Sept. 24, 1940. C. H. KESTENMAN 2,215,526

CLASP OR CONNECTOR FOR BRACELETS, CHAINS, NECKLACES, OR THE LIKE

Filed March 5, 1938

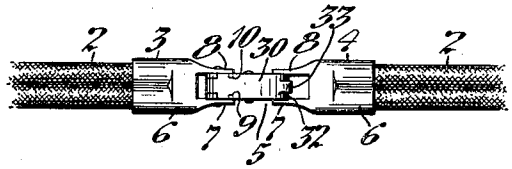

Fig. 1.

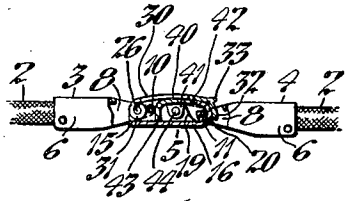

Fig. 2.

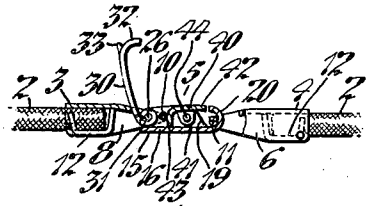

Fig. 3.

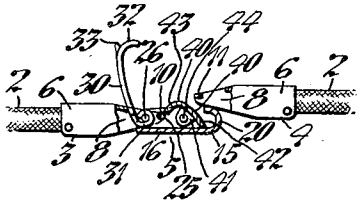

Fig. 4.

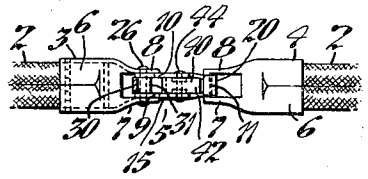

Fig. 6.

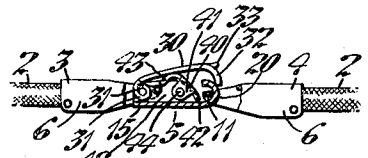

Fig. 5.

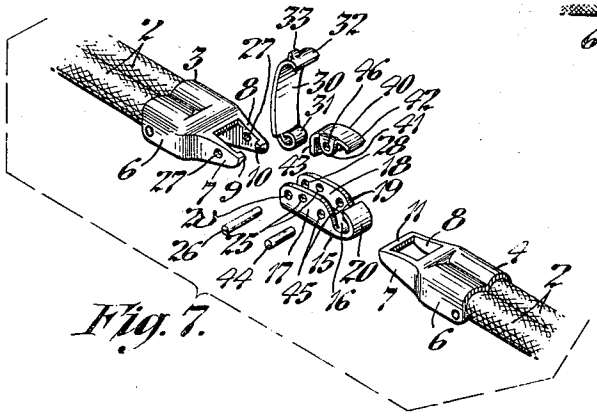

Fig. 7.

Inventor:
Charles H. Kestenman
By Pennington and Hume
Attorneys

Patented Sept. 24, 1940 2,215,526

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,215,526

CLASP OR CONNECTOR FOR BRACELETS, CHAINS, NECKLACES, OR THE LIKE

Charles H. Kestenman, Providence, R. I., assignor to Kestenman Bros. Mfg. Co., Providence, R. I., a corporation of Rhode Island

Application March 5, 1938, Serial No. 194,130

3 Claims. (Cl. 24—241)

The present invention relates to an improved connector or clasp for joining the opposite ends of a strap, band, chain, necklace, bracelet or the like.

One object of the invention is to provide a clasp of the type indicated having a safety detent-latch for retaining the end of the bracelet attached to the clasp if the latter is accidently unlatched.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clasp of the type indicated having a detent-latch adapted to yield to permit the bracelet end to be connected to the clasp while resisting movement in the opposiae direction to retain the end of the bracelet connected.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clasp of the type indicated having a hinged latching plate overlying the detent-latch to positively hold the end of the bracelet connected.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a clasp of the type indicated which is of simple and compact construction, economical to manufacture, and neat and ornamental in appearance.

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

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a portion of a cord bracelet showing the terminal members at the opposite ends of the bracelet connected by the improved clasp constituting the subject-matter of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the clasp showing the terminal members attached thereto and illustrating the parts of the clasp in closed relationship;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the latching plate raised to open position and the bail of one of the terminal members retained in the clasp by the detent-latch;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the detent-latch rocked about its pivot to permit the bail of the terminal member to be connected to or removed from the clasp;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the manner in which the hinged latching plate engages the detent-latch as the plate is swung toward the body member to rock the latch into cooperative relationship with the hook of the clasp to cause it to overlie the bail of the terminal member;

Fig. 6 is a part-sectional plan view of the clasp showing the alined relationship of the detent-latch and hook of the clasp; and

Fig. 7 is an extended perspective view of the parts of the clasp.

