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HOLDER DEVICE FOR MATCHED EARRINGS

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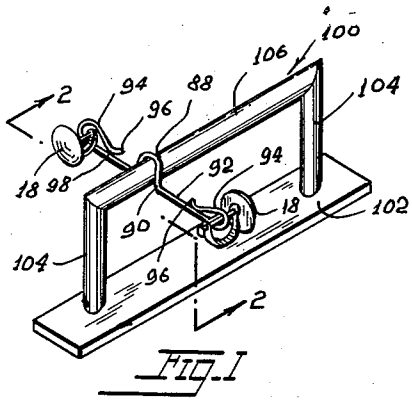


FIG. 1

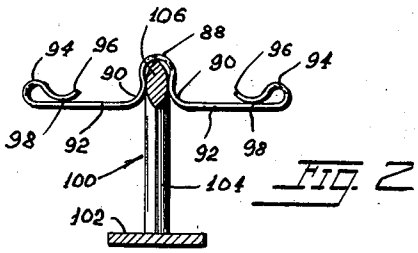


FIG. 2

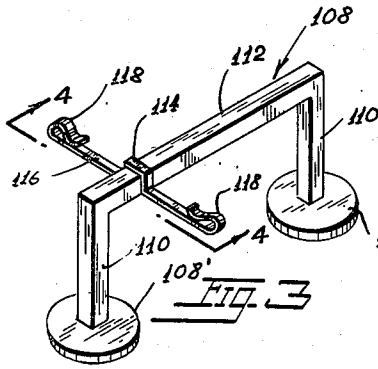


FIG. 3

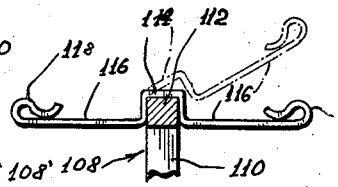


FIG. 4

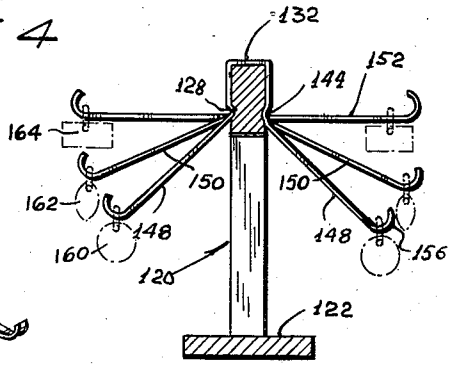


FIG. 6

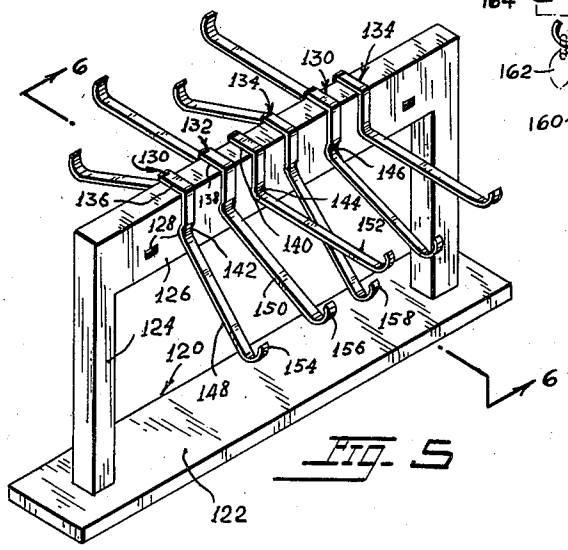


FIG. 5

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HOLDER DEVICE FOR MATCHED EARRINGS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 211—13)

This invention relates to a device for holding at least one pair of matched earrings.

Most usually, earrings are loosely kept in a jewel box or other container, and tend to become freely intermixed. As a result, when one desires to use a particular pair of earrings, it is necessary to search through an accumulation of earrings, disposed in a haphazard arrangement within the container. Often, when one earring is found, it becomes difficult to find the other. Further, the earrings tend to become entangled with one another, and must be disentangled before use. This is true even of a single pair of earrings.

