May 10, 1949. L. A. TRUCKENMILLER 2,469,532

WRIST WATCH STRAP

Filed Aug. 3, 1945

Fig. 1

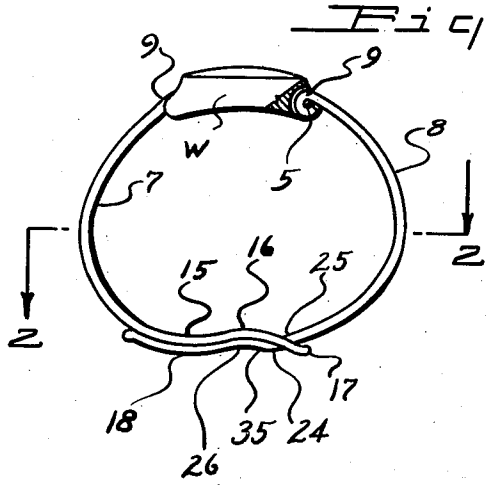


Fig. 7

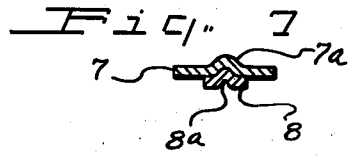


Fig. 4

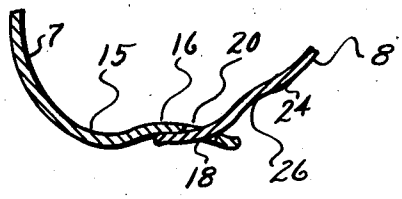
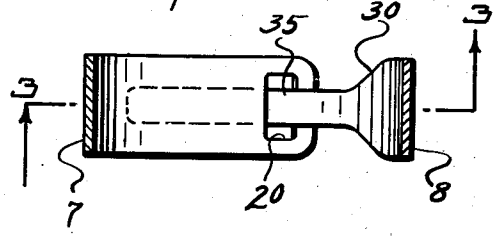


Fig. 2



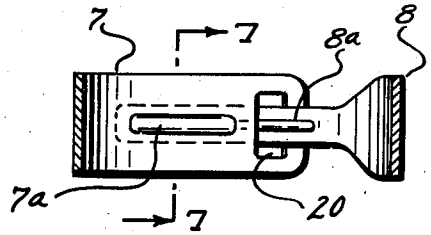


Fig. 6

Fig. 5

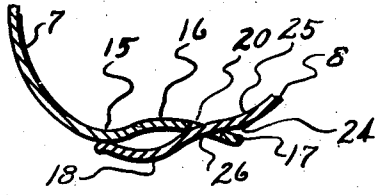
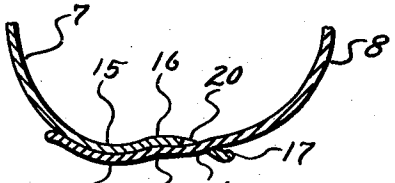


Fig. 3



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WRIST WATCH STRAP

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Application August 3, 1945, Serial No. 608,665

3 Claims. (Cl. 224—4)

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My present invention has to do with improvements in wrist watch bands, having as an object the provision of a band capable of being made of strips such as of metal or plastic and embodying novel self-locking means.

Another object is the provision of an economical and extremely durable wrist watch band capable of being readily applied to and removed from the wrist and which may be worn with maximum comfort.

Another object is the provision of a wrist watch band having lock means which may be readily permanently adjusted to adapt it to fit any given size of wrist.

Another object is ot provide, in conjunction with the main locking means, a pair of safety-lock features.

Another object is the provision of a wrist watch band having novel reinforcing means which also serves to retain the segments against swinging sideways relative to each other.

It is a well known fact that conventional wrist watch bands for the most part possess some rather serious shortcomings from the standpoint of practical use. Leather and plastic bands wear relatively rapidly, necessitating frequent replacement, and although bands have been proposed, they have lacked any efficient means for securing the band about the wrist. My present invention successfully overcomes these shortcomings.

The invention possesses still further objects which will become apparent from the following detailed description of a presently preferred embodiment, for which purpose I shall refer to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view;

Fig. 2 is a plan view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary elevational view showing the parts in another position effecting a safety lock;

Fig. 5 is another fragmentary elevational view showing the band in still another safety-locking position;

Fig. 6 is a view like Fig. 2 but showing a modified form of device; and

Fig. 7 is a section taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Referring now to the drawings, I show at W a conventional wrist watch having at its ends the usual band-retaining cross bars 5. While I shall describe my device as a wrist watch band, it will be understood, of course, that it is suitable for use to retain any element on the wrist, such as an identification tag or other element.

