

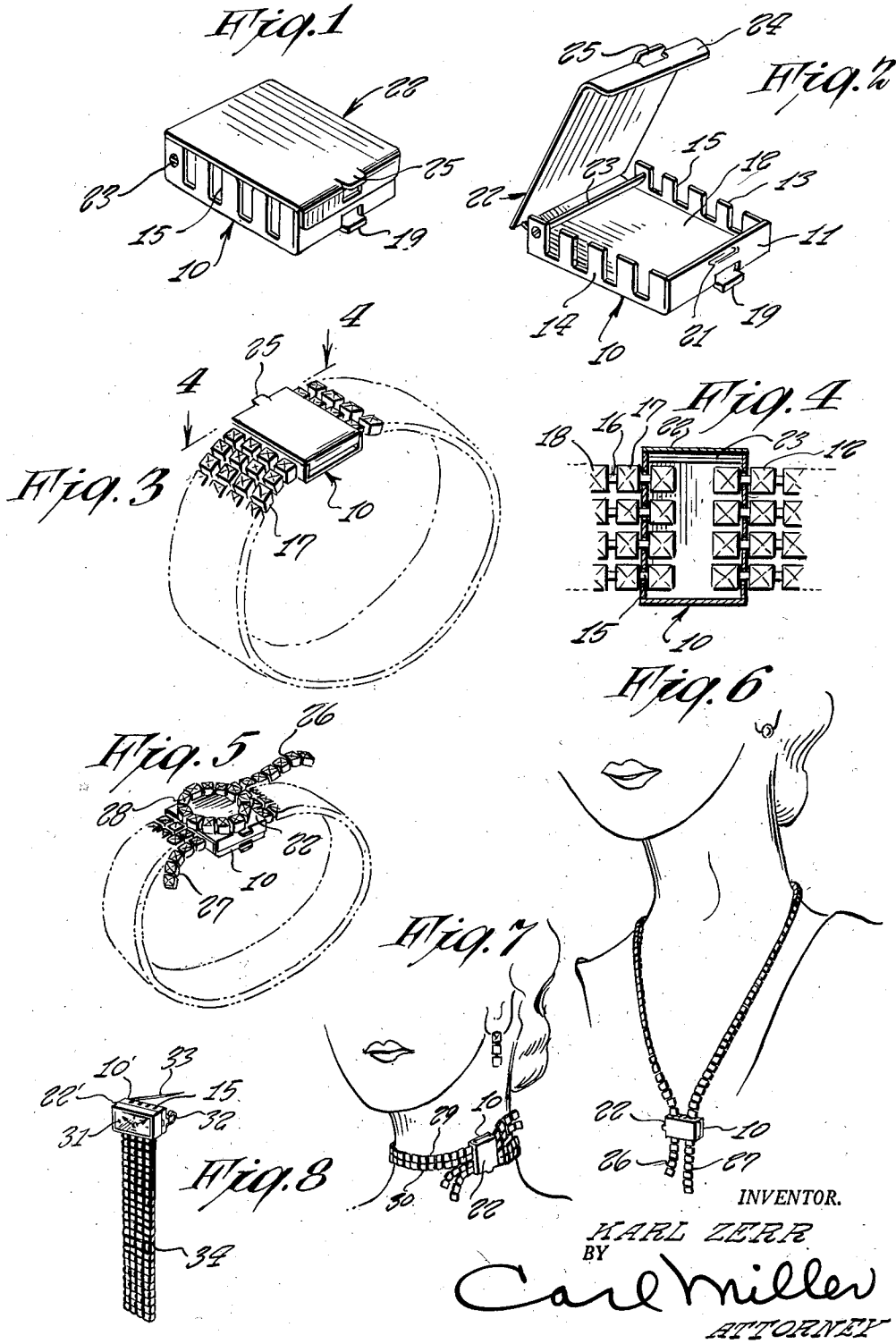
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K. ZERR

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JEWELRY CHAIN CONNECTOR

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INVENTOR.

KARL ZERR
BY

Carl Miller
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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JEWELRY CHAIN CONNECTOR

Karl Zerr, Rego Park, N. Y.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—73)

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This invention relates to a jewelry chain buckle or lock for connecting together portions or ends of a chain.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a buckle or lock for connecting together ends of a jewelry chain whereby the chain can be used in a different manner and changed and adapted according to the size of the wearer's neck, wrist or in the manner in which it is to be used.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a buckle or lock for jewelry chains which permits an adjustment of the chain and wherein the chain can be converted from a bracelet to a choker or vice versa or for a locket to be hung about the neck.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide a jewelry chain buckle or lock adapted to receive and grip the ends of a chain which is of simple construction, inexpensive to manufacture, easy to apply, of pleasing appearance, compact, has a minimum number of parts and efficient in operation.

