April 5, 1932. F. KENT 1,852,016

BRACELET

Filed April 4, 1929

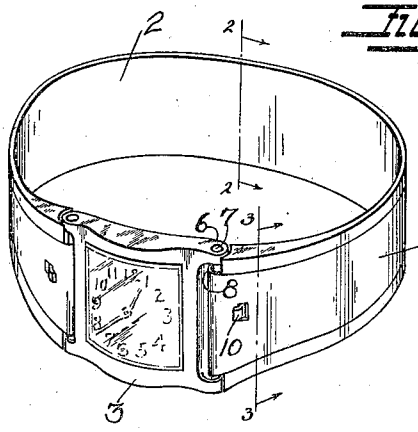

Fig 1

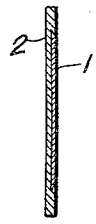

Fig 2

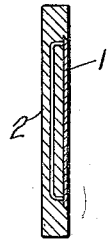

Fig 3

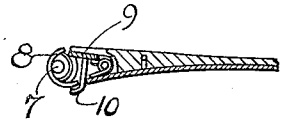

Fig 4

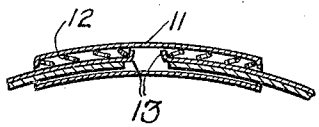

Fig 6

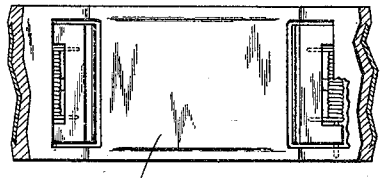

Fig 5

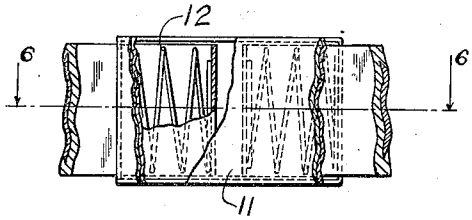

Fig 7

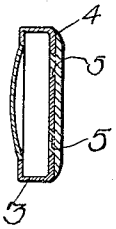

Fig 8

INVENTOR.
Francis Kent
BY Joseph B. Gardner
his ATTORNEYS.

Patented Apr. 5, 1932 1,852,016

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FRANCIS KENT, OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

BRACELET

Application filed April 4, 1929. Serial No. 352,530.

This invention resides in the provision of an improved bracelet for wrist watches and the like, which bracelet, because of its novel construction and the manner in which it is made up of a metal strap and a strap of vulcanite or similar material, has all of the durability, the ornamental and other desirable qualities of the preesnt popular metal wrist-watch bracelets without the objectionable qualities thereof and in addition permits of a saving of precious or expensive decorative metal, is given a pleasing distinctiveness of appearance, affords protection against pinching or cutting the skin and added comfort to the wearer, does not discolor the skin, and has greater flexibility and resilience, which make for longer life and ease of fitting and removal relative to the wrist.

An object of the invention is to provide a composite metal bracelet of the character described in which the use of a band of vulcanite or like material, on which the metal band is supported and reinforced, not only forms decorative and ornamental margins along the edges of the metal band but permits of a novel mounting of a wrist watch or other ornament in a piece of similar vulcanite or material which is joined to the ends of the bracelet proper and thereby provides for a watch mounting of an ornamental effect in keeping with that of the bracelet proper.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the specificaton. It is to be understood, however, that variations in the showing made by the said drawings and description may be adopted within the scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to said drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bracelet of my invention shown embodied in a wrist-watch bracelet.

Figures 2 and 3 are cross-sectional views of the bracelet strap taken on the lines 2—2 and 3—3, respectively, of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view showing the means of releasably securing the strap and watch.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary view of the inner side of the watch and strap, part of the latter being broken away to show the spring controlled releasable securing means.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view of another embodiment of my invention showing a means of adjusting the length of the strap.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view of the inner side of the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 6, part of the strap being broken away to show the spring controlled adjusting means.

Figure 8 is a vertical sectional view showing the means for holding the watch and vulcanite in operative relation.

