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2,397,284

JEWELRY CLASP

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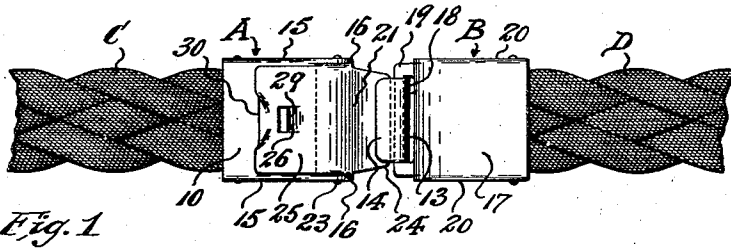


Fig. 1

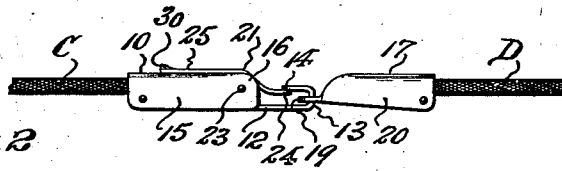


Fig. 2

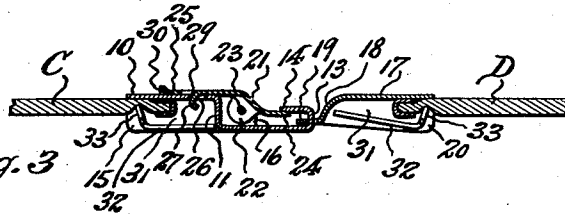


Fig. 3

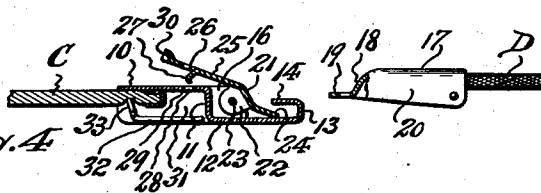


Fig. 4

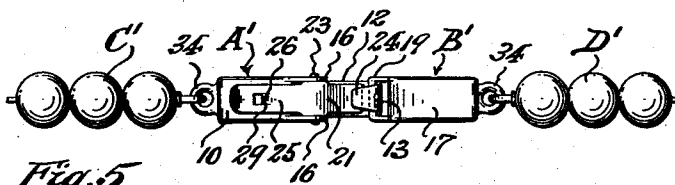


Fig. 5

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JEWELRY CLASP

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24-241)

This invention relates to improvements in clasps for jewelry; and the invention has reference, more particularly, to an improved construction of safety clasp for bracelets, necklaces and similar articles.

This invention has for an object to provide a novel safety clasp means for coupling together separable meeting ends of various articles of jewelry, such as bracelets, necklaces and the like; and to this end comprises cooperative clasp members of the hook and eye type, the hook provided clasp member having novel manipulatable means to close and open the hook.

The invention has for a further object to provide clasp means for the purposes stated comprising a hook provided clasp member and an eye provided clasp member, the former having a lever element pivotally mounted thereon, one arm of said lever element being adapted to cooperate with the bill of the hook for closing the hook, and the other arm of said lever element being provided with snap catch means engageable with the body of the hook provided clasp member for releasably retaining said lever element in hook closing position.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated, will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

Illustrative embodiments of this invention are shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the closed safety clasp according to this invention as applied to meeting ends of a bracelet; Fig. 2 is a side elevational view thereof; Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal sectional view thereof; and Fig. 4 is a sectional view similar to that of Fig. 3, but showing the safety clasp opened to disconnect the meeting ends of the bracelet.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the closed safety clasp according to this invention as applied to meeting ends of a necklace.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawing, the reference character A indicates the body of a hook provided clasp member and B indicates the body of a cooperating eye provided clasp member; said clasp members being respectively attached to the respective meeting end portions C and D of a bracelet body.

The hook provided clasp member, in a preferred form thereof, is shaped from a sheet metal blank to form the hollow body A from which extends

the hook element 13 thereof, as hereinafter described. Said body A comprises a top wall 10, which extends rearwardly from the top edge of a transverse partition wall 11, and a bottom wall 12 which extends forwardly from the lower edge of said partition wall 11. Said bottom wall 12 terminates in an upturned hook element 13 having a rearwardly extending bill 14 spaced above the plane of said bottom wall 12. Integral with the opposite side margins of said top wall, to depend therefrom, are side walls 15. These side walls 15 exceed in length the length of said top wall so as to extend forwardly beyond the transverse partition wall 11, thus providing opposed perforate bearing ears 16 adjacent opposite sides of said bottom wall 12.

The eye provided clasp member, in a preferred form thereof, is likewise shaped from a sheet metal blank to form a hollow body B from which extends the eye element 19 thereof, and comprises a top wall 17, having a downwardly turned end wall 18 which terminates in a forwardly extending eye element 19 disposed in a downwardly offset plane substantially parallel to the plane of said top wall 17. Integral with the opposite side margins of said top wall 17, to depend therefrom, are side walls 20.

To couple the eye provided clasp member B with the hook provided clasp member A, the eye element 19 of the former is engaged over the hook bill 14 of the hook element 13 of the latter, so as to lodge in the bight of said hook element, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive.