Clasps for joining the opposite ends of wrist-watch bracelets or the like usually comprise a body-member permanently connected to one end of the bracelet and adapted to detachably connect the opposite end of the bracelet. The detachable end of the bracelet is normally held in the body-member by an element hinged thereto and adapted to be latched in closed position overlying the connected bracelet-end. If the hinged element is accidently unlatched the detachable end of the bracelet is apt to slip out of the body-member and release the bracelet. As a result, the wrist-watch or other article held by the bracelet may be dropped and damaged or even lost. The clasp of the present invention incorporates a detent-latch which is depressible to permit the end of the bracelet to be detachably connected to the clasp while resisting movement in the opposite direction to prevent disconnection of the bracelet-end independently of the hinged latching element.

Fig. 1 of the drawing illustrates a cord bracelet comprising a pair of looped cords 2 having terminal members 3 and 4 at their ends joined by a clasp 5 constituting the subject-matter of the present invention. It is to be understood, however, that the clasp 5 is not limited to use with cord bracelets but may be employed with other types of bracelets or with straps, bands, chains, necklaces or the like. The terminal members 3 and 4 are of usual construction comprising a housing 6 for receiving the ends of the looped cords 2 and a rockable element 12 for gripping or clamping the cord-ends in the housing, see Fig. 3. The terminal member 3 has forwardly-extending side walls 7 and 8 with inwardly-projecting lugs 9 and 10 at their ends for connecting it to the clasp 5 in a manner as later more fully explained. The terminal member 4 is similar in general to the member 3, but instead of having lugs 9 and 10 it is provided with a bar or bail 11 extending between the ends of its side walls 7 and 8.

The clasp 5 comprises a body-member 15 having a bottom wall 16 and side walls 17 and 18 projecting upwardly from the opposite edges of the bottom wall with their forward edges 19 inclined toward the bottom wall. The bottom wall 16 projects beyond the inclined edges 19 of the side walls 17 and 18 and is curled upwardly and rearwardly to form a curved hook 20. The terminal

member 3 is permanently connected to the body-member 15 by means of the inwardly-directed lugs 9 and 10 which project into alined holes 25 in the side walls 17 and 18 of the body-member. To prevent rocking movement of the clasp 5 on the lugs 9 and 10 a pin 26 is inserted through alined holes 27 in the side walls 7, 8 of the terminal member 3 and holes 28 in the side walls 17 and 18 of the body-member 16; the pin being headed over at its ends to hold it in place.

A latching plate or cover 30 is hingedly mounted on the body-member 15 to adapt it to close its open top and overlie the hook 20 to positively retain the bail 11 of the terminal connector 4 therein. As herein illustrated the latching plate 30 is of a contour corresponding to the shape of the top of the body-member 15 and has a norrowed end tab 31 curled around the pin 26 between the side walls 17 and 18 to hingedly mount the latching plate on the body-member. The end of the latching plate 30 opposite from its pivoted end 31 is of arcuate contour, as indicated by the reference character 32, to form a catch adapted to snap over the rounded hook 20 at the end of the body-member 15. A finger-grip 33 is formed on the curved end 32 of the latching plate 30 by striking up the metal. Thus, when the latching plate 30 is rocked downwardly about the pivot-pin 26 it may be latched in closed position overlying the body-member 15 by snapping its end 32 over the end of the hook 20 of the body-member.

The auxiliary safety detent-latch 40 is pivotally mounted on the body-member 15 and adapted to overlie the opening of the hook 20 beneath the latching plate 30. The detent-latch 40 is in the form of a lever having a forwardly-projecting toe 42, a rearward depending stop-finger 43 and lateral hinge-ears 41 intermediate its ends. A pin 44 extends through alined holes 45 in the side walls 17 and 18 of the body-member 15 and holes 46 in the hinge-ears 41 of the detent-latch to pivotally mount the latter on the clasp. The dimensions of the detent-latch 40 and the location of the pivot-pin 44 are such that the toe-portion 42 of the latch forms a continuation of the hook 20 on the body-member 15 when the end of the stop-finger 43 engages the bottom wall 16 of the body-member as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. The toe 42 thus overlies the opening of the hook 20 to retain the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 therein. The detent-latch 40 is prevented from movement to rock its toe 42 outwardly of the body-member by the engagement of the end of its stop-finger 43 with the bottom wall 16 of the body-member. The detent-latch 40 is adapted to rock on the pivot-pin 44 to the position shown in Figs. 4 and 5 to depress its toe 42 below the end of the hook 20 of the body-member 15 to permit the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 to be engaged therewith or to be released therefrom.

