Nov. 23, 1971 S. F. MIKESIC 3,621,681

LEG IRON ARTICLE

Filed March 5, 1970

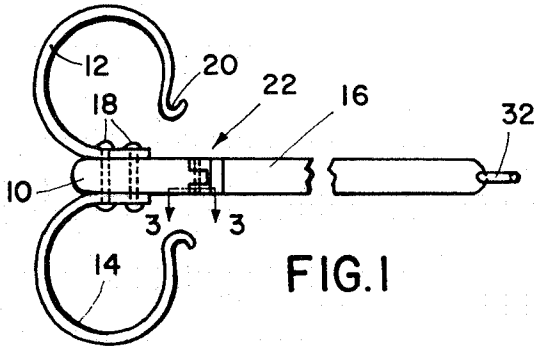


FIG.1

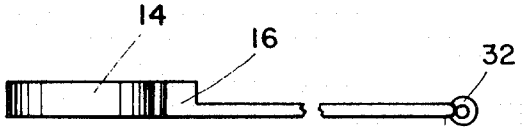


FIG.2

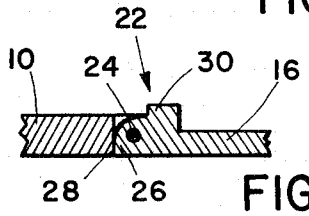


FIG.3

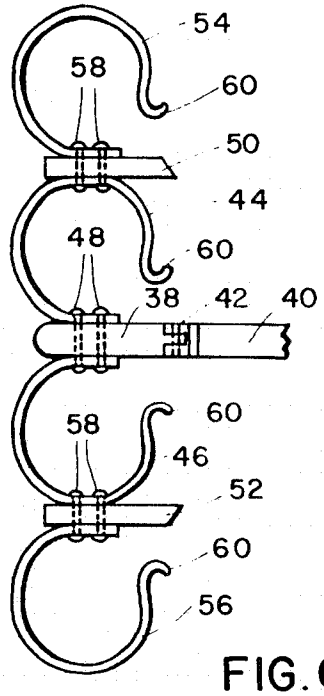


FIG.6

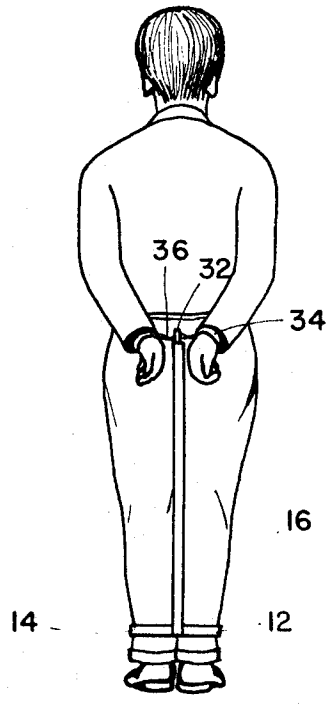


FIG. 5

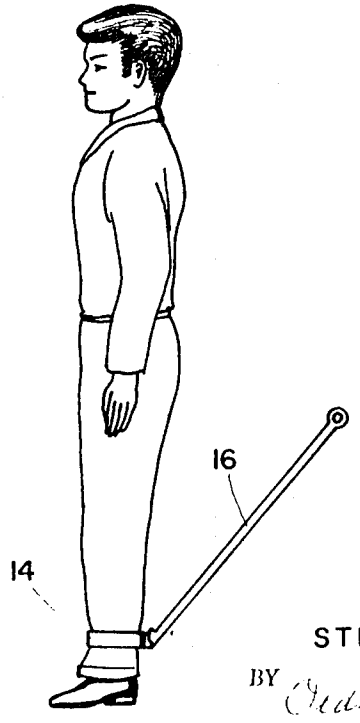


FIG. 4

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LEG IRON ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A leg iron article for use by a law enforcement officer in restraining a prisoner. The leg iron article consists of a pair of generally C-shaped clips which are secured at one end to a bar and which are adapted to be snapped around the legs of a prisoner. A handle is hinged to the rear end of the bar for controlling the position movement of the clips and it has a ring at its upper end through which may be passed a connecting link of a pair of handcuffs. A second embodiment is also shown which may be used to restrain two prisoners simultaneously. This embodiment has a central bar having a handle and leg encircling clips attached to opposite sides of the point of attachment of the first clip to the central bar. The legs of the first prisoner are retained by the clips on one side of the central bar while those of the second prisoner are retained by the clips on the opposite side of the bar.

This invention relates to a device for restraining prisoners and more particularly to a device which may be readily attached to the legs of a prisoner from behind the prisoner and be controlled from behind the person to prevent his running or attempting to escape.

The primary object of my invention is the provision of a device by which a police officer or other law-enforcement official may quickly and without danger to himself temporarily restrain a prisoner. In accordance with the principles of my invention this objective is accomplished by providing a device having a pair of bands, or spring clips which may be clipped to the prisoner's legs to hold the legs close together, thus preventing the prisoner from running or kicking.

It is also an object of my invention to provide a device for restraining a prisoner which permits the law officer to have one hand free at substantially all times. The device of my invention accomplishes this objective as it is capable of being placed on the prisoner from behind and usually with the use of only a single hand it enables the officer to subdue even the most violent prisoner with a single hand.

