

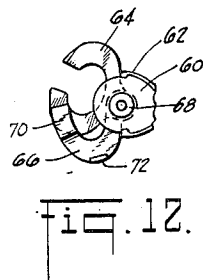
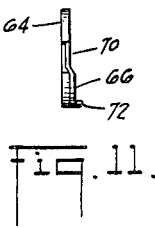
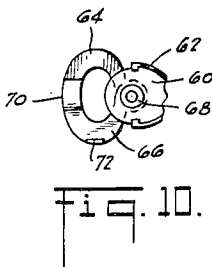
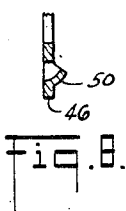
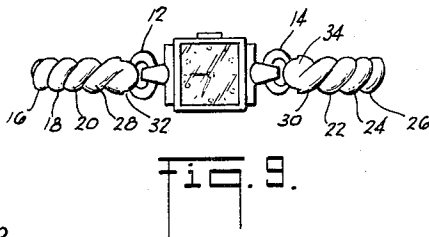
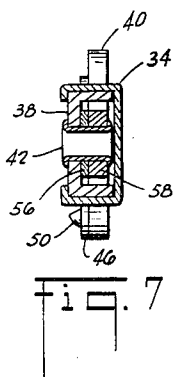
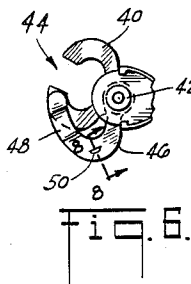
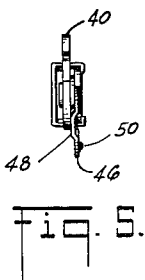
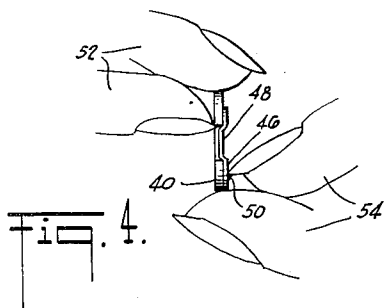
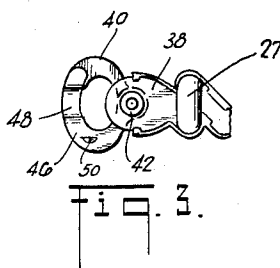
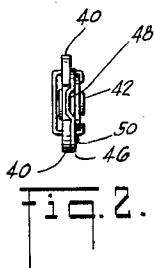
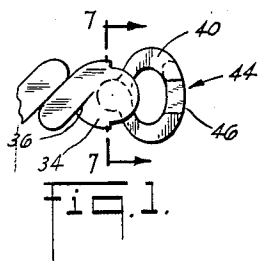
Nov. 9, 1954

G. HARRISON

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RELEASABLE END CATCH FOR WATCH BRACELETS

Filed Aug. 21, 1951



INVENTOR.
GEORGE HARRISON
BY *James and Franklin*
ATTORNEYS

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2,693,626

RELEASABLE END CATCH FOR WATCH BRACELETS

George Harrison, Warwick, R. I., assignor to Brite Manufacturing Co., Providence, R. I., a partnership

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—240)

This invention relates to jewelry such as bracelets, especially ladies' watch bracelets, and more particularly to a releasable end catch for the same.

The primary object of the present invention is to generally improve releasable end catches for jewelry items, particularly watchbands or bracelets. A more particular object is to provide such an end catch which will be strong and safe, attractive in appearance, inexpensive to manufacture, and well adapted for use with ladies' wrist-watches, which usually have only a single central bail at each end.

To accomplish the foregoing general objects, and other more specific objects which will hereinafter appear, my invention resides in the releasable end catch and bracelet elements, and their relation one to another, as are hereinafter more particularly described in the following specification. The specification is accompanied by a drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of an end catch embodying features of my invention;

Fig. 2 is an end view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the end catch;

Fig. 4 illustrates the method of opening the catch;

Fig. 5 is an end view with the catch open;

Fig. 6 is a bottom view of the catch in open condition;

Fig. 7 is a section drawn to enlarged scale and taken approximately in the plane of the line 7—7 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 8 is a section illustrating a detail and is taken approximately in the plane of the line 8—8 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of an expansion bracelet with end catches of my invention, shown attached to a wrist-watch;

Fig. 10 is a bottom view of a modification;

Fig. 11 is an end view of the same; and

Fig. 12 is a bottom view similar to Fig. 10 but showing the catch in open condition.

Referring to the drawing, and more particularly to Fig. 9, the end catches 12 and 14 are shown forming a part of an expansion bracelet made up of top links some of which are shown at 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26, and which are pivoted to bottom links, not visible in Fig. 9, though one is shown at 27 in Fig. 3. The links may be of conventional construction, each comprising a base and a shell, the bases being pivoted together and provided with springs which normally hold the bracelet in contracted dimension. The shells for the lower links are disposed beneath their bases, and the shells for the upper links are disposed above the bases, the latter usually being made of, or plated with, a precious metal.

The watch bracelet terminates in top links 28 and 30, and these end top links are expanded as indicated at 32, 34. The apparent cleft or separating line indicated at 36 in Fig. 1 is merely an indentation for appearance, the actual shape being more clearly evident at 38 in Fig. 3, which shows the base of the end link.

