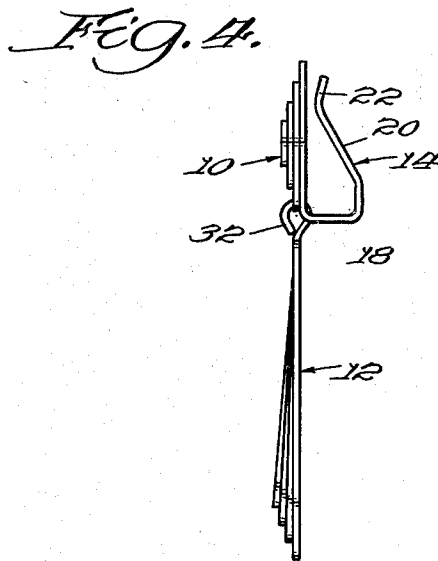
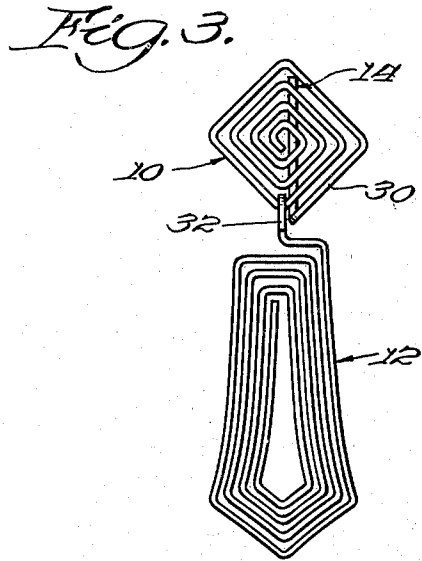
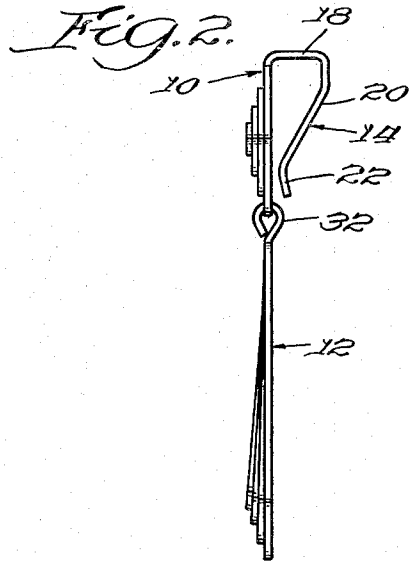
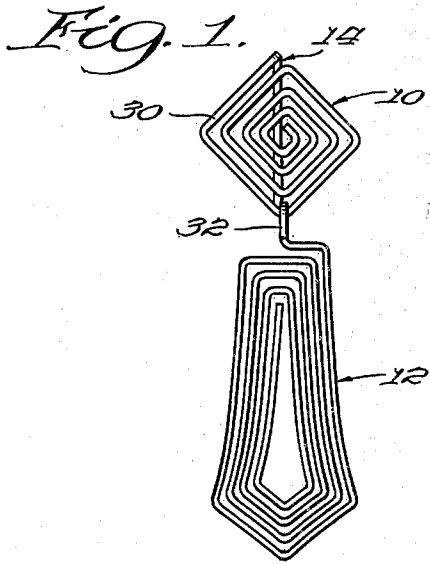


March 3, 1953

J. F. McDONALD  
CONVERTIBLE EARRING  
Filed Jan. 7, 1952

2,629,989



*Inventor:*  
*James F. McDonald.*  
*By* *Fulwider and Mattingly*  
*Attys.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,629,989

## CONVERTIBLE EARRING

James F. McDonald, Long Beach, Calif.

Application January 7, 1952, Serial No. 265,247

1 Claim. (Cl. 63—13)

1

The present invention relates in general to the jewelry art, and more particularly to ear rings.

Ear rings in use today are of two general types, the clip-on type and the pierced-ear type. The clip-on type ear ring includes as fastening means, two horizontally spaced surfaces between which the ear lobe of a wearer is frictionally received. The pierced-ear type, on the other hand, utilizes as fastening means a hooked arm of small cross-section adapted to be forced through a small opening formed in the flesh of the wearer's ear lobe. Inasmuch as most women wear only one of these types of ear rings, but not both types, it is presently necessary for jewelry manufacturers to market two distinct types of fastening means for their ear rings. This adds to cost of manufacturing conventional ear rings and hence to the retail price thereof. Moreover, it often occurs that a woman finds exactly the design of ear ring that she desires but this design is made only with the type of fastening means that she does not use.

It is a major object of the present invention to provide an ear ring which is selectively usable without material alteration as either a clip-on or pierced-ear type ear ring.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a novel ear ring incorporating a base member and a pendant secured thereto, which ear ring is selectively usable in one position as a clip-on type ear ring and in an inverted position as a pierced-ear type ear ring; the pendant always depending from the lowermost portion of the base member.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an ear ring incorporating a base member and a pendant secured thereto which pendant may be readily removed from its base member. This arrangement permits a plurality of pendants of varying design to be utilized with a single base member. Thus, several different pendants may be employed with but a single base member, thereby effecting a considerable saving in cost to the wearer as well as providing a unique concept which to the best of my knowledge is new to the jewelry art.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment thereof, taken in conjunction with the appended detailed drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of an ear ring embodying the present invention showing it in position for use as a pierced-ear type ear ring;

2

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the ear ring of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a front elevational view similar to Figure 1 but showing the ear ring in position for use as a clip-on type ear ring; and

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the ear ring of Figure 3.

