Dec. 14, 1954 K. SPECK ET AL 2,696,689

CONNECTOR FOR BRACELET OR THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

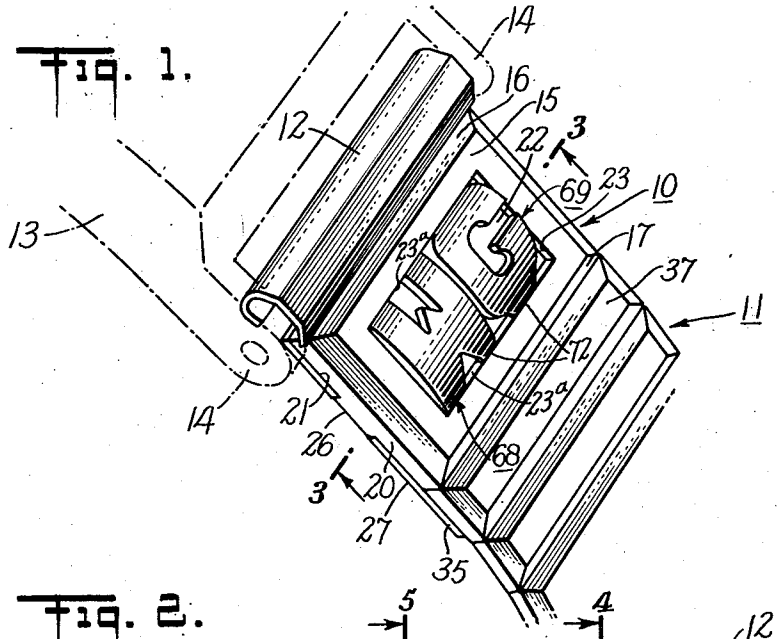
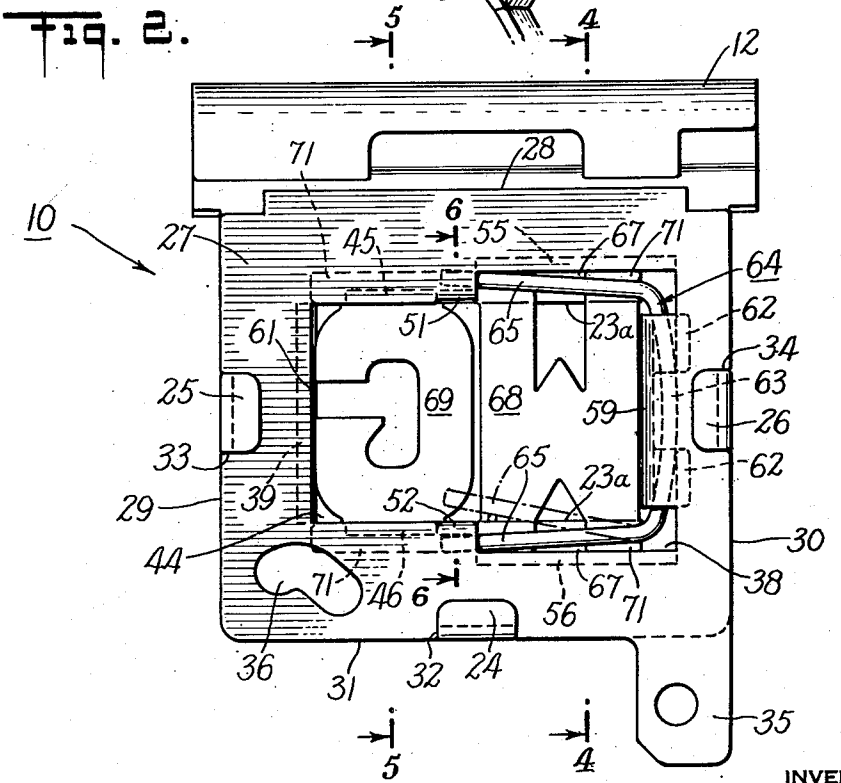


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

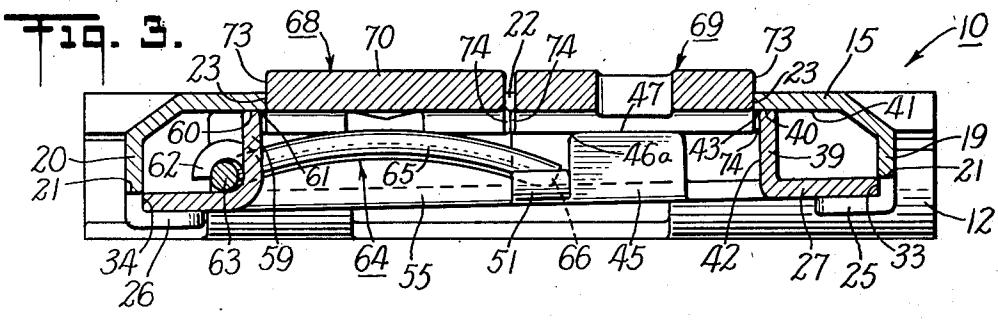


Fig. 4.

