Dec. 17, 1935. L. W. STRINGER 2,024,893

JEWELRY COMPONENT

Filed April 6, 1935

Fig. 1.

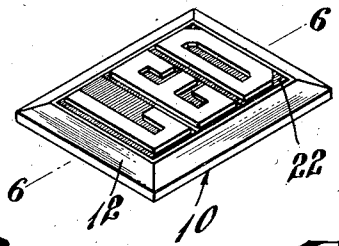


Fig. 2.

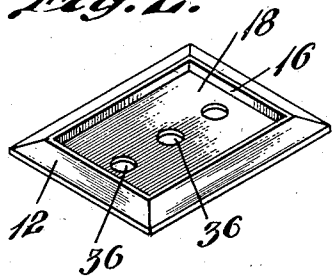


Fig. 3.

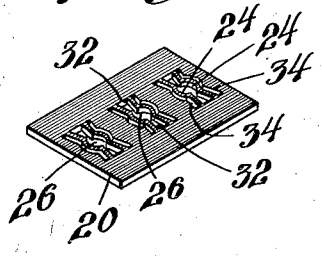


Fig. 4.

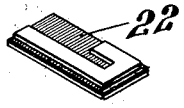


Fig. 5.

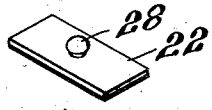
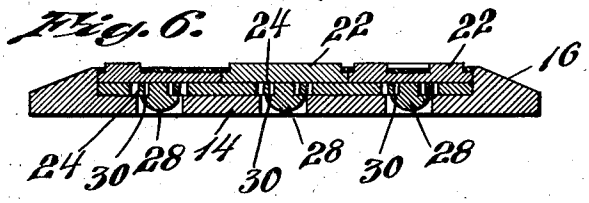


Fig. 6.



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2,024,893

JEWELRY COMPONENT

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Application April 6, 1935, Serial No. 15,064

8 Claims. (Cl. 63—26)

The present invention relates to an arrangement for the building up of an article out of individual pieces assembled on a backing or base plate and aims to provide means whereby one or more of these individual pieces having means of identification, such as initials, or ornamentation, may be assembled as desired on a substantial metal plate and be securely held thereon.

An object of the invention also is to provide means for securing parts to a metal plate without the use of tools so that there is no danger of their becoming loose in use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a metal backing or foundation plate of such a character that other parts may be readily and securely attached thereto.

A further object of the invention is the snap action mounting of units in contiguous relation.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my completed jewelry component which may be attached to an article of jewelry, such as a belt buckle;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the frame forming a part of the article shown in Figure 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the metal foundation plate made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 4 is a top view in perspective of one of the letter pieces appearing in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a bottom view in perspective of the letter piece appearing in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

It is often desired to apply initials, monograms, or other means of identification or means of ornamentation to belt buckles, bracelets, or other articles of jewelry, by the retailer at the time of purchase by a customer; but difficulty has been experienced in providing a means whereby such articles may be built up of preformed parts without the use of tools to provide an organization which runs no danger of the parts becoming loose in use. I have provided a means by which relatively small pieces of plates having individual characters such as letters or parts of an ornamental design may be securely assembled on a substantial backing or foundation plate by a mere snap action of the resilient parts, without the use of tools so that the article is of permanent character; and the following is a detailed description of the present embodiment of this invention, illustrating the preferred means by which these advantageous results may be accomplished:

With reference to the drawing, 10 designates in general a completed jewelry component composed of a frame 12 shown as having a back portion 14 and a rim 16 projecting from said back portion to form a flange surrounding a recess 18. The parts in accordance with my invention are assembled in such recess and comprise a foundation or base plate 20 on which are assembled and mounted one or more relatively small pieces 22, 22 having initials or ornamentation thereon.

It is desired that these parts 22 shall be securely held on the plate 20 so as not to become dislodged when in use, and I provide for this purpose a snap securing means comprising resilient strips 24, 24 which are integral portions of the plate 20 partially surrounding the apertures 26, 26 in such plate. The pieces 22 have cooperating portions of such snap means thereon illustrated in the form of headed studs 28 adapted to be pressed thru the apertures 26 to spring the strips 24 apart so that the enlarged heads of the studs pass beyond the strips 24 and permit such strips to spring back into place to thus resist removal of the pieces 22 from the plate 20. Preferably, the heads of the studs 28 are formed with abrupt shoulders 30 parallel to the bottoms of the parts 22 and the plate 20 so that when the strips 24 are once snapped into place back of such shoulders, it is impossible to remove the studs 28 thru the apertures 26 without tearing off the strips 24. However, I do not limit myself in all cases to the use of shouldered heads.