Referring to the drawings, the preferred type of ear ring embodying the present invention comprises a base member 10 and a pendant member 12 attached thereto. The base member 10 includes fastening means 14 adapted to releasably secure the base member to a wearer's ear lobe.

It is contemplated that at such time as the ear ring is worn as a pierced ear type the base member 10 will assume the position shown in Figures 1 and 2. When the ear ring is worn as a clip-on type, however, the base member is rotated 180° to the position of Figures 3 and 4. It is an important feature of the present invention that the pendant member 12 will depend from the lower portion of the base member 10 regardless of the position of the base member. The manner whereby this feature is provided will be fully set forth hereinafter.

The fastening means or strip 14 shown in the appended drawings is of such a configuration that it may be utilized both when the ear ring is used as a pierced-ear type and when it is used as a clip-on type. To this end it will be observed that the fastening means is formed of strip material bent so as to define a horizontal portion 18 which extends outwardly away from the base member 10, an intermediate portion 20 which extends vertically away from the horizontal portion 18 and toward the base member 10, and an end portion 22 which terminates above the center of the base member. Moreover, the end portion 22 is bent outwardly away from the base member.

When the ear ring is to be utilized as a pierced-ear type, the end portion 22 may be inserted through a hole formed in the wearer's ear lobe. The base member 10 may then be forced downwardly whereby the intermediate portion 20 will be urged through the lobe hole. Finally, the horizontal portion 18 will be positioned within the lobe hole in such a manner as to support the base member in an attitude similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2.

When the ear ring is to be utilized as a clip-on type, the base member is inverted substantially 180° from its position of Figures 1 and 2 to the position of Figures 3 and 4. In this posi-

3

tion the wearer's ear lobe may be frictionally received between the end portion 22 of the fastening means 14 and the rear surface of the base element 10. The strip material from which the fastening means 14 is formed will preferably be sufficiently manipulatable that the horizontal distance between the end portion 22 and the rear of the base element may be adjusted so as to comfortably, yet securely, receive the wearer's ear lobe.

Preferably, the base member 10 will be formed of a single length of strip material bent so as to assume a generally volute configuration. Moreover, the fastening strip 14 will be bent from the outermost end of this strip material, as shown clearly in the drawings.

It will be observed that the pendant member 12 depends from the lower portion of the base member 10 both when the ear ring is used as a pierced-ear type and when it is used as a clip-on type. To this end the base member is formed with guide means, designated 30, which means extends along the height of the base member. The upper end of the pendant member 12, in turn, is formed with a connection element, or loop 32, having a sliding engagement with the guide means 30 whereby the pendant member may be moved from the top to the bottom of the base member at will. Conveniently, the guide means 30 may comprise the outermost portion of the strip material from which the base member is formed.

Preferably, the fastening strip 14 will constitute an integral continuation of the guide means 30, as indicated in the drawings.

This arrangement permits ready removal of the pendant member from the base member by merely sliding it over and off the end portion 22 of the fastening strip. Accordingly, any number of pendant members of varying design may be interchangeably utilized with but a single base member.

The pendant member may conveniently be formed of strip material similar to that used in forming the base member. In this manner a pleasing aesthetic effect may be created. Moreover, the fabrication of these ear rings from such strip material permits them to be manufactured quickly and economically.

It should be especially noted that the article of jewelry shown in the drawings may also be utilized as pin or lavalier, rather than as an ear ring. When used for this purpose, the base member and pendant will be positioned in the attitude shown in Figures 1 and 2.

4

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and changes may be made with respect to the aforescribed preferred embodiment without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

A convertible article of jewelry selectively usable as a clip-on type ear ring or a pierced-ear type ear ring, comprising: a base member formed of a single length of strip material bent so as to assume a generally volute configuration, the outermost end of said strip material terminating in a fastening strip for securing said base member to an ear lobe, said fastening strip having a horizontal portion which extends substantially normally away from said base member, an intermediate portion which extends vertically and toward said base member, and an end portion which terminates adjacent the end of said base member remote from said horizontal portion whereby an ear lobe may be positioned between said end portion and said base member when said article is utilized as a clip-on type ear ring, said end portion also being bent away from said base member whereby it may be inserted through a hole formed in an ear lobe when said article is utilized as a pierced-ear type ear ring; and a pendant member for use with said base member, said pendant member having a loop element slidably engaging the outermost portion of said strip material whereby said pendant member may be moved to one end of said base member when said article is utilized as a clip-on type ear ring, and to the opposite end of said base member when said article is utilized as a pierced-ear type ear ring, said pendant member being removable from said base member by sliding it over and off of the fastening strip portion thereof.

JAMES F. McDONALD.

#### REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

#### UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,684,783	Spear	Sept. 18, 1928
1,713,285	Juergens	May 14, 1929
2,009,537	Williams	July 30, 1935

#### FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
907,214	France	June 18, 1945