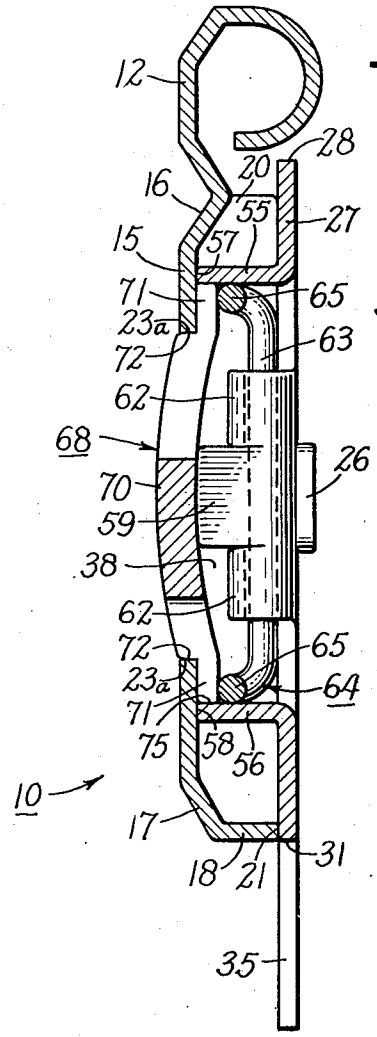


Fig. 6.

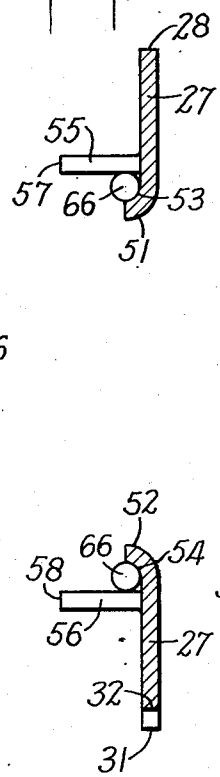
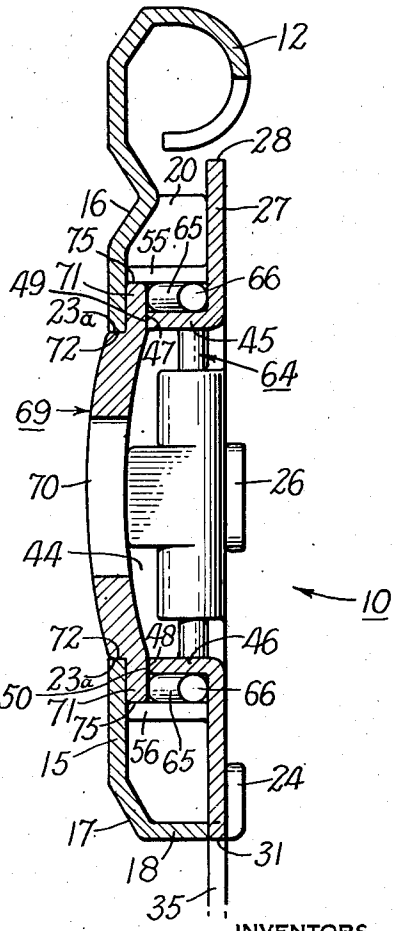


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 7.

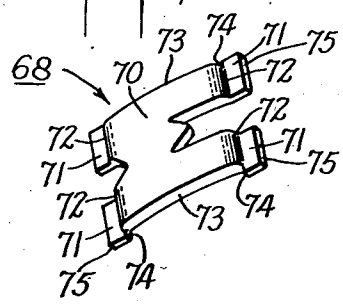


Fig. 8.

