July 6, 1926. 1,591,294

E. B. DONALDSON

CLASP FOR BRACELETS

Filed June 6, 1925

Fig. 1.

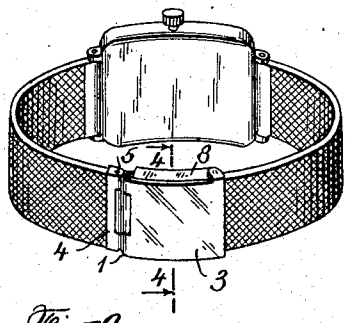


Fig. 2.

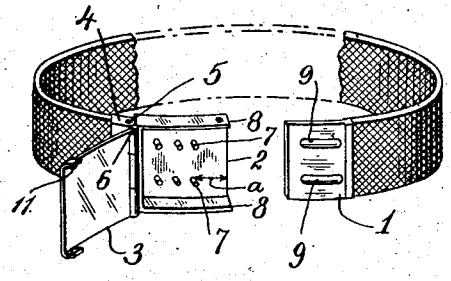


Fig. 3.

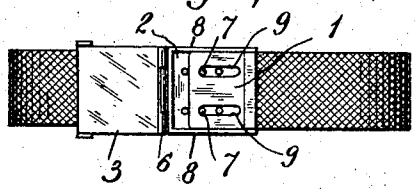
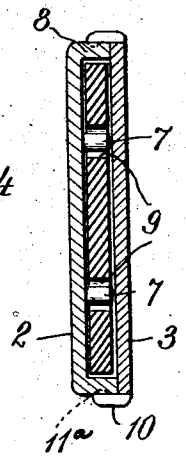


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CLASP FOR BRACELETS.

Application filed June 6, 1925. Serial No. 35,302.

This invention relates to clasps for articles of jewelry, such as bracelets, and has for its object to provide a clasp which will allow a certain amount of adjustment without presenting the appearance of an adjustable clasp when the clasp is closed, and without having loose ends projecting beyond the clasp, such as are usually found in adjustable clasps.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clasp of this kind in which the interlocking parts are so arranged that the pull on the bracelet or other article in a direction to draw the ends of the bracelet apart, is met by rigid pieces of substantial construction and produces no tendency to unclasp the bracelet.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clasp of this kind in which the entire interlocking mechanism is enclosed in a part of substantial size to permit it to be readily opened and closed and which may be appropriately decorated with engraving so that the clasp itself forms an ornamental part of the bracelet.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated a preferred embodiment of my improved clasp applied to the bracelet of a wrist watch, and in the said drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the bracelet showing the clasp closed;

Fig. 2 is a similar view with the clasp open;

Fig. 3 is a side view of the clasp with the cover open but with the interlocking parts in engagement; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional detail on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates the inner member of the clasp attached in the usual manner to one end of the bracelet or other article, which is here shown as a strap of gold mesh. The other part of the clasp is indicated at 2 and comprises a housing having a hinged cover 3 for enclosing the part 1 when the clasp is shut. The part 2 is attached to the bracelet by means of a bar 4 clamped or soldered to the end of the mesh, and to this bar the main part or housing 2 is attached by a suitable hinge indicated at 5 in Fig. 2. The cover part 3 is hinged to the housing by means of a second hinge 6.

Projecting from the inner face of the housing 2 are a plurality of pins 7, here shown as six in number, and arranged in three pairs, whereby three adjustments of the length of the bracelet are provided. The number of pins may of course be more or less, as desired.

The inner part 1 of the clasp comprises a flat bar or plate adapted to fit within the sides 8 of the housing. The plate 1 is provided with slots 9 positioned to fit over the pins 7. The slots are just long enough to embrace all three pins when the bracelet is to be reduced to its smallest size and the portion of the plate at the outer ends of the slot is just wide enough to fit between the pins 7 when the clasp is adjusted for either of the more extended positions, as shown more particularly in Fig. 3.

When the plate 1 is engaged with the pin 7 as described, the cover 3 is closed down on the housing as shown in Fig. 1. The cover 3 may be maintained in closed position in any suitable manner. In the construction shown the cover is provided at its free edge with two ears 10 having projections 11 adapted to snap into depressions 11a in the outer face of the side flanges 8 of the clasp. If desired a spring hinge may be employed for the cover plate or a positive safety catch may be used.

The distance between the last pair of pins 7 and the edge of the housing, that is, the distance marked A in Fig. 2, is long enough for the cover 3 to completely conceal the part 1 when the clasp is at its most extended adjustment, or it may be just long enough for the slots 9 to be completely concealed as the end of the part 1 beyond the slot may be exposed without presenting an unsightly appearance or disclosing the adjustability of the bracelet.

I claim:

1. In a jewelry clasp, the combination of a housing to be attached to one end of a relatively flat and flexible article, said housing comprising two portions movable relative to one another opposite the end to which the housing is attached to the article, one of said portions being provided with an interlocking part, a member attached to the other end of the article so that it forms a longitudinal extension of the article and cooperates with the interlocking part, said member being of a length which will permit it to be entirely contained within the housing together with a portion of the flexible article, the second part of the housing being adapted to retain the interlocking part and

the member in operative relation, and means associated with the housing for maintaining the member and that portion of the article which overlaps with the second portion of the housing under said portion throughout the overlap.

2. In a jewelry clasp, the combination of a housing to be attached to one end of a relatively flat and flexible article, said housing comprising two portions movable relative to one another opposite to the end at which the housing is attached to the article, one of said portions being provided with a series of interlocking parts, a member attached to the other end of the article so that it forms a longitudinal extension of the article and cooperates with at least one of the interlocking parts to permit it to be adjusted along the length of the housing, said member being of a length which will permit it to be entirely contained within the housing together with a portion of the flexible article when it cooperates with the interlocking part of the housing arranged closest to the end thereof which is attached to the article, the second part of the housing being adapted to retain the interlocking part and the member in operative relation, and means associated with the housing for maintaining the member and that portion of the article which overlaps with the second portion of the housing under said second portion throughout the overlap.

3. In a jewelry clasp the combination of a housing adapted for attachment to one part of an article, said housing comprising a body part, a plurality of projections on the body part and a hinged cover adapted to close against said projections, a cooperating part for attachment to another portion of said article of jewelry, said part adapted to lie within the housing and having openings for engagement with said projections in different positions of adjustment.

4. In a jewelry clasp the combination of a housing adapted to be attached to one part of an article, said housing comprising two parts hingedly connected, one of said parts having side flanges, a plurality of projections on one of said parts extending toward the other of said parts when the two parts of the housing are closed, and a cooperating member adapted to be attached to another part of said article, said member adapted to fit within the side flanges of said housing and having a slot long enough to engage over several of said projections, substantially as described.

5. In a jewelry clasp for bracelets and other articles, the combination of a housing, said housing comprising a bar secured to the end of the bracelet, a body portion hinged thereto, said body portion having side flanges and a plurality of spaced pins arranged in rows projecting from the face of the body portion within the said side flanges, a cover plate in closed position against the side flanges of the housing, and a cooperating part for attachment to the other end of the bracelet, said part comprising a plate adapted to fit within the side flanges of the housing and provided with slots long enough to embrace the rows of pins with the metal at the end of the slot of a width to fit between the pins of the rows.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EDWARD B. DONALDSON.