Dec. 30, 1924. 1,521,197

E. B. LEWIS

CLASP FOR ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS

Filed Aug. 27, 1923

Fig. 1

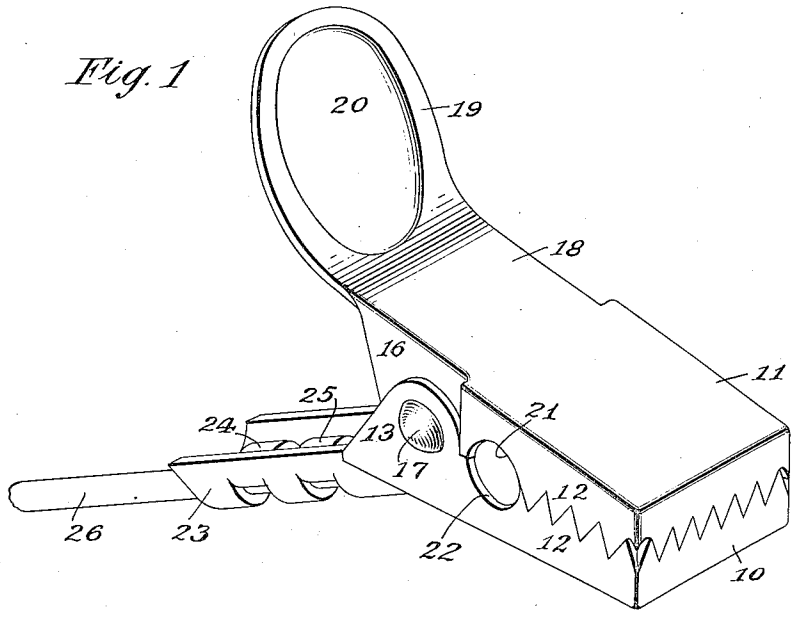


Fig. 2

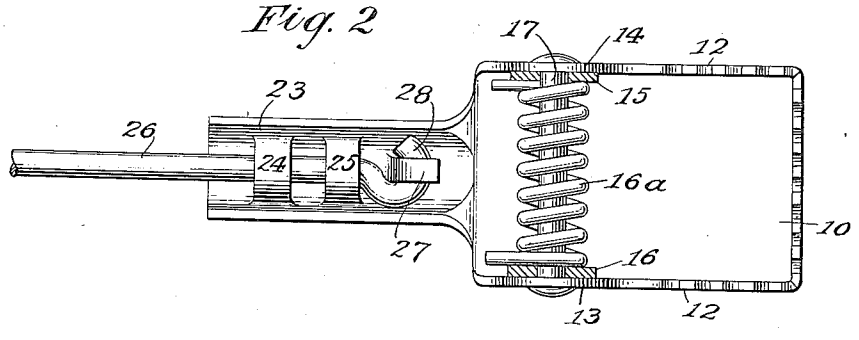
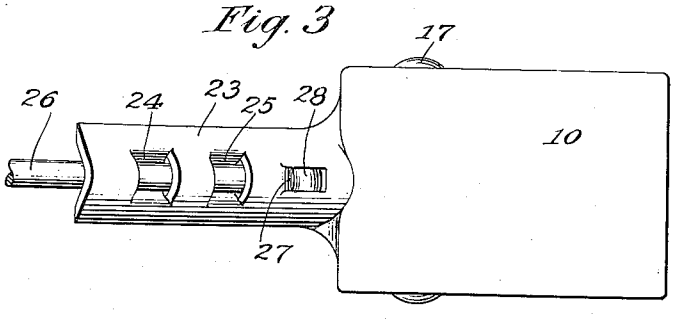


Fig. 3



INVENTOR
Earle B. Lewis
BY H. G. Manning
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARLE B. LEWIS, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

CLASP FOR ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EARLE B. LEWIS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Waterbury, county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps for Electrical Conductors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to radio apparatus, and more particularly to a clasp for connecting the terminal of an electrical conducting wire to a second conducting wire, or to a binding post or other electrical conductor.

One object of the invention is to provide a wire terminal clasp having a pair of spring-pressed pivoted metallic jaws, said jaws being provided with intermeshing teeth along their sides as well as their ends.

A further object of this invention is to provide a terminal clasp of the above nature in which the rear of one of the jaws is provided with means for detachably holding the wire terminal, and the rear of the other jaw comprises a finger-engaging section for opening the jaws of the clasp.

A further object of the invention is to provide a terminal clasp of the above nature which will be simple, cheap to manufacture, and very efficient and durable in use.