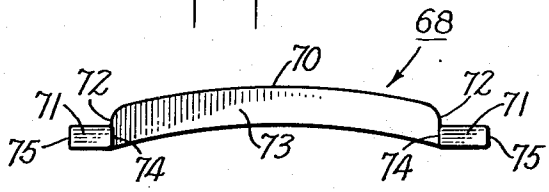
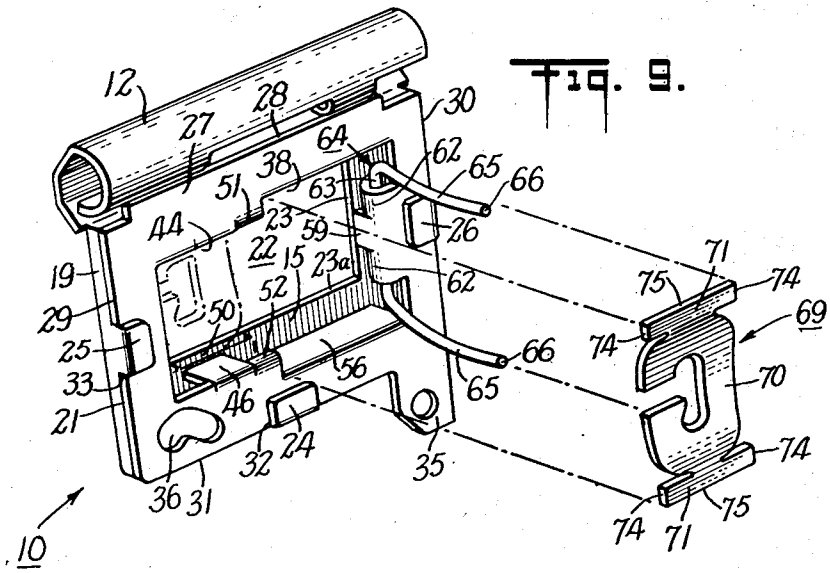


Fig. 9.



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CONNECTOR FOR BRACELET OR THE LIKE

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Application July 1, 1950, Serial No. 171,678

8 Claims. (Cl. 40—140)

This invention relates to ornamental jewelry products; still more particularly to personalized identification jewelry parts, and still more particularly to jewelry parts comprising connectors for bracelets for removably assembling therewith initials, monograms, emblems, insignia or the like.

This invention more particularly relates to watch band or like jewelry parts in which a frame member forming a part of such jewelry carries initials, monograms, emblems or like personalized components which may be assembled with the frame to harmonize with the article of jewelry, and it is an object of this invention to provide a frame forming a component part of the article of jewelry, such as the connector of a watch band, in which one or more letters, monograms, initials or emblems may be removably embodied.

More particularly it is an object of this invention to provide a frame forming a part of an ornamental article of jewelry for removably assembling elements thereof, such as monograms, initials or emblems, in which the frame and removable elements have an ornamental fit and are assembled in the frame with close tolerances, to assure a pleasing appearance, and long life of the precious metal used in the parts, including plating or other coating of precious metal, not to detract from the appearance of the assembly.

Still more particularly, it is an object of this invention to provide in an article of jewelry, a frame element for removably carrying monograms, initials, emblems, and made from relatively thin gauge sheeted metal employed in such articles which, while conforming readily to quantity production manufacturing processes, has the requisite rigidity for long life, close tolerances which would prevent unsightly assembly and deterioration due to wear of the precious or semi-precious finishes.

Still more particularly it is an object of the present invention to provide an ornamental article of jewelry having a frame assembly for removably coupling initials, monograms, emblems, in order to secure a personalized item of jewelry and in which the custom assembly of the removable components may be effected facilely, and held in position securely, without marring the ornamental finishes, such as the gold surface, in attaching the removable initials, monograms or emblems, and to hold the removable elements in position without looseness or yielding movement which would detract from its appearance.

To attain these objects and such further objects as may appear herein or be hereinafter pointed out, I make reference to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a watch band connector end, showing the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged rear plan view of the same;

Figure 3 is an enlarged section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is an enlarged section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 2;

Figure 6 is an enlarged section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 2;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a monogram or initial employed;

Figure 8 is an enlarged side elevation thereof; and

Figure 9 is an exploded perspective view of the connector assembly.

