

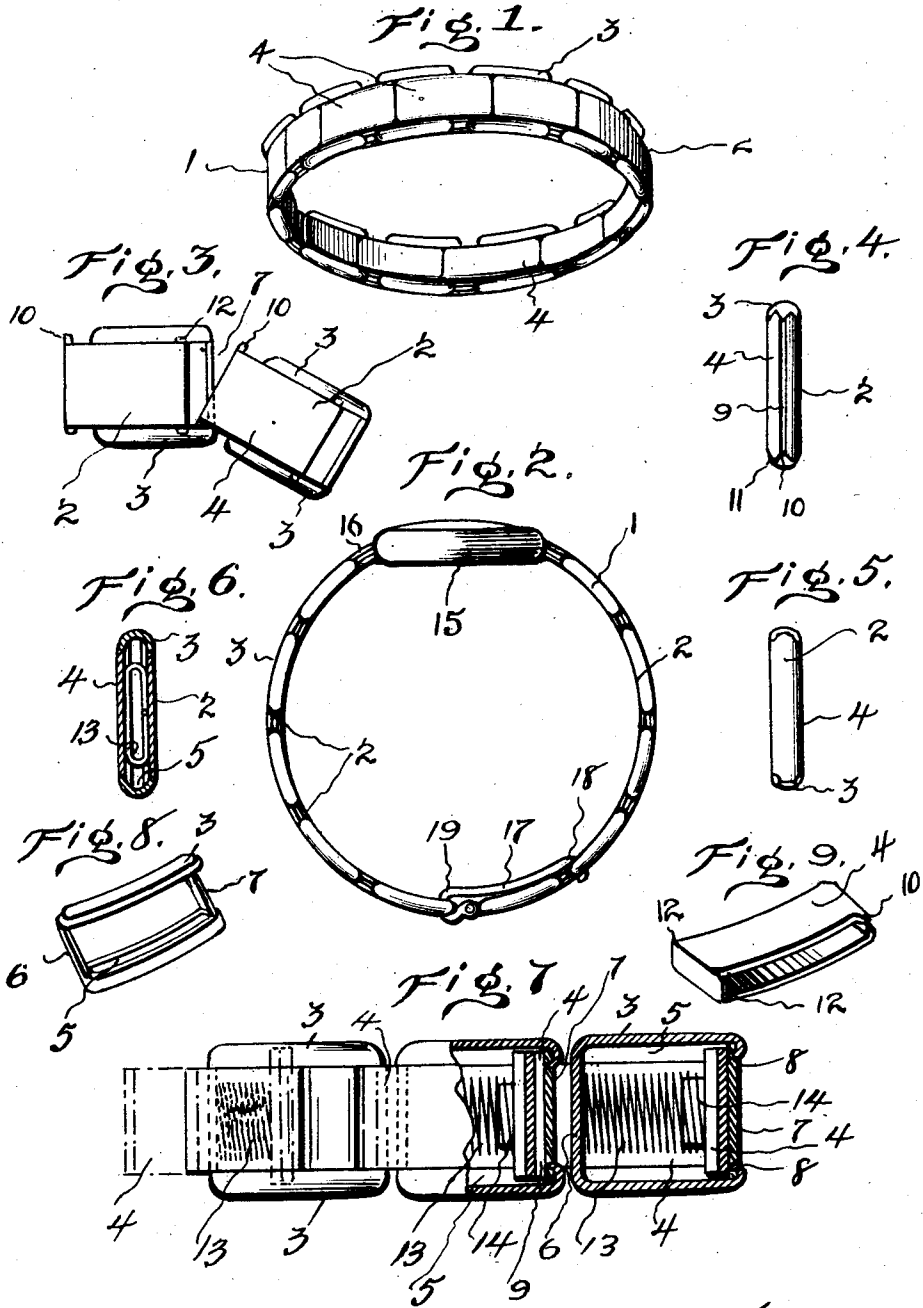
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BRACELET

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BRACELET.

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The present invention has relation to bracelets or the like and is particularly applicable to that class of bracelets which are composed of a plurality of linked sections 5 movable relatively to each other so as to provide an expanding bracelet. Heretofore, bracelets of said type have been proposed in which each link section consists of an inner and an outer link, the inner link sliding 10 within the outer link under control of a spring and within suitable guides provided by the outer link. The link sections so constructed are united together to form a bracelet or chain of any required diameter or 15 length.

The present invention has for its object to provide an efficient article which will possess many advantages, one being the simplicity of the construction whereby the 20 cost of production is considerably lowered particularly so far as assembling of the parts is concerned. Furthermore, the improved article presents a neat and attractive appearance and there are no projecting 25 corners or parts which could cause discomfort to the wearer of the bracelet.

In accordance with the present invention, the bracelet is constructed of a number of 30 link sections or units, each unit comprising an outer and an inner link. Improvements are introduced whereby the link sections may be readily united together and positively retained in the assembled position by 35 self-retentive means thereby ensuring that the bracelet will not come apart when worn. The uniting of the sections is effected without the use of solder heretofore employed in 40 most instances. Besides this, the means for uniting the links together are so simple of operation that even an unskilled person may easily join the links together without the 45 use of a tool of any kind.

