Aug. 18, 1964 C. ESPINO 3,144,692

CUFF LINK

Filed Feb. 19, 1962

FIG.1

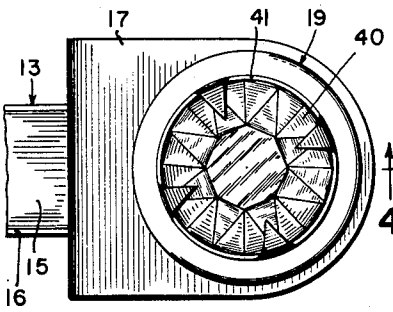


FIG.3

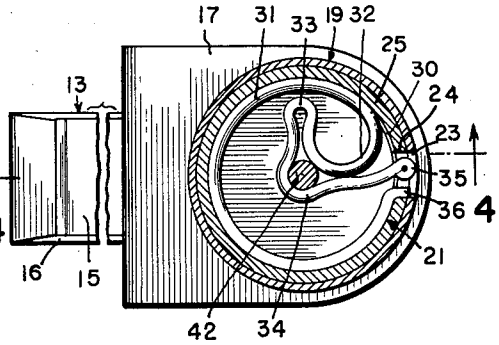


FIG.2

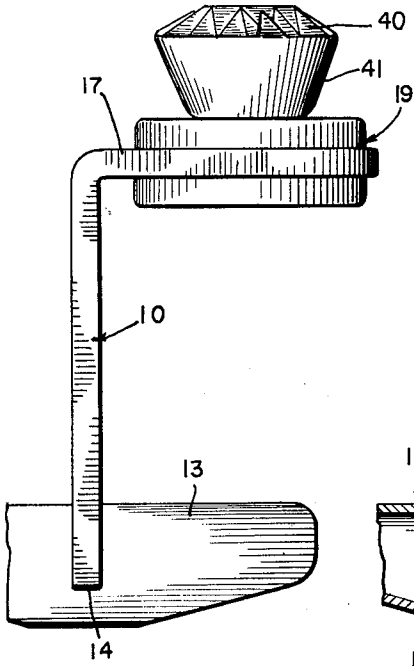


FIG.4

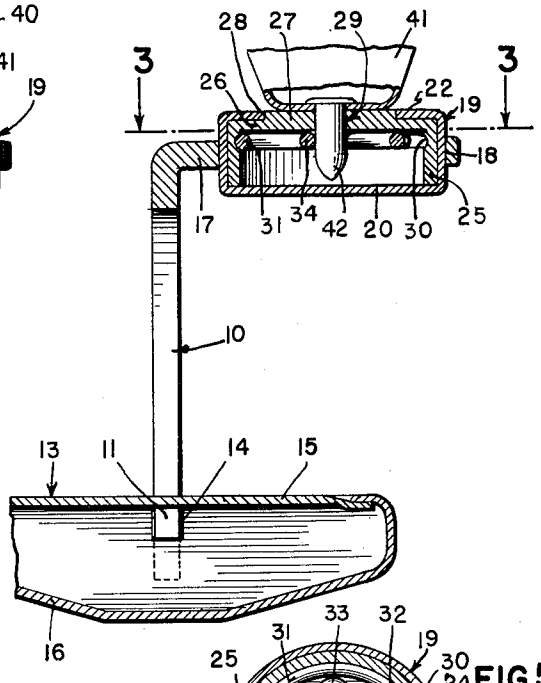


FIG.6

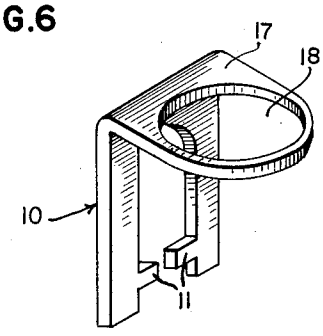
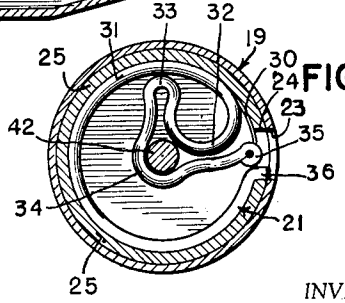


FIG.5



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CUFF LINK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—97)

This invention relates to a cuff link or the like although it has obvious application to such related uses as shirt studs and similar devices.