As is best shown in Fig. 3, the apertures 26 in plate 20 have enlarged central portions of rounded form for the reception of the studs 28, each aperture 26 having, however, two extensions 32, 32 running in opposite directions from the center of the aperture and giving the same a somewhat double keyhole shape. The extensions 32, however, are preferably widened somewhat in the direction away from the central portion of the aperture. The strips 24 extend along the sides of the apertures 26, one on each side of each aperture throughout most of the perimeter of each aperture and are integral with the body of the plate 20 at their ends adjacent the broader portions of the extensions 32.

The strips 24 are of approximately uniform width and are separated from the plate 20 except at their ends by slots 34 parallel to the apertures 26. Due to the alterations in sizes in the apertures 26 previously mentioned, the strips 24 are not straight, having curves and angles therein so

that they may be thicker and heavier than otherwise would be the case to produce a given degree of resiliency. The strips **24** therefore can resist material stresses without breaking or releasing the studs **28**.

As is clear from Fig. 6, the outer ends of the studs **28** are larger than the central portions of the apertures **26** so that when such studs are forced thru the apertures the parts **22** are securely fixed to the plate **20**.

The plate such as **20** having one or more parts **22** thereon may be used for various purposes without being associated with any other or further members. I prefer, however, to assemble such a plate with its attached parts in a frame, such as **12** which can be of silver, can be plated, or otherwise ornamented. In such case the plate **20** is preferably secured in the frame **12** in the recess **18** thereof, either before or after the parts **22** are assembled. If, however, soldering is used for securing, the letters will be assembled after the plate is positioned in the frame to avoid discoloration due to heat. The plate portion **14**, when used, of the frame **12** should have apertures or recesses **36**, **36** therein to receive the ends of the studs **28**.

The units **22** are so selected as to size that a given number, here shown as three, completely fills the recess or space **18** within the rim **16** and these units are of a thickness so that the three backgrounds will be flush with the rim and present a smooth surface above which the letters only project.

The foregoing description is directed solely towards the construction illustrated, but I desire it to be understood that I reserve the privilege of resorting to all the mechanical changes to which the device is susceptible, the invention being defined and limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A jewelry component having a plate provided with apertures and having slots adjacent but paralleling the borders of said apertures for material portions of their perimeters to provide strips adapted to be sprung to admit headed members to said apertures and to resist the removal of said members therefrom.

2. A jewelry component having a plate provided with apertures, said apertures having relatively large central portions and narrower extensions leading from opposite sides thereof, said plate having slots adjacent but paralleling the borders of said apertures for the principal portions of their perimeters to provide strips adapted to be sprung to admit headed members to said apertures.

3. A jewelry component having a plate provided with apertures, said apertures having relatively large central portions and narrower extensions leading from opposite sides thereof, said extensions increasing in width farther from said central portions, said plate having slots adjacent to but paralleling the borders of said apertures for the principal portions of their perimeters to provide strips adapted to be sprung to admit headed members to said apertures and to resist their removal therefrom.

4. A jewelry component comprising in combination a plate provided with apertures having relatively large central portions and extensions leading from opposite sides thereof, said extensions widening farther from said central portions, said plate having slots adjacent but paralleling the borders of said apertures for the major portions of their perimeters to provide strips adapted to be sprung, pieces mounted on said plate and having headed members adapted to be forced into said apertures and to spring said strips in entering the same, the heads on said members having abrupt shoulders adapted to lock under said strips to prevent removal of such pieces from said plate.

5. The combination of a frame member and a plate mounted thereon, said plate provided with apertures and having slots adjacent but paralleling the borders of said apertures for the principal portions of their perimeters to provide strips adapted to be sprung to admit headed members to said apertures, and additional pieces having heads thereon and locked to said plates by engagement of said heads under said strips.

6. The combination of a frame having a raised portion extending around its perimeter to form a recess having a bottom wall, a plate secured in said recess on said bottom wall, and jewelry components contacting said plate and fastened to said plate by snap joints, said plate and said components substantially filling said recess.

7. The combination set forth in claim 6 in which the jewelry components have portions raised above the edge of the recess in the frame.

8. The combination of a frame having a raised portion extending around its perimeter to form a recess with a bottom wall, a plate secured in said recess on said bottom wall, and jewelry components contacting said plate and fastened to said plate by snap joints, said plate and said components substantially filling said recess, said bottom wall having apertures therein for receiving portions of said snap joints.

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