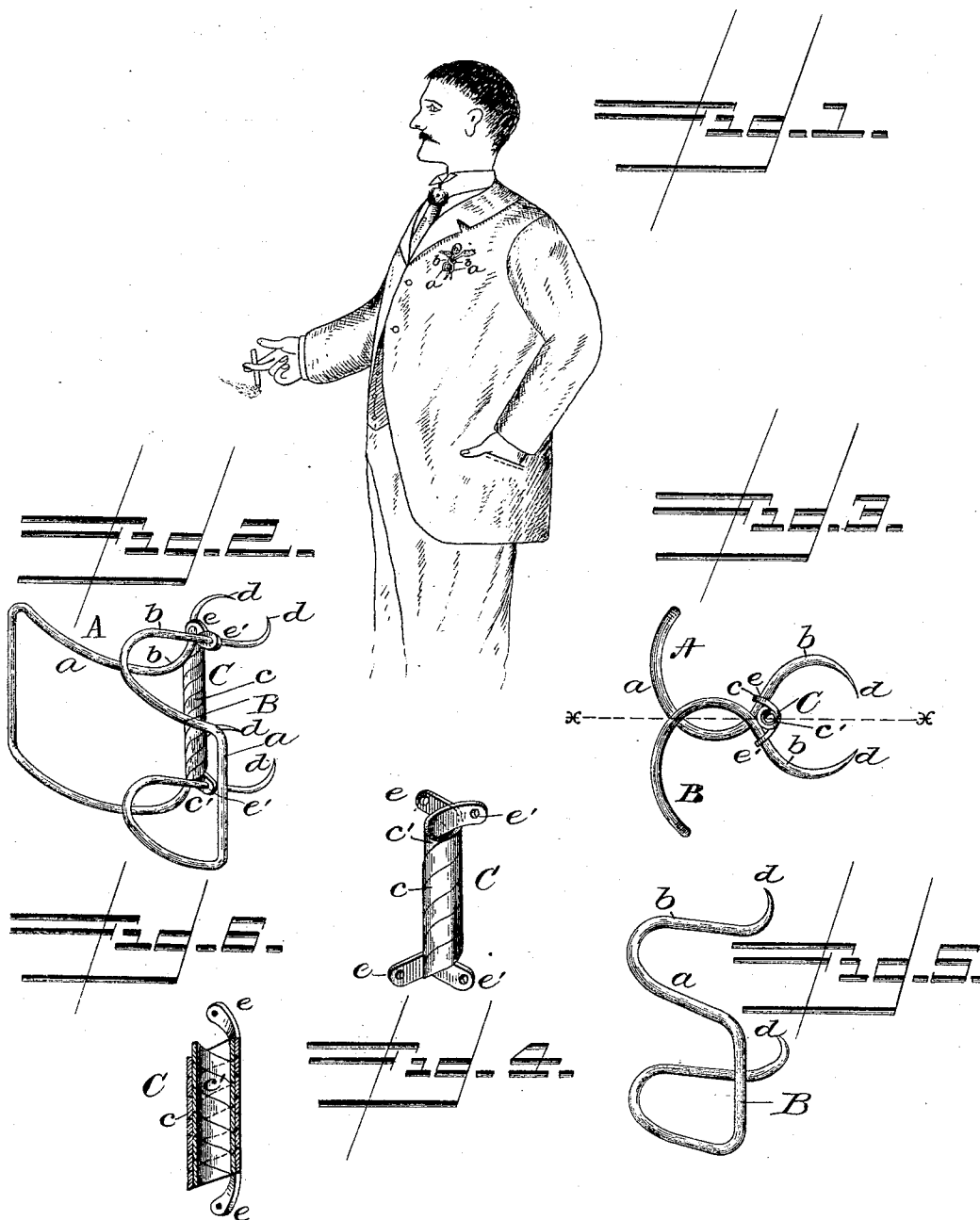


(No Model.)

E. L. McDOWELL.
BOUQUET HOLDER.

No. 484,602.

Patented Oct. 18, 1892.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST L. MCDOWELL, OF ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO KITTIE B. MCDOWELL, OF SAME PLACE.

BOUQUET-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 484,602, dated October 18, 1892.

Application filed March 5, 1892. Serial No. 423,899. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST L. MCDOWELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Arkansas City, in the county of Crowley and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bouquet-Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved bouquet-holder, showing it in position upon the lapel of a coat and holding a boutonnière. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device without the bouquet and removed from the coat. Fig. 3 is a top or bottom view of the device. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the duplex-spring hinge which connects and actuates the two jaws. Fig. 5 is a detail view of one of these jaws, both being alike; and Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view through the duplex-spring hinge on line *xx* in Fig. 3.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to devices for fastening boutonnières or small bouquets upon articles of wearing-apparel; and it consists in the construction and combination of parts of a novel spring-actuated bouquet-holder, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, the letters A and B designate the two wire jaws, which, in conjunction with the spring-hinge C, constitute my device. These jaws, which are exactly alike in size and configuration, are formed by bending a thin piece of suitable wire into the shape shown more clearly in Fig. 5—*i. e.*, forming a bail *a*, terminating in two curved or S-shaped legs *b b*, the free ends of which are sharpened to form needle-points *d*, which will readily pierce a piece of cloth or other textile fabric. These jaws A and B are placed together, as shown on the drawings—that is, with the S-shaped legs *b b* of one jaw overlapping and crossing those of the other jaw about midway of their length.

At this point, or near it, the jaws are united by a compound or duplex spring hinge C, comprising two small coiled springs *c* and *c'*, coiled upon and around each other in opposite directions, so as to mutually support each other. The free ends of these springs project at opposite sides and ends, as shown at *e* and *e'*, and are perforated for the insertion of the legs *b b* of the respective jaws. It will thus be seen that the duplex coiled spring C has a double function—*viz.*, to connect the jaws A and B and by the tension of the two springs coiled upon and around each other also cause the pointed ends or prongs *d d* of one of the jaws to be drawn toward and against the corresponding prongs of the other jaw with considerable spring-pressure.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, the operation of this device will be readily understood. By pressing the two bails *a a* together with the fingers a loop D will be formed for the insertion of the stem of the flowers and leaves forming the bouquet. By the same operation the pointed prongs are forced apart, and by now placing the device against the lapel of a coat or other portion of the apparel or dress to which the bouquet is to be attached and at the same time gradually releasing the spring-pressure the prongs will enter the fabric so as to attach the device, with the bouquet held by it, firmly to the coat. To remove the device, this operation is simply repeated and the holder is removed while the prongs are pressed apart, which also opens the loop D for the removal of the bouquet.

By nickel-plating, silver-plating, or gilding the wire jaws and the hinge this device may be made very neat and attractive in appearance. It can be made at a cost merely nominal, is small and therefore not conspicuous, will adjust itself to the size of the bouquet, and can be applied and removed in a moment of time.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

In a bouquet-holder, the combination, with the compound hinge consisting of the coiled springs *c c'*, wound around each other in opposite directions with their ends projecting

at opposite sides and ends and provided with perforations, of the spring-jaws A and B, having the curved legs *b b*, overlapping each other and passing through the perforations in the
5 ends of the springs *c c'* and having their ends pointed, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ERNEST L. McDOWELL.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL S. McDOWELL,
HOWARD AKIN.