

ARTICLES OF JEWELLERY

The present invention relates to an article of jewellery.

According to the present invention there is provided an article of jewellery comprising a main part and a removable part, the main part having a body with a lug and a pivotal locking ring, and the removable part having a recess for the body of the main part, a slot along which the lug of the main part can travel after the main part is located and rotated in the said recess, and a catch on which the locking ring of the main part can catch after the main part has been rotated in the said recess.

The main part may be the part of a stud earring, or a necklace, and the removable part may include a stone. There are preferably a plurality of removable parts of different appearance so that the wearer of the article of jewellery can select a stone to match her clothing or simply her mood.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described below, by example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the main part of an article of jewellery;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a replaceable part of the article of jewellery;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the complete article of jewellery; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are perspective views of the main and replaceable parts of another article of jewellery.

The article of jewellery shown in figs. 1 to 3 is an earring, specifically a stud earring. The part 1 of the earring has a body 2 at one end. The body 2 has a lug 3 extending outwardly and a pivotal locking ring 4 which pivots about a hinge 5 to one side of the body. The ring 4 surrounds the post 1 and is movable between a raised position in which its inner surface rests against the post and a lowered position, flat on top of the body 2.

The replaceable part 6 of the earring is shown clearly in Fig. 2. This part 6 is a mounting for a stone 20. The mounting 6 is in the general shape of a hollow drum with a central recess 7 behind which the stone is seated. Around the rim of the recess there is

a depression 8 for the hinge 5 of the post 1 and, opposite the depression 8, a catch 9. The catch 9 takes the form of a raised knob. In between the depression 8 and the catch 9 there is the mouth 10 of a slot 11 which extends part way round the side of the mounting 6.

To connect the two parts together, the body 2 of the post 1 is placed within the recess 7 of the mounting 6, with the ring 4 in its raised position and with the lug 3 in the mouth 10 of the slot 11. The parts are then rotated relative to each other so that the lug 3 travels along the slot 11 and the hinge 5 becomes seated in the depression 8. The ring 4 is then lowered to lock onto the catch 9.

The assembled earring is clearly shown in Fig. 3.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 4 and 5 is identical to that shown in Figs. 1 to 3, except that the main part is a necklace or similar piece of jewellery.

To separate the two parts, the connecting process is obviously reversed. Thus a variety of different stones can be attached to the same earring, necklace etc.



CLAIMS:

1. An article of jewellery comprising a main part and a removable part, the main part having a body with a lug and a pivotal locking ring, and the removable part having a recess for the body of the main part, a slot along which the lug of the main part can travel after the main part is located and rotated in the said recess, and a catch on which the locking RING of the main part can catch after the main part has been rotated in the said recess.
 2. An article according to claim 1, wherein the main part is a stud-earring.
 3. An article according to claim 1, wherein the main part is a part of a necklace or bracelet.
 4. An article according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the removable part comprises an ornamental part, for example, a stone.
 5. An article according to claim 4, comprising a selection of further removable parts.
 6. An article of jewellery, substantially as herein described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.
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