March 1, 1949. J. H. CARTER 2,463,243

WRIST WATCH BAND

Filed June 11, 1945

Fig. 1

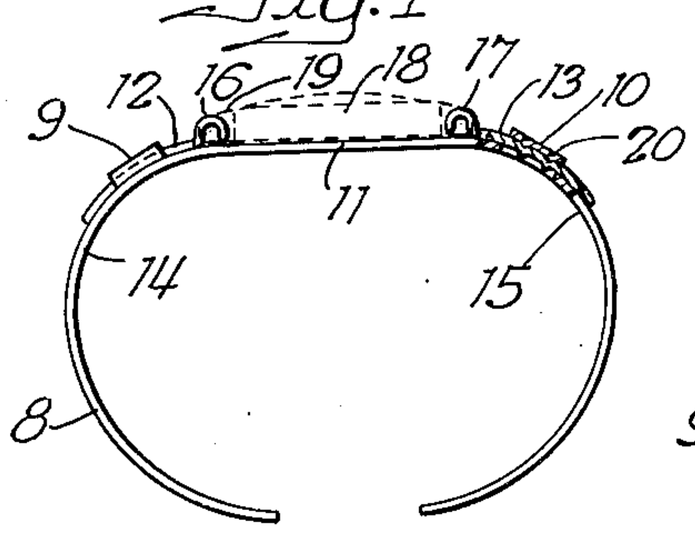


Fig. 3

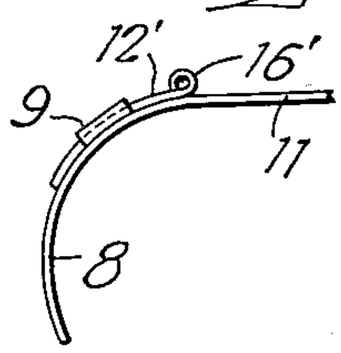


Fig. 2

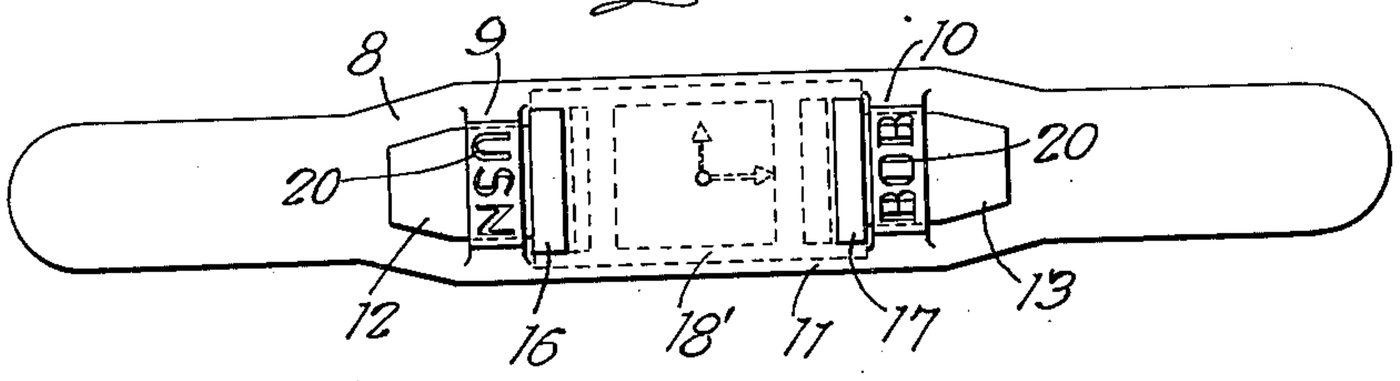
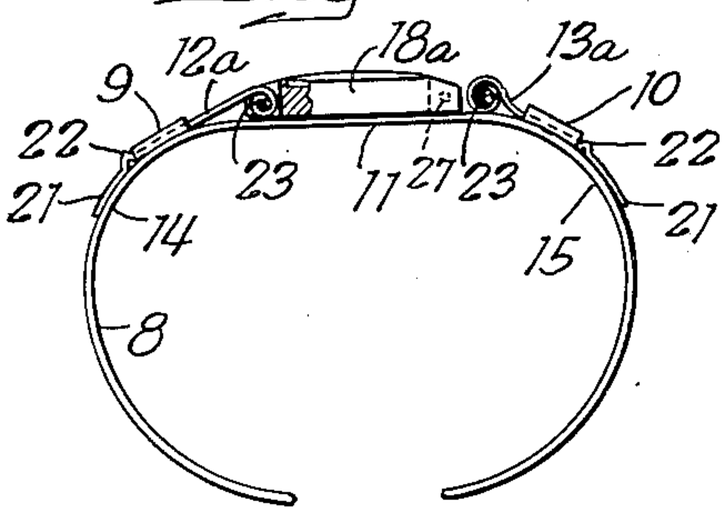


Fig. 4



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WRIST WATCH BAND

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1 Claim. (Cl. 224—4)

1

This invention relates to wrist watch bands, and is more particularly concerned with an all-metal type of band construction.

