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CONNECTER OR FASTENING DEVICE FOR CHAIN BRACELETS

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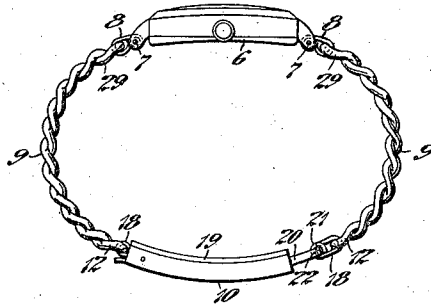


Fig. 1.

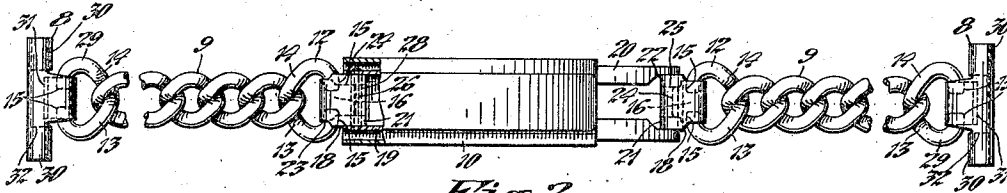


Fig. 2.

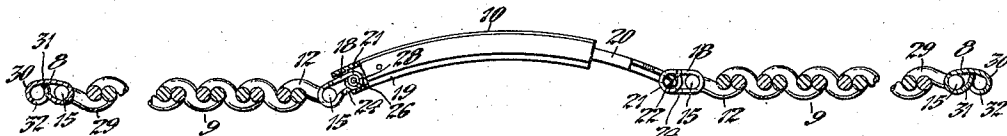


Fig. 3.

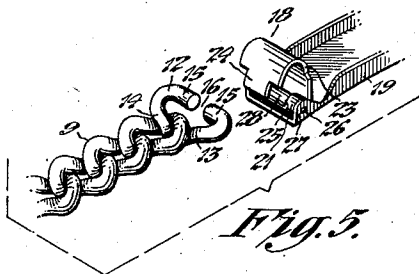


Fig. 5.

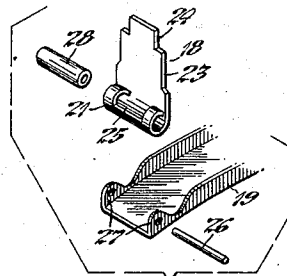


Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CONNECTER OR FASTENING DEVICE FOR
CHAIN BRACELETS

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9 Claims. (Cl. 63—4)

This invention relates to chain bracelets for wrist-watches and similar articles of jewelry and more particularly to an improved connector or fastening device for attaching the ends of the bracelet.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a relatively flat chain bracelet comprising a plurality of interconnected curbed links and a detachable end-link having straight portions for connection with a clasp or to a wrist-watch, the end-link being so formed as to adapt its straight portion to lie in the median plane of the adjacent curbed link to which it is connected.

Another object of the invention is to provide a connecting end-link for a chain bracelet of the type indicated having straight end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship to provide for its quick attachment to and detachment from the bracelet to facilitate adding or removing links to alter the length of the chain.

Another object of the invention is to provide a removable end-link for curbed chain bracelets of the type indicated and a connecting means on a clasp or wrist-watch which effect a compact joinder of the parts without imparting a twist to the bracelet.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel connecting means for chain bracelets which is of simple construction, adapted for economical manufacture, neat and ornamental in appearance and one which may be easily and quickly assembled and disassembled to alter the length of the bracelet.

Further objects of the improvement are set forth in the following specification which describes a preferred form of construction of the invention, by way of example, as illustrated by the accompanying drawing. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a link bracelet shown as connected to a wrist-watch and embodying a central clasp with the terminal links of the chain attached to the watch and clasp by the present improved connecting means;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view of the bracelet, clasp and connecting means illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side view of the same showing the relation of the connecting elements on the bracelet and clasp;

Fig. 4 is a composite perspective view of the parts of the attaching means on the clasp shown in disassembled relationship;

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the cooper-

ating ends of the clasp and bracelet shown in disassembled relationship; and

Fig. 6 is a detailed view of the connecting end-link for the chain.