In the present embodiment of the invention as illustrated in detail in the accompanying drawings, the bracelet consists of a comparatively thin strap 1 of precious or decorative metal which is preferably molded onto a backing and supporting strap 2 of vulcanite or other similar non-permeable resilient and flexible material, which backing strap is preferably wider than the metal strap to shield the edges of the latter. The longitudinal edges of the metal strip are beveled so as to form a dovetailed joint of the two straps, although any suitable means or method of uniting these straps may be employed. The main point is to provide a shield or backing for the metal so that the metal will not touch the skin and so that an extremely thin metal strap may be used to take advantage of the reinforcing effect of the backing strip and so effect a saving in metal. The extra width of the backing strip affords ornamental margins for the metal strap. Although the metal strap is preferably flush with these margins to make a neat, smooth joint, the metal strap may be otherwise united with said backing piece. The backing strap is of course resilient and flexible and this makes for ease in fitting and removing the bracelet as well as a better conformation to the wrist.

Near its ends this composite bracelet is gradually increased in thickness to give

strength at the joint where the watch or the like is to be joined to the bracelet and to improve the appearance of the bracelet.

The watch 3 may be joined to the bracelet in any suitable manner but I prefer to mold or otherwise affix a vulcanite backing 4 on the watch with the backing forming margins around the watch in keeping with the bracelet arrangement. The back of the watch may have openings 5 therein to form a better anchorage for the vulcanite.

The vulcanite watch backing 4 has ears 6 on the corners thereof which ears support pins 7. These pins are adapted to interlock with the hooked terminals 8 of the metal strap 1. These hooked terminals extend beyond the terminals of the vulcanite strap 2 and are arranged to permit free passage of the pins 7 into and out of engagement with said hooked ends. Spring urged catches 9 are disposed adjacent the ends of the metal strap and are operated by finger pieces 10 extending out through openings in the metal strap, said catches serving to releasably hold the pins and watch mounting in place.

In Figures 6 and 7 a modification of the bracelet is shown and comprises an adjustable coupling of the ends of the bracelet by slidably mounting said ends in a flat sleeve or housing 11 in which housing are expansion springs 12 engaging projections 13 on the said ends so that by pulling out said ends against the springs the bracelet will be enlarged and may be slipped over the wrist, the springs returning the bracelet to normal size to fit the wrist.

While I have found that vulcanite is the best material because it prevents discoloration of the skin, provides an effective pad or shield to prevent injury or discomfort such as usually occasions with all metal straps, and because said material is sufficiently flexible and resilient and can be better united with the metal, I wish it understood that any other material which will not discolor the skin and which will provide an effective reinforcing and backing for the metal strap may be used. The term vulcanite in the appended claims is intended to cover all equivalents of vulcanite in respect to prevention of discoloration and the provision of a protective and reinforcing backing for the metal strap.

I claim:

1. A bracelet comprising a metal strap and a vulcanite strap molded onto the inner side of the metal strap, said straps having their free ends substantially co-terminous, said vulcanite strap being of gradually increasing thickness from a point between its ends towards each end thereof.

2. A bracelet comprising a metal strap and a non-metallic non-permeable strap lining the inner side of the metal strap, with portions of the vulcanite strap overlying and forming margins along the edges of the metal strap, the free ends of said straps being spaced apart and means on the ends of the metal strap for securing an object to and between the ends of said straps.

3. A bracelet comprising a metal strap and a non-metallic, non-permeable strap lining the inner side of the metal strap, the free ends of the metal strap being bent around the free ends of the second-named strap.

4. A bracelet comprising a relatively thin metal strap and a vulcanite backing strap of sufficient thickness to support, present and maintain the metal strap in a flexible bracelet form and in which the metal strap is countersunk, said vulcanite strap extending beyond the longitudinal edges of the metal strap and forming a means of uniting the said straps as well as protective margins for the sharp edges of the metal strap, and means at the free ends of the metal strap providing for securing an object to and between said ends.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Oakland, California, this 21st day of March, 1929.

FRANCIS KENT.