

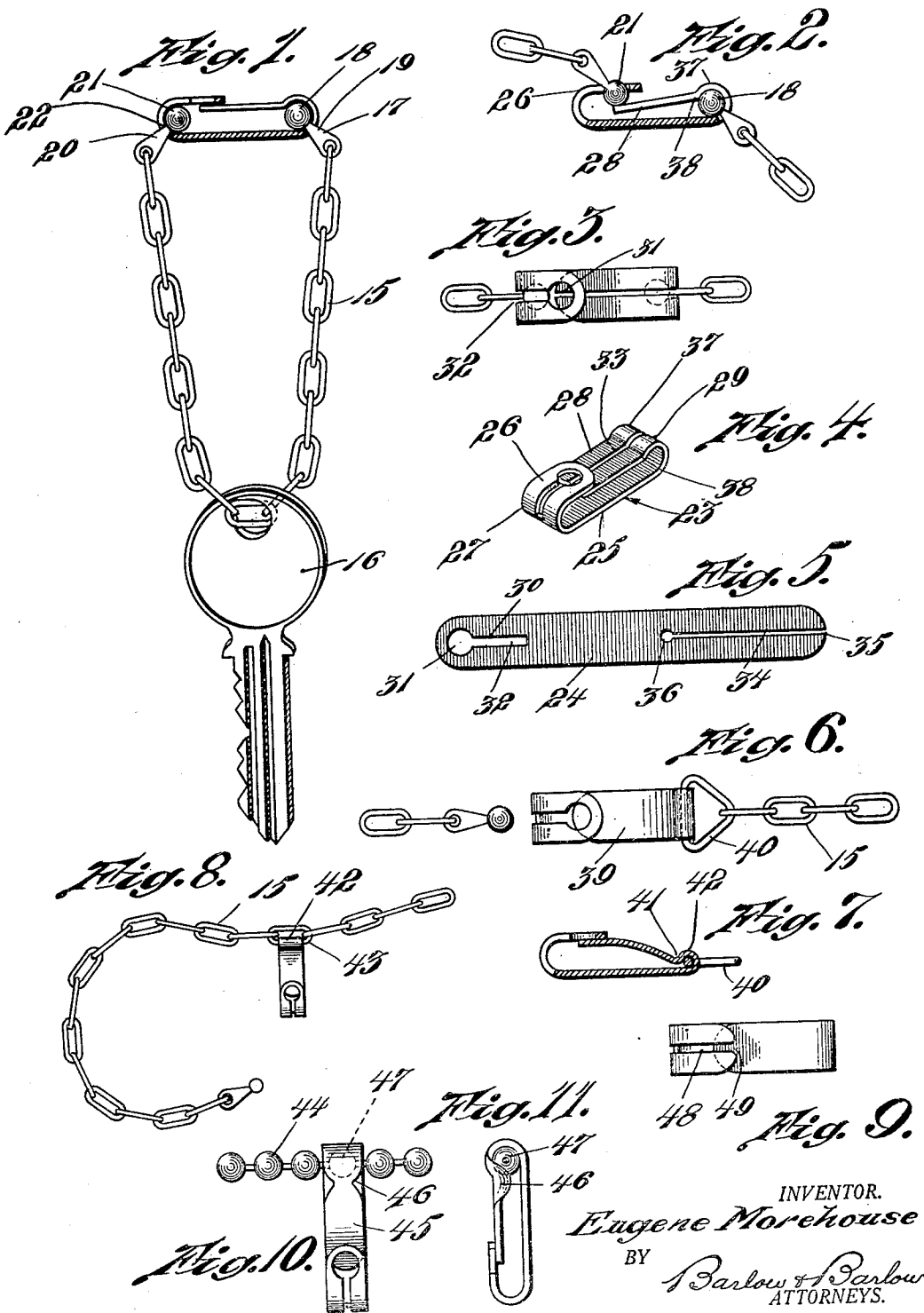
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CLASP

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CLASP

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This invention relates to a clasp especially adapted for use in connection with small chains such as key chains and the like, and has for its object to provide a detachable connection between an end of the chain and the clasp which may be easily manipulated for detachment or attachment thereto.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a clasp which shall have a flat surface for reception of engraving either for ornamental purposes or for identification.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a clasp which may have the chain detachably connected at either end thereof with the chain more easily detached from one end than the other.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a clasp for a chain having an enlarged or ball end with the ball connected to the clasp by an insertion in a slot therein.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an attachment for a ball portion of a chain at the joint end of the clasp in such a manner that the ball portion will support the joint end of the clasp and prevent crushing thereof.