It has hitherto been proposed to provide in cuff links, shirt studs and the like a basic structure which performs all the functions such as buttoning the sleeves or the shirts except that the exposed portion is unadorned, and to provide means for releasably attaching ornamental studs to the basic structure with the result that, still using the same basic structure a plurality of ornamental studs may be employed, one after the other. It is thus contemplated that a set or sets of ornamental studs will be provided with each basic structure.

In order to accomplish the ends sought in the preceding paragraph some means for quickly releasing the studs when desired, but surely retaining the same when in use, is required. It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved clutch for such an assembly which is characterized by its extreme simplicity, economy, positiveness of action and quick release.

It has been common practice in cuff links and shirt studs to provide a shank, a pivoted member on one end of the shank and the ornamental stud on the other end of the shank, all in alignment. It is a feature of this invention that the ornamental stud and associated clutch are off-set to one side of said shank to dispose the same for more effective display.

These and other objects, features and advantages will be apparent from the annexed specification in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of a device embodying the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation thereof;

FIGURE 3 is a section taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 4 is a vertical section, taken on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary section similar to FIGURE 3 showing the clutch in released position; and

FIGURE 6 is a perspective elevation of the shank and clutch mounting bracket.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the cuff link shown includes a bifurcated shank **10** having inwardly extending rectangular pins **11** and a usually hollow pivoted member **13** having rectangular openings **14** to receive pins **11**. Member **13** is made of two pieces **15** and **16**, member **15** being retained by turning over the ends of member **16** so that member **15** is free to flex as a spring. The rectangular shape of pins **11** and openings **14** assures a snap action of member **13** from the position shown in FIGURES 2 and 4 to a position in alignment with shank **10**. So much is conventional.

At its upper end the shank **10** is bent to one side and presents a portion **17** having a circular opening **18** therein. While shown here as a full circle, the opening **18** may be less than circular or even semicircular if desired.

Retained in the opening **18** as by silver soldering is a cylindrical shell **19** having a closed bottom **20**. A clutch

assembly **21** is mounted in shell **19**, the top edges **22** of the shell **19** peened over and soldered. An opening **23** in the shell aligns with opening **24** in the clutch assembly (FIGURE 3).

The clutch assembly comprises a cylindrical member **25**, open at the bottom and having a top **26** carrying a boss **27**. Boss **27** fits in a circular opening **28** in shell **19**. The boss **27** and top **26** are provided with one continuous central opening **29**.

An annular groove **30** is formed in the inner wall of cylindrical member **25** and a spring coil **31** rides therein. The wire forming the spring coil **31** is curled back upon itself as at **32**, then bent sharply in the other direction to form a partial loop **33**, bent again as at **34** and continues outwardly to present an end **35** adjacent openings **23** and **24**. The other end of the spring coil is bent over as at **36** against one side of opening **23**.

A suitable ornamental stud **40** is set in a cup **41** which cup carries a central depending pin **42**.

The operation of the above-described device is as follows: Assuming the device to be assembled as shown in FIGURES 1–4, an instrument is inserted through openings **23** and **24**, contacts end **35** and presses the coil inward. This moves the coil from the position shown in FIGURE 3 to that shown in FIGURE 5, the bend **34** disengaging the pin **42**. The ornamental stud **40** may then be removed and replaced by another as desired. However, the coil spring is of sufficient power to assure the studs against accidental displacement.

While there has been described what is at present considered a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the essence of the invention and it is intended to cover herein all such changes and modifications as come within the true spirit and scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

A cuff link including an ornamental stud, a pin carried by said ornamental stud, a housing, there being an annular groove in an inner side of said housing, a resilient spring mounted in said housing and having a configuration wherein said spring has a first annular portion forming a major part of a circle adapted for seating in said annular groove, one free end of said annular portion terminating in a tip which extends outwardly therefrom into an associated laterally extending aperture formed in said housing to prevent clockwise rotation of said spring in said annular groove, the other free end of said spring being bent in a plurality of directions within the said housing to present pin engaging portions for releasably engaging said pin carried by said stud, said plurality of bends comprising a reversely bent second arcuate portion extending in a clockwise direction from said first arcuate portion and forming a major portion of a circle normally tangent to said pin, said second portion merging into an arcuate reversely bent third portion normally spaced from said first portion and having a free end normally extending toward said pin and merging into a fourth arcuate portion normally abutting said pin throughout the extent thereof, said fourth arcuate portion merging into a fifth arcuate portion normally tangent to the second arcuate portion to thus surround said pin and terminating in a sixth portion which extends substantially linearly to said

pin and terminates in a finger engageable end portion normally positioned within said aperture and adapted to be actuated to release said spring from gripping engagement with said pin.

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