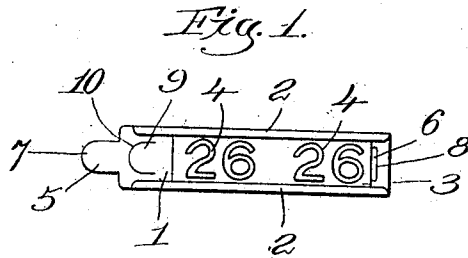
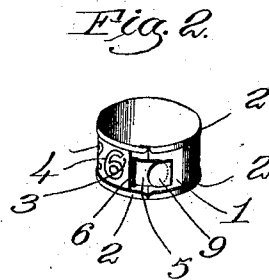
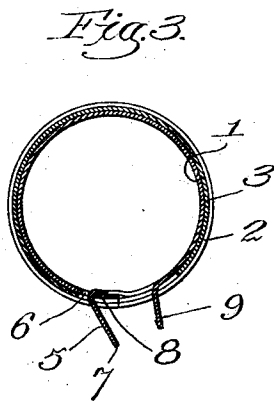
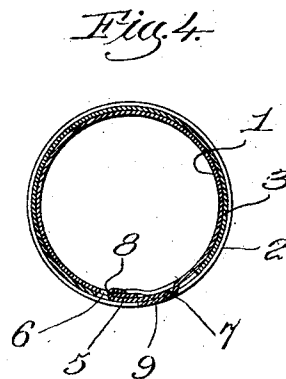


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LEG BAND.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 16, 1912

1,109,394.

Patented Sept. 1, 1914.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES O. BOURNE, OF MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS.

LEG-BAND.

1,109,394.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 1, 1914.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES O. BOURNE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Melrose, county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Leg-Bands, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like characters on the drawing representing like parts.

This invention relates to leg bands for poultry or birds and particularly to the means for locking the leg band to the leg of the bird.

One familiar form of leg band which is now quite commonly used consists of a strip of metal bearing suitable identifying marks and having a projecting tongue at one end and a slot at the other so that after the band has been bent around the leg of the bird the tongue can be inserted through the slot and then bent back on itself thereby to secure the band to the leg. The material of which such leg bands are usually made is a flexible and easily-bent metal and where the leg band is held on the leg merely by the insertion of the tongue through the slot it frequently happens that a little force applied to the band will cause the bent end of the tongue to straighten sufficiently so as to allow the tongue to be withdrawn from the slot.

My improved lock comprises a locking finger secured to the band and situated to be bent down over the end of the tongue which is inserted through the slot thereby to prevent said end of the tongue from being straightened sufficiently to allow it to be withdrawn from the slot.

Referring now to the drawings wherein I have illustrated a selected embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a front view of a leg band made in accordance with the invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the leg band bent into circular shape and the ends fastened together with my improved locking device; Figs. 3 and 4 are enlarged sectional views taken centrally through the leg band and showing the manner of locking the two ends thereof together.

The leg band herein shown is of that type which bears a flexible strip having imprinted or placed thereon the identifying marks or numbers, but the invention is not confined to a leg band of this particular construction, as it might be applied to a

band wherein the identifying marks are placed directly on the metal strip. The band herein shown comprises a strip 1 of ductile metal which has its edges bent over, as at 2, to form lips or flanges behind which a strip 3 of celluloid or other similar material is held, said strip bearing the identifying marks or numbers 4. One end of the strip is formed with a projecting tongue 5 and at the other end of the strip is formed a transverse slot 6 through which the tongue is adapted to be inserted when the band is bent around the leg of the bird.

Leg bands have heretofore been made with the features thus far described, and in applying such a leg band to the leg of a bird the band is bent around the leg and then the tongue 5 is inserted through a slot 6, as shown in Fig. 3, and the end 7 of the tongue is folded down against the strip. While this construction answers fairly well in leg bands of small size, such as are used on pigeons and other smaller birds, yet I have found that when a leg band of a larger size suitable for hens, roosters, and other fowls, is made with this construction it frequently happens that the leg band becomes subjected to a strain tending to draw the ends of the leg band away from each other, and when this occurs the pull of the tongue against the wall 8 of the slot tends to cause the tip end 7 of the tongue to be swung outward away from the body of the band into somewhat the position shown in Fig. 3, and if this strain is continued the tongue is apt to be withdrawn from the slot, thus unlocking the band and allowing it to drop from the leg. In order to prevent this from happening and to provide a band which cannot be accidentally opened, I have provided a locking finger 9 which is adapted to overlie the tip end 7 of the tongue and hold the latter firmly in place. This locking finger 9 may be made in a variety of ways without departing from my invention. One simple way is to form a substantially U-shaped slit 10 in the body of the band immediately back of the tongue 5 and then to bend the slit portion 9 of metal outwardly, as shown in Fig. 3, so that said portion constitutes the locking finger. Where the locking finger is made in this way the slit 10 can be formed in the metal of the band by the same die that cuts out the blank from which the band is formed, thus obviating the necessity of a separate operation for forming the finger 9.

In applying a leg band embodying my invention to the leg of a bird, the finger 9 will first be pressed outwardly into the position shown in Fig. 3, and then the band will be applied to the leg and bent into circular form and the tongue 5 will be inserted through the slot 6, as shown in Fig. 3, the end 7 of the tongue being then bent down against the body of the band, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The locking finger 9 is then bent down into a position to overlap the end 7 of the tongue 5, as seen in Figs. 2 and 4, and this locking finger will hold the tip end of the tongue firmly against the body and will prevent the bent end of the tongue from unfolding when strain is applied to the band tending to open it. A band having my improvements will be securely held on the leg of the bird and will not be unlocked by any strains to which it is subjected in ordinary use, even when used on big birds, such as turkeys, hens, roosters, etc.

While I have illustrated herein one manner of making the locking finger, I do not wish to be limited to the construction shown. Furthermore, I would state that the in-

vention is applicable to other bands than leg bands and may be incorporated in a variety of bands that are designed to be placed about some object and have their ends fastened together.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

As a new article of manufacture, a leg band comprising a strip of metal having at one end a slot and at the other end both a tongue to be inserted through said slot and then bent back against the body of the band, and a locking finger flexibly connected to the strip adjacent the end of the tongue when the latter is thus bent back against the body, said finger being adapted to be bent down over the end of the tongue thereby to lock the tongue in position.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES O. BOURNE.

Witnesses:

LOUIS C. SMITH,
THOMAS J. DRUMMOND.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."