

ORNAMENTAL MEMBER FOR ACCESSORY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an ornamental member for an accessory in which various kinds of ornamental sheets are each detachably inserted into a ornamental member surrounded by, for example, a quadrilateral, diamond-shaped or rectangular frame, whereby one accessory can exhibit various different beauty appearances, and an accessory using the same such as a finger ring, a pendant, a necklace, a bracelet, a clip earring, a earring for a pierced ear, an anklet, cuff links, a tiepin, a buckle for a belt or a watch strap.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The conventional accessories have been produced by combining noble metals, plated articles, jewels, semi-precious stones such as agate and turquoise, glass beads and the like. As a result, one accessory has a fixed design, and does not exhibit other different beauty appearances.

Recently, accessories have been generalized, and it has been in fashion to have many accessories of various kinds and to use them appropriately according to occasional feelings. In particular, this tendency has become popular among young women.

However, it is uneconomical to have many accessories of various kinds even if the individuals are inexpensive.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide an ornamental member for an accessory in which an appearance of one accessory is changed to an utterly different beauty appearance only by an operation of exchanging an ornamental sheet, without collecting many accessories.

Another object of the invention is to provide an accessory using the ornamental member.

According to the invention, there is provided an ornamental member comprising a base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity, a frame provided on the whole periphery of the base plate integrally therewith, and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed in one side of the ornamental member, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably

inserted through the slit, the slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to the one side and shorter than the width of the base plate. Only the frame having the slit may be used without the use of the base plate. Further, the base plate may have a curved surface, and is rectangular in the sectional form only in one direction. The slit is formed in a side crossing the one direction in which the curved surface is rectangular. As the ornamental sheet, a colored thin sheet and a transparent or translucent protective sheet for protecting the thin sheet are used, and a plastic sheet subjected to hologram processing or having iridescent luster, or a plastic sheet vapor-deposited with aluminum is used as the protective sheet or the ornamental sheet.

That is to say, according to the invention, variously colored or patterned ornamental sheets are each inserted into the frame-like ornamental member through the slit formed in the one side of the frame. Thus, one accessory can be used matching it to dress of various kinds by changing the color, raw material and pattern of the ornamental sheet, and further by combinations of various variations such as a hologram-processed sheet, a pearl luster sheet, a iridescent luster sheet, a metallic luster sheet such as a sheet having an aluminum-deposited layer, a mirror surface sheet and a matte-finished translucent sheet. Further, the frame can be formed to a semicylindrical curved surface, or a cylindrical shape, thereby giving solidity to the member for the accessory.

The use of the ornamental member for the accessory can make it possible to direct a different appearance by purchasing one accessory such as a finger ring, a necklace, a pendant, a cuff links or a tiepin, and by changing the ornamental sheet, which causes enlargement of the utilization range of the accessory.

In the invention, the term "accessory" means an article worn for making dress look more ornamentally, such as a finger ring, a pendant, a necklace, a brooch, a bracelet, a clip earring, a earring for a pierced ear, an anklet, cuff links, a tiepin, a buckle for a belt, an ornamental button, a watch strap, a hair ornament, an ornamental comb, a hair band, a key holder or an ornament worn over an obi.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a state in which an ornamental sheet comprising a thin sheet and a protective sheet is inserted into an ornamental member for an accessory of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing an ornamental member composed of only a frame 2 without a base plate;

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view taken on line IV-IV of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view showing a finger ring prepared using the ornamental member of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view taken on line IV-IV of Fig. 5;

Figs. 7-a to 7-d and Figs. 8-a to 8-d are schematic views for illustrating the forms of base plates, the forms of slits and the arrangements thereof;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view showing a state in which the base plate of the ornamental member 3 shown in Fig. 1 has a curved surface; and

Fig. 10 is a view illustrating the relationship among the form of a base plate 1, a direction in which the sectional form becomes rectangular, and a slit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention will be illustrated with reference to the drawings in detail below.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the reference numeral 1 is a base plate, which is generally made of a metal, but may be made of a hard plastic in some cases. The base plate 1 is integrally provided with a frame 2 on a periphery thereof. That is to say, the frame 2 comprises a side portion 2a extending so as to protrude inward from the outer periphery of the base plate 1 and a fringe portion 2b fringing the front of the base plate 1. The fringe portion 2b is formed in the frame shape in front of the base plate 1 to fringe the front of the base plate 1, and forms an ornamental member 3 together with the side portion 2a and the base plate 1. A slit 4 is formed on one side of the side portion 2a of the frame 2. The slit 4 is shorter in length than the side portion 2a in which the slit 4 is formed, and has a width allowing an ornamental sheet 5 to be detachably inserted therethrough. It is required that the ornamental sheet 5 is larger than an opening 6 surrounded by the fringe portion 2b, with the ornamental sheet 5 inserted, to conceal all edges of the ornamental sheet 5 under the fringe portion 2b. The opening 6 is a front portion of the base plate 1 surrounded by the fringe portion 2b.