With these and other objects in view, there has been illustrated on the accompanying drawings one form in which the invention may be conveniently embodied in practice.

Fig. 1 represents a perspective view of a wire terminal clasp embodying the principles of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the terminal holding jaw shown detached from the finger-engaging jaw.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the same.

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the clasp herein illustrated consists of a lower jaw or terminal holding jaw 10, and an upper jaw or finger-engaging jaw 11. The forward parts of said jaws are rectangular, and are provided on their sides and ends with serrated upstanding flanges 12—in other words, said forward parts are shaped like a pair of open boxes. It will thus be seen that the wire binding post, or other conductor to which the clasp is to be applied will be tightly gripped irrespective of the angle which said conductor makes with said clasp. Thus, if the conductor is parallel to the length of the clasp, it will be clamped by the end teeth, while if it is perpendicular, it will be clamped by the side teeth.

The rear portions of the upper and lower members 10 and 11 are provided with enlarged ears 13, 14, and 15, 16 respectively, said ears being adapted to be brought into alinement to form a bearing for a pivot pin 17. The teeth on the jaws 10 and 11 are adapted to be pressed together by means of a spiral spring 16^a mounted on said pivot pin 17. The rear portion 18 of said upper jaw is reduced in width so that the ears 15 and 16 will fit between the ears 13 and 14. The upper jaw is also provided with an outwardly extending portion 19 having a smooth depressed oval-shaped section 20 adapted to be engaged by the finger of the operator to cause the jaws to open against the tension of the spiral spring 16^a. The rear portions of the forward box-shaped sections of each of the jaws are provided with opposed semi-circular recesses 21, 22, adapted to form a circular aperture at the rear of the serrated portions through which the end of a conducting wire, not shown, may be inserted prior to the opening of the jaws.

In order to hold the terminal of the wire in position, the lower jaw 10 is extended rearwardly and formed into a semi-tubular channel member 23. The channel member 23 is provided with a pair of transverse struck up portions 24 and 25 which are curved in the opposite direction from the curvature of the channel member and together with the channel member 23 form a tube for receiving a terminal wire 26. A longitudinal tongue 27 is also struck up from the channel member 23, and said tongue is adapted to form a hook for locking the bent end 28 of the terminal wire 26, as most clearly shown in Fig. 2.

In operation, when it is desired to connect the terminal wire 26 with a conducting wire, binding post, or other conductor, the terminal wire 26 will be first inserted through the tubular guide in the channel member 23, and the end of the terminal will be bent around the end of the hook 27 to lock the wire 26 securely in position. If de-

sired, the terminal may also be soldered to the channel member. The operator will then manipulate the finger piece 19 to separate the jaws 10 and 11 of the clasp. The jaws will then be placed about the conductor, not shown, and the finger-engaging jaw will be released, permitting the jaws to close upon the conductor under the spring tension.

While there has been disclosed in this specification one form in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that this form is shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosure, but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all the modifications and embodiments coming within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent, is:

1. In a clasp for connecting an electrical conducting wire to an electrical conductor, a pair of spring-pressed pivoted jaws adapted to clamp said conductor, one of said jaws having an outwardly extending finger-engaging arm, and the other jaw having an inclined arm bent into the shape of a section of a tube, said tubular arm having a series of struck-up portions adapted to form a guide for receiving the terminal of said conducting wire, and a hook struck-up from said tube locking the end of said conducting wire.

2. In a clasp for electrically connecting a conducting wire to a conductor, a pair of spring-pressed pivoted jaws adapted to clamp said conductor, one of said jaws having a finger-engaging arm, the other jaw having a rearwardly extending semi-tubular arm, a series of transverse portions struck up from said semi-tubular arm and bent into semi-circular shape, said semi-tubular arm and said struck-up portion forming a tubular guide for said conducting wire, said semi-tubular arm having a forwardly extending struck-up section to form a hook for locking the end of said terminal.

3. In a clasp for electrically connecting a conducting wire to a conductor, a pair of spring-pressed pivoted jaws adapted to clamp said conductor, one of said jaws having an outwardly extending finger-engaging arm, and the other of said jaws having an outwardly extending tubular arm for holding and locking said conducting wire, said jaws being provided with intermeshing serrated edges, and recesses in the adjacent edges of said jaws to form an aperture for permitting the insertion of a conductor between said jaws, prior to the opening of said jaws.

In testimony whereof, I have affixed my signature to this specification.

EARLE B. LEWIS.