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Jan. 30, 1923. 1,443,633

A. MILNÈ.
WATCH HOLDER.
FILED FEB. 17, 1921.

Fig.1.

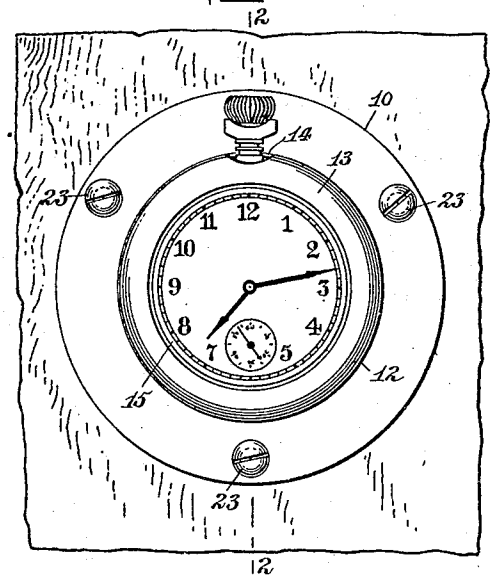


Fig.2.

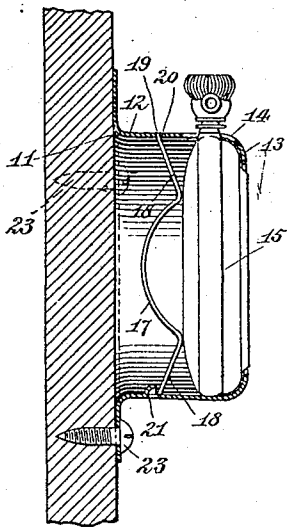


Fig.3.

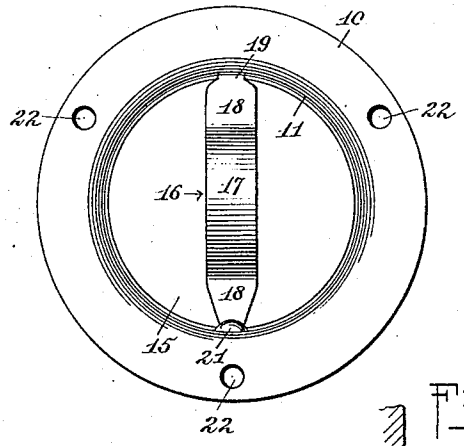


Fig.4.

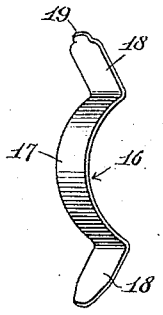
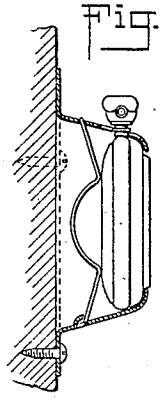


Fig.5.



INVENTOR
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BY
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Patented Jan. 30, 1923. BEST AVAILABLE COPY 1,443,633

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER MILNÉ, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO NEWARK WATCH CASE MATERIALS COMPANY, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

WATCH HOLDER.

Application filed February 17, 1921. Serial No. 445,721.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER MILNÉ, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have made and invented certain new and useful Improvements in Watch Holders, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a watch holder and particularly to a holder which may be formed of sheet metal, will be inexpensive to make, and is of simple construction, neat and attractive appearance, and will securely and efficiently hold a watch in position upon a supporting surface such as the dashboard of an automobile, or hold and support a watch on display, so that it may be used in the place of the ordinary and more expensive clocks.

A further object is to provide a watch holder as above outlined, which is composed of a minimum number of parts, entirely formed of sheet metal, and so designed and constructed as to prevent the watch from being maliciously removed from the holder and stolen.

A further object is to provide a watch holder which while so designed as to prevent the theft of the watch, is so arranged that when desired, the watch may be readily removed from the holder and a new watch inserted in place.

A further object is to provide a watch holder wherein the watch is securely held in proper position and the clamping action to which the watch is exposed will be distributed over a considerable portion of the watch case so as to prevent the distortion of the case, which would interfere with the time-keeping qualities of the watch.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in the improved watch holding device illustrated in the accompanying drawing and hereinafter described and claimed, and in such variations and modifications thereof as will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which my invention relates.