The ornamental sheet 5 may be any, as long as it can be detachably inserted through the slit 4, has such a form and a size that all edges of the sheet are concealed under the fringe portion 2b after insertion, and has a beautiful pattern. Specifically, a sheet having a thickness

of 80 to 400 μm can be used to which a pattern is given or metallic luster is given by vapor deposition with aluminum, and moreover, which is laminated with a plastic sheet to impart such rigidity that the sheet can be easily detached and inserted through the slit. Further, the ornamental sheet can also be constituted by a thin sheet 7 composed of ordinary printing paper and a transparent or translucent plastic protective sheet 8 having a thickness of 80 to 400 μm . The combinations of a color tone and a material feeling of the thin sheet 7 and a pattern and a transparent feeling of the protective sheet 8 can constitute the ornamental member having various different appearance.

Taking insertion and detachment of the ornamental sheet 5 through the slit 4 into account, the thin sheet 7 requires at least rigidity of writing paper, and is preferably printing paper or packaging paper. The transparent plastic sheets used in the protective sheets 8 include sheets of acrylic resins, polystyrene, polyesters, polypropylene, vinyl chloride resins, copolymers thereof and copolymers thereof with other monomers. Further, it is also possible to make these sheets translucent, matter-finished translucent, mirror-finished or aluminum-deposited. A thin aluminum-deposited layer gives metallic luster to a color of the thin sheet 7. The protective sheet having translucent pearl luster also preferably gives depth to the color of the thin sheet 7.

The protective sheet 8 laminated with a film having a hologram pattern gives special brilliance. In conducting the hologram processing, a pattern or an image is formed only by engraving minute striped unevenness having a width and a depth roughly corresponding to a wavelength of visible light on a surface of a smooth film or membrane, somewhat different from hologram in the original meaning that a light wave (signal wave) diffracted by an object is allowed to interfere with another light wave having the coherence therewith, and the resulting interference fringes are recorded on a light-sensitive material and measured. As a result, when the treated surface is exposed to light, visible light is irregularly reflected by the unevenness to glitter in the rainbow color, and the color tone thereof changes with angles of incidence.

The hologram processing of the invention can be easily conducted with a commercially available hologram-processing machine, such as "Davis Light Machine" or "Light Machine" manufactured by Dimentional Arts, U.S.A. That is to say, the unevenness is directly or indirectly engraved on the surface of the smooth film by a laser beam high in

coherence. The term "pattern" as used in the invention means a concept including not only a simple continuous pattern, but also a three-dimensional image.

Further, the protective sheet can also be laminated with an iridescent reflecting film. The iridescent reflecting film is a multi-layer transparent thermoplastic film composed of at least 20 ultra thin membrane layers each having a substantially uniform thickness, wherein the thickness of each ultra thin membrane layer is roughly a wavelength of visible light, and the ultra thin membrane layers adjacent to each other are 0.03 or more different in refractive index. Specific examples thereof include films of thermoplastic terephthalate polyesters, methyl methacrylate polymers, linear low density polyethylene, and blended polymers thereof and other thermoplastic polymers. The iridescent reflecting film is changed in the color tone according to the angle from which it is looked at like a buprestid.

Further, one ornamental sheet 5 can also be used in which the protective sheet 8 is integrally laminated with the thin sheet 7.

Furthermore, a luminous plastic sheet obtained by kneading luminous microcapsules with a resin, and forming a film from the resulting product can also be used as it is or as a laminate.

Figs. 3 and 4 show an ornamental member composed of only a frame 2 having a slit 4 excluding a base plate. In this case, a back sheet 9 having rigidity is required as a protective member substituting for the base plate 1. Accordingly, an ornamental sheet 5 is overlaid with the back sheet 9, and then, inserted through the slit 4. In Fig. 4, fringe portions 2b on the front side and the back side are identical to each other in width. However, the width on the back side can also be more increased than that on the front side to enhance the enforcing effect. The reference numeral 13 is a groove that holds edge portions of the ornamental sheet 5 and the back sheet 9.

