Dec. 25, 1956 W. GOLLOBIN 2,775,014

CUSHIONING ACCESSORY FOR EARRINGS

Filed Aug. 5, 1953

Fig. 1.

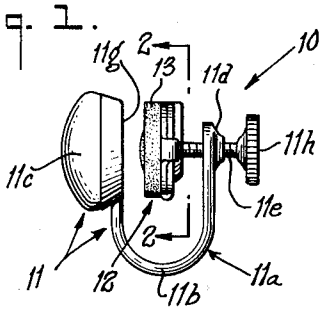


Fig. 2.

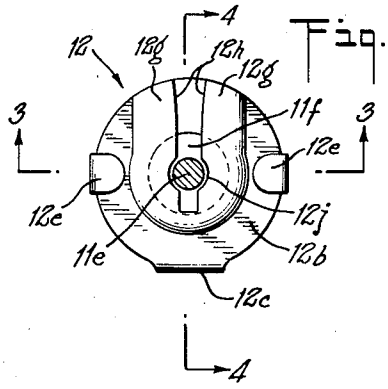


Fig. 3.

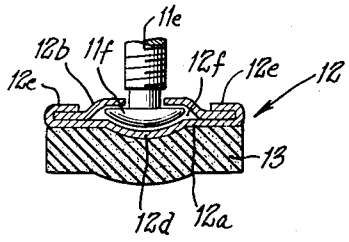
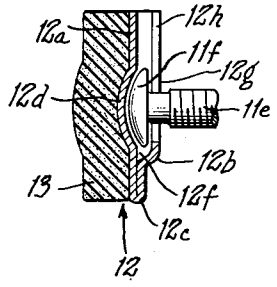


Fig. 4.



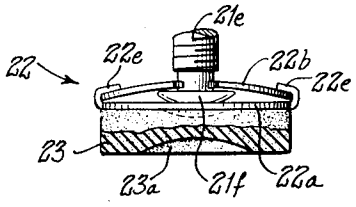


Fig. 6.

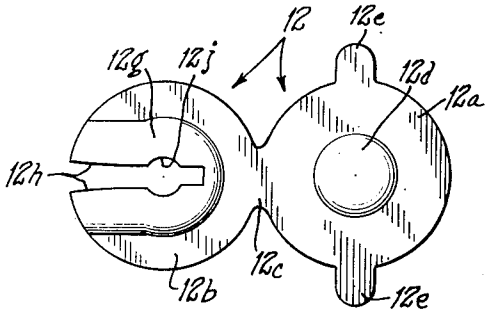


Fig. 5.

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CUSHIONING ACCESSORY FOR EARRINGS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—263)

This invention relates to earring screw constructions and more particularly is directed to an improved cushioning accessory for demountably attaching to conventional type screw clamp earrings.

Among the objects of the invention is to generally improve earring cushioning attachments of the character described which shall comprise few and simple parts, which may be readily assembled by unskilled labor, which shall be cheap to manufacture so as to be adapted for use on relatively cheap costume screw clamp earrings as well as those of higher value price range, which shall be easily mounted in an inconspicuous proper cushioning position and retained against accidental detachment, which shall be of minimum weight and relatively small so as not to detract from the appearance of the earring structure, which shall be readily adjusted for comfortable fit and clamping suspension of the earring on the wearer's ear lobes, and which shall be practical and efficient to a high degree in use.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists of features of constructions, combination of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the constructions hereinafter disclosed, the scope of the application of which will be indicated by the claims following.

In the accompanying drawings in which embodiments of the invention are shown:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of an earring of conventional screw clamp type provided with an improved cushioning accessory attachment constructed to embody the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view as seen from line 2—2 in Fig. 1 showing details of the rear section construction in mounted position on the enlarged curved surface end head of a pressure adjusting screw.

Figs. 3 and 4 are cross-sectional views taken on lines 3—3 and 4—4, respectively, in Fig. 2 showing details of the engagement of the improved accessory attachment on the enlarged pressure adjusting screw end.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a single-piece sheet metal stamping portion or body of the improved accessory attachment shown in Fig. 1 before being folded and retained in form for mounting on the end of pressure adjusting screw before supporting the resilient cushioning member against the wearer's ear lobe, and

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of a modified form of the improved cushioning accessory attachment constructed for mounting on a flattened end head of a pressure adjusting screw.

Referring in detail to Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawing, 10 denotes a conventional type of screw clamp earring with an improved cushioning accessory attachment constructed to embody the invention mounted thereon to comfortably fit and clamp the earring on the wearer's ear lobe (not shown) in the well understood manner.