In the drawing accompanying and forming a part of this specification and wherein the preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated;

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of my improved watch holder having a watch therein;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a rear view of my improved holder;

Figure 4 is a detail view in perspective of the retaining spring or clamp whereby the watch is securely held in place; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary view in section illustrating a casing having a somewhat modified shape.

Referring specifically to the several views, wherein similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout, my improved holder is composed of the base 10 formed in the nature of an annular flange, from the inner periphery 11 of which projects the main housing or casing 12. The casing 12 is provided at its front extremity with the curved annular rim 13 which is adapted to receive the bezel of a watch thereagainst and thus hold the watch on display and in position within the housing or casing. The casing may be substantially cylindrical in outline, as illustrated in Figure 2, or may be in the nature of the frustum of a cone, as illustrated in Figure 5. The casing is provided at its upper and front portion with the opening 14 adapted to receive the stem of a watch 15 therethrough.

The watch, which may vary somewhat in size and shape, is of the popular and inexpensive type, as it has been found that this type of time-keeping instrument is particularly adapted to withstand the jars and shocks to which it will be necessarily exposed when in use upon an automobile or other vehicle. In order to securely hold and clamp the watch in position, I have provided a bow spring 16, the same being made up of the bow-shaped body 17 and outstanding or offset retaining ends 18. The upper retaining end is provided with the tongue 19 which is adapted to extend into a slot 20 formed in the casing 12, while the lower and offset end of the bow spring is adapted to interlock behind the upstanding lug or projection 21 struck up from the bottom wall of the casing 12.

I have found that it is most essential that the forces upon the watch be brought to bear adjacent the periphery of the watch case

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and that should the stresses be applied either at or near the center of the case a certain distortion of the works will take place, causing inaccuracies in the time-keeping qualities of the watch or perhaps the complete stoppage thereof. My retaining clamp is thus particularly adapted to engage the watch casing adjacent the periphery thereof and securely hold and clamp the watch in position with the bezel in firm contact with the bezel-engaging ring 13. The spring clamp is designed so that watches of various thicknesses may be used in my improved holder and slight variations in the size or diameter of the case may also be taken care of.

The base or annular flange 10 is provided with suitable openings 22 through which extend the holding bolts or screws 23, thus preventing the watch from being removed from the holder without first entirely removing the holder from its supporting surface. This feature prevents the theft of the watch by the maliciously inclined and at the same time allows a new watch to be easily inserted in place when desired, by first removing the holding bolts or members 23, forcing the clamping spring to one side so as to clear the upstanding projection 21, releasing the spring clamp and allowing it and the watch to be withdrawn from the holder; whereupon the watch may be repaired or a new watch inserted in place, as desired.

My improved holder as thus constructed is formed entirely of sheet metal, may be lacquered, enameled, or in other ways finished so as to present a neat and pleasing appearance, and may be economically manufactured in large quantities.

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

1. A watch holder comprising a hollow casing having a curved annular rim adapted to receive the front of a watch thereagainst, an annular flange remote from said rim and adapted to secure said casing to a supporting surface, and a spring clamp having arms outwardly diverging from the central portion of the clamp with the ends thereof adapted to engage the side walls of the casing and with the inner ends of said arms adapted to impinge against the back of the watch and to resiliently hold it against the said annular rim, said spring clamp thereby adapted to accommodate watches of different thicknesses.

2. A device of the class described for holding and displaying a watch comprising a hollow casing having a curved annular rim adapted to receive the front of a watch thereagainst, means whereby the hollow casing may be secured to a supporting surface, an opening in the side walls of said casing adapted to receive the stem of a watch therethrough, a spring clamp comprising spaced arms with the inner extremities of said arms connected by an offset portion, the said inner extremities adapted to bear against the back of a watch at remote sides of the center of the back of said watch, and means associated with the side walls of said casing adapted to receive and be engaged by the free and outer extremities of said clamp, the various portions of said spring clamp being located in front of the rear surface of said casing so as to accommodate watches of different thicknesses without interference of the supporting surface to which said casing is secured.

Signed at New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 14th day of February, A. D. 1921.

ALEXANDER MILNE.

Witnesses:
RICHARD F. O'LEARY,
ANNE V. WALSH.