To attach the end of the bracelet to the clasp 5 the latching plate 30 is swung about its pivot-pin 26 to open position, as illustrated in Fig. 3, and the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 is pressed down against the toe-portion 42 of the latch 40. The toe-portion 42 of the latch will thus be depressed out of alinement with the end of the hook 20 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 to permit the bail 11 to pass into the hook. The hinged latching plate 30 is then swung on the pin 26 toward the open side of the body-member 15. Adjacent the end of its swinging movement the under side of the latching plate 30 will engage the curved portion 43 of the detent-latch 40 as illustrated in Fig. 5 to rock the latter to the position shown in Fig. 2. The toe-portion 42 of the latch 40 is thus rocked into alinement with the end of the hook 20 of the body-member 15 while being restrained from outward movement by the engagement of the end of its stop-finger 43 with the bottom wall 16 of the body-member. Continued rocking movement of the latching plate 30 causes its curved end 32 to snap over the end of the hook 20 of the body-member 15 to latch the cover in closed position thereon. The latching plate 30 then overlies the opening of the hook 20 to positively retain the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 therein.

Should the latching plate 30 be accidentally released and swung to the open position illustrated in Fig. 3, the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 will be retained in the hook 20 by the toe-portion 42 of the detent-latch 40. If the bail 11 is forced upwardly in the hook 20 it will engage the toe-portion 42 of the detent-latch 40 which is prevented from outward movement by the engagement of the end of the finger 43 with the bottom wall 16 of the body-member 15. When it is desired to release the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 from the clasp 5 so that the bracelet 2 may be removed from the wrist the latching plate 30 is swung to its open position and the detent-latch 40 rocked on its pivot-pin 44 to the position illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5. This is readily accomplished by manually depressing the toe-portion 42 of the latch 40 below the end of the hook 20 on the body-member 15, thereby opening the hook for withdrawal of the bail 11. When the bracelet 2 is to be replaced on the wrist the bail 11 of the terminal member 4 is again engaged with the hook 20 in the manner previously explained and the latching lever 30 swung to closed position on the body-member 15 and latched by snapping its curved end 32 over the end of the hook 20.

It will be observed that the present invention provides a clasp for connecting the ends of a strap, band, chain, necklace, bracelet or the like with a safety detent-latch adapted to yield to permit the end of the bracelet to be joined thereto while resisting movement in the opposite direction to retain the parts connected. It will also be observed that the invention provides a clasp having a minimum number of parts to adapt it for economical manufacture and of simple and compact construction to render it suitable for its intended use.

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

1. In a device of the type indicated, the combination with a bracelet, of terminal members at the opposite ends of the bracelet, one of said terminal members having inturned lugs at one end and the other terminal member having a transverse bail at its end, and a clasp for connecting the terminal members comprising a body-member having a bottom wall, side walls and a hook at one end, said side walls having holes for receiving the inturned lugs on one of the terminal members to attach it to the body-member, a pin extending through said terminal member and side walls of the body-member at a point spaced from the lugs to hold the terminal member against pivotal movement thereon, said hook be-

ing adapted to detachably engage the bail of the opposite terminal member, a detent-latch on the body-member cooperating with the hook to hold the bail therein, and a latching plate hingedly mounted on the body-member of the clasp and adapted to overlie the detent-latch and close the open top of the body-member.

2. A clasp for connecting the ends of a bracelet, chain or the like comprising a body-member having a bottom wall, side walls and an open top, one end of the bottom wall extending beyond the side walls and shaped as a hook, a detent-latch pivotally mounted on the body-member and having a toe-portion at one side of its pivot for cooperation with the end of the hook to close the opening of the latter and also provided with a stop at the opposite side of its pivot, said detent-latch being rockable in one direction to depress its toe into the body-member to open the hook and held against rocking movement in the opposite direction by the engagement of its stop with the body-member whereby to retain the bracelet end connected to the hook, and a cover-member pivoted to the body-member and having a curved end overlying the hook to adapt it to snap into engagement therewith to close the open top of the body-member.

3. A clasp for connecting the ends of a bracelet or the like comprising a body-member having a bottom wall, side walls and an open top, one end of the bottom wall extending beyond the side walls and bent around to form a hook, a detent-latch pivotally mounted on the body-member and having a toe-portion at one side of its pivot and a depending stop-finger at the opposite side of its pivot, said detent-latch being adapted to be rocked by the engagement of the looped end of the bracelet against its toe-portion to open the hook while resisting rocking movement in the opposite direction by the engagement of its depending stop-finger with the bottom wall of the body-member, and a cover-member hinged to the body-member at the opposite end from the hook and having a curved portion at its free end adapted to snap over the hook on the body-member, such closing of the cover-member acting to rock the detent-latch to cause its toe to close across the opening of the hook and to clasp the cover-member around the hook on the body-member.

CHARLES H. KESTENMAN.