

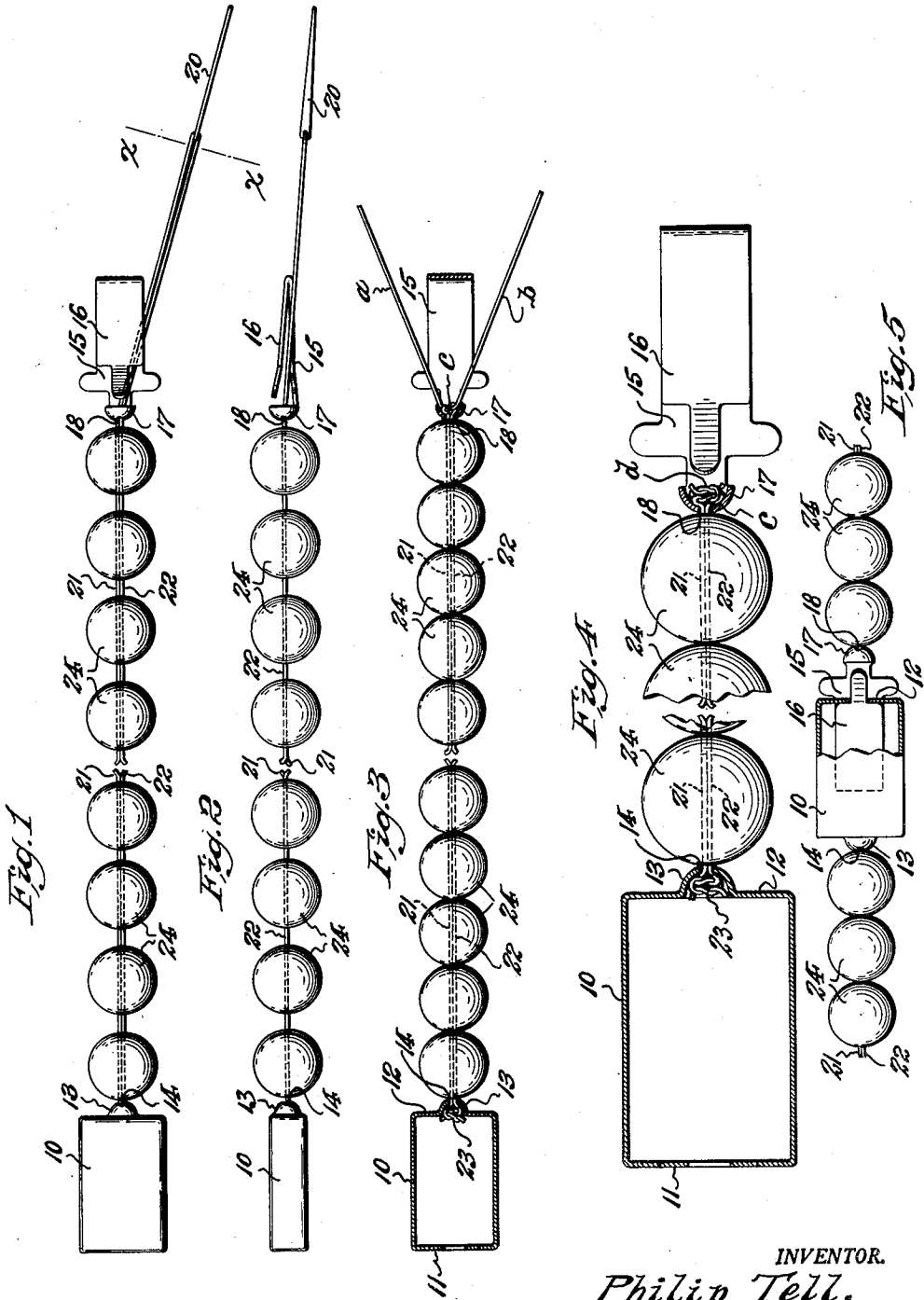
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ASSEMBLING STRUNG BEAD NECKLACES

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## ASSEMBLING STRUNG BEAD NECKLACES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 223-48)

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This invention relates to a novel method of and means for assembling strung bead or pearl necklaces and clasps therefor, whereby the clasp elements are attached to the necklace ends during the bead or pearl stringing operation.

The invention has for an object to provide a quick and easy method of assembling strung bead or pearl necklaces together with separable clasp elements therefor, whereby to simplify the procedure, and to do away with necessity for use and application of keeper tips to the ends of the strand upon which the beads or pearls are strung; and, to the latter end, the invention has for a further object to provide novel constructions of cooperative clasp elements for respective application to the opposite ends of a bead or pearl carrying strand, said clasp elements each having, as an integral part thereof, an apertured hollow strand knot seating and retaining portion.

The invention has for another object to provide a novel method of assembling strung bead or pearl necklaces as above stated, whereby proper end to end abutment of the strung beads or pearls, as carried by a strand upon which the same are mounted, is quickly and easily attained and thereafter maintained.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

Steps of the novel method according to this invention, and the novel clasp element structures utilized in the practice of the method, are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view and Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of necklace-forming beads or pearls and clasp elements as initially assembled in connection with a carrying strand pursuant to the novel method according to this invention.

Fig. 3 is a plan view, with the clasp elements in horizontal section, showing a further step in the novel method of assembling the beads or pearls and clasp elements, whereby the strung beads or pearls and the clasp elements are brought into final end to end abutment upon the carrying strand by the act of making a first tie of a last terminal knot formation with which the strand is to be provided; and Fig. 4 is a similar view, substantially enlarged, showing completion of said last terminal knot formation by a final and locking tie.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view in part section showing the completed necklace with its ends coupled together by the joined cooperative clasp elements.

