July 27, 1937. L. C. MARK 2,088,088

INTERCHANGEABLE CHARACTER ORNAMENT

Filed Jan. 23, 1936

Fig. 1.

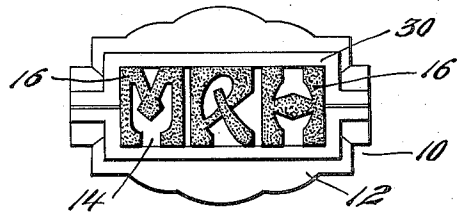


Fig. 2.

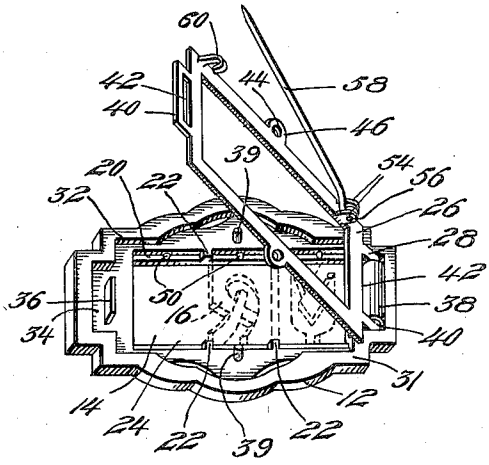


Fig. 3.

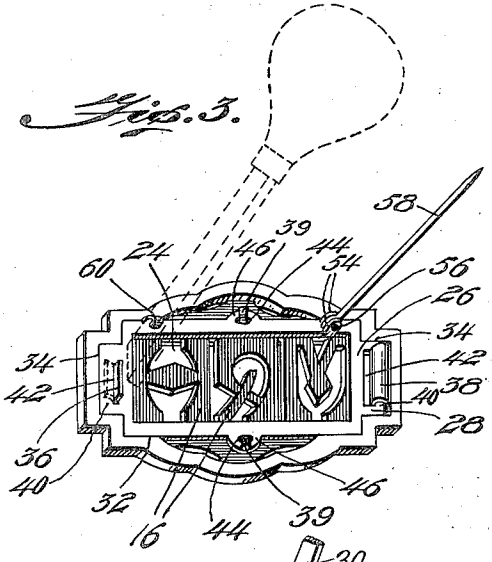
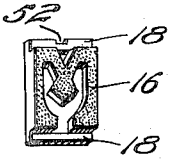


Fig. 4.



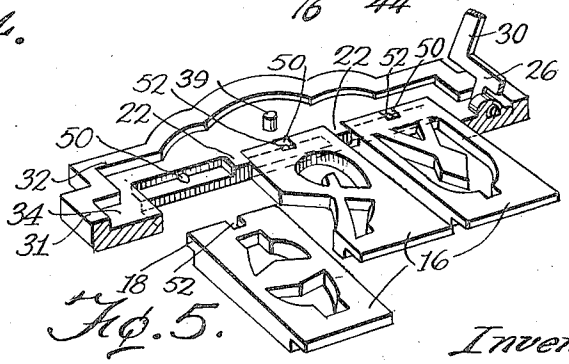


Fig. 5.

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Patented July 27, 1937

2,088,088

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,088,088

INTERCHANGEABLE CHARACTER ORNAMENT

Louis C. Mark, Providence, R. I., assignor to New England Glass Works, Providence, R. I., a partnership composed of Alex Weiner and Isaac L. Rice

Application January 23, 1936, Serial No. 60,480

2 Claims. (Cl. 40—140)

My invention relates to improvements in ornaments having an opening therein adapted to receive selective interchangeable characters such as initials, numbers, representations of animate or inanimate objects and the like. While my invention is primarily adapted for use in making up initial monograms on brooches or pins, it is apparent it may be used on bracelets, watch fobs, buckles or any other articles of jewelry.

I am aware that others have made various types of monogram ornaments adapted to be sold by the manufacturer as units along with different letters of the alphabet so that the consumer may go into a retail jewelry store and have the jeweler set the proper selected characters or initials into the ornament distinctive of the monogram of the purchaser or otherwise and may permanently affix them within the ornament on individual order. My invention relates to improvements in this type of ornament constructed with a view of making the ready insertion of selected initials to make up a monogram more easily accomplished by the retail jeweler than has been possible in former constructions. With this end in view I have provided a front frame ornament member having an opening therein to receive the characters and a back frame member hinged thereto by the manufacturer so that all the retail jeweler needs to do after dropping the characters in the desired character divisions in the opening which character divisions are so constructed that the initials immediately fall into place, is to pivot the back frame member downwardly and simply secure it thereto.

