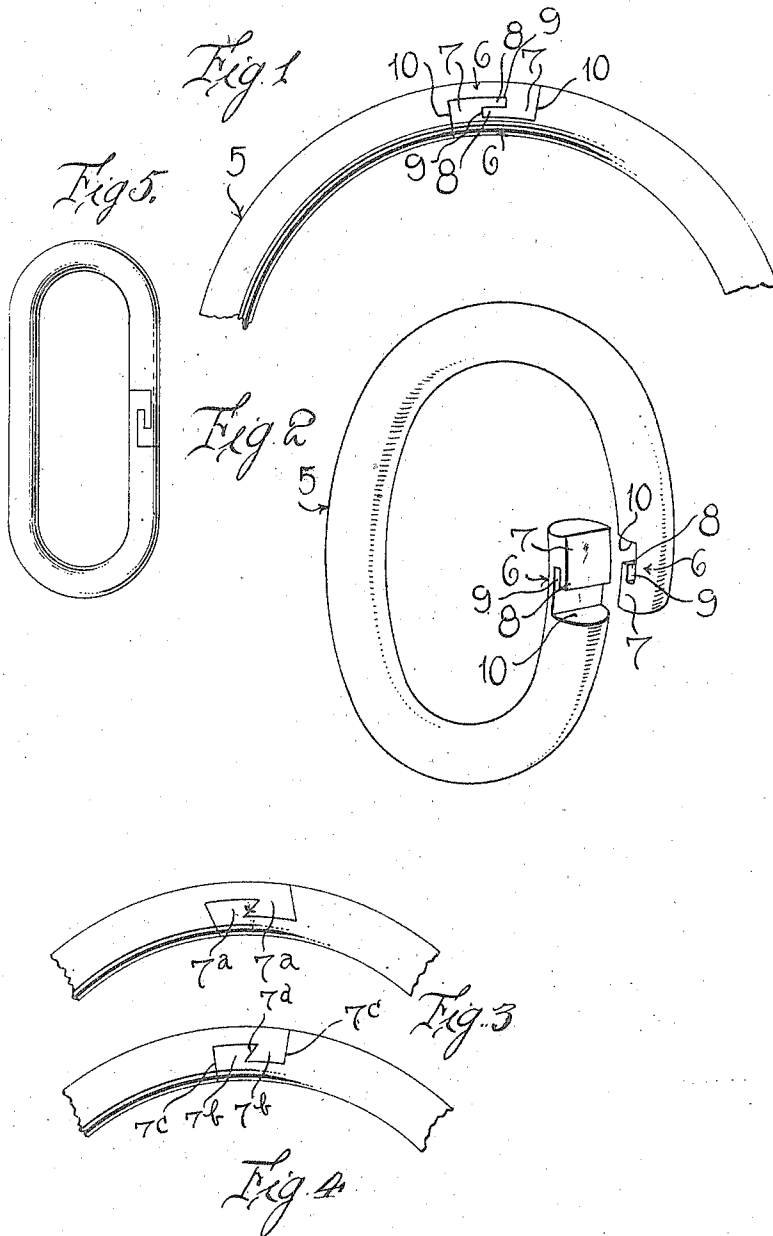


W. E. BAUER.
LAP RING OR LINK.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 15, 1917.

1,286,501.

Patented Dec. 3, 1918.



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LAP RING OR LINK.

1,286,501.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 3, 1918.

Application filed January 15, 1917. Serial No. 142,516.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. BAUER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Trinidad, in the county of Las Animas and State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lap Rings or Links, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to lap rings or links and has for its primary object to provide improved means for interlocking the ends of a split ring or link such as is used, for instance, upon watch chains or other articles of jewelry, so that the ring or link can be opened only by a relative lateral movement of its connected ends.

It is a more particular object of the invention to provide a lap ring or link of the above character, the end portions of which are cut or formed to provide interlocking tongues and grooves extending transversely of the ring, and which are capable of resisting all longitudinal or circumferential strains upon the ends of the ring, whereby their separation is prevented.

