CLAMPING MEANS FOR EAR ORNAMENTS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF JEWELRY


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2 Claims. (Cl. 63—14)

This invention relates to articles of jewelry and particularly to improved means for securing ornaments to the ears of a person.

One object of the invention is to provide improved means for clamping an ornament to the unpierced lobe of the ear to provide a comfortable yet secure fastening of the ornament thereto.

Another object is to provide pivoted clamping members with resiliently operated means for maintaining them in either open or closed position to effect greater convenience in applying an ornament to the ear.

Another object is to provide clamping means having a member of substantially hollow form or loop-shape to adapt a portion of the lobe of the ear to project thereinto and a cooperating member pivoted to close against the opposite side of the ear to press a portion of its lobe into the hollow part of the first member.

Another object is to provide a pair of pivoted jaw-members with one member having a portion of substantially ovate shape with an opening at its interior and the opposite member having a convex portion arranged to close toward the opening in the first member.

Another object is to provide a pair of pivoted members with one or said members having a hollow loop-like portion with a spring of similar shape embedded therein and arranged with its free end adapted to bear against the end of the opposite member to hold the latter in either open or closed position.

Another object is to provide clamping means comprising a pair of pivoted members adapted to be struck up from sheet-metal stock and formed into shape in dies to provide a strong durable structure of relatively light weight capable of being produced economically from precious metals.

Further objects of the improvement are set forth in the following specification which is illustrated by the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the present improved clamping means shown as carrying an ornament and applied to position for fastening the ornament to the lobe of the ear;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the same showing the clamping means in open position for applying the ornament to or removing it from the ear;

Fig. 3 is a greatly enlarged perspective view of the device;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detailed view of the operating spring for the clamping members or jaws;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the pivoted joint for the clamping members or jaws;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detailed view of one of the clamping members or jaws showing an ornament mounted at its end;

Fig. 7 is a still further enlarged sectional view illustrating the means for securing the spring in one of the clamping jaws; and

Fig. 8 is an enlarged perspective view of the hollow loop-shaped clamping jaw.

In accordance with the prevailing mode, jewels and other ornaments are worn on the ears by clamping them thereto without the necessity for piercing the ear-lobe as was an early custom.

For this purpose, spring-operated clamping means are usually provided with the ornament attached to one of the clamping jaws and the present invention provides a new and improved construction of such clamping means. As shown in the present drawings, two clamping members 2 and 3 are pivoted together at their terminal portions by means of a transverse pin 4 riveted over at its ends as indicated in Fig. 5. The jaw 2 of the clamping means may be constructed from sheet-metal stock struck up and shaped in dies in the form of an ovate loop 5 extended at one end in a curved arm 6. The curved arm 6 is bifurcated at its end to provide two opposite bearings or hinge-ears 7 and 8 pierced with holes 9 for the pivot-pin 4.

The opposite clamping member or jaw 3 also may be constructed from sheet-metal stock struck up and shaped in dies with its sides folded into close relationship to provide a relatively rigid, reinforced arm 10 terminating at one end in a curved portion 11 having a substantially square end. This end of the arm 10 is provided with a hole 25, see Fig. 6, for receiving the pin 4 to pivotally connect the two jaws together as shown in Fig. 3. The two folded sides of the arm 10 are spread apart at its opposite end, diverging to form a concavo-convex portion 12 more or less like the bowl of a spoon. The concave side of the spoon-shaped end 12 of the jaw 3 is adapted to receive a jewel 13 or other ornament securely fastened thereto as by cementing, while the opposite convex side of the spoon-shaped end of the jaw is adapted to bear against the ear, as indicated in Fig. 1; the shape of the ear being indicated by dot-and-dash lines 14.