The novel means, according to this invention, for closing the hook element 13 against accidental displacement of the engaging eye element 19 therefrom, comprises a manipulatable hook closure means which is carried by the hook provided clasp member. This closure means comprises a safety lever element 21 having perforate fulcrum ears 22 dependent from its sides, and which are aligned with the bearing ears 16 of the hook provided clasp member. Said fulcrum ears 22 are pivotally supported in connection with said bearing ears 16 by a transverse pintle member 23 adapted to extend therethrough and through said bearing ears 16 in suitably secured relation to the latter. Said lever element 21 is provided with a hook closure arm 24, which cooperates with the hook element 13, the same being so shaped and dimensioned that its free end portion is movable, when the lever element is rocked, between the base of the hook element 13 and the hook bill 14, at points beyond the extremity of the hook engaged eye element 19. At its outer end,

said lever element is provided with an actuating arm 25, so shaped and dimensioned as to overlie and abut the top wall 10 of the hook provided clasp member, when said lever element is rocked to a position to engage its hook closure arm 24 with the hook bill 14, and thus disposed in closed relation to the hook element 13. Struck downwardly and outwardly from the body of said actuating arm 25 is a resilient catch tongue 26, the free end portion of which is shaped to provide a catch nosing 27. Provided in the top wall 10 of the hook provided clasp member is an opening 28, through which the catch tongue 26 may project, and over an edge 29 of which the catch nosing 27 may snap to releasably secure the lever element in hook closed position. If desired, the outer end of said actuating arm 25 of the lever element may be suitably shaped to provide a fingernail engageable lip 30, whereby the operator may manipulate the lever element to swing the same to the open hook position shown in Fig. 4.

The cooperating clasp members A and B may be respectively connected in any suitable manner to the respective meeting end portions of a bracelet, necklace or similar article to be served thereby. If said clasp members are employed in a bracelet structure, the same are preferably made of a width substantially corresponding to the width of the bracelet end portions, and may be either permanently or detachably connected with the latter. By way of illustration, but not with limiting intent, each clasp member is shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive as provided with means for detachably affixing the same to bracelet end portions C and D; and to such end, said clasp members A and B are so constructed as to provide the same with outwardly open chambers 31 underlying their top walls between their side walls, into which chambers 31 the bracelet end portions may be respectively inserted. To detachably secure the inserted end portions of the bracelet respectively to said respective clasp members, each of the latter is provided with a clamp lever 32 pivotally supported between the side walls thereof beneath their top walls. Said clamp levers 32 have clamp jaws 33 projecting toward said top walls, said jaws 33 being operable by up-swinging of the clamp levers to engage the inserted bracelet end portions so as to pinchingly grip and secure the latter between said jaws and the top walls of the clasp members.

If said clasp members are to be employed in a necklace structure, the same may be sized for correspondence thereto. This is shown in Fig. 5 wherein the coupled clasp members A' and B' are of comparatively narrow width and respectively attached to the respective meeting ends C' and D' of a necklace. So far as the hook and eye provided members and safety lever means of said clasp members A' and B' are concerned, the same correspond in structure and mode of operation to the previously described clasp members A and B, as is evidenced by application to elements of such structure of the same reference characters;

except, however, that the bodies of said clasp members A' and B' have modified outer end formations for attachment of the necklace end portions thereto, which, as illustratively shown, include anchor eyes 34 to receive attachment of said necklace ends.

It will be obvious from the above description that the instant invention provides a very simple and efficient coupling clasp structure of the hook and eye type, including a novel pivoted safety lever means cooperative with the hook element, which may be readily swung to hook closing or opening position at will, and which, by reason of its included novel snap catch means, is securely but releasably disposed in hook closing position, whereby to guard the clasp members against accidental separation.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. In a jewelry clasp of the hook and eye type, a hook section comprising a body formed by a perpendicular transverse partition wall, a top wall extending from the top of said partition wall, a bottom wall extending oppositely from the bottom of said partition wall, and side walls dependent from said top wall and terminating in transversely opposed bearing ears disposed beyond said partition wall contiguous to said bottom wall, said bottom wall having an upturned hook at its free end, a safety lever element having fulcrum ears pivotally related to said bearing ears, said lever element having at one end a hook closure arm movable within the hook interior to selective positions adapted to open or close the hook and at its other end an actuating arm adapted to overlie said body top wall, and said actuating arm and body top wall having cooperating snap catch means to releasably hold said lever element disposed with its hook closure arm in hook closing position.

2. In a jewelry clasp of the hook and eye type, a hook section comprising a body formed by a perpendicular transverse partition wall, a top wall extending from the top of said partition wall, a bottom wall extending oppositely from the bottom of said partition wall, and side walls dependent from said top wall and terminating in transversely opposed bearing ears disposed beyond said partition wall contiguous to said bottom wall, said bottom wall having an upturned hook at its free end, a safety lever element having fulcrum ears pivotally related to said bearing ears, said lever element having at one end a hook closure arm movable within the hook interior to selective positions adapted to open or close the hook and at its other end an actuating arm adapted to overlie said body top wall, and said actuating arm having a resilient catch tongue projecting from its underside, said catch tongue terminating in a catch nosing, said body top wall having an opening to receive said catch tongue, and said opening having an edge engageable by said catch nosing, whereby to releasably hold said lever element disposed with its hook closure arm in hook closing position.

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