It is a further general object of the invention to provide an interlocking lap ring or link which is exceedingly simple in its construction, as well as strong and durable, and may be manufactured at relatively small cost.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter more fully described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which,

Figure 1 is an elevation illustrating one embodiment of my improved interlocking lap ring;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the end portions of the ring open or separated from each other;

Figs. 3 and 4 are fragmentary elevations showing various modifications of the invention; and

Fig. 5 is an elevation showing one form of the invention as applied to a chain link.

Referring in detail to the drawing and more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 thereof, 5 designates a metal ring, all portions of which are normally disposed in the same circumferential plane. This ring is split to provide separable ends, each of such end portions consisting of a longitudinally dis-

posed arm 6 projecting from the body of the ring. These arms or extensions are adapted for locking engagement upon each other, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, and each is provided with an enlarged extremity 7. A lug 8 projects inwardly from this enlargement of the arm 6 and is of a width approximately equal to the thickness of the ring. The lug 8 being spaced from the opposed face of the arms 6, provides a groove 9 which is adapted to receive the lug 8 on the other arm or extension of the ring. The opposed contacting faces of the interlocking arms 6 are preferably flat, and the abutting end faces of the arms on the body portion of the ring, indicated at 10, preferably extend radially of the ring.

The end extensions 6 of the lap ring being connected in interlocking relation as seen in Fig. 1, it is apparent that no amount of longitudinal or circumferential pull or strain on the ends of the ring will effect their separation. The metal is, however, sufficiently malleable to enable the ring ends to be separated by forcing them laterally in relatively opposite directions, as shown in Fig. 2, so that a connected ring or link can be removed. The ring may be readily closed by simply forcing the ends thereof toward each other so as to dispose the projecting arms 6 in lapping relation and thereby engage the tongues 8 in the grooves 9.

In Fig. 3 the terminal enlargements 7^a are of dove-tail shape, and in Fig. 4 these terminals 7^b have their end faces 7^c disposed radially of the ring, the opposed end surfaces of the ring being, of course, correspondingly cut. The inner contacting faces of the terminals 7^b are cut at an acute angle, as indicated at 7^d. Thus, a very strong and effective interlocking connection is produced.

In Fig. 5 of the drawing, I have shown one form of the interlocking connection such as is illustrated in Fig. 1, applied to an elongated chain or link. It will, of course, be understood that the invention may also be advantageously employed in connection with rings, loops, or links of various other forms, and that I do not desire to be limited to the specific form of ring or link illustrated in the drawing.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the construction, manner of use and several advantages of the invention will be clearly

and fully understood. The device provides efficient and reliable means for securely closing a split ring or link, but which may be readily opened by a lateral pressure upon the end portions thereof and again closed numerous times without decreasing the strength or efficiency of the ring or link as a chain unit. I have referred to several constructions whereby this interlocking connection may be obtained, but in addition thereto it may readily occur to the skilled mechanic that various other forms of the lap interlocking ends of the ring might be provided, and I, therefore, reserve the privilege of adopting all such legitimate modifications in the form and construction of the several features herein referred to as may be fairly embodied within the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I desire to claim and secure by Letters Patent is:

As an improved article of manufacture,

the herein described ring or link formed from a cylindrical metal bar having end portions relatively displaceable laterally with respect to each other, each of said end portions being of substantially semi-circular form in cross-section and provided with a longitudinally projecting tongue 8 and an undercut groove 9, and having a flat transverse end face 10, said tongue projecting toward the end face 10 of the ring body and being spaced therefrom, the tongue on one end of the bar being movable into the recess and beneath the tongue on the other end of the bar by a relative lateral movement of the ends of said bar, whereby the separation of the ends of the ring or link by a longitudinal pull thereon is prevented.

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

WILLIAM E. BAUER.

Witnesses:

CARL FRYNNIE,
ROLAND C. GRIFFIN.