As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, in a finger ring, an ornamental sheet 5 is inserted into an ornamental member 3 having a rectangular opening 6, directing a slit 4 upward (in the direction of a nail when the finger ring is worn). The reference numeral 10 is a finger ring, and the reference numeral 11 is a support for aesthetically connecting the ornamental member 3 to the finger ring 10.

As to the forms of the ornamental members 3 or the base plates 1, various forms can be conceived, and the forms of the ornamental members 3 or the base plates 1, the forms of the slit 4 and the arrangements thereof are shown in Figs. 7 and 8.

For meeting the requirement that the ornamental sheet 5 is detachably inserted into the opening 6 formed of the base plate 1 and the frame 2 through the slit 4, it is required that two sides of the ornamental member, facing each other and perpendicular to a side provided with the slit, are parallel to each other, or become narrow in spacing therebetween in the direction of departing from the slit. Figs. 7-a and 7-b show rectangular ornamental members. When the long side is provided with the slit as shown in Fig. 7-a, an oblong ornamental member is obtained. When the short side is provided with the slit as shown in Fig. 7-b, a longwise ornamental member is obtained. Fig. 7-c shows a parallelogrammic ornamental member, and Fig. 7-d shows an ornamental member having a parallelogrammic form in which the respective sides are identical in length to one another, that is to say, a diamond shape. As shown in the figures, the ornamental sheet 5 can be inserted through the slit provided on one side to which two sides parallel to each other are perpendicular.

Insertion and removal of the ornamental sheet 5 are possible not only in the case that two sides of the ornamental member, facing each other and perpendicular to a side provided with the slit 4, are parallel to each other and on the way, become narrow in spacing therebetween in the direction of departing from the slit 4 as shown in Fig. 8-a, but also in the case that two sides of the ornamental member, facing each other and perpendicular to a side provided with the slit 4, are not parallel to each other, as long as the two sides become narrow in spacing therebetween in the direction of departing from the slit 4 as shown in Fig. 8-b. A triangle ornamental member is available as well as the pentagonal ornamental member as shown in Fig. 8-a and the reverse-trapezoidal ornamental member as shown in Fig. 8-b.

Further, the side provided with the slit 4 or the side facing the side provided with the slit 4 is not necessarily one straight line, and may be a bent line or in a circular arc form, which has no effect on insertion and removal of the ornamental sheet 5. The side provided with the slit is formed into a circular arc form in Fig. 8-c, and the side facing the side provided with the slit is formed into a circular arc form in Fig. 8-d. However, both the sides may be formed into a circular arc form. Although all the circular arc forms shown in the figures are bulged outward from the base plate 1, they may be bulged inward.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view showing a state in which the base plate of the ornamental member 3 shown in Fig. 1 has a curved surface. Also in this case, a spherical curved surface makes it difficult to insert the ornamental sheet 5, and a curved surface is required to be surrounded by a straight line in a sectional form in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig.

9. That is to say, the sectional form of the base plate in any direction is rectangular, or the back side or the surface of the base plate is linear. At the same time, the sectional form of a slit is also linear. In Fig. 9, the slit is provided in a position crossing at right angles a direction in which the sectional form of the base plate becomes rectangular. Accordingly, even if the curved surface of the base plate 1 is largely curved, the ornamental sheet 5 can be easily inserted and removed. Referring to Fig. 9, the reference numeral 12 indicated a fitting for hanging the ornamental member on a chain. In Fig. 9, the fitting 12 is attached to an upper portion of the ornamental member 3. However, fittings 12 may be attached to both sides thereof to use two or more ornamental members 3 connected directly or through other chains, strings or ornaments.

Fig. 10 is a view illustrating the relationship among the form of the base plate 1, the direction in which the sectional form becomes rectangular, and the slit. Even if the slit 4 does not cross at right angles a direction in which the sectional form of the base plate becomes rectangular, when the slit 4 is provided on a side crossing a direction in which the sectional form of the base plate becomes rectangular, insertion and removal of the ornamental sheet 5 are easy.