The conventional earring structure 11, as seen from Fig. 1, may comprise a yoke portion 11*a* which has a

U-shaped shank 11*b* terminated at the front end by a suitable ornament or decorative element 11*c* and terminated at the rear end of shank 11*b* by a threaded portion 11*d* through which is carried adjusting screw 11*e*. The latter is so constructed and arranged that the enlarged front extending end 11*f* thereof aligns with the central portion of the back side 11*g* of ornament 11*c*, rear end of said screw 11*e* being provided with finger buttons 11*h* to finger turn said screw 11*e* in the well understood manner for clamping earring structure 11 to the wearer's ear lobe.

Conventional use of earring structure 11, as above described, often results in discomfort to the wearer and also results in the loss of the earring due to failure to screw clamp such earring properly. To overcome these objections, the present invention provides an improved cushioning accessory attachment, generally denoted at 12, which is demountably attached to said enlarged screw front end 11*f* for swivelling movement with respect to the screw 11*e* which on turning the finger button 11*h* interposes a suitable cushioning pad 13 carried by said attachment 12.

The latter, as seen from Fig. 5, may be formed of stamped sheet metal, such as, brass, stainless steel, gold, silver, aluminum or other suitable metal, and may comprise front and rear facing sections 12*a* and 12*b*, respectively, the latter being positioned in overfolded relation on a suitable mid-portion 12*c* joining said sections 12*a* and 12*b*, as is clear from Figs. 2, 4 and 5.

Front facing section 12*a*, as is clear from Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, may be of circular contour and formed with a bulged central area 12*d* convexly curved to extend toward said ornament back side 11*g* so as to conform and nest front surface of the enlarged screw end 11*f*. Said section 12*a* may also be provided with a plurality of spaced apart radially extending tabs 12*e* which are bent over after sections 12*a* and 12*b* are in said overfolded relation serving to retain said sections 12*a* and 12*b* in contact alignment to provide a pocket portion 12*f* therebetween rearwardly of bulged central area 12*d* in which pocket 12*f* screw head 11*f* is housed as a loose-fitting anchorage, the central bulged area 12*d* being formed on a front wall of said pocket portion 12*f*.

Rear extending section 12*b* which mates with front facing section 12*a* to form pocket 12*f*, may also be of circular contour like section 12*a* but is formed with a bulged center area 12*g* concavely curved to extend with relation to ornament back side 11*g* to form a rear wall for said pocket 12*f*.

In order that accessory attachment 12 may be readily mounted in position, rear extending section 12*b* which as shown may be depressed in a rearward direction is slitted as at 12*h* from the periphery thereof to extend beyond center through-opening or hole 12*j*, side edges of said slit 12*h*, the latter being inwardly tapered to form a restricting slideway merging with hole 12*j* of bulged center section 12*g*, as is clear from Figs. 2 and 5.

Said hole 12*j* may be made smaller in diameter than screw head 11*e* but to loosely fit on the shank of screw 11*e* inwardly beyond said head 11*e*, the side edges of said slit 12*h* being tapered so that the portions thereof adjoining hole 12*j* are spaced apart a distance less than the diameter of said shank of screw 11*e* thereby providing a releasable restriction so that said tapered edges of slit 12*h* forming said slideway provide flexible means which permit forcing pressure on being applied to the screw 11*e* with the head 11*f* thereof after entering into said slideway to flex restricting portions of said tapered edges of slit 12*h* adjoining hole 12*j* sufficiently to pass and retain accessory attachment 12 loosely anchored for swiveling movement on screw head 11*f*.

Cushioning pad 13 may be made of any suitable ma-

terial, such as, rubber, so-called foam rubber, sponge rubber, felt, or the like plastic material having rubber-like characteristic properties, said pad **13** being secured to front facing section **12***a* by cement or other suitable adhesive in any well understood manner.

The practical utility of accessory attachment **12** constructed with the cushioning pad **13** will now be apparent.

After stamping blanks like that shown in Fig. 5, mating sections **12***a* and **12***b* are brought together by folding mid-portion **12***c* and then bending over the peripheral tab **12***e* so as to bring the accessory attachment **12** into the form shown in Figs. 1 to 5 to provide pocket **12***f* with radial slit **12***h* to form the communicating slideway with said center hole **12***j*, cushioning pad **13** then being secured to said front facing section **12***a*.