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My improved wrist watch band consists generally of two opposed, curved wrist-engaging strap elements or segments 7 and 8, each curved at its upper end 9 to engage about one of the bars 5, so as to be swingable thereabout. The other ends of the straps overlap each other as will be described.

Strap element 7, which I shall term the female element, is outwardly curved from its end 9 about a substantial radius to a point 15 spaced inwardly from its free end, at which point it curves inwardly at 16, having a slightly curved free end portion 17 and being provided between portions 16, 17 with a slot 20 for the purpose to be described.

Strap element 8, which I call the male strap element, is likewise curved outwardly from its end 9 to a point 25 where, after a relatively short radius curve 24, it curves inwardly at 26 to conform to the curvature of portion 16 of strap 7, from which point it again curves outwardly at 18 to conform to the curvature of portion 15 of strap 7.

At a point spaced inwardly from its free end, strap 8 tapers at 30 (Fig. 2) to an end portion 35 of relatively narrow width capable of passing through the slot 20.

From the foregoing it will be observed that when the strap elements 7, 8 are engaging about the wrist of a wearer and the end portion 35 of strap 8 inserted through slot 20, the overlapping portion of strap 7 bears directly against the wrist of the wearer and, by virtue of the fulcrum provided by strap 8 bearing against the right-hand end wall of slot 20, the curved portions 16, 26 and 15, 18 are held together and caused to lock the straps about the wrist. The straps are preferably made of a somewhat resilient metal so that the fit about the wrist is a somewhat yieldable one. Typically, I make the straps from strips of Duralumin metal.

To remove the band, the free end of strap 8 is pulled slightly outwardly or away from strap 7 by the fingers, to disengage the cooperating curved portions, and then the narrow portion 35 of strap 8 will pass longitudinally outwardly through the slot 20 until the straps are disengaged from each other.

By virtue of the several cooperating curves of the strap elements, two successive safety-locking positions are provided as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. That is, in Fig. 5 the portion 26 of strap 8 fulcrums in slot 20 while the free end

bears against curved portion 15 of strap 7. In Fig. 4 curved portion 18 of strap 8 fulcrums in the slot while the free end portion bears against curved portion 16 of strap 7. It is readily possible by means of a suitable forming or bending tool to re-form the curves to conform to any given wrist size and shape.

In Figs. 6 and 7 I show a variational form of the invention wherein the parts are as before described except that the overlapping portions of the straps 7 and 8 have longitudinally disposed interfitting embossed portions 7*a*, 8*a*, which not only reinforce the straps but, when in interengaged position, prevent them from swinging sideways relative to each other.

While, in the foregoing, I have resorted to considerable detail of structure and association of parts in describing a particular example of my invention, I wish it to be understood that I have done so merely to make my invention understood and that I do not limit my invention to such details. On the contrary, my invention is only to be limited as appears in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A wristband for a watch or the like comprising a pair of resilient, oppositely disposed, curved straps each having means at its inner end for pivotal attachment to a watch or the like, said straps being long enough to overlap each other at their outer end portions when in position encircling a wrist, one of said straps having a slot therethrough adjacent its outer end capable of passing the overlapping portion of the other strap whereby one wall of the slot provides a fulcrum for said other strap, and the overlapping portions of the straps having registering curved portions frictionally engageable against each other.

2. A wristband for a watch or the like comprising a pair of resilient, oppositely disposed, curved straps each having means at its inner end for pivotal attachment to a watch or the like and being long enough to overlap each other at their outer end portions when in position encircling a wrist, one of the straps having adjacent its outer end a slot capable of passing the overlapping portion of the other strap, and the overlapping portions of both straps presenting serpentine-like registering curved portions frictionally engageable against each other.

3. A wristband for a watch or the like comprising a pair of resilient, oppositely disposed, curved straps each having means at its inner end for pivotal attachment to a watch or the like and being long enough to overlap each other at their outer end portions when in position encircling a wrist, one of the straps having adjacent its outer end a slot and the other strap having a relatively narrow outer end portion passable through the slot into position overlapping and frictionally engaging the outer surface of the other strap adjacent the slot, the frictionally engaging surfaces of the straps having cooperating, registering curved portions.

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