

(No Model.)

G. W. WASHBURN.  
EAR JEWEL FASTENING.

No. 285,532.

Patented Sept. 25, 1883.

Fig. 1.

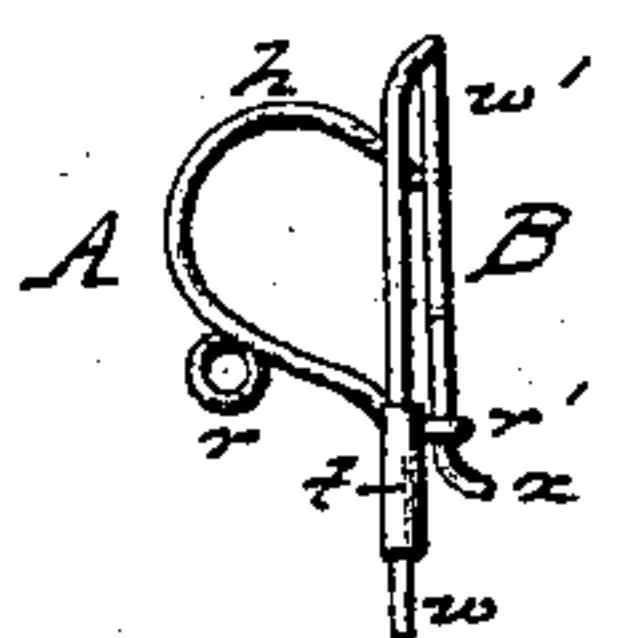


Fig. 3.

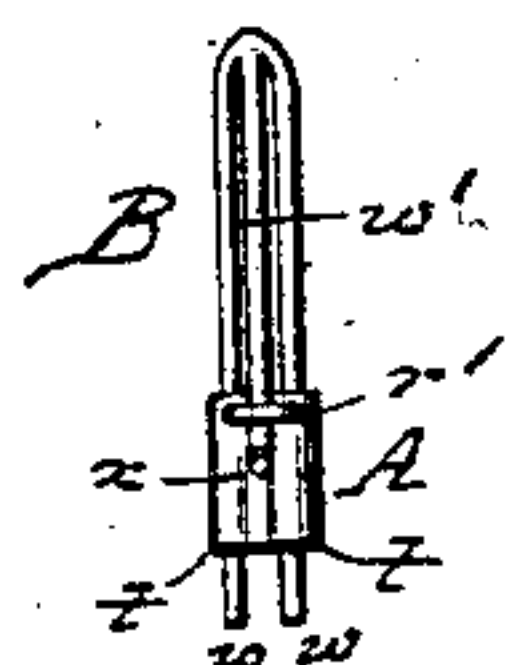


Fig. 2.

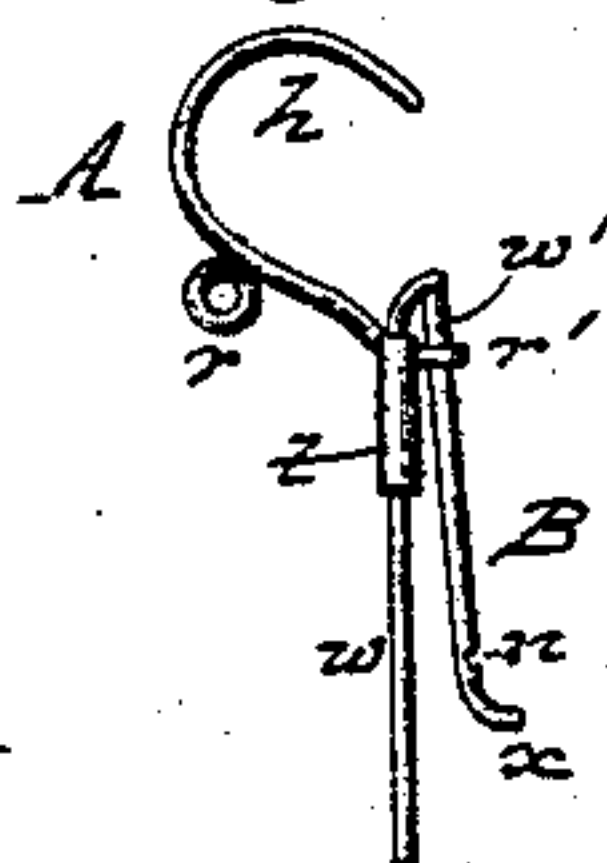


Fig. 4.