A still further object of the invention is the utilization of a ball attached to the joint end of the clasp which will shorten the flexing length of the tongue thereof and stiffen the spring action thereof.

With these and other objects and advantageous features in view, the invention consists of a novel arrangement of parts more fully disclosed in the detailed description following, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and more particularly set forth in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a central sectional view of my clasp with a key chain and key mounted thereon shown connected thereto;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the clasp with the chain in fragmental portions and showing the readily detachable end of the chain as in position to move into or out of the clasp with the tongue flexed;

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the clasp with portions of the chain attached thereto;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the clasp alone;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank from which the clasp is folded;

Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of a slightly modified form of clasp showing a loop member connected at the joint end and showing the detachable end of the chain as spaced from the clasp;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the clasp shown in Figure 6;

Fig. 8 is a bottom plan view of the clasp shown in Figure 7 showing the same as attached to an intermediate link of the chain;

Fig. 9 is a bottom plan view showing a modified hook opening;

Fig. 10 is a bottom plan view of another modified form of clasp showing an adaptation for securing the joint end thereof to the intermediate bead or ball of a beaded chain;

Fig. 11 is a side elevation with the structure shown in Figure 10.

In the use of key chains and clasps therefor, it is frequently desirable when the same is to be used as a gift item to provide some means for presenting an observed face for the reception of ornamentation or a name for identification; also, it is desirable that one end of the chain be easily detached from the clasp for the reception or detachment of a key therefrom, and in order to provide such a clasp, I have folded a strip of sheet stock into generally band shape providing a hook at one end and a tongue for closing this hook, and have suitably apertured the hook for the reception of the ball or enlarged end of a member attached to a chain and arranged the tongue so as to close or restrict the aperture to prevent accidental detachment therefrom, but yet permit by resilient movement of the tongue a sufficient opening of the aperture to permit detachment of the member; I have also provided means at the joint end of the clasp for detachment of the opposite end of the chain, and in some instances of variation have caused the part attached to support the joint and act as a fulcrum to determine the point of bending of the tongue and shorten the length of movement of the tongue, and then to stiffen its action; 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 drawings, 15 designates a key chain having a key 16 mounted thereon. At one end of the chain there is provided a member 17 with an enlarged or ball end 18 thereon and a narrow neck portion 19 adjacent thereto, while at the opposite end of the chain a similar member 20 is provided having a ball end 21 and a narrow neck 22. A clasp for receiving these members 17 and 20 is illustrated generally at 23 and is formed by folding a strip of sheet stock 24 as illustrated in Figure 5 to form a body portion 25, a hook portion 26 at one end 27 and a tongue 28 extending from the folded or joint end 29 to close the hook and provide a generally band-shaped construction. The hook 26 is provided with an aperture 30 generally in the shape of a key hole slot having an enlarged opening 31 and a more restricted opening 32, while the tongue is provided with an aperture 33 comprising a narrow slot 34 extending from the end 35 thereof and extending about the bend at the joint end 29 and terminating in a larger opening 36.

The member 17 is inserted into the joint end of the clasp by its neck portion 19 entering the mouth 35 of the slot 34 and being moved until this neck portion is located in the larger portion of the opening 36 where it is allowed some freedom of movement with reference to the clasp. The ball end 18 rests within the enlarged circular portion 37 at the joint end 29 of the clasp and is restricted in this position by means of the offset 38 of the tongue, and the ball is so located as to support the tongue at the joint end 29, thus preventing any crushing of this end of the clasp and also changing the point of flexing of the tongue by shortening its length of resilient movement, thereby stiffening the action of the tongue to a desirable degree.

The opposite end member 20 for attachment to the clasp may have its enlargement 21 inserted through the enlarged portion 31 of the aperture 30 and then its neck moved in the slot 32 to the position illustrated in Figures 1 or 3, it being understood that the tongue 28 will be flexed downwardly, as illustrated in Figure 2, during this movement, after which the resiliency of the tongue will return it to engage the hook 26 and sufficiently close or restrict the entrance opening of the aperture as to prevent detachment of the end member 20 until the tongue is again moved inwardly against its inherent tendency to close the hook.