To mount the improved accessory attachment **12** and cushioning pad **13**, the enlarged end head **11***f* of the adjusting screw **11***c* is simply inserted into the slideway formed by slit **12***h* and pressed to pass the restricted portion adjacent the center hole **12***j* so that the shank portion of said adjusting screw **12***e* just inwardly of head **11***f* snaps past said restriction into place in hole **12***j* and is removably retained in position as a loose-jointed swiveling anchorage, as is clear from Figs. 2, 3 and 4. The earring with the cushioning accessory **10** may be clampingly secured to the lobe of the wearer's ear by simply retracting the adjusting screw **11***e* so as to provide a clearance between the rear side **11***g* of the earring structure and the cushioning pad **13** and inserting the ear lobe therebetween, and on tightening the adjusting screw **11***e* by means of turning the finger button **11***h*, the ear lobe may be clamped in a desired holding position. The cushioning pad **13** will then be compressed without discomfort to the wearer and can be adjusted to be free from any pinching action. Since the accessory attachment **12** is loosely mounted in swiveling position, the pad **13** is self-aligning and readily conforms to any requirement of unevenness of lobe surface contour. The entire attachment **12** with pad **13** is thus seen to be compact, simple and easily adjustable for comfortable wear. To remove the accessory attachment **12** and cushioning pad **13** from earring structure **11** after loosening screw **11***e*, sufficient pressure is applied thereto to spring or flex the edges of the slideway slit **12***h* past said restricted means thereby leaving the earring structure **11** in its original condition.

In Fig. 6 is shown a modified construction of accessory attachment **22** and cushioning pad **23** mounted on adjusting screw **21***e* having an enlarged front end head **21***f* which, in conventional earring structures, may be found to be somewhat smaller than that shown in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, said end head **21***f* having a flattened surface instead of a curved spherical section shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4.

Accessory attachment **22** requires no bulged center portion either on rear extending section **22***b* which is crimped into contact with the front facing section **22***a* by the radially extending tabs **22***e*, or the like. Thus accessory attachment **22** is, therefore, seen to be of somewhat simpler construction than accessory attachment **12** above described.

Attachment **22**, if desired, may be provided with cushioning pad **23** having recessed suction cup **23***a* contacting surface which can be made to have a tendency to retain the earring to the lobe of the wearer even if when relatively loosely clamped.

While accessory attachments **12** and **22** above described and shown in Figs. 1 to 6 are constructed of a single blank of sheet material, it is to be understood that a construction of two-pieces blanks may be used thereby eliminating mid-fold portion **12***c*, or the like. Also instead of a single pair of bent tabs **12***a*, a plurality of spaced apart radially extending tabs, a crimped rim edge

or rim edges, or suitable cement, spot weldings, or soldered joint may be substituted.

Although center opening **12***j* of rear section **12***b* is shown as being round, it may be of any suitable shape, and for some purpose may be made rectangular, as for example corresponding to a square circumscribed about said circular shaped opening **12***j*.

Although accessory attachments like **12** and **22** are shown made of sheet metal, it is contemplated if desired to construct the same of plastic resin sheet material stampings or as molded structures to be utilized in the manner for the above described purposes.

While the invention has been described to be a demountable accessory attachment, if desired, it may be incorporated in the original earring structures in which case the improved swivelling mounting of the improved accessory on the end of the clamp adjusting screw **11***e* or **21***e* feature is included and retained as an element of the improved combination.

It is thus seen that there is provided improved cushioning accessory attachments and constructions for earrings of the conventional type whereby the several objects of this invention are achieved and which are well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiments above set forth, it is to be understood that all matters herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawing are to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A cushioning accessory attachment for a conventional type earring having an adjustable ear lobe clamping screw terminating in a pressure head comprising, a one-piece sheet metal anchorage formed with front and back sections interconnected by an integral portion folded to bring said sections in overlying mating relation forming a pocket therebetween with their peripheral portions in engagement and having a centrally positioned through-opening in said back section wherethrough said opening the screw extends and in which pocket the pressure head is loosely confined for swiveling movement, said back section having a radially extending slit formed with inwardly tapered side edges communicating with said opening, portions of the said side edges adjoining the opening being spaced apart a distance less than the diameter of the clamping screw to provide a restriction means requiring pressure force for springing the clamping screw from the slideway into said opening and from the latter out into the slideway for attachment and removal, a resilient cushioning pad secured to said front section positioned to be compressed on clamp fastening to the wearer's ear lobe, and bent tabs extending from the periphery of at least one of said sections embracing the other section to retain mating relating of said sections in close contact along the periphery edges thereof.

2. The cushioning accessory attachment defined in claim 1 in which said sections each have a bulging mid-portion forming the walls of said pocket conforming to the contour surface of the pressure head.

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