Another object of the invention is to provide a relatively inexpensive, sturdy device for immobilizing a person readily from the rear of the person.

The above and other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent upon consideration of the following specification and the accompanying drawing wherein there is shown a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the restraining device of my invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a side view of a prisoner showing one method of using the device of my invention;

FIG. 5 is a rear view of a prisoner showing the use of my device in conjunction with handcuffs; and

FIG. 6 is a plan view of a second embodiment of my invention.

The restraining device of my invention consists essentially of a bar, or frame **10** to which are secured end portions of a pair of leg-encircling rearwardly open clips **12** and **14** and an elongated handle **16**.

Each of the leg-encircling clips **12**, **14** consists of a strip of spring steel, plastic or other suitable material bent or formed into a generally C-shaped configuration and securely attached to the bar **10** by rivets **18** or other suitable means. The free end portions of the clips **12**, **14** are curved as indicated at **20** to provide smooth ends so that the clips do not cut or tear the prisoner's trousers when being installed, while being adapted to be pulled into engagement with a person's ankles from the rear of the person.

The handle **16** is preferably made of metal for sufficient strength. It is attached to the bar **10** by a hinge, designated generally by the reference numeral **22** and illustrated in detail in FIG. 3. The hinge **22** has a pin **24** connecting the end of the bar **10** to the end of the handle **16**. It will be noted that the half portion **26** of the end of the handle **16** below the centerline of the pin **24** is square and abuts against the lower portion **28** of the end of the bar **10**, when the handle **16** is in a horizontal position, to prevent the handle **16** from dropping below the plane of the bar **10** and the clips **12** and **14**. A flange or buttress **30** is provided on the upper surface of the handle **16** adjacent the pin **24** and this buttress **30** abutts the upper surface of the bar **10** to prevent the handle from being moved through more than a 90° arc upwardly from the plane of the bar **10** and clips **12** and **14**. The outer end of the handle **16** is shown as provided with a ring **32**.