In view of the above, the main object of the present invention is to provide a device that will be adapted to hold the earrings of a pair together, so that it will not be necessary to search for one earring, and then make a further search for the other earring of the same pair, the invention further being adapted to so hold the earrings of each pair as to prevent them from becoming entangled with one another.

Another object is to provide a device of the character described that will be so designed as to facilitate its engagement with or disengagement from the matched earrings.

Another object is to provide a holder for matched earrings that will be very inexpensively constructed, so as to be capable of manufacture at a cost so low as to justify fully the commercial feasibility thereof.

Yet another object is to provide a holder for matched earrings which, in at least one form of the invention, will include a stand on which a plurality of the holders can be supported in spaced relation, with each holder being adapted to hold a different pair of earrings. In this way, it is proposed to maintain the several earrings out of contact not only with one another, but also out of contact with the walls or other surfaces of containers, that might otherwise tend to mar or damage the earrings.

Yet another object of importance is to provide a holder of the character described that will be adapted to hold any conventional earrings of the lobe-clamping type, regardless of the particular ornamental shape or size of the earrings.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a stand for holding a plurality of earring holders, the stand embodying one form of the invention and shown supporting a single holder with earrings supported thereon.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modified type of stand, on which is positioned another type of holder.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, detail section on line 4—4 of

Fig. 3, the dotted lines showing the holder during the process of detachment thereof from the stand.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of another modification of the stand, showing a plurality of different types of holders of a single set supported thereon.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view on line 6—6 of Fig. 5, the dotted lines showing earrings supported upon the several holders.

Referring to the drawings in detail, in Fig. 1 there is shown a first form of stand generally designated **100** for supporting a plurality of holders for earrings. One type of earring holder is shown mounted on the stand. The earring holder comprises a single length of spring wire material shaped intermediate its ends with an arcuate intermediate portion **88** curving through substantially more than 180° of a circle. At its opposite ends, the intermediate portion merges into oppositely, inwardly bowed clamping portions **90**, and these in turn merge into straight end portions **92** formed at their outer ends with inwardly extending, elongated loops **94** having free ends **96** curving outwardly from the end portions **92** and normally contacting the end portions **92** at the locations **98**. The earrings **18** are engaged in the loops **94**, thus being spaced apart so as to prevent their entanglement with each other.

The stand **100** can be formed of metal, plastic or any other suitable material and includes an elongated, flat, rectangular base **102**. Adjacent opposite ends of the base vertical legs **104** are rigidly secured thereto, said legs being of elliptical cross section and being integral or otherwise made rigid at their upper ends with the opposite ends of an elongated, horizontally extending support bar **106** also of elliptical cross section.

The formation of the support bar **106** to an elliptical cross section permits said bar to be clampably engaged by and between the clamping portions **90** as shown in Fig. 2, with the arcuate intermediate portion **88** of the holder straddling the support bar. The elliptical cross section of the support bar defines, below the center point thereof, downwardly convergent side surfaces, due to the shape of the support bar in cross section, and the inwardly bowed clamping portions are adapted to engage against said surfaces, due to the inherent resiliency of the spring wire material, thus to hold the holder upon the support bar in position extending transversely thereof as shown in Fig. 1. The end portions **92** are thus maintained in a horizontal position, with the earrings at opposite sides of the support bar.

It will be understood that a plurality of the holders of Fig. 1 can be mounted upon a single support bar **106**, being spaced apart upon the length of the support bar any desired distance, sufficient to prevent entanglement of the supported earrings.

By reason of this arrangement, the several pairs of earrings are supported out of contact with each other and also out of contact with the walls of a jewel box or the container, thus preventing scratching or other damage to the earrings. Further, the earrings are conspicuously located so that a selected pair can be found immediately, with the earrings of each pair being spaced not only from the earrings of the several other pairs, but also from each other. Any earring can be removed without disturbing any other earring or holder, and, of course, a substantial number of the holders can be positioned upon a single stand. The holders can be spread longitudinally of the support bar, and in each position to which they are slidably adjustable frictionally engage the support bar to hold the adjustment.