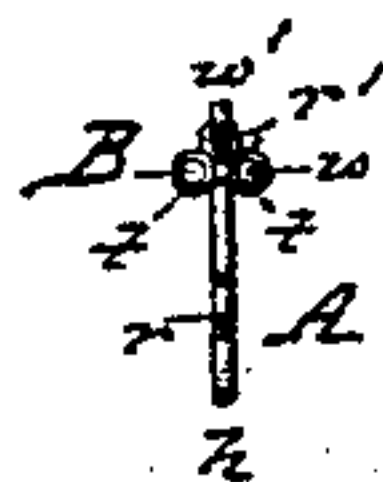
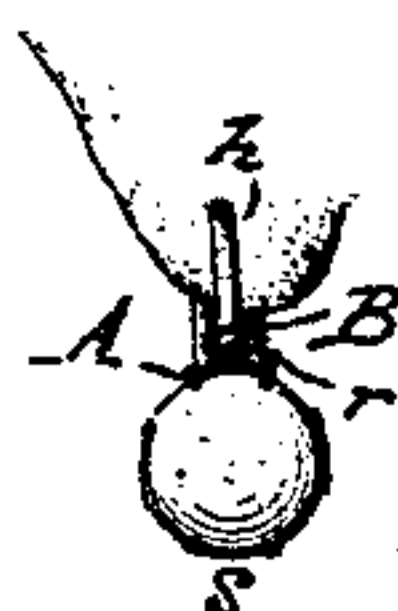



Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. WASHBURN, OF WEST NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK.

## EAR-JEWEL FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 285,532, dated September 25, 1883.

Application filed June 23, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. WASHBURN, a citizen of the United States, residing at West New Brighton, Richmond county, in the State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ear-Jewel Fastenings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates, primarily, to means for securely attaching to the lobes of ladies' ears diamonds, pearls, or other jewels of great value, so that they cannot become accidentally or surreptitiously detached, and so that the wearer may know when they are securely fastened. My improved fastening is applicable, however, to ear-rings or ear-jewels of any grade, being simple and inexpensive in its construction, and peculiarly adapted to facilitate the "insertion" of ear-jewels and their removal from the ears when unfastened.

My present invention consists in an ear-jewel fastening opened and closed by means of a slide adapted to open wide without any hinge-joint whatever, and at the same time adapted to suspend or attach the ear-jewel by an ear-wire in the form of a hook, which is the most commonly preferred form of attaching device, without reliance upon any degree of elasticity in said "hook."

This invention consists, further, in certain features of said ear-jewel fastening herein-after set forth and claimed.

The objects aimed at and results accomplished in and by my present invention, as compared with hook-fastenings for ear-jewels heretofore known and used, include the following: It is more readily "inserted" or adjusted in the ear, although it may be of the smallest size suitable to the wearer, and wholly without hinge-joint, as aforesaid, and when fastened it manifests the fact by an audible "click," which informs the wearer that it is securely locked. It prevents the hook from working forward in the ear—an accidental operation which frequently renders ordinarily-fastened ear-jewels ungainly. It is not liable to get out of order, as there are no parts which require straining. Ornaments can be soldered on the hook without taking the fastening apart and without injury to the hook, the latter being made of annealed metal. Finally, the ear-

wire, being of annealed metal, can be bent at will, to suit ears that are pierced high or low, without drawing its temper or impairing its usefulness.

A sheet of drawings accompanies this specification as part hereof. Figure 1 of these drawings is a side elevation of my improved ear-jewel fastening in its closed or locked condition. Fig. 2 is a like view of the same unlocked and open. Fig. 3 is a back view of the same in the closed condition represented by Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an end view thereof; and Fig. 5 represents a front view of a solitaire-pearl suspended from a lady's ear by means of my improved ear-jewel fastening.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This ear-jewel fastening is composed of two main parts, A B, the latter movable with reference to the former. Said part A consists, essentially, of a suspending-hook, or the ear-wire proper, (marked *h*,) which may be, and preferably is, made of annealed wire, a pair of hollow wires or tubes, *t t*, soldered fast to the lower end of said hook, in vertical position, side by side, and a horizontal catch-ring, *r'*, attached to the back of that portion of said part A formed by said tubes and the lower end of said hook, said catch-ring occupying the depression between said tubes, as seen in Fig. 4. Said part B is composed, mainly, of a "double wire," as I term it, (marked *w w*,) formed by bending a suitable wire at mid-length, so that its ends lie parallel with each other and with the front of the fastening, the same being fitted to said tubes *t t* of said part A, with sufficient space between the same to admit the point of said hook *h*. The connecting-bend of the double wire is at its upper end, and this end is further bent rearwardly, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, and to its rearmost point a central catch-wire, *w'*, is soldered. This catch-wire fits loosely within said catch-ring *r'*, depending at somewhat of an angle in normal condition, as seen in Fig. 2, and is made of spring-wire, with a catch-notch, *n*, in its back, near its lower end, and with its lower extremity, *x*, bent rearwardly to form a tripping-point or unlocking-projection. Said part A is further provided in the