Referring now to FIG. 4, the method of using the device of my invention as described above will now be explained. To install the restraining device on a prisoner, the law-enforcement official turns the device so that the clips **12** and **14** are in a vertical plane and, while the device is in this position, inserts the device between the prisoner's legs from the rear and with the handle **16** towards the rear. The device is now turned so that the clips **12** and **14** lie in a horizontal plane immediately in front of the prisoner's legs. Pulling sharply or smoothly backwardly on the handle **16** causes the clips **12** and **14** to flex outwardly, snapping around the prisoner's legs. It will be noted that the distance between the ends **20** of the clips **12** and **14** and the adjacent sides of the bar **10** is sufficiently great that the clips **12** and **14** will spread apart as they are pulled rearwardly against the prisoner's legs. The prisoner's legs are now held closely together, thus hobbling him. The officer, by holding the upper end of the handle **16**, can now effectively restrain the prisoner. Should the prisoner attempt to flee or become violent, the officer can quickly restrain him by jerking or pulling on the handle **16** causing the prisoner to stumble or fall.

FIG. 5 illustrates the use of the device of my invention in conjunction with a pair of handcuffs to further restrain a prisoner. The device is attached in the manner described above and the prisoner's hands are then handcuffed together behind his back. The handcuffs **34** are joined to one another by a short chain **36** which is passed through the ring **32** of suitable size to have the handcuffs passed therethrough on the upper end of the handle **16**. With this arrangement, the prisoner is securely restrained as any attempt to move either his arms or legs more than a very limited amount is highly uncomfortable.

I also provide a second embodiment of my invention which may be used by a law enforcement officer to restrain two prisoners simultaneously. This embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 6, consists of a central bar **38** having a handle **40** connected thereto by hinge **42**. Clips **44** and

46 similar to clips 12 and 14 of the previously described embodiment are secured to opposite sides of the bar 38 by rivets 48. Directly opposite the point of attachment of the clips 44 and 46 to the bar 38 there are individually attached second bars 50, 52 and additional clips 54 and 56, respectively. These additional clips and bars are secured by rivets 58. In this embodiment, the clips 54 and 44 are usually first snapped around the legs of a first prisoner, the bar 50 serving as a spacer to properly position the clips. Likewise, the clips 46 and 56 are next snapped around the legs of the second prisoner with the bar 52 serving as a spacer. The two prisoners are now effectively restrained as neither one can move his own legs more than a small amount and as the prisoners are prohibited from moving individually.

It should now be apparent that I have provided a leg iron article which fulfills the objective initially set out above. Since the device described herein holds the prisoner's legs close together it prohibits him from running or kicking. The law officer can effectively restrain the prisoner even if he should attempt to become violent by merely pulling or jerking on the handle, thus throwing the prisoner off balance. Since the device is designed to be installed from the rear, the law officer remains behind the prisoner and thus has an advantage over him. Also, the device may usually be installed with only the use of one hand, thus leaving the officer's other hand free to hold a revolver or to search the prisoner, for example, for concealed weapons.

It should be understood while two embodiments of my invention have been described further modifications or additions may be made to the invention without departing from the spirit thereof. Reference should therefore be had to the appended claims in determining the true scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A leg iron article for use by a person in restraining a prisoner, comprising:

a bar;

a pair of clips, each of the clips being of C-shaped configuration, the clips being secured at one of their ends at opposite sides of the bar and adapted to encircle the ankles of the prisoner; and

a handle attached by a hinge to one end of the bar.

2. The article according to claim 1 wherein the hinge limits the movement of the handle to an arc extending 90° from the plane of the bar.

3. The article according to claim 1 wherein the clips are open in a rearward direction and the article can be engaged on the prisoner's ankles from behind the prisoner.

4. The article according to claim 1 wherein each of the clips is resilient, permitting the clips to be snapped onto the prisoner's ankles.

5. The article according to claim 1 wherein said bar is provided with a ring at its upper end and is of sufficient length to extend from the point of encirclement of said clips to the prisoner's legs to a point on the prisoner's back at which the prisoner's hands may be joined by handcuffs, the arrangement permitting the connecting links of the handcuffs to be passed through the ring of said handle.

6. The article according to claim 1 further including spacer bars secured to each of said clips at points opposite from the points of attachment of said clips to said first bar; and additional clips secured to said spacer bars whereby a pair of prisoner's legs can be engaged.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

24—230.5 AD