Further features of my invention relate to the particular construction I employ including lugs forming character initial divisions in each opening so that the initials may readily fall in place right side up.

A further object of my invention is to provide a monogram ornament in which the characters forming the monogram project forwardly in relief through the opening.

I additionally preferably employ open-work letters and a further object of my invention is to provide a pivotally mounted frame which may securely clamp the initials to the ornament without obstructing the opening or the open-work letters permitting the jewelry of the open-work letters to vividly contrast against the background of the user's dress.

A further feature of my invention is to provide a construction wherein the attaching means for the selected initials or characters are all formed in closed position to lie within the normal depth of the ornament and not protrude rearwardly therefrom.

These and such other objects of my invention as may hereinafter appear may be best understood from a description of the accompanying drawing which illustrates an embodiment thereof.

In the drawing, Fig. 1 is a front view of an ornament constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view of the same with the rear frame member thereof pivoted to an open position for the selective insertion of the selected initials making up the desired monogram therein by the retail jeweler, two of the initials being shown in dotted lines.

Fig. 3 is a rear perspective view thereof after the initials or characters forming the desired monogram have been made up and the rear frame member pivoted to a closed position clamping the initials to the ornament and in the act of being permanently secured thereto by the retail jeweler.

Fig. 4 is a rear perspective view of one of the initial character members I preferably employ.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one half of my improved ornament cut longitudinally substantially through the middle to show the edge thereof in section, the respective ornament being shown in elevation.

In the drawing, wherein like characters of reference generally indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates an ornament having an opening 14 for the mounting of selected character members therein preferably initial members making up a monogram constructed in accordance with my invention. The ornament includes a front member 12 preferably stamped, pressed or otherwise shaped of preferably pliable metal for a purpose to be described, having an opening 14 for the mounting of selected character members 16 therein. The top and bottom walls of said interchangeable character members 16 are preferably provided with flanges 18 projecting outwardly from the rear edges of the top and bottom walls thereof, and I provide grooves 20 in the rear wall of said ornament along the top and bottom edges of the opening 14 having similar vertically aligned sets of lug means 22 thereon preferably horizontally equi-distantly spaced forming between them character divisions 24 of equal width in said opening 14. It is thus apparent that the character members 16 may be inserted face foremost from the rear of each character division 24 so that the flanges 18 thereof abut the grooves 20 adjacent the top and bottom walls of said opening 14 in the rear wall of said

ornament 12 within each respective character division 24. And I provide means 26 adapted to be secured to the rear wall of said ornament to overlappingly retain said flanges 18 of said selected character members 16 within said grooves 20, in my preferred embodiment, said means 26 preferably having an end 28 pivotally mounted on the rear wall of said ornament so that said means may be pivoted to a closed position and be securable after selective insertion of the desired character members in said opening 14 to the rear wall of said ornament to over-lappingly retain said flanges 18 within said grooves 20. In my preferred embodiment, said means 26 is preferably of greater area than the opening 14 and said interchangeable character members preferably are constructed of open-work formation so that said means 26 will not obscure said opening and so that said character members 16 may project forwardly in relief in said opening 14 against the background of the user.

In the specific embodiment of brooch shown, the front member 12 formed of pliable metal is provided with a central rectangular opening 14 and also preferably with portions extending laterally outwardly beyond said opening in the front wall thereof having flat top, bottom and end portions adjacent said opening forming the appearance of a frame mounted centrally within the ornament, said ornament being provided with ornamented portions exterior of said frame 30. The rear wall 31 of said ornament 12 is provided with inset grooves adjacent the top, bottom and end walls of said opening forming a central inset substantially rectangular portion 32 of greater area than said opening 14. In the specific embodiment shown, the end walls of said inset portion 32 are provided with the extension end grooves 34 of similar depth extending centrally outwardly therefrom having within vertically extending integral strips 36 and 38 projecting upwardly therefrom spaced from the ends of said extension grooves 34. Supplemental grooves 20 of greater depth than said inset grooves are provided along the top and bottom edges of the rear wall of said opening each having a plurality of sets of lugs 22 therein equi-distantly spaced from the end walls of said grooves and opening, and adjacent sets of lugs 22 aligned with similarly spaced lugs on the opposite groove to form character divisions 24 of equal width and height in said opening 14. I also for a purpose to be described, provide pliable lugs 39 projecting rearwardly from the rear wall of said front member preferably exterior of said top and bottom supplemental grooves 20.