The present invention is adapted for use with curbed chain bracelets of the prevailing mode as worn with wrist-watches and similar articles of jewelry. Bracelets of this type have heretofore been attached to the watch-case or clasp by inserting the end-link into a box-like housing which necessarily forms a bulky connection because of the thickness of the curbed link due to its twisted curvature. With this previous form of connection the bracelet is secured to the box-like housing by a projecting lug thereon which extends through the opening in the link and allows a relatively free movement of the link in the housing. If the link were to be held too tightly the bracelet would become twisted because of the curvature of the end-link. In all such previously-used bracelets the connecting end-link has been formed as a closed loop which necessitates severing the link and spreading the ends when it is desired to add or remove links to alter the length of the chain.

The present improved form of end-link and connecting means on the clasp or the wrist-watch provides a compact hinge-joint of a thickness substantially equal to the thickness of the links of the bracelet and compensates for the natural twist of the chain. Further, the improved form of connector provides for quick attachment of the end-link to and its detachment from the bracelet to facilitate adding or removing links when the length of the chain is to be altered. The present improved end-link has a straight side for connection with the watch-case or the clasp, and is so shaped as to conform to the twist in the adjacent curbed link to which it is connected. An opening is provided in the straight portion of the end-link so that the latter may be quickly attached to or removed from the adjoining curbed link. The end-link may be connected to the wrist-watch by an intermediate loop of deformable material adapted to closely embrace the straight portion of the end-link and a transverse ball on the part to which the bracelet is connected.

Referring to the drawing, 6 designates a conventional type of wrist-watch having balls 7 at its sides to which end-clasps or connectors 8 are attached. The ends of the sections 9 of a two-part chain bracelet are attached to the balls 7 by connectors 8 and the opposite ends of the

sections to a clasp 10 by similar connecting means to be later described.

The bracelet-sections 9 are constituted of a plurality of interconnected curbed links of conventional curvature or twisted shape which forms a substantially flat chain. In accordance with the present invention the end-links 12 of each section 9 are of generally triangular shape, as shown most clearly in Fig. 6, having the two adjacent sides 13 and 14 oppositely curved adjacent the apex end to conform to the curvature of the curbed links of the bracelet chain. The third side of each end-link 12 is straight and lies in the median plane with respect to the two curved sides 13 and 14; this form of construction adapting the end-links to be attached to the wrist-watch 6 and clasp 10 without imparting a twist to the bracelet chain connected thereto. The third side of the triangular-shaped end-link 12 is formed by inwardly-directed portions 15 having a common axis and terminating in spaced-apart relationship to provide an opening 16 therebetween of a width substantially equal to the thickness of the wire or other strip material forming the curbed links. Due to this open-end construction the end-links 12 may be quickly removed from the bracelet by withdrawing the terminal curbed links thereof through the openings 16. When it is desired to either shorten or lengthen the bracelet by removing or adding a link thereto the end-link 12 may be quickly removed from the connected curbed link and then quickly replaced after the alteration has been accomplished without cutting or deforming the end-link. The bracelet may then be attached to the clasp or watch-case, as the case may be, to effect a joint of a thickness not substantially greater than the thickness of the wire or other material forming the end-link due to the straight side of the latter as constituted by the inwardly-directed ends 15.