The invention will be more fully described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the bracelet in the form of an endless band or chain;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the improved bracelet shown as supporting a wrist-watch and having a fastening clasp for uniting the ends of the bracelet;

Figure 3 illustrates a pair of link sections in their relative position when the links are 55 being united or separated;

Figure 4 is an elevation of one end of a link section;

Figure 5 is an elevation showing the end of the link opposite to the end shown in Figure 4; 60

Figure 6 is a cross section of one of the link units;

Figure 7 is an enlarged plan view of three of the links united together, with part of the links shown in section; 65

Figure 8 is a detail perspective view of an outer link, and

Figure 9 is a detail perspective view of an inner link.

Referring to the said drawings, the bracelet 70 1, in its complete form, is built up with a number of link sections or units 2, each section being composed of an outer link 3 and an inner link 4. Both links are curved inwardly so that the proper curvature is 75 given to the bracelet when built up from these links. The outer link is composed of a blanked-out strip which is bent into a U shape so as to form the hollow sides 5 with rounded corners and an integral end 80 bar 6 which unites the two sides. The free ends of the link are united together by an added bar 7 which is secured to the ends of the link by tongues 8 bent inwardly and inserted into holes in the bar 7 and then the 85 ends of the tongues are clinched to ensure a secure connection. The inner link is in the form of a flattened band with the two ends brought together at 9 so as to form a link which is split transversely at its extreme 90 end. The split end of the link has prongs or projections 10 having chamfered corners and central notches 11. The opposite end of the inner link 4 has projections 12 and 95 the latter with projections 10 are engaged within the hollow sides of the outer link 3. The projections 12 serve as guides for the sliding movement of the inner link within the outer link and the projections 10 are engaged within the hollow sides so that the 100 split end of the link 4 cannot be accidentally opened.

As previously stated, the inner link slides within the outer link and this sliding movement is effected against the action of the 105 flattened coiled spring 13 and which spring is secured to a keeper 14 having projecting ends or lugs engaged within the hollow or grooved sides of the outer link whereby the spring is guided and held in an operative 110

position during the sliding movement of the two links.

In Figure 1, an endless chain or bracelet is shown and the same is produced by uniting the end link sections together. In Figure 2, the improvements are shown as applied to a bracelet which supports a watch 15 and in this case, it may be preferable to permanently unite one end link of the chain of links to the fastening means 16 at one side of the watch. When fastening the chain to the other side of the watch, the open end of the end link 4 would be attached and in this case, the projections 10 may be dispensed with and the split end of the link would be soldered together to make a safe connection. In a great many cases, it might answer the purpose to use the endless form of the bracelet which could be simply expanded by stretching to permit putting on or taking off of the bracelet. In Figure 2, a fastening device is shown and this device is composed of a lever-like clasp 17 which is pivotally connected to the inner link at one end of the chain. In securing this clasp, the hooked end 18 of the lever is inserted between the inner and outer links of the link section next to the end link of the chain and over the bar 6 so that the loop 19 of the clasp is engaged. The hooked end of the clasp is then pushed up between the inner and outer links of the engaging section and thus the clasp is securely fastened. The pressure of the wrist of the wearer against the lever 17 prevents the accidental opening of the clasp.

In the operation of the invention, the link sections or units, as previously stated, may be employed to construct a chain of any desired length by uniting the link units together and when uniting these links, the links are held in a position as shown in Figure 3 wherein one of the units is in an angular position relatively to the other so that one corner of the inner link at the split end is first engaged on the bar 7 of the outer link. The V shaped notch readily engages the bar and with a little pressure, the bar 7 acts as a wedge and opens the link 4, then the link 4 may be forced into position by a snap action so that the projections 10 will enter the grooved sides of the outer link, and when so united, the links cannot be separated by a straight pull. To open the chain, the same must be expanded first and then by a sharp angular twisting movement, reverse

to that employed for assembling the links, the links may be separated.

It should be noted that the usual practice of the manufacturer to supply the bracelets in an assembled condition can be followed and in this case the improved means for uniting the links are an advantage to the manufacturer for they facilitate the assembling of the bracelets. Furthermore, the dealer is not required to stock various sizes of bracelets to meet requirements of different customers, for the reason that the dealer, or the customer himself, may readily take out or add links to form a chain or bracelet of the required length or diameter.

Modifications may be made in the construction and arrangement of the improved bracelet or chain heretofore described without departing from the spirit of this invention and it is to be understood that any modification coming fairly within the terms of the appended claims shall be covered thereby.

I claim:—

1. An expansible bracelet or chain composed of a plurality of link sections; each section having an outer member and an inner member sliding within said outer member; said outer member having end bars connecting the sides thereof; said inner member having one end closed and the other end split, and said split end having flanges with cut off corners forming projections adapted to engage one connecting bar of the outer link with a wedge-like effect whereby opening of the inner member is effected to unite said link sections.

2. A link unit for bracelets or chains; said unit being composed of an outer member and an inner member sliding within said outer member; said outer member having inwardly grooved sides united by end bars; said inner member being closed at one end and transversely split at the other end; the latter end having wedge-like projections adapted to be engaged within said grooved sides of the outer member and to engage one of said bars to wedge open said split end of said inner member whereby the uniting of one unit with another unit is effected.

Signed at North Attleboro, county of Bristol, State of Massachusetts, this 25th day of October, 1926.

GEORGE W. STELTER.