As a means to secure the interchangeable character members 16 within said ornament, I provide a rear clamping hollow rectangular frame member 26 of substantially the size of said inset portion 32 in the rear wall of said front member 12 having central extensions 40 on the ends thereof substantially the size of said extension grooves 34 and having vertical slits 42 therein to receive the pliable strips 36 and 38 projecting outwardly from the grooves 34 in the rear wall of said front member. In use, one strip 38 is crimped over the outer end of one clamping extension 40 by the manufacturer as shown in Fig. 2 to permit pivotable movement of said frame member for mounting of selective character members 16 in the respective character divisions 24. After the desired character members 16 or letters to make up the desired monogram shown in Fig. 1 have been selectively assembled within the opening by the retail jeweler, the frame member 26 is pivoted downwardly to permit the strip 36 to project through the slit 42 in the opposite end of said frame member 26. To firmly retain said opposite end of said frame member 26 to said front member 12, said pliable strip 36 is crimped outwardly by the retail jeweler preferably by means of the crimping tool shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3. The side walls of said frame member are also provided with the holes 44, in the embodiment shown in extensions 46 projecting laterally therefrom to receive the lug means 39 and after such insertion, the ends of said lug means may then be suitably upset, if desired, by the same crimping tool, to assist in securing the top and bottom walls of said frame member 26 to said front member and said character members 16 within said opening 14 along their length.

If desired, as shown in Fig. 5 to assist the retail jeweler in assembling the letters within their respective character divisions right side up, each character member 16 and each character division 24 in said front member may be provided with cooperating insignia thereon in the embodiment shown, a supplemental prong 50 projecting upwardly centrally of a groove 20 in each division 24 and a slit 52 in a flange 18 of each character member to guide the retail jeweler to permit rapid insertion of each character member 16 in proper vertical alignment within each division 24.

In the specific embodiment shown, I have employed a brooch and for this purpose the pivot ears 54 may be integrally struck up to project rearwardly from the top wall of the frame member 26 for mounting of a suitable pivot pin 56 for the pivotable pin shank 58 and a suitable locking lug 60 for the opposite end of the pivotable pin shank 58 may be similarly struck up to project rearwardly from the top wall of the frame member 26.

As I preferably construct my improved ornament member of pliable material it is obvious that the ends of the locking strips 36 and 38 and the respective ends of the lugs 39 may be readily respectively crimped over or upset by the retail jeweler preferably by means of the simple crimping tool shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3.

It is thus apparent that I have provided a novel type of ornament having means for securing selected characters in an opening thereof hingedly secured thereto for the ready selective assembly of the desired monogram or other assembly thereof therein by the retail jeweler and a construction which will permit the respective character members to fall in place in selective alignment to facilitate assembly by the retail jeweler and with the other advantages explained above.

It is understood that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiment shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. An ornament comprising a front member for mounting of selective character members therein having a central rectangular opening, a front wall having flat top, bottom and end portions adjacent said opening, a rear wall having inset grooves adjacent the top, bottom and end walls of said opening forming a central inset portion of greater area than said opening, supplemental grooves of greater depth along the top and bottom edges of the rear wall of said opening each having a plurality of sets of lugs therein equi-distantly spaced from the end walls of said grooves and opening

and adjacent sets aligned with similarly spaced lugs on the opposite groove to form character divisions of equal size in said opening, rectangular interchangeable character members of similar size, each of a height substantially that of said opening and of a width substantially that of said character divisions, having flanges projecting outwardly from the rear edges of each top and bottom wall thereof, mounted from the rear in said supplemental grooves to have said central character portions project forwardly in relief through said opening, a rear clamping rectangular frame member, and means to firmly secure said rear frame member within said central inset portion of said front member rear wall to rigidly secure the flanges of said character members within said supplemental grooves, a wall of each character member and each character division in said front member having cooperating insignia therein to permit rapid insertion of each character member in proper vertical alignment with each division.

2. An ornament comprising a front member for mounting of selective character members therein having a central rectangular opening, a front wall having flat top, bottom and end portions adjacent said opening, a rear wall having inset grooves adjacent the top, bottom and end walls of said opening forming a central inset portion of greater area than said opening, supplemental grooves of greater depth along the top and bottom edges of the rear wall of said opening each having a plurality of sets of lugs therein equi-distantly spaced from the end walls of said grooves and opening and adjacent sets aligned with similarly spaced lugs on the opposite groove to form character divisions of equal size in said opening, rectangular interchangeable character members of similar size, each of a height substantially that of said opening and of a width substantially that of said character divisions, having flanges projecting outwardly from the rear edges of each top and bottom wall thereof, mounted from the rear in said supplemental grooves to have said central character portions project forwardly in relief through said opening, a rear clamping rectangular frame member, and means to firmly secure said rear frame member within said central inset portion of said front member rear wall to rigidly secure the flanges of said character members within said supplemental grooves.

LOUIS C. MARK.