The looped portion 5 of the jaw 2 is formed with a continuous recess 15 bounded on its opposite sides by parallel flanges 16 and 17 bent upwardly from the sheet-metal stock in a die, see Fig. 8. The recess 15 is adapted to receive a
leaf-spring 20 which may be formed of tempered sheet-metal stock of the shape shown in detail in Fig. 4. The spring 20 has a contour in plan view corresponding to that of the recess 15 in the member or jaw 2 and the edges of the flanges 16 and 17 rolled or swaged over the edges of the loop to secure it in place. The two jaws 2 and 3 are assembled in hinged relationship by placing the end of the arm 10 of the jaw 3 between the bearing-ears 8 and 9 of the jaw 2 and inserting the pin 4 through the holes therein; after which the ends of the pin are headed over to retain it in place. With the loop 21 of the spring 20 secured fast in the member or jaw 2 its curved end 22 will project upwardly in position to bear against the square end of the arm 10 of the opposite jaw 3 when the latter is swung into open position as shown in Fig. 3. With the parts of the device assembled in the manner explained and the jaws 2 and 3 in open position as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the spring 20 will maintain them in this relationship so as to render it convenient to place the ornament on the ear.

In applying the ornament to the ear, the convex surface of the end portion 12 of the jaw 3 is placed against the side of the ear just above the lobe swelling, as indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawings, and thereafter the opposite jaw 2 is swung on the pivot 4 to close against the opposite side of the ear. Referring to Fig. 1, when the jaw 2 is thus swung into closed position the curved end portion 22 of the spring 20 will snap over the square end of its arm 10 and bear against its straight-sided portion to hold it pressing against the lobe of the ear. During this operation a portion of the lobe of the ear will be pressed into the opening in the loop 5 of the jaw 2, thus tending to securely hold the ornament in place on the ear without danger of its dropping off or becoming released accidentally.

It will be understood that the turned over edges of the flanges 16 and 17 on the loop 5 of the jaw 2 have a smooth rounded contour as shown in Fig. 7 so as to avoid any sharp edges liable to scratch or abrade the flesh of the ear. At the same time the jaws will take a secure grip on the lobe of the ear to firmly resist any tendency for the ornament to be released therefrom.

It will be observed from the foregoing specification that the present invention provides an extremely simple clamping means for ear-ornaments and like articles of jewelry which is strong and durable in use, light in weight to render it economical to manufacture from precious metals, and more comfortable to wear while giving greater security against loss of the ornament than similar devices previously used in the art.

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While the improved device is herein shown and described as embodied in a preferred form of construction, it is to be understood that its parts may take other forms and various different types of ornaments may be applied to the clamping jaws without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Therefore, without limiting myself in this respect, I claim:

1. In a device of the type indicated, a jaw-member constructed of sheet-metal with a looped portion of recessed construction having upstanding parallel side walls, a second jaw-member comprising an arm hingedly connected to said first-named jaw-member, and a leaf-spring provided with a looped portion held within the recess of the loop of the first-named jaw-member and having an arm projecting therebetween with its end engaging against the end of the arm of the second-named jaw-member, the walls of the recessed loop extending over the edges of the loop of the spring to fixedly attach the latter to said jaw-member with its arm acting against the end of the arm of the opposite jaw-member to swing said members toward each other.

2. An article of jewelry comprising a pair of pivoted jaw-members, one of said members having an ovale-shaped loop-portion with an arm projecting from its end, said member constructed of sheet-metal with a continuous recess in its loop-portion bounded by upstanding parallel side flanges extended in said arm and terminating in hinge-ears, the opposite member consisting in a curved arm of bifurcated construction in cross-section with contiguous side walls diverging at one end to provide a relatively wide portion adapted for receiving an ornament attached thereto, means for pivotally connecting said first-named member with the hinge-ears on the arm of the first-named member and a leaf-spring of ovale shape fastened within the recess of the loop-portion of the first-named member with the flanges having portions projecting across its edges and provided with a curved end bearing against the end of the arm of the second-named member to maintain said members in either open or closed position.

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