The catches 12 and 14 (Fig. 9) each comprise an open ring 40 (Figs. 1, 4 and 6) having means 42 (Figs. 3, 6 and 7) for attaching the same to the end of the band. The ring 40 is open or slotted at 44 (Figs. 1 and 6) at the portion remote from the band and aligned approximately with the longitudinal axis of the band. The catch further comprises a pivoted hook-shaped or sickle-shaped closure 46 which is disposed parallel to the ring 40 and which is shaped to conform approximately to the shape of the ring when in closed position, thereby closing the ring as will be seen in Figs. 1 and 3, in contrast with Fig. 6. The closure 46 is pivoted at a point

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about diametrically opposite the slot 44. Preferably and most simply it is pivoted to the ring 40 and the watch-band by means of the pivot or eyelet 42 which is also used to connect the ring to the base of the end link.

The sickle-shaped closure 46 is preferably offset to form a detent 48 which is received between the free ends of the open ring 40 when the catch is in closed condition. In the present case the closure 46 is stamped out of sheet metal and is disposed directly beneath the open ring 40. At the pivot or eyelet 42 it is disposed between the ring and the base 38 of the end link. In such case the detent portion 48 is offset upwardly, as is clearly shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5. Another part of the closure is offset to provide an operating tab shown at 50 in Figs. 5 and 6 and best shown to enlarged scale in Fig. 8. This facilitates opening of the catch, this being done in the manner illustrated in Fig. 4, in which it will be seen that the ring 40 is being held upwardly by the fingers 52 of one hand, while the detent 50 is being urged downward by the fingers 54 of the other hand. In this way the closure may be moved from the closed position shown in Figs. 1 through 4 to the open position shown in Figs. 5 and 6, at which time the ring 40 is offset sidewardly somewhat in one direction, while the member 46 is offset sidewardly in the opposite direction.

The relation of the parts at the end link is best shown in Fig. 7, which is a section taken through the pivot or eyelet 42. The base is shown at 38, while the shell, which may be made of or plated with precious metal, is shown at 34. However, before the finishing shell 34 is added to the base 38, the pivoted part 56 of the sickle-shaped closure, and the pivoted part 58 of the open ring, are eyeletted to the base by means of the eyelet 42. Thereafter the shell 34 is added, thus completing the assembly.

It will be seen that this constitutes a sturdy and simple mechanism which may be assembled at minimum cost. The closure may be and preferably is made of a resilient metal such as phosphor bronze, thereby improving the detent action caused by the detent portion 48, and guarding against possible loss of the desired detent action.

A minor modification of the releasable catch is illustrated in Figs. 10, 11 and 12, referring to which it may be explained that the end link of the expansion band is the same as previously described. It includes a base 60 and covering shell 62 which may be the same as before, and which similarly receive an open ring 64 and a sickle-shaped closure 66 by means of a single eyelet 68, all as previously described.

Moreover, the closure 66 may be offset upwardly to provide a detent portion 70, and a part of the closure may be struck downwardly to provide an operating tab 72. The change from closed to open condition is shown in Figs. 10 and 12. In the present case the tab 72 is bent downwardly from one edge of the closure instead of being struck from an intermediate portion, as previously described. Also in the present case the closure terminates at one end of the detent portion 70, instead of being extended as previously described. Both of these changes are minor, but illustrate variants in structure, either or both of which may be employed.

It is believed that the construction and method of use of my improved releasable end catch, as well as the advantages thereof, will be apparent from the foregoing detailed description. It will also be apparent that while I have shown and described the invention in several preferred forms, changes may be made in the structures disclosed, without departing from the scope of the invention as sought to be defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A releasable end catch for a relatively long flexible jewelry item, said end catch comprising a rigid open ring having means for attaching it to the end of the jewelry item, said ring being permanently and fixedly open or slotted at the portion diametrically opposite the item and aligned with the longitudinal axis of the item, said ring in its entirety being a single integral flat piece of metal, and a pivoted sickle-shaped closure cooperating with said ring and having a bluntly pointed end, the open end portion of said closure being disposed beneath the ring and

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being shaped to conform to the shape of the ring when in closed position, but having an upwardly stepped detent portion dimensioned to fit between the free ends of the ring at the slot and thereby bridging the opening or slot in order to close the ring, said closure being formed out of resilient sheet metal and being pivoted to the ring and the item at a point substantially on the axis of the item, the open end portion of said closure and the slotted portion of said ring being curved about said pivot of said closure as a center, whereby the closure moves point foremost over the open ring with the open end portion of the closure moving longitudinally of itself, in order to enable it to pass readily through a limited opening.

2. A releasable end catch for a watchband, said end catch comprising a rigid open ring having a pivot for permanently pivotally attaching it to the end of a watchband, said ring being permanently and fixedly open or slotted at the portion diametrically opposite the pivot and aligned with the longitudinal axis of the watchband, said ring in its entirety being a single integral flat piece of metal, said slotted portion having a curvature about the pivot as a center, and a pivoted sickle-shaped closure co-operating with said ring and having a bluntly pointed end, the open end portion of said closure being disposed beneath the ring and being shaped to conform to the shape of the ring when in closed position, but having an upwardly stepped detent portion dimensioned to fit between the free ends of the ring at the slot and thereby bridging the opening or slot in order to close the ring, said clo-

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sure being formed out of resilient sheet metal and being pivoted to the ring and the watchband at a point substantially on the axis of the band by means of the same pivot as is used to connect the ring to the band, said pivot being located approximately at the radius of curvature of the open end portion of the closure, whereby the latter moves point foremost over the open ring with the open end portion of the closure moving longitudinally of itself, in order to enable it to pass readily through a limited opening such as a watch bail, a portion of said closure being struck downwardly at a location remote from the point to provide an operating tab to facilitate opening of said end catch.

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