March 29, 1949. L. PERENY 2,465,746

HAIR FASTENER

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Fig. 1

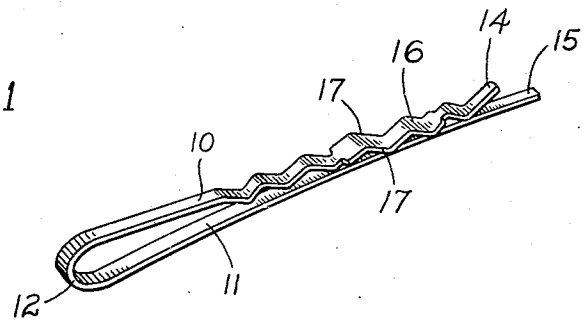


Fig. 2

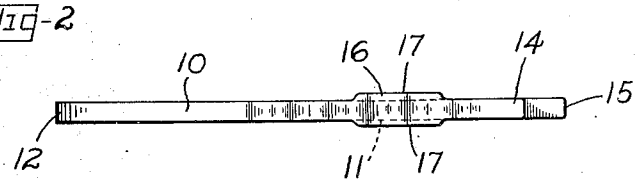
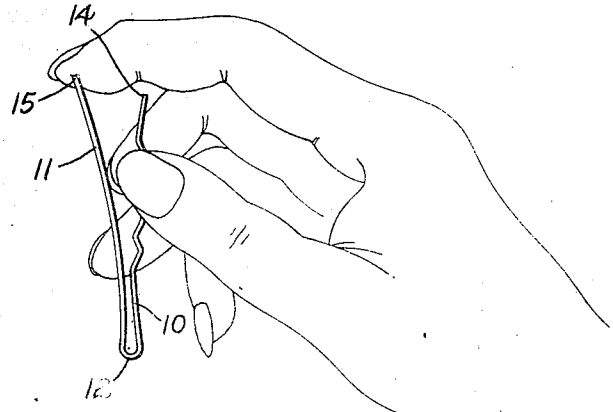


Fig. 3



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HAIR FASTENER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 132—50)

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This invention relates to hair fasteners and is concerned particularly with hair fasteners of the type popularly known as "bobby pins."

It is a principal object of the invention to provide a simple and inexpensive hair fastener of the "bobby pin" type which can be held and conveniently spread open with the fingers of one hand preparatory to placement of the pin in the hair and without the necessity of grasping the pin with both hands, or with the teeth and one hand, or resorting to other such inconvenient and unsanitary expedients.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a hair fastener economically formed from a single piece of material in such manner as to be readily spread open by one-handed manipulation without the necessity of including in the pin structure auxiliary elements for spreading the legs.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a "bobby pin" which may be manipulated with one hand and yet may be readily placed in the hair with minimum pulling thereof and which will be no more visible than ordinary "bobby pins."

The manner in which these and other objects of the invention are attained will become apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and the appended claim.

In the drawings—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a hair fastener embodying the present invention in a preferred form;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the fastener of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view illustrating the manner in which the fastener may be grasped and spread apart with the fingers of one hand.

A hair fastener embodying the invention in a preferred form, as illustrated in the drawings, comprises a single element of spring steel wire, or other suitable resilient strip material, bent or folded upon itself to provide a pair of opposed and generally parallel legs 10 and 11 meeting at one end in a loop 12 which yieldably urges the legs toward each other and into contact through at least a portion of their length as in the customary "bobby pin."

The two legs are formed with unequal lengths so that the free end 14 of the leg 10, for example, is disposed out of alignment and a substantial distance inward from the free end 15 of the other leg 11, thereby leaving a substantial length of the leg 11 exposed adjacent the free end 15.

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The end portion of the shorter leg 10 may be bent outward somewhat, as shown in the drawing, and the extremities of both legs may be rounded, as is also shown in the drawing, to facilitate placement of the fastener in the hair.