Making reference to the drawing, the invention is illustrated in the form of a frame assembly 10 at the terminal end of an expansible watch band 11, having a connector tube 12 for coupling to a wrist watch 13 on the spring lug usually disposed between the connector ears 14 of the wrist watch. The frame assembly is composed of a front frame member 15 whose upper edge 16 is shaped to merge into the connector tube 12 previously described, there being provided faceting sides conforming to the ornamental motif embodied in the tube and the watch band links. The edge 16 is offset toward the axial line of the connector tube 12 and cooperates with a similarly shaped bottom edge 17 and the end flange 18, as well as downwardly directed side flanges 19 and 20, to provide adequate encasing depth from the edges 21, for purposes which will be described herebelow.

The front frame member 15 has a central cutout 22 defined by the edges 23 and 23*a*. A tongue 24 extends from the end flange 18 and tongues 25, 26 extend from the side flanges 19 and 20, respectively, to receive the back plate 27, whose upper edge 28 extends in close adjacency to the connector tube 12. Side edges 29 and 30 and bottom edge 31 are substantially congruent to the flanges 18, 19 and 20, there being cutouts 32, 33 and 34 to receive the tongues 24, 25 and 26 in spanning and edge abutting relation, and to provide for bending the tongues and to leave the flanges flush with the edges 29, 30 and 31. An extended ear 35 and pivot slot 36 serve as the connector means for the adjacent link 37 of the expansion bracelet, the clearance space between the back plate and the front plate serving to house the headed slidable stud coupled to the underlying link member, in a manner which will be readily understood.

The back plate is formed with a cutout 38 defined by the spacer flange 39, whose edge 40 abuts the rear face 41 of the front plate and whose side 42 is spaced inwardly from the edge 23, to leave an overhang 43.

The cutout 38 has a stepped apertured portion 44 defined by the inwardly directed flanges 45 and 46, the edges of which 47 and 48 are spaced from the front plate to provide guide slots 49 and 50. The edges of the back plate adjacent the upper and lower portions of the stepped aperture 44 and in leading position to the flanges 45 and 46 are formed with curled lip portions 51 and 52, forming seats 53 and 54 for purposes which will appear herebelow.

The enlarged portion of the cutout 38 is defined by upper and lower spacer flanges 55 and 56, with the edges 57 and 58 abutting the rear face of the front plate.

The back plate adjacent the side edge 26*a* is formed with an inwardly directed spacer lug 59 whose edge 60 abuts the rear face of the front frame member and forms an overhang 61 adjacent the cutout. To each side of the spacer lug 59 there are formed inwardly curled pivot sleeves 62, 63 forming the hinge for the base branch 63 of the spring wire locking member 64. Side branches 65 have a transverse camber arched inwardly from the terminal edges 66, to be tensioned in the space between the front frame and back plate. The locking member 64 is formed normally to diverge the branches 65 for a greater width than the distance between the flanges 55 and 56. By this arrangement, the locking member 64 may be pivoted transversely of the cutout 38. Upon pinching the branches 65 toward each other, the branches may ride beneath the curled section 51 and 52, to snap upon released expansion into the seats 53 and 54, to hold the branches against accidental displacement, and to be thereby resiliently held thereon and lie angularly with respect to the flanges 55 and 56, to leave a slit 67 serving as a means of prying a sharp instrument thereinto.

With a construction as described, there may be provided monograms, initials, letters or emblems 68 and 69. In Figures 7 and 8 there is shown a monogram 68 which is illustrative of the various initials or letter elements which may be combined with the frame assembly previously described. Each element has a bowed central section 70 terminating in tabs 71, 71 to each side of the shoulder 72, arranged in a flat plane. The side edges 73 of the letters are formed to leave a spacer extension or overhang 74 projecting beyond the edges 73. Dimensionally, the outer edges 75 of the tabs 71 correspond substantially to the distance between the flanges 55 and 56.

The shoulders **72, 72** are spaced from each other for the distance corresponding to the edges **23***a*—**23***a* of the cutout of the front plate from top to bottom.