For other objects and for a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the chain buckle or lock embodying the features of the present invention with the parts in their locked position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the chain buckle or lock with the parts separated from one another to show the interior of the buckle.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the buckle and of portions of a chain extending through the same in order to form a bracelet.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the lock with the chain made up in four turns and the ends connected together by the lock and with the intermediate turns extending through the lock whereby to form a bracelet in another manner.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the lock with the chain worn to provide a neck opening whereby to provide a locket.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of parallel chains extending through the buckle in order to provide a choker for the neck.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the locket incorporated in a watch in order to suspend parallel chains for decorative purposes and wherein the buckle or lock has a clasp to pin the assembly upon the garment of the wearer.

Referring now to the figures, the buckle or lock comprises a bottom part 10 having an up-

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standing front portion 11, a bottom portion 12 and notched parallel side portions 13 and 14 having respectively notch openings or slots 15. In each side portion there are four spaced slots. These slots are adapted to receive connecting members 16 between facet retainers 17 having facets 18, respectively, in the manner as shown in Fig. 4.

Struck downwardly from the front portion 11 is a handle formation 19 and an outwardly depressed formation 21. In order to lock the chain portions in place and prevent the outward displacement of the facets lying within the bottom part, a cover 22 is hingedly connected to the side portions 13 and 14 by a pivot pin 23 so that it can be lifted from the bottom part to provide access thereto. The front of the cover is bent downwardly at 24 and has a struck out handle portion 25 under which a thumb nail can be extended. The outwardly depressed formation 21 will retain the parts in locked condition. The formation 21 will project into an opening provided by the struck out formation 25 of the cover part 22.

With the cover 22 in the locked position, there is little opportunity for the chain ends to be released and accordingly a complete piece of jewelry is formed. With a plurality of chain elements arranged in parallel relationship, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, a bracelet is formed with this buckle. If it is desired to have the buckle released from the ends of the chain, the cover 22 is lifted and the chain ends are removed. It will also be apparent that the length of the chain elements can be adjusted by pulling the ends of the elements into the buckle a distance equal to one facet retainer on the chain elements.

As shown in Fig. 5, the bracelet can be formed in a different manner. A long chain element can be wound up in turns with the various turns passing through the buckle and with the ends being retained by the buckle. The ends of this chain element are indicated at 26 and 27 in Fig. 5 and can be extended different distances through the buckle and similarly the buckle can be placed at different positions on the intermediate turns. For decoration, the cover 22 can have facets 28 secured thereto. Otherwise, the buckle is constructed as described above of a bottom part 10 and a cover part 22.

In Fig. 6, the chain element shown in Fig. 5 has been formed into a single loop with the ends thereof passing through the lock or buckle to provide a locket jewelry piece. Any length of locket

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chain can be effected with the buckle and the ends 26 and 27 will provide ornamentation.

In Fig. 7 there is shown a pair of chain elements 29 and 30 having their respective ends extending through the buckle or lock so as to provide a choker piece for the neck. By a simple adjustment of the ends of the chain elements through the buckle, the desired tightness of the choker can be effected upon the neck.

In Fig. 8, the buckle is formed of a bottom part 10' and a cover part 22' which includes watch mechanism 31. The bottom part has a fastening projection 32 adapted to receive a hinged pin 33 to secure the buckle to the garment. A plurality of chain elements 34 of short length are provided and are connected in the notches 15 of the bottom part 10'.

It should now be apparent that there has been provided a buckle or lock for jewelry chain elements which permits the conversion of the chain elements into different pieces of jewelry and which permits the use of the same lock for forming the different pieces of jewelry.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claim.

Having thus set forth and disclosed the nature of my invention, what is claimed is:

A buckle or lock for jewelry pieces comprising a bottom part having upwardly extending side portions and a front portion, said side portions each having a plurality of notches therein, said

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notches in each side portion directly opposing those in the opposite side portion, a flat cover disposed over the side portions and closing up the ends of the side notches of the side portions, whereby to confine the chain elements within said buckle, said front portion having an outwardly depressed formation and said cover being hinged to said side portion and having a front portion, the latter being retained by the outwardly depressed formation, said cover having a rear flange hinged to the said side portions and having a front extension, the latter being retained by the outwardly depressed formation of the said front portion, and the said front portion of the bottom part and the said cover having outwardly struck handle formations to effect by means of the thumbnails the separation of the cover from the bottom part so as to release the chain elements.

KARL ZERR.

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