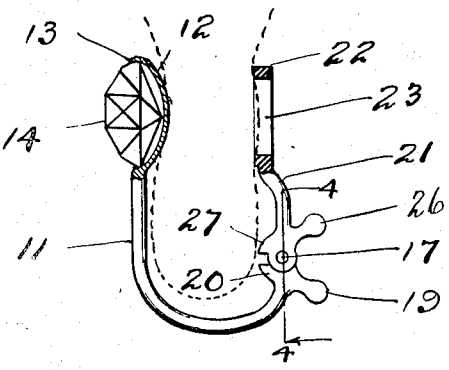
C. F. MARKHAM.

EAR CLAMP.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 24, 1915.

1,174,174. Patented Mar. 7, 1916.

Fig. 1



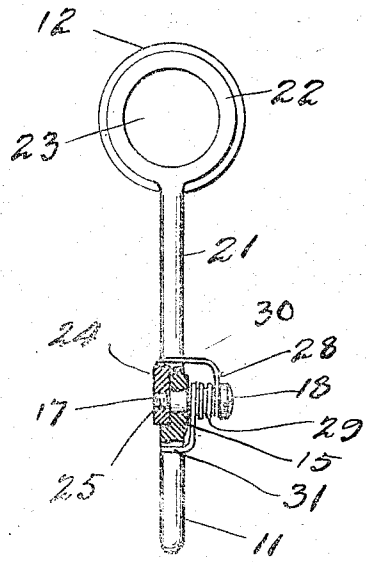


Fig. 4

Fig. 2

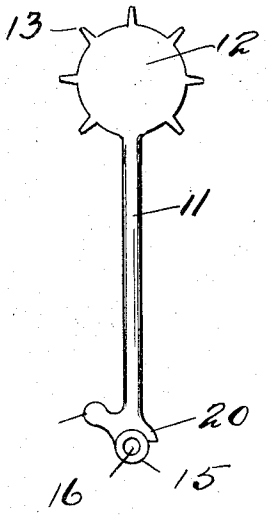
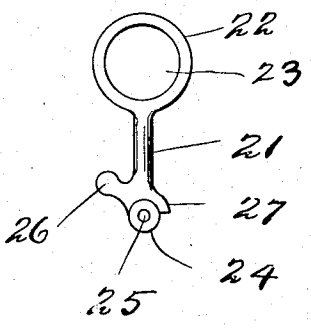


Fig. 3



Witnesses

N. N. Bandsley

A. J. Macready

Inventor

Charles F. Markham

By Howard E. Barlow

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. MARKHAM, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

EAR-CLAMP.

1,174,174. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 7, 1916.

Application filed April 24, 1915. Serial No. 23,743.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. MARKHAM, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ear-Clamps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to ear clamps by which ornaments may be readily attached to the ear-lobe of the wearer and the object of this invention is to provide a jointed frame having ear engaging means at its ends and a spring acting on the pivoted members to close their ends against opposite sides of the lobe of the ear.

A further object of the invention is to provide a pair of manipulating handles on the frame members by the use of which the device may be readily positioned and the arms of the frame opened to receive the ear-lobe.

A further object of the invention is to provide a stop to limit the closing motion of the frame arms.

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 drawings: Figure 1— is a side elevation partly in section illustrating my improved ear clamp. Fig. 2— is a detail of one member of the clamp as struck from sheet-stock. Fig. 3— is a view of the other member of the clamp as struck from sheet-stock. Fig. 4— is a sectional elevation on line 4—4 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow.

