May 7, 1929. H. O. BIGNEY 1,711,985

WATCH BRACELET

Filed Oct. 13, 1926

Fig. 1.

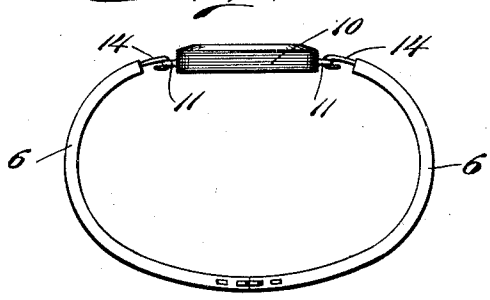



Fig. 2.

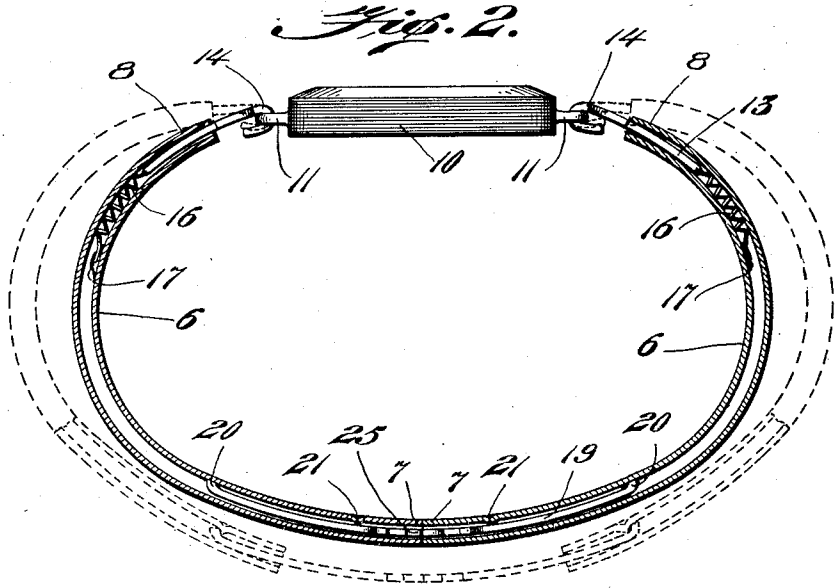



Fig. 3.

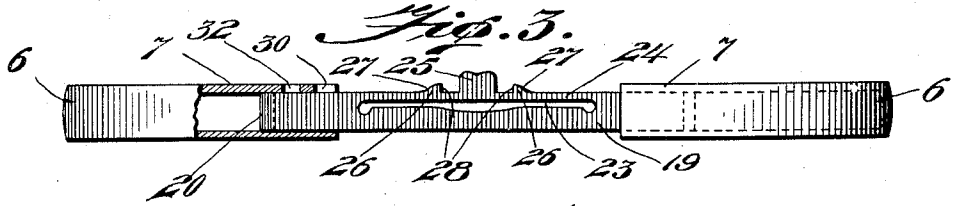
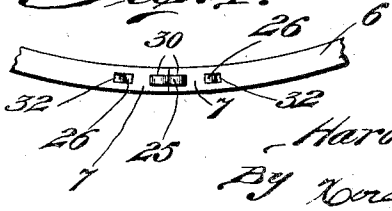



Fig. 4.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HAROLD O. BIGNEY, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## WATCH BRACELET.

Application filed October 13, 1926. Serial No. 141,315.

My invention relates to watch bracelets.

The essential objects of my invention are to afford such a degree of elasticity or expansibility as to accommodate the bracelet to wrists of varying sizes; to enable the bracelet to be entirely withdrawn from the wrist over the hand without disengaging the bracelet from the watch, notwithstanding the fact that the limit of elasticity of the bracelet does not permit a sufficient enlargement of the bracelet for this purpose; and to attain these results in a simple and inexpensive structure.

To the above ends primarily my invention consists in such parts and in such combinations of parts as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my bracelet engaged with a watch, and in closed or locked position,

Figure 2, a vertical section of the same, showing the watch in side elevation,

Figure 3, a front elevation, partially fragmentary, of same expanded, and

Figure 4, a fragmentary plan view of the bracelet in locked position.

Like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the views.

My bracelet comprises two longitudinally curved or substantially semielliptical hollow segments 6 formed from bent lengths of tubular stock composed preferably of precious metal or plated with precious metal, and of any preferred cross sectional contour.

In normal, closed, or locked position the inner adjacent ends 7 of the segments are contiguous with each other, while the outer ends 8 of the segments are interspaced to accommodate therebetween the usual watch 10 with its lateral attaching loop portions 11.

Detachable attaching members are provided comprising shanks 13 slidably mounted in the outer ends of the segments, and broad slightly flattened terminal hooks 14 engaging the loops 11 of the watch 10. These attaching or hook members are retained by helical springs 16 each attached at one end to a shank 13, and at its other end to an intermediate portion of the segment in any manner, such for instance by solder 17. A slide or guide strip 19 of thin resilient metal is slidable in the inner ends 7 of the segments 6. It has bent ends forming shoulders 20 adapted, when the segments are expanded, to abut against internal indent stop projections 21 near the extremities of the ends 7. Equidistant from its ends the strip 19 is provided with an oblong longitudinal slot 23 adjacent its top edge whereby is formed a resultant resilient depressible bridge 24 integral with whose central portion is a lug 25 constituting a thumb piece. At each side of the lug 25 are shoulders 26 upon the bridge, having in this instance their outer sides 27 inclined or rounded, and their opposite sides 28 adjacent the lug 25 vertical and relatively acute. Cavities 30 in the inner ends of the segments accommodate the lug 25 which projects therethrough when the bracelet is closed. In closed position the shoulders 26 register in openings 32 in the segment ends 7.

In order to apply the bracelet to the wrist the parts are in the positions shown in Figure 3 and in broken lines in Figure 2, which affords a sufficiently ample opening to admit the hand to be thrust therethrough, after which the ends 7 of the segments are manually pushed together and the shoulders snap into the openings 32 to fix the parts upon the wrist. To release the bracelet the lug 25 is downwardly pressed by the operator's thumb or nail to depress the shoulders 26 from their seats 32 which permits the segments to separate and swing upon the hooks 14 as pivots.

It will thus be seen that in order to remove the bracelet from the wrist it is not necessary to attempt to unhook the watch, a feat which is very difficult to perform, particularly with one hand. It will be further noted that the resiliency afforded by the springs 16 enables the bracelet to comfortably adapt itself to wrists of various sizes.

I claim:—

1. In a watch bracelet wherein there are relatively movable tubular segments, the combination with such segments, of a resilient guide strip telescoping the adjacent inner ends of such segments and having its ends provided with shoulders, and a resilient depressible bridge with a lug near its mid length

and shoulders upon opposite sides of said lug, the adjacent ends of said segments having openings to receive said lug, the shoulders of the guide strip engageable with the segments and the lug and shoulders of the bridge engageable in said openings in the segment ends.

2. A watch bracelet according to claim 1 in which the segments have internal indent stop projections to cooperate with said shoulders of the strip.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

HAROLD O. BIGNEY.