The sections 9 of the bracelet are attached to the opposite ends of the clasp 10 by intermediate members 18 pivotally connected to the clasp and having deformable portions adapted to be bent to loop around the inwardly-directed ends 15 of the end-links 12. The clasp 10 is preferably of the adjustable type having a main body member 19 and a U-shaped extension member 20 slidably mounted therein. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3 the member 18 is pivotally attached to the extendible member 20 by a looped end 21 curled about the crossbar 22 thereof. As further shown in Fig. 4, each member 18 is narrowed at 23 so that it may be passed through the opening between the curved sides of the end-link 12, this portion being then bent to form a closed loop embracing the inwardly-directed ends 15 of the end-link 12. The terminal portion 24 of the member 18 is further reduced in width to fit within a cut-away portion 25 on the looped end 21 whereby to provide a smooth continuous surface on the under side of the member without projections or sharp edges liable to scratch the wrist on which the bracelet is worn. An intermediate member 18 is pivotally connected to the opposite end of the clasp 10 by means of a pivot-pin 26 extending through ears 27 at the sides of the body member 19 and the looped end 21 of the band. A bushing 28 is preferably provided on the pin 26 for reception in the looped end 21 of the member 18 to insure a close fit; the end portion of the member being bent to form a second loop embracing the straight side of the

connected end-link 12 in the same manner as previously explained.

The end-links 29 for attaching the ends of the bracelet-sections 9 to the wrist-watch are preferably of the same form of construction as the end-links 12 for connecting the sections to the clasp 10. However, at this end of the bracelet-sections 9 the end-links 29 may be made as continuous closed loops if desired since the length of the chain may be altered at the opposite clasp end. Whether the end-link 29 be made as a closed loop or provided with an opening for detachment from the chain, two of its sides are oppositely curved to conform to the curvature of the curbed links and the third side is made straight for connection by a compact hinge-joint.

The connectors 8 for attaching the bracelet-sections 9 to the watch-case may be of any suitable structure and, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, are similar to the looped members 18 for connecting the sections to the clasp 10. The strips forming the connectors 8, however, have one end portion of a width substantially equal to the width of the wrist-watch bails 7, these portions being bent to provide loops 30 for embracing the bails. The narrower portions 31 of the connectors 8 are looped around the inwardly-directed end portions 15 forming the straight side of each end-link 29. The looped end 30 has a cut-away portion 32 for receiving the narrowed end of the loop 31 while also providing for the insertion of a tool to pry this latter end away from the looped end 30 to release the end-link 29.

When it is desired to alter the length of the bracelet by either removing or adding a link the chain is released from its attachment to either the watch-case 6 or clasp 10 by prying open the loop on the member 8 or 18, whichever it may be, to release the end-link 29 or 12 of the section 9 to be altered. The end-link 12 or 29 may then be quickly removed from the bracelet-section by passing the curbed terminal link of the chain through the opening 16 between its inwardly-directed ends 15. One or more of the curbed links may then be removed by cutting them apart or extra links added to the chain. If the alteration is made at the clasp end of the bracelet-section the end-link 12 is attached to the section by inserting the terminal curbed link through its opening 16 and the ends 15 are then enclosed in the loop of the intermediate member 18 by bending the end 24 around into the cut-away portion 25 of the looped end 21. When thus connected the bracelet may be applied to the wrist and because of its flexibility it will readily conform to the contour thereof. Because of the oppositely curved sides 13 and 14 of the end-link 12 which conform to the curvature of the adjoining curbed link to which it is attached, the straight side of the end-link will lie in the median plane of the adjoining curb-link to overcome any tendency of the chain to twist.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that the present invention provides a novel form of connector for attaching curbed link bracelets to clasps and wrist-watches with a compact joint of neat and ornamental appearance and a joinder of the parts which prevents any tendency of the chain to twist.

It will be further observed that a novel form of construction is provided which facilitates the operation of altering the length of the bracelet by unskilled persons without marring or deforming the links of its chain sections.

It will also be apparent that the connector of

the present invention is of simple construction which lends to economical manufacture and assembly.

While I have herein shown and described a preferred form of the device, it is to be understood that modifications may be made in the structure and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Therefore, without limiting myself in this respect, I claim:

1. A flexible chain bracelet adapted for detachable connection to articles of jewelry comprising a plurality of curbed links forming a substantially flat chain, and a connecting end-link having a curbed portion for cooperation with a terminal curbed link of the chain and straight inwardly-directed end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship to provide an opening therebetween.