Referring to the drawings the frame of the device is made substantially in a U-shape, the main member 11 of which is preferably stamped out of sheet-stock into the form illustrated in Fig. 2, in which an ear engaging portion 12 is formed on the outer end of the narrow arm 11, which ear-engaging portion may be made in any desired form, but I have shown the same as being provided with prongs 13 which may be bent up to serve as a setting for a jewel or other ornamentation 14, the back portion of the pad being preferably formed rounding or concavo-convex in cross section. The opposite end of the arm 11 is also provided with an enlarged boss 15 offset one-half of its thickness and is provided with a central opening 16 for the reception of the pivot screw 18. An extending finger or handle 19 is formed on the side of this arm adjacent its boss portion 15 for the purpose presently described, and a slight projection 20 is also formed on the boss portion on the opposite side from that of the handle. This frame is provided with another and shorter arm member 21 also formed of sheet-stock, which arm has an ear-lobe engaging portion 22, the same being preferably provided with a central opening 23 into which the flesh of the ear-lobe is crowded when the pads are in engaged position to better retain the clamp in position thereon. The opposite end of this arm, like arm 11, is provided with a corresponding boss 24 having a central threaded opening 25 therethrough for receiving the threaded end 17 of the pivot screw 18. On this arm is another outwardly extending operating handle 26 adjacent the boss portion and a second stop member 27 is formed on its opposite side. In order to operatively connect the bosses 15 and 24 of these two members I twist the arms 11 and 21 one-quarter turn and then insert the pivot screw 18, thereby forming a joint or hinge between them. In order to cause these ear engaging members 12 and 22 to swing toward each other and engage or grip the ear-lobe (shown in dotted lines) between them, I have provided a spring 28 having a coil 29 wound around the pivot screw and having one end 30 engage one arm of the yoke, while the opposite end 31 engages the opposite arm of the yoke, but I do not wish to be restricted to this construction of spring as any desired form of spring may be employed for producing a closing action between the arms of this frame or yoke.

It is found in practice that my improved device is so very small that it is necessary to provide means whereby it may be engaged by the thumb and finger of the wearer in order to manipulate the same, therefore, to accomplish this, I have provided two co-operating handles 19 and 26 connected respectively to the different members of the frame, whereby the device may be readily positioned and the arms opened to receive and then close upon the lobe of the ear with a soft, elastic pressure to yieldingly bind and secure the clamp thereto without danger of losing the same, and all of this manipulation both the opening of the arms and positioning of the device may be accom-

plished by the use of but one hand, leaving the other hand free to stiffen the ear lobe for the reception of the clamp. Another feature of the invention is that stop lugs 20 and 27 are provided one on each of these members, whereby the closing movement of the frame arms is limited. It will be noted in my improved ear clamp that the jointed portion and the operating handles are all arranged so that when the device is positioned on the ear of the wearer, they will be back of the lobe and practically out of sight although as a matter of fact these members are so very small that they are not unsightly and are hardly noticeable.

The ornament receiving pad or member may be constructed to receive any style of ornament desired.

I have shown and described one form of ear clamp, but the details of construction may be changed without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. An ear clamp comprising a main member having one end provided with an ear-engaging portion having means for supporting a setting, the other end being provided with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, a second member having an ear-engaging portion at one end positioned opposite the first named ear-engaging portion and provided at its other end with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, means for pivotally connecting the handle ends of said members, and a spring acting to force said ear-engaging portions normally toward each other.

2. An ear clamp comprising a main member having one end provided with an ear-engaging portion having means for supporting a setting, the other end being provided with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, a second member having an ear-engaging portion at one end positioned opposite the first named ear-engaging portion and provided at its other end with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, means for pivotally connecting the handle ends of said members, and a spring acting to force said ear-engaging portions normally toward each other, each of said members having an abutment shoulder adjacent the handle, said shoulders coöperating to limit pivotal movement of said members under the action of said spring.

3. An ear clamp comprising a main member of approximately U-shape provided with a long arm and a short arm, the long arm being provided at its end with an ear-engaging portion having means for supporting a setting, the short arm being provided with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, a second member having an ear-engaging portion at one end positioned opposite the first named ear-engaging portion and provided at its other end with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, means for pivotally connecting the handle ends of said members, and a spring acting to force said ear-engaging portions normally toward each other.

4. An ear clamp comprising a main member having one end provided with an ear-engaging portion having means for supporting a setting, the other end being provided with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, a second member having an ear-engaging portion at one end positioned opposite the first named ear-engaging portion and provided at its other end with an integral lateral projection forming a handle, the ear-engaging portion upon the main member being convexed, the ear-engaging portion on the second member being provided with an opening extending therethrough, means for pivotally connecting the handle ends of said members, and a spring acting to force said ear-engaging portions normally toward each other.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES F. MARKHAM.

Witnesses:
HOWARD E. BARLOW,
A. F. MACREADY.