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Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views to indicate corresponding parts.

The novel clasp structure, which is provided for use in the practice of the method of assembling strung bead or pearl necklaces according to this invention, comprises cooperative male and female clasp elements. The female clasp element comprises a hollow body 10 having a slotted wall 11 at one end through which the male clasp element may be inserted for coupled connection with said female clasp element. The opposite end wall 12 of said hollow body 10 is provided with an outwardly projecting, inwardly open hollow seat forming member 13, which is preferably of semi-spherical shape, and which is provided with a central aperture 14 leading outwardly from the interior thereof. The male clasp element comprises a base plate 15 having an overlying and divergent resilient lock tongue 16 extending from its outer end. Connected with the inner end of said base plate 15, to upstand therefrom, is an inwardly open, hollow seat forming member 17, which is also preferably of semi-spherical shape, and which is provided with a central aperture 18 leading outwardly from the interior thereof.

In performance of the novel method of producing a strung bead or pearl necklace according to this invention, a stringing member of flexible material suitable for carrying beads or pearls is threaded through the eye of a stringing needle 20; and then doubled upon itself to provide parallel strand courses 21 and 22; which should be of length substantially in excess of the length of the string of beads or pearls desired to be formed. The free ends of said strand courses 21 and 22 are tied together to provide one terminal anchor knot 23.

The stringing members 21-22 having been prepared as above stated, the stringing needle 20 is first passed into the body 10 of the female clasp element through the slotted end wall 11 and then outwardly therefrom through the aperture 14 of the seat forming member 13, whereby to draw the stringing member 21-22 through the female clasp element until the terminal anchor knot 23 seats itself in and is stopped by said seat forming member 13. The stringing member 21-22 is now ready to have the beads or pearls 24 strung thereon, which is done by successively passing the latter over the stringing needle 20 and onto said stringing member, until the desired number of beads or pearls 24 have been mounted on the latter.

After the required number of beads or pearls

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are mounted on the stringing member 21—22, the stringing needle 20 is thereupon passed rearwardly through the aperture 18 of the seat forming member 17 of the male clasp element, so that the stringing member extends a substantial distance beyond the latter (see Figs. 1 and 2).

The beads or pearls and the respective clasp elements having been mounted on the stringing member 21—22, the next step is to close these parts together in the required necklace forming end to end abutment, and then to secure the same in such condition. To accomplish this, the loop of the courses 21 and 22, by which the stringing needle 20 is attached to the stringing member, is cut through close to said needle, as e. g. across the point indicated by the broken line  $x-x$  in Fig. 1. This operation removes the stringing needle and provides the respective courses 21 and 22 of the stringing member with the respective free end portions *a* and *b*. This having been done, said free end portions *a* and *b* are crossed and intertwined to form the first tie *c* of a square or similar knot. By its nature said first tie *c* permits the free end portions *a* and *b* to slip one relative to the other, when said end portions *a* and *b* are pulled outward. The effect of this is to cause said first tie *c* to move inwardly along the stringing member, and consequently to draw the courses 21 and 22 outwardly through the beads or pearls 24 and the seat forming member 17 of the male clasp element, whereby the beads or pearls are crowded together so as to be stopped against the female clasp element at one end of the stringing member, and stopped against the male clasp element at the other end of said stringing member, thus bringing all these parts into required end to end abutting and necklace forming relation (see Fig. 3).

The beads or pearls and clasp elements having been brought into necklace forming assembled relation on the stringing member as above described, these parts are secured, so as to be retained in such relation, by manipulating the end portions of the stringing member courses 21 and 22 in manner to form thereby the second or final tie *d* of a square or similar knot, which tie locks the knot and at the same time seats it within the seat forming member 17 of the male clasp element (see Fig. 4). After the final stop knot is thus completed and disposed, the parts of end portions *a* and *b*, which extend outwardly from said knot, are cut away, thus completing the assembling operations by which the clasp equipped strung bead or pearl necklace is produced.

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From the above it will be understood that a very quick, easy and efficient method is provided for producing, during and by the bead or pearl stringing operations, a complete clasp equipped necklace; and, furthermore, due to the novel construction of the male and female clasp elements, whereby the same are each formed to provide, as an integral part thereof, means for seating anchoring terminal knots of the stringing member, all necessity for using and applying independent tip elements at the respective ends of the bead or pearl carrying stringing member is avoided.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

The method of producing a clasp equipped strung bead necklace comprising the provision of cooperative clasp elements each having at an inner end thereof an apertured hollow seating means for a terminal anchor knot of a bead stringing member, and the provision of a flexible doubled bead stringing member having two parallel courses with a stringing needle attached to the looped end of its courses and the opposite free ends of said courses being tied together to form a first terminal anchor knot, passing the stringing needle and member through one clasp element so as to seat said first terminal anchor knot in the seating means thereof, then successively stringing beads upon the stringing member which extends from said clasp element, then passing the stringing needle and member inwardly through the seating means of the other clasp element, then cutting through the looped end of the stringing member courses to remove the stringing needle and separate said courses, then tying the resultant free end portions of said separated courses to form a first tie of a second terminal anchor knot and by tightening said first tie bringing the assembly of strung beads and clasp elements into end to end abutting relation, and again tying said free end portions of said separated courses to form a second locking tie whereby to complete said second terminal anchor knot within the seating means of said last mentioned clasp element.

PHILIP TELL.

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