In accordance with the present invention, one of the legs, which preferably should be the shorter leg 10, is provided with a locally widened portion 16 which extends laterally outward on each side of the leg in directly opposed regions thereof as illustrated. The widened portion 16 desirably should have opposed and generally parallel lateral extremities 17—17 of a length of the same order as the width of the individual digits of a human hand so that the edge extremities of the widened portion may be grasped readily and conveniently between the thumb and second finger of a hand in the manner shown in Fig. 3. The widened portion 16 should extend outward on each side at least a sufficient distance to enable the extremities 17—17 of said portion to be grasped in the manner indicated without having the digits grasp the other leg 11 therebetween, thereby leaving the leg 11 free for relative movement with respect to the leg 10 and the digits grasping the widened portion 16. Greater width is not prohibited but tends to increase visibility of the pin without assisting materially in its manipulation. Also, the widened portion 16 is disposed at such distance from the free ends of the legs as to enable the operator with convenience to press the first finger of the same hand against the exposed free end 15 of the longer leg 11 when the widened portion is grasped in the manner above described. When the pin is grasped and held in this manner, the two legs may be readily spread apart by movement of the first finger with respect to the thumb and second finger in the manner indicated in Fig. 3, the pin meanwhile being stabilized by the third or, if more convenient and natural, the fourth or little finger pressing against the legs of the pin at a point between the widened portion and the loop as shown.

After the legs of the pin have been spread apart in the manner described, they may be held in the usual way and readily placed in the hair, thereby dispensing entirely with the necessity of grasping and holding the pin with two hands, or with one hand and the teeth, or resorting to any of the other inconvenient and unsanitary expedients which have been common heretofore.

As has been indicated, the widened portion 16 is disposed a substantial distance inward from the free ends of the legs 10 and 11 in accordance

with the anatomy of the human hand so that the first finger will naturally fall upon the free end 15 of the longer leg 11 when the widened portion 16 is grasped between the thumb and second finger of the same hand. Such inward disposition of the widened portion also presents further advantages in that the portions of both legs extending between the region of the widened portion and the free ends of the legs are relatively narrower than the widened portion itself so as to facilitate placement of the pin in the hair with minimum pulling of the hair. Furthermore, not withstanding the widened portion 16, the present pin is not objectionably visible when placed in the hair since the free ends most likely to be seen are of reduced width as shown. The widened portion 16 desirably should be made sufficiently long to accommodate hands of varying sizes in a ready and convenient manner without the necessity of straining the digits from a natural position in order to grasp the pin as described with the first finger engaging the free end of the longer leg while the thumb and second finger grasp the margins of the widened portion. Greater lengths tend to increase the visibility of the pin without particularly improving ease of opening the legs.

One or, if desired, both of the legs may be crimped through a substantial portion of the length thereof to assist in holding the pin in place in the hair. In the present invention, the shorter leg 10 preferably is crimped and the widened portion 16 also may be crimped in accordance with the pattern followed in adjacent portions of the leg. Such crimping provides sinuous margins at the lateral extremities 17—17 which may be grasped more firmly between the thumb and second finger for holding the pin more rigidly in desired position.

While the product herein described constitutes a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to this precise product, and that changes may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention which is defined in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A hair fastener of the "bobby pin" type adapted to be spread open by one-handed manipulation and comprising a loop, a pair of legs of equal width and unequal length extending from said loop in opposed relationship, said loop yieldably urging said legs into contact with each other, the shorter leg having a laterally widened portion extending on both sides of the leg and terminating inward from the free end of the leg, said widened portion having opposed and generally parallel lateral extremities of a length of the same order as the width of the individual digits of the human hand so that said extremities may be conveniently grasped and held between the thumb and second finger of a hand, said widened portion being positioned inward from the free end of said legs for such distance as to enable the free end of the longer leg to be engaged by the first finger when the said widened portion is grasped in the manner described between the thumb and second finger of the same hand, said widened portion terminating inward from the said loop for such distance as to enable another finger of the same hand to press against portions of the legs between the loop and the widened portion for stabilizing the fastener.

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