2. A flexible chain bracelet comprising a plurality of curbed links forming a substantially flat chain, and a connecting end-link having a central curbed portion for connection with a terminal curbed link of the chain and inwardly-directed end portions adapted to lie in the median plane of the curbed link, said end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship to provide an opening therebetween of a width greater than the thickness of the curbed link whereby the end-link may be quickly attached to or detached from the bracelet.

3. A flexible chain bracelet comprising a plurality of curbed links forming a substantially flat chain, and a triangular-shaped end-link having the sides adjacent one of its apexes oppositely curved to conform to the curvature of the curbed links and a straight side opposite said apex adapted to lie in the plane of the flat chain, the straight side of the end-link having an opening whereby said end-link may be quickly attached to or detached from the bracelet.

4. In a bracelet for wrist-watches, the combination of a substantially flat chain formed of a plurality of interconnected curbed links, a detachable end-link having a curbed portion for cooperation with a curbed link of the chain and straight inwardly-directed end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship, and a member adapted for attachment to a wrist-watch or clasp and provided with means for embracing the inwardly-directed end portions of the end-link.

5. In a bracelet for wrist-watches, the combination of a substantially flat chain formed of a plurality of interconnected curbed links, a clasp having a connecting loop at the end thereof, and an end-link having a curbed portion for cooperation with a terminal curbed link of the chain and inwardly-directed end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship whereby the end-link may be quickly attached to or removed from the

curbed link, said connecting loop on the clasp embracing the spaced-apart end portions of the end-link to connect it to the clasp.

6. In a bracelet for wrist-watches, the combination of a substantially flat chain formed by a plurality of interconnected curbed links, a clasp having a looped member pivotally mounted at one end thereof, and a connecting link of triangular shape having adjacent sides oppositely curved to conform to the contour of a terminal curbed link of the chain and a third side adapted to lie in the median plane of the curbed links of the chain and to be enclosed in the looped member, said third side having an opening formed therein to allow detachment of the connecting link from the curbed link connected therewith.

7. In a bracelet for wrist-watches, the combination of a flat chain formed of a plurality of interconnected curbed links, a connecting link at the end of the chain having a curbed portion for cooperation with the terminal curbed link of the chain and inwardly-directed end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship to permit the connecting link to be quickly attached and removed from the chain, and a connecting loop embracing the inwardly-directed end portions of the connecting link for attaching the bracelet to the watch.

8. In a bracelet for wrist watches, the combination of a pair of substantially flat chains formed of a plurality of curbed links having means at their ends for connecting them to the opposite sides of a wrist-watch, a clasp member, looped members connected to the ends of the clasp member, and a pair of connecting links having curbed portions for cooperation with the terminal curbed links at the opposite ends of the chains and straight inwardly-directed end portions embraced by the intermediate looped members, said end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship whereby the connecting links may be quickly attached to or detached from the terminal curbed links of the chains.

9. In a bracelet for wrist-watches, the combination of a pair of substantially flat chains formed of a plurality of curbed links, connecting links at the opposite ends of the chains having curbed portions for cooperating with the terminal curbed links of the chains and straight inwardly-directed end portions terminating in spaced-apart relationship, connecting members for attachment to the wrist-watch and having means for embracing the straight inwardly-directed end portions of the connecting links at the ends of the chains, and a clasp having connecting loops at its opposite ends from embracing the inwardly-directed end portions of the connecting links at the opposite ends of the chains.

CHARLES H. KESTENMAN.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.**Patent No. 2,018,068.****October 22, 1935.****CHARLES H. KESTENMAN.**

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction as follows: Page 3, second column, line 56, claim 9, for "from" read for; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 26th day of November, A. D. 1935.

Leslie Frazer**(Seal)****Acting Commissioner of Patents.**