INTERCHANGEABLE JEWELRY ITEM

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ABSTRACT

An earring that is convertible to a bracelet and vice versa is provided. The design comprises a chain of any type with magnetic clasps affixed at either end. Each earring may be attached to a person’s ear lobe by using the magnetic elements in each clasp—the magnet elements attract one another when each clasp is fixed on either side of the earlobe. Alternatively, the two earrings can be coupled together in order to form a bracelet. Corresponding clasps from each of the earrings are mated together (via their internal magnets) in order to form a pair of decorative globes.
INTERCHANGEABLE JEWELRY ITEM

[0001] This application claims priority of Provisional Application No. 60/650,507, filed Feb. 7, 2005.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to a jewelry system in which one or more earrings (preferably a pair or earrings) are convertible into a single necklace or bracelet by means of decorative magnetic clasps and the like. Jewelry items such as earrings and bracelets are typically made using precious and/or semi-precious metals, such as gold or silver, and often incorporate one or more precious or semi-precious stones, such as diamonds, to enhance the items appearance. Because such jewelry items are expensive, often one must choose to buy one or another in order to stay within "budget". However, depending on the occasion or event, it may be preferable to wear earrings as opposed to a bracelet, or vice versa. Furthermore, earrings often fall out and/or get lost (the tendency being to lose one earring only), rendering the remaining earring totally useless.

[0003] Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a single jewelry item that is suitable on either an earring or a bracelet.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In accordance with the invention, an earring that is convertible to a bracelet and vice versa is provided. The design comprises a chain of any type with magnetic clasps affixed at either end. Each earring may be attached to a person’s ear lobe by using the magnetic elements in each clasp—the magnet elements attract one another when each clasp is fixed on either side of the earlobe. Alternatively, the two earrings can be coupled together in order to form a bracelet. Corresponding clasps from each of the earrings are mated together (via their internal magnets) in order to form a pair of decorative globes.

[0005] Significantly, each clasp of the two earrings that are used to produce the bracelet preferably correspond in design, shape and size to the clasp with which it mates in order to ensure an aesthetically pleasing design.

[0006] Although magnets may be used to attach the clasps, other attachment mechanisms, such as an interengangeable pin, may be substituted.

[0007] Accordingly, it is an object to provide an improved jewelry item that is interchangable between an earring and a bracelet or necklace.

[0008] Still, other objects will be obvious and/or apparent from the description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] For a better understanding of the invention, reference is made to the following drawings in which:

[0010] FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of the jewelry item of the invention in an open, hanging condition;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the jewelry item shown in FIG. 1 in an almost closed condition; and

[0012] FIG. 3 is a front perspective view showing two of the inventive jewelry items coupled together at their ends in order to form a bracelet.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] The invention is directed to an earring or earrings convertible to a bracelet, and vice versa.

[0014] FIG. 1 shows a single earring 11 comprising a chain 12 with a clasp 13 fixed at either end. Each clasp 13 includes a magnetic element. Decorative elements 15, such as a jewelry stone or other decorative member (in this case, a decorative ball) are attached along the chain. Each clasp 13 is hemispherical in shape.

[0015] FIG. 2 shows earring 11 just about to be attached along a person’s earlobe—such attachment is facilitated by the magnet elements 14 in each clasp 13, which attract one another when each clasp is fixed on either side of an earlobe.

[0016] Significantly, the decorative design of the two clasp elements 13, when joined together by means of magnetic elements 14, is the same as or complementary to the design of decorative elements 15.

[0017] FIG. 3 shows two earrings 11A and 11B coupled together via clasps 13A and 13B at the ends of chains 12A and 12B in order to form a bracelet 21. Corresponding clasps 13A and 13B from each of the earrings are mated together via their respective magnetic elements 14 to form a pair of decorative globes 23. Globes 23 correspond to and are complementary of the design of decorative elements 15. Significantly, each clasp 13A and 13B of earrings 11A and 11B that are used to produce bracelet 21 preferably correspond in design, shape and size to the clasp with which it mates to ensure an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

[0018] Although magnets are used to attach the clasps, other attachment mechanisms, such as interengangeable pins, may be substituted.

[0019] Although, as shown in FIG. 3, the preferred design has the two earrings 11A and 11B coupled together in order to define a single bracelet 21, each earring, utilizing clasps, such as clasps 13A and 13B, could form its own individual bracelet. As a result and presuming chains 12A and 12B of earrings 11A and 11B are sufficiently long, a pair of earrings would be usable as two bracelets. Also, if large enough, the pair of earrings could define a necklace when the clasps are coupled together.

[0020] The scope of the invention is now defined in the following claims.

1. An interchangeable jewelry item comprising:
an extending chain having first and second ends and first and second clasp members at said corresponding ends;
wherein said clasp members are adapted to be fixed in a spaced position relative to one another about an earlobe in order for said jewelry item to define an earring; and
wherein said clasp members are adapted to engage one another in order to form a single mated clasp unit such that said jewelry item also defines a bracelet or necklace.

2. The jewelry item of claim 1, wherein each said clasp member includes a magnetic element for selectively attracting one clasp member to the other clasp member in order to form said mated clasp unit.
3. The jewelry item of claim 1, wherein said first clasp member and said second clasp member have corresponding configurations.

4. The jewelry item of claim 3, wherein said first clasp member has a hemispherical shape and said second clasp member has a corresponding hemispherical shape.

5. The jewelry item of claim 1, wherein said chain includes one or more decorative elements having a configuration which is complementary to the configuration of said individual clasps.

6. The jewelry item of claim 1, wherein said chain includes one or more decorative elements having a configuration which is complementary to that of said mated clasp unit.

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