example with a ring, *r*, soldered to the front of said hook *h*, as means for attaching thereto a pendant jewel-setting, *s*, Fig. 5; and I propose to use in connection therewith the jewel-setting with a suspending-bar between its cramps, shown and claimed in my Patent No. 238,318, dated March 1, 1881. I do not, however, limit myself to so attaching jewels as pendants, but may instead or in addition thereto provide the front of the hook *h*, or the surface formed by the lower end of said hook, in connection with said tubes *t t*, with a set jewel or ornament of any description, soldered fast or otherwise attached. Two distinct wires united with each other and with the catch-wire *w'* or its equivalent in any approved way may, furthermore, be used instead of the double wire *w w*, above specified, without loss of function or material change of form; and in some cases a sliding part of flat metal or composed of a single wire may be used, the guide-tubes *t t* to be correspondingly modified.

When my said ear-jewel fastening is in use, as illustrated by Figs. 1, 3, and 5, said hook *h* of the part A projects rearwardly through the pierced ear-lobe, and said double wire *w w* of the part B rests against the back of the ear-lobe, its smooth, round upper end projecting above the point of said hook and masking the same, said notch *n* in said catch-wire *w'* engaging with said catch-ring *r'*, whereby said part B is securely locked in its elevated position, so as to preclude accidental displacement, as well as to resist any attempt of a thief to surreptitiously detach the ear-jewel. At the same time the fastening may be almost wholly hidden or concealed by the ear lobe and jewel, as seen in Fig. 5. The ear-jewel is unlocked and released by placing the thumb against the front of said surface formed by said tubes *t t*, and pressing said catch-wire *w'* inward by means of the nail of the first or second finger applied to said tripping-point *x*, at the same time by means of the same finger drawing down said part B to its position represented by Fig. 2, so as to fully open the mouth of said hook *h* and facilitate unhooking the latter from the ear-lobe. In replacing or insert-

ing the hook *h* the fastening is conveniently grasped by its lower end in the condition represented by Fig. 2, and said hook is passed through the pierced ear-lobe with facility. Said part B is then pressed upward by means of the finger, and when it reaches its upper position of rest (represented by said Figs. 1, 3, and 5) said notch *n* engages with said catch-ring *r'*, producing an audible click, which informs the wearer that the fastening is securely locked.

It will be seen that so locking the fastening and manifesting the act is accomplished in this fastening without complication of parts, and the catch-wire *w'*, in which said locking-notch *n* is formed, as aforesaid, is the only part which need possess resiliency, while this is not liable to be subjected to excessive strain.

Having thus described my said ear-jewel fastening, I claim as my invention—

1. An ear-jewel fastening composed of two main parts, one of which comprises a jointless ear-wire, and a guide or guides for the other part, the latter being a slide which in its respective positions precludes the withdrawal of said ear-wire and facilitates its withdrawal, substantially as herein set forth.

2. In an ear-jewel fastening, the combination of an ear-wire proper in the form of a hook, a pair of guide-tubes attached to one end of said hook, and a sliding double wire or pair of wires occupying said tubes and forming a space to receive and mask the point of said ear-wire, substantially as herein set forth.

3. In an ear-jewel fastening, the combination of an ear-wire proper in the form of a hook, a pair of vertical guide-tubes attached to the lower end of said hook, a double wire sliding in said tubes, a catch-wire depending in rear of said double wire and formed with a catch-notch, and a catch-ring attached to the back of said tubes and embracing said catch-wire, substantially as herein set forth, for the purposes specified.

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Witnesses:

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