In Figs. 3 and 4 a modified type of stand generally designated at **108** is illustrated. This could include the flat base of Fig. 1. However, as shown, the stand **108** may be provided with a base comprising flat discs

108', respectively integral or otherwise made rigid with the lower ends of the vertical legs **110** of rectangular cross section. Legs **110** at their upper ends are integral with the opposite ends of a horizontally disposed, elongated support bar **112** also of rectangular cross section (see Fig. 4).

A modified holder is shown in position upon the stand **108**, and comprises a single length of flat spring material shaped to include a clamping portion **114** of inverted U-shape medially between its ends. The portion **114**, by reason of the inherent springability of the length of material, straddles and frictionally binds against the support bar **112**. At its opopsite ends, the clamping portion **114** is integral with oppositely extending, elongated, straight end portions **116** having loops **118** at their opposite ends similar to the loops **94**.

Due to the construction illustrated, one can readily remove one of the holders by lifting upwardly on one of the end portions **116**, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4. This elevates the bight portion, disengaging the clamping portion from one side of the support bar **112** by rocking of the clamping portion upwardly upon the support bar to fully disengage the same from the support bar.

In Figs. 5 and 6 there is shown another modified stand, generally designated at **120**. This includes a flat base **122** integrally adjacent its opposite ends with upstanding legs **124**, the legs **124** being integral with opposite ends of an elongated support bar **126** of rectangular cross section. Formed in the opposite side surfaces of the support bar **126** are regularly spaced indentations **128**.

The stand **120** is adapted to support a plurality of holders **130, 132, 134**. In the illustrated example two sets of holders are shown, each set comprising one holder **130**, a holder **132**, and a holder **134**, with the holder **132** disposed between the holders **130, 134**.

The holders are all formed from single lengths of spring wire material, and include clamping portions **136, 138, 140** of inverted U-shape, the legs of which extend downwardly along opposite sides of the support bar **126** and terminate at their lower ends in inwardly pressed lug portions **142, 144, 146**, respectively. Extending outwardly from the lug portions are elongated, straight arms **148, 150, 152** terminating at their free ends in upwardly turned hooks or open loops **154, 156, 158**.

The holders **130, 132, 134** of each set are alike execpt for the angle of their arms **148, 150, 152** relative to one another. The arms **148** of holder **130** diverge in a downward direction, at a substantial angle from the horizontal as shown in Fig. 6. The arms **150** of the holder **132** also diverge downwardly, but at a much shallower angle from the horizontal. The arms **152** of holder **134** are disposed horizontally.

By reason of this arrangement, the several holders are capable of being mounted closely from one another, to permit a maximum number of holders on a single stand. At the same time, however, due to the different directions in which the support arms thereof extend, the supported earrings **160, 162, 164** will be maintained out of contact with each other, so as not to be entangled despite the fact that they may be of a width that would ordinarily require a greater spacing of the holders from each other. Thus, a substantial number of earrings can be supported on a single stand, in pairs of matched earrings, with the earrings of each pair carried by a single holder. Any pair of earrings can be positioned upon the holders or removed without interfering with or being interfered with by any other adjacent pair.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

A display device for supporting matched earrings in spaced, separate array, comprising a stand including a horizontal bar, a plurality of holders carried by said bar, each of said holders comprising an elongated length of strip material shaped to support a pair of earrings, said stand including legs extending downwardly from opposite ends of the horizontal bar, means at the lower ends of the legs providing a base for the stand, said horizontal bar being rectangular in cross section, each of said holders having an inverted rectangular U-shaped portion embracing the horizontal bar and held against rotation thereon by said U-shaped portion, each holder having elongated arms extending outwardly and downwardly in different angularly spaced directions at opposite sides of the bar, said arms having upwardly turned outer extremities for engaging said earrings at outer ends of the respective arms, the bar-embracing portion of each holder including inwardly bowed side portions and being springably tensioned to exert a clamping pressure against opposite sides of the horizontal bar, said bar having longitudinally spaced indentations receiving said inwardly bowed side portions and preventing longitudinal and transverse movement of the holders on the bar.

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