

CLASP, ESPECIALLY FOR BRACELET

One of the most frequent problems in jewelry is to supply elegant, convenient and strong clasps, especially for bracelets. The required qualities are hardly reconcilable. One of the most generally used materials for making bracelets is leather, because it is one of the most elegant ones. The most usual way to perform the closing of the clasp as well as the adjustment of its length consists in putting at the end of one of the straps a buckle, with or without a tongue, like a belt. Such a device presents the inconvenience of requiring several movements for the closing of the bracelet. Moreover, the end of the strap which protrudes from the buckle must usually be fixed by a loop, and the appearance of this protruding end is not very aesthetic. The advantage of such device is to allow a relatively easy adjustment of the length, though such adjustment must be made every time the bracelet is put on.

In order to facilitate the closing and to avoid the presence of a protruding strap end, one has proposed, for example, clasps made of two arms, the end of each arm being fixed pivotally at an end of a strap, each arm being linked by its other end to an end of a third arm. The third arm having a length twice longer than the length of the two other arms, these latter pivot on their hinges and fold on the third arm, against which they apply and fasten; so the ends of the two straps meet in the middle of the third arm; the straps hide the three arms, which are folded. The inconvenience of such a device lies in the fact that the length of the straps is adjusted once for ever, and it is possible to shorten the bracelet only by cutting the straps, and to lengthen it only by replacing them by longer straps.

A similar device, which has been proposed in the French Patent Application FR-A-2 300 518 (Barrue), presents the advantage of being simpler due to the suppression of the third arm. The two arms are therefore articulated to one another by a hinge, the free end of each arm being fixed to one of the straps

of the bracelet. One of the two arms presents a longitudinal notch which has the same form as the second arm, so that the second arm, once closed, comes into this notch, so reducing the thickness of the whole. The first arm is fixed to the strap by means of a conventional pin, while the second arm is fixed by means of screws. In spite of an increased simplicity with regards to devices with three arms, such a device also presents the inconvenience that the length of the straps is adjusted once forever ; at least, if it is still possible to shorten the straps, it is not possible to lengthen them.

This invention aims at providing a clasp according to the preamble of claim 1 (known from FR-A-2 300 518) which allows the adjustment of the length in a simple way and without it being necessary to adjust the length each time the bearer puts the bracelet on; the invention moreover aims at avoiding that the protruding strap end be visible, as it is the case in the usual clasp with buckles. This aim is attained with a clasp which has the features defined in claim 1.

The drawings show, as example, an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a clasp according to the invention, in open position, in which only one strap of the bracelet is partially represented.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal cross-section of a same clasp, in closed position, in which the two straps of the bracelet are partially represented.

The clasp comprises a buckle 1, and two arms 2 and 3. The two arms are connected with each other by a hinge 4. The buckle is fixed in such way that it can pivot on a rung 9 which is fixed to the first arm 2. The second arm 3 presents in its center a longitudinal notch 8, the form of which corresponds to that of the first arm 2. In closed position, the first arm 2 lodges entirely in that notch, so that the thickness of the two folded arms be minimal.

A first strap is fixed in the buckle; its end 5 protrudes from the buckle, towards the second strap.

At its end, the second arm 3 has an opening 6. In the form of embodiment represented here, this opening has the form of a stirrup; it is closed by a pin 7 to which is fixed a second strap of the bracelet.

In order to close the clasp, it suffices to fold the arm 2 on the arm 3, and therefore to push the buckle towards the opening 6. The end 5 of the first strap attached to the buckle is inserted in the opening 6. When the clasp is closed, the buckle covers the opening 6 and places itself against the binding means of the second strap.

In that way, the end 5 is entirely hidden. The clasp is easy to handle : the bracelet can be closed in one single movement.

The length can be adjusted easily, and it is not necessary to make such adjustment each time the bracelet is put on the wrist.

In the form of embodiment represented here, the buckle has no tongue. This gives the bracelet, when closed, a

greater purity of design. Nevertheless, it is possible to use a tongue.

Moreover, the second strap is fixed by a pin, which the strap sheathes, so that the strap is in contact with the buckle when the clasp is in closed position. However, it would be possible to use other fixing means, in which for example the strap would be enveloped and would therefore not get into contact with the buckle.

Finally, in the embodiment represented here, the clasp has two arms. It would however be possible to use, for example, three arms.