With elements of the character described provided, should it be desired to embody the letters W G within the frame assembly **10**, the frame is adjusted to open the larger section **38** by swinging the locking spring to the position shown in Figure 9. The frame is then held in a horizontal position with the back facing upwardly, and then the initial G is dropped into the larger cutout **38** until the tabs **71** contact the rear face of the frame **15**, with the shoulders **72** in contact with the edges **23***a* and the bowed portion protruding through the frame cutout. In this position some sharp instrument, such as a pin or needle, is employed to slide the letter toward the left side of the frame, when viewed as in Figure 9, until the tabs ride beneath the flanges **45** and **46** in the slots **49** and **50**. The corners of the flanges **45** and **46**, at their leading edges shown at **46***a*, are rounded to furnish a funnel entrance to have a camming action, to provide a frictional contact of the edges **47** and **48** against the tabs **71**. Sliding movement is effected until a side edge of the letter abuts the edge **23** of the front frame member (see Figure 3), the extensions **74** coming below the overhang **43** to give a close contact with the edge **23**. In this position the element **63**, shown here as the letter W is then dropped into position in the cutout **38**, to abut the shoulder **72** in contact with the edges **23***a*, as previously described. Thereupon the branches **65**, **65** of the locking member are pressed down by pivotal movement to ride over the curled edges **51** and **52**, being cammed into compressed position first until the branches pass below the plane of the edges **51** and **52**, whereupon they will snap, to spread outwardly to become seated in the seats **53** and **54**.

The camber of the branches **65** adjacent the midpoint will press upon the tabs **71** which, for the letter W, are spaced from each other to uniformly press the initial into engagement with the front frame plate. The overhang **74** spaces the initials **68** and **69** from each other, as more clearly shown in Figure 3, while lying beneath the overhang **61** at the opposite side. Rigid placement of the letters is thereby secured under the resilient pressure of the tongues **45** and **46** and the branches **65**, **65** for the initials **68** and **69**.

For removal of the initials, one pries a sharp instrument into the clearance slot **67** to uncouple the branches **65** from the seat **53** and **54**, whereupon the locking branches snap out of position to uncover the cut and permit removal or replacement of the initials.

It will be understood that while it is preferred to provide a frame for a plurality of initials, which may be sequentially inserted as described, the provision of a frame having a single initial or emblem is contemplated, to obtain some of the desirable features of the invention, as by making the rear plate with the enlarged aperture and closing means comprising the generally U-shaped spring latch, to procure in part the desirable features of this invention.

By the construction illustrated, a frame for removably assembling initials, monograms or the like is obtained, in which the initials are brought into very close contact on all sides. The predeterimned design of the front plate is thereby maintained and the necessity for large tolerances for positioning, which may detract from the appearance of the face, is thereby eliminated, providing a flush surface of the frame and initials, resembling a pierced condition of the face of the frame.

By directing flanges forming the side walls of the frame aperture from a portion of the back plate and directing the same toward the front face, clarity and sharpness of the letters inserted in the frame are assured. At the same time, such construction serves to reinforce the plates with regard to each other, to permit of manufacturing operations by stamping and finishing which may be economically carried out without sacrificing rigidity, and furthermore, procuring a uniformity of spacing between the front plate and the rear plate so that standard dimensions of initials may be used, and procure a flush arrangement of the initials when in position.

It will be observed that while the latch assembly in the form of the bowed or cambered spring is pivoted at one end, the initials are pressed down axially without canting or tilting, and that there is no evident looseness

within the frame since the camber of the spring serves to press the letters down centrally, to hold them flat and in an upright position.

While the invention has been described as embodied in connection with a watch band and has been illustrated as a linking member adjacent the connector tube, it will be understood that the frame assembly may form the ornamental portion of other articles of jewelry, such as buckles, cuff links, tie bars, to secure, in a measure, the desirable features outlined herein, conforming the frame structure at its sides or edges to such location as may be required.

Having thus described our invention and illustrated its use, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements have supporting tabs edgewisely extended therefrom, a face flange defining a main cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange, and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the face flange, a rear flange having edges spaced from said face flange outlining between said flanges retaining edges and a guide slot for the tabs of said elements, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges to provide an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving an element and to permit clearance of the tab for sliding said element into said guide slot, and releasable locking means mounted between said flanges and having latching portions extending into said guide slot for engaging the tabs of said element and holding the element against the face flange.

2. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements have supporting tabs edgewisely extended therefrom, a face flange defining a main cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange, and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the face flange, a rear flange having edges spaced from said face flange outlining between said flanges retaining edges and a guide slot for the tabs of said elements, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges to provide an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving an element and to permit clearance of the tab for sliding said element into said guide slot, and releasable locking means pivotally mounted on pivot sleeves between said flanges having portions thereof extending into said guide slot for engaging the tab of said element and holding the element against the face flange.

3. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements have supporting tabs edgewisely extended therefrom, a face flange defining a main cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange, and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the face flange, a rear flange having edges spaced from said face flange outlining between said flanges retaining edges and a guide slot for the tabs of said elements, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges to provide an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving an element and to permit clearance of the tab for sliding said element into said guide slot, said rear flange having a pivot sleeve forming a hinge extending into said guide slot, releasable locking means comprising a spring locking member pivotally mounted on said pivot sleeve and having portions engaging said rear flange to engage the tab of said element and hold the element against the face flange.

4. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements have supporting tabs edgewisely extended therefrom, a face flange defining a main cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange, and with the tabs thereof overlying

the inner side of the face flange, a rear flange having edges spaced from said face flange outlining between said flanges retaining edges and a guide slot for the tabs of said elements, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges to provide an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving an element and to permit clearance of the tab for sliding said element into said guide slot, said rear flange having pivot sleeves mounted thereon forming a hinge positioned between said flanges and a U-shaped spring wire locking member pivoted on said sleeves, the side branches whereof being biased to engage the rear flange and hold the tabs of said element against the face flange.

5. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements have supporting tabs edgewisely extending therefrom, a front member comprising a face flange defining a cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the face flange, a rear plate member peripherally connected with said front frame member comprising a rear flange having retaining edges spaced from said face flange and defining a guide slot for the tabs of said element, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges to form an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving the interchangeable element and to permit clearance of the tabs for sliding an element into said guide slot, said rear plate member having spacer flanges extending in abutting relation to the front member edgewise to guide an element in said slot, an inwardly curved pivot sleeve forming a hinge positioned between said flanges, releasable locking means hingedly mounted on said pivot sleeve having a latching portion extending between said flanges for engaging the tab of an element and holding the element against the face flange, and a curled lip forming a seat on said rear flange for said latching portion to hold said latching portion against accidental displacement.

6. An article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monogram, emblem or the like, which elements each have supporting tabls edgewisely extended therefrom, a front member of sheeted material comprising a face flange defining a cutout within which said elements may be displayed in edgewise abutting relation to said face flange, and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the face flange, a rear plate member comprising a rear flange having retaining edges spaced from said face flange defining a guide slot for the tabs of said elements, said rear flange having edges thereof in offset position terminating short of the retaining edges outlining an enlarged cutout for bodily receiving an element and to permit clearance of the tabs thereof for sliding an element into said guide slot, said front member having end and side flanges including peripheral coupling means for joining said front member and rear plate member, the rear plate member having outwardly directed flanges, the edges of which are spaced from the front plate to provide guide slots, curved lip portions each providing a seat adjacent said guide slots, a pivot sleeve on said rear plate mounted between said flanges,

a locking element pivotally mounted on said sleeve comprising a U-shaped spring wire locking member having side branches including a transverse camber arched inwardly and biased normally to diverge for engaging said seats and to hold the tabs of an element against the face flange.

7. In an article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing an interchangeable element comprising an initial, monogram, or the like having supporting edgewisely extended tabs, said assembly comprising a front member having an inwardly extending face flange defining a main cutout within which an element may be displayed substantially in abutting relation to said face flange and with the tabs thereof overlying the inner side of the said face flange, a superimposed rear plate member, side flanges extending from said front member engaging said rear plate member and supporting said members in spaced relation to each other, said rear plate member having a rear flange defined by offset edges outlining a cutout whose edges terminate short of the overlying face flange and providing between said face and back flanges an element retaining guide slot for receiving the tabs of an element and means for holding the tabs of said elements in said guide slots comprising a locking device, mounting means for said locking device extended between said flanges, said locking device having latching means engaging said back flange and pressing the tabs of said elements against said face flange.

8. In an article of jewelry of the character described comprising a sheet metal stamping frame assembly for detachably securing interchangeable elements comprising an initial, monograms or the like each having edgewisely extended supporting tabs, said assembly comprising a front member having an inwardly extending face flange defining a main cutout within which said elements may be displayed in abutting relation to said face flange and with the tabs thereof overlying the said back of the face flange, an underlying rear plate member, side flanges extending from said front member engaging said rear plate member and supporting said members in spaced relation to each other, said rear plate member having a back flange defined by offset edges outlining a cutout whose edges terminate short of the overlying face flange and forming between said face and back flanges a guide slot and retainer space, said cutout of said back flange extending lengthwise of the end thereof by an amount of the width of one of said elements and tabs whereby said elements may be slid through said cutout into said guide slot and means for holding said tab against said face flange comprising a locking device, mounting means for said locking device extended between said flanges, said locking device having latching means engaging said back flange and pressing the tabs of said elements against said face flange.

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