However, in the case of the diamond form as shown in Fig. 7-d, when the direction in which the sectional form of the base plate becomes rectangular is the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 7-d, insertion and removal of the ornamental sheet 5 becomes somewhat inconvenient. However, when the radius of curvature is not so long, insertion and removal of the ornamental sheet 5 are possible, and decorative effect is also high. Although the form in which the curved surface is concave is shown in Fig. 9, the curved surface may be convex.

Further, when the base plate is cylindrical, circular frames are provided on two parts, upper and lower parts thereof. A slit is circular, and provided only on one sides. A circular ornamental sheet 5 can also be detachably inserted through the slit.

EXAMPLE 1

A 1.5 cm X 2 cm ornamental member 3 having the form shown in Fig. 1 was produced. The thickness of a base plate was 1 mm, the width of a slit 4 was 1 mm, the length thereof was 1.3 cm, and the thickness of a side portion 2a was 3 mm. This ornamental member 3 was mounted on an ornamental face of a finger ring as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. A

thin sheet 7 in which a colored pattern of a golden color and a red color faded in the boundary between them was painted on calendar paper was overlaid with a protective sheet 8 in which a hologram pattern was formed on a polyvinyl sheet 8 in which a hologram pattern was formed on a polyvinyl chloride sheet and a hologram face was protected with a transparent acrylic sheet to prepare an ornamental sheet 5 having a thickness of 400 μm . This sheet 5 was inserted through the slit 4. The finger ring that was gorgeous and had a feeling of high quality was obtained. Then, the ornamental sheet 5 was pulled out.

On the other hand, a thin sheet 7 having a pattern in which various colors were arranged in the dot form based on black was overlaid with a translucent pearl luster acrylic sheet having a light transmittance of 80% as a protective sheet 8 to prepare another ornamental sheet 5. This sheet 5 was inserted through the slit 4. A color tone suggestive of black opal was obtained.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An ornamental member for an accessory comprising a frame circularly closed and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed in one side of said ornamental member, said slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to said one side, and ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through said slit, and all edges of the ornamental sheet is concealed by the frame with the ornamental sheet inserted.
2. The ornamental member according to claim 1, wherein a base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity is provided integrally with the frame on a back side thereof.
3. The ornamental member according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the base plate has a curved surface, and is rectangular in the sectional form only in one direction.
4. The ornamental member according to claim 3, wherein the base plate has a curved surface, and the slit is formed in a side crossing the one direction in which said sectional form is rectangular.
5. An ornamental member comprising a cylindrical base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity, and upper and lower frames provided on upper and lower parts of said base plate, wherein a circular slit is formed in one of said frames, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through said slit.
6. The ornamental member according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the ornamental sheet comprises a colored thin sheet and at least one protective sheet for protecting said thin sheet, and one protective sheet is transparent or translucent.
7. The ornamental member according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the protective sheet or the ornamental sheet is at least one sheet selected from the group consisting of plastic sheets subjected to hologram processing, plastic sheets having pearl luster, plastic sheets



having iridescent luster, plastic sheets vapor-deposited with aluminum, luminous plastic sheets, mirror surface sheets and a matte-finished translucent sheets.

8. The ornamental member according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the protective sheet or the ornamental sheet has a thickness of 80 μm to 400 μm .

9. A finger ring having an ornamental member on a center portion thereof, said ornamental member comprising a base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity, a frame provided on the whole periphery of the base plate integrally therewith, and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed in one side of the ornamental member, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through the slit, the slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to the one side and shorter than the width of the base plate.

10. A pendant head having an ornamental member provided with a fitting for a chain, said ornamental member comprising a base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity, a frame provided on the whole periphery of the base plate integrally therewith, and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed in one side of the ornamental member, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through the slit, the slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to the one side and shorter than the width of the base plate.

11. An accessory comprising ornamental members each provided with at least two connecting means and circularly connected, said ornamental member comprising a base plate formed of a raw material having rigidity, a frame provided on the whole periphery of the base plate integrally therewith, and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed on one side of the ornamental member, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through the slit, the slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to the one side and shorter than the width of the base plate.

12. An accessory comprising two or more ornamental members circularly connected directly or through other chains or strings, said ornamental member comprising a base plate



formed of a raw material having rigidity, a frame provided on the whole periphery of the base plate integrally therewith, and an opening surrounded by the frame, wherein a slit is formed in one side of the ornamental member, and an ornamental sheet can be detachably inserted through the slit, the slit being longer than the width of an upper end of the opening between two sides adjacent to the one side and shorter than the width of the base plate.