I am aware that C-shaped metal bands of flexible spring material have been used to some extent, but it has been a problem to provide satisfactory means for fastening the watch case to the band, and the means heretofore devised have all been subject to certain objections. It is, therefore, the principal object of my invention to provide a metal band so constructed that short metal straps attached to the opposite ends of the watch case may be held securely without detracting from the neatness and good appearance of the ensemble or giving rise to any inconvenience or discomfort to the wearer.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in section of a wrist watch band made in accordance with my invention, indicating in dotted lines a wrist watch case held in place between the adjustable straps;

Fig. 2 is a developed plan view of a band like that shown in Fig. 1, but with the straps nearly fully retracted as for application to a longer case;

Fig. 3 is a view corresponding to a portion of Fig. 1, showing a modified or alternative construction of the attaching end of the strap, and

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a different type of strap, one of the straps being shown applied to a watch case and the other strap in retracted position preparatory to attachment to the case.

Similar reference numerals are applied to corresponding parts throughout the views.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, the band 8 is C-shaped and of one-piece flexible spring metal construction adapted to be spread enough to pass the open side sidewise over the wrist. The band, once in place on the wrist, is not apt to fall off or slip off accidentally. The band has two transverse loop portions 9 and 10 punched out of the plane thereof on opposite sides of the flat widened front middle portion 11 of the band, through which adjustable short metal straps 12 and 13 are slidable, these straps being arcuate in longitudinal section, to conform approximately to the curvature of the opposed side portions 14 and 15 of the band. The inner ends of the straps are bent to U-shaped section to provide bearing portions 16 and 17 adapted to receive the conventional type of pins for detachably securing the straps to the opposite ends of a wrist watch case,

2

like that indicated in dotted lines at 18 in Fig. 1. By "conventional" pins, I mean, of course, the well known pins having spring pressed plungers projecting from the ends thereof for entry into the small sockets provided therefor in the inner sides of the forked ends 19 of the watch cases. The straps 12 and 13, in accordance with my invention, are entered in the forked ends of the watch case and fastened by means of these pins, after which the watch case is centered between the loops 9 and 10, and the loops are then compressed or flattened to a slight extent sufficient to grip the straps 12 and 13 firmly in the adjusted position. If desired, I may as a part of the flattening operation on the loops 9 and 10 imprint initials or monograms, as indicated, for example, at 20 in Fig. 2, or these initials could be engraved in the loops before or after the flattening thereof. I have indicated in the sectioned portion of Fig. 1 the displacement of metal in the loop and strap produced by the imprinting dies. Where the watch case is longer, like the watch case 18' shown in Fig. 2, the straps 12 and 13 are not projected as far from the loops 9 and 10, but the same mode of clenching is illustrated. The clenching holds the watch securely enough to eliminate likelihood of its shifting endwise, but it is obvious that a jeweler may, if occasion should later require it, force the straps endwise in either direction if it is desired to use the band on another watch that may require a different adjustment of the straps.

The strap 12', indicated in Fig. 3, cooperates with the looped portion 9 of the band 8 in a similar way as the straps 12 and 13 in Figs. 1 and 2, but has the bearing portion 16' thereof curled upwardly to accommodate the conventional attaching pin.

In the construction shown in Fig. 4, the band 8 is of the same construction as that above described, having looped portions 9 and 10 on opposite sides of the widened front middle portion 11. In this construction, however, the straps 12*a* and 13*a* are of thin spring material which if removed from the loops 9 and 10 would tend to coil up like a clock spring. These straps are uncoiled and slipped through the looped portions 9 and 10 of the band so that the outer end portions 21 lie in snug contact with the curved side portions 14 and 15 of the band under the inherent resilience of the material of the straps. Embossed bead portions 22 may be formed in the outer end portions of the straps after they have been assembled in the loops of the band, so as to leave the same length of strap projecting beyond each of the

loops, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Now, the inner end portions 23 of these straps, which are curled, are adapted to receive the attaching pins for attachment of the straps to the ends of the watch case 18*a*, and the straps are uncoiled enough to make the connections, after which the watch case will be held substantially centrally between the looped portions of the band under the substantially equal but opposite spring tensions of the straps, the beads 22 on the straps preventing inward displacement thereof. In Fig. 4 the strap 12*a* is shown in the attached position and the strap 13*a* in retracted position preparatory to the attachment thereof.

It is believed the foregoing description conveys a good understanding of the objects and advantages of my invention. The appended claim has been drawn to cover all legitimate modifications and adaptations.

I claim:

A band for supporting a watch or other article on the wrist and having attaching means at opposite ends thereof, said band comprising a one-piece C-shaped member of flat, thin, resilient metal adapted to encircle the wrist, said member having two spaced loop portions formed from the metal of said member bent bodily upwardly out of the plane of the metal in substantially parallel relation to one another and to the plane of said metal and spaced from the attaching

means on opposite ends of said article, whereby the inner surface of the band that comes in contact with the wrist is smooth and devoid of projections, and two short metallic straps disposed wholly on the outer side of the band slidably mounted on top of said band member while confined closely within said loop portions, permitting adjustment of said straps toward and away from one another for connection interchangeably to articles of different length entered between the adjoining ends thereof, said adjoining ends of said straps being constructed for connection to said attaching means, said loop portions being disposed in close contact with the tops of said straps and having portions thereof struck therefrom to frictionally grip the straps in adjusted positions.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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