In some cases, instead of providing a member such as 17 for attachment to the joint end, the tongue may be formed as illustrated at 39 in Figure 6 without being split longitudinally thereof, and a loop member 40 will

be inserted through the band for connection to the chain 15, the loop member 40 will be inserted through the band for connection to the chain 15, the loop may be of any desired shape so as to freely swing in the joint end; and I may restrict its movement by folding inwardly the tongue as at 41, which when the tongue is moved to a certain extent in opening, also forms a stop to further limit its length of flexing movement and stiffen the action thereof. The size of the wire of the loop 40 may also serve in the same manner as the ball 18, above described, to support the joint.

The clasp shown in Figures 6 and 7 may be attached intermediate the ends of the chain as at link 43 in the chain 15, in which case the link 41 may be inserted between the tongue and hook and moved to a position within the loop 42 of the clasp. In still other instances, where a beaded or ball chain 44 is used, the stock of the tongue 45 as illustrated in Figure 10, may be bent inwardly as at 46 providing a recess for the reception of the ball 47 of the chain 44 which is held in place by means of the dipping inwardly of the stock of the tongue, as illustrated at 48.

Modification may also be had in the hook and by causing the slot 48 to extend to the end 49 of the hook Figure 9 for reception of the neck portion of the attaching member such as 20, as above described.

While I have described certain construction forms which embody the principles of my invention, it is obvious that other desired changes in arrangement may be made within the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A clasp for a chain or the like comprising a band-shaped body member apertured to admit a narrowed neck portion secured to an enlarged end, and having a resilient tongue to obstruct the entrance or exit to said aperture and movable from such obstruction position.
2. A clasp for a chain or the like comprising a body member formed of sheet stock and bent into a generally band shape with a hook portion apertured to admit a narrowed neck portion secured to an enlarged end, and a resilient tongue to obstruct the entrance or exit to said aperture and movable from obstructing position.
3. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end, a tongue extending from said joint end to close the hook, each end having slots to receive the neck portion adjacent an enlarged portion of a chain, said tongue having an inherent resiliency tending to engage said hook and close the entrance to said slots.
4. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end with a

tongue extending to close the hook, a chain end member extending through said clasp at said joint end, means to engage and restrict said member against movement from said position at the joint end, and means for releasably attaching an end of the chain to said hook end.

5. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end with a tongue extending to close the hook, a chain end member extending through said clasp at said joint end, means to engage and restrict said member against movement from said position at the joint end, said hook end having an aperture therein for receiving a narrowed neck portion of an enlarged end member on the other end of the chain.

6. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end with a tongue extending to close the hook, a chain end member extending through said clasp at said joint end, means to engage and restrict said member against movement from said position at the joint end, said hook end having an aperture therein for receiving a narrowed neck portion of an enlarged end member on the other end of the chain, said tongue resiliently closing the entrance to said aperture.

7. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end with a tongue extending to close the hook, a chain end member extending through said clasp at said joint end, means to engage and restrict said member against movement from said position at the joint end, said hook end having an aperture therein with an enlarged portion adjacent the end of the hook and a restricted portion extending therefrom for receiving a narrowed neck portion of an enlarged end member on the other end of the chain through said enlarged portion of the aperture.

8. A clasp generally band shape provided with a hook end and a joint end with a tongue extending to close the hook, a chain end member extending through said clasp at said joint end, means to engage and restrict said member against movement from said position at the joint end, said hook end having an aperture therein with an enlarged portion adjacent the end of the hook and a restricted portion extending therefrom for receiving a narrowed neck portion of an enlarged end member on the other end of the chain through said enlarged portion of the aperture, said tongue resiliently closing the enlarged portion of said aperture.

9. In combination, a chain having an enlarged end portion with a narrower neck adjoining the same, and a clasp comprising a band-shaped body member apertured to admit said narrowed neck portion, and a resilient tongue to close the entrance to said aperture and movable from closing position.

10. In combination, a chain having an enlarged end portion at each end thereof with

a narrower neck adjoining the same, a clasp comprising a body member having a pair of apertures to admit said narrowed neck portion, and a resilient tongue to close the entrance to said apertures and movable from closing position.

11. In combination, a chain having an enlarged end portion with a narrower neck adjoining the same, a clasp comprising a body member formed of sheet stock and bent into generally band shape with a hook portion apertured to admit said narrow neck, and a resilient tongue to close the entrance to said aperture.

12. In combination, a chain having an enlarged end portion with a narrower neck adjoining the same, a clasp comprising a body member formed of sheet stock and bent into generally band shape with a hook portion apertured to admit said narrow neck, and a resilient tongue to close the entrance to said aperture and itself apertured to receive a narrow neck portion on the opposite end of the chain.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
EUGENE MOREHOUSE.

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