body portion, and engageable with said indentures to form with said body portion a rigid continuous link, and a yieldingly operable closed link slidably secured in said continuous link, and adapted to engage a succeeding link.

2. In a bracelet link, a laterally formed body portion provided with a longitudinally disposed keyway, spaced indentures formed in said body portion adjacent to said keyway, an open link mountable in said body portion, the ends thereof being adapted to engage said indentures to form with said body portion a rigid continuous link, releasable through said keyway, and a yieldingly operable closed link slidably secured in said continuous link, and adapted to engage the continuous link of a succeeding bracelet link, for securement therein by its related body portion.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES A. HART.