A CUFF LINK

Technical Field

The present invention relates to the field of cuff links.

Background of the Invention

Cuff links are commonly used to couple first and second sections of a sleeve together and typically consist of a pair of retaining members disposed at opposite ends of a bridging member. In use, prior art cuff links are threaded through holes disposed in the first and second sections of the sleeve so that the first and second sections of the sleeve are arranged between, and held together by, the first and second retaining members positioned on either side.

Unfortunately, prior art cuff links of the type described above tend to exhibit certain shortcomings. For instance, when in use, the first and second sections of the sleeve tend to freely move about between the first and second retaining members such that the first and second retaining members are prone to being inadvertently dislodged through the sleeve holes, thus resulting in the sleeve coming undone.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention seeks to alleviate at least one of the problems described above in relation to the prior art.

The present invention may involve several different broad forms. Embodiments of the invention may include one or any combination of the different broad forms herein described.

In a first broad form, the present invention provides a cuff link for releasably coupling a first section of a sleeve to a second section of a sleeve, the cuff link including:

a first retaining member; and

a second retaining member extending from the first retaining member so as to define a gap, the second retaining member being resiliently adjustable relative to the first retaining member between at least a first position and a second position;

wherein when disposed in the first position, the gap is relatively expanded to allow the second retaining member to be inserted through a hole disposed in each of the first and second sections of the sleeve so that the first and second sleeve sections are arranged between the first and second retaining members, and, when arranged into the second position, the gap is relatively contracted so that the first and second retaining members are adapted to move inwardly towards the first and second sections of the sleeve disposed between them.

Typically, when the first and second retaining members are arranged into the second position, they are adapted to press against the first and second sections of the sleeve disposed between them.

Typically the second retaining member includes a relatively sleek shape characteristic relative to the first retaining member.

Typically, a first end of the second retaining member may be coupled to a first end of the first retaining member. Typically, the second

retaining member extends outwardly away from the first end of the first retaining member in arc-like fashion and then curves inwardly towards the first retaining member such that a second end of the second retaining member is positioned adjacent a second end of the first retaining member.

Typically, a tip of the second end of the second retaining member may be slightly curved away from the second end of the first retaining member. Advantageously, this may assist in allowing the second retaining member to be inserted via the holes disposed in respective first and second sections of the sleeve.

Typically, the second retaining member includes a substantially circular or otherwise rounded cross-section so that it may conveniently be more readily adapted for insertion through the holes in the first and second sections of the sleeve.

Typically, the present invention may include at least one of a metal material such as a relatively lightweight metal alloy, or, a plastic material. Typically, the present invention may be integrally formed.

Typically, the present invention includes a biasing mechanism adapted for biasing the first and second retaining members into the second position. Typically, the biasing mechanism may be integrally-formed with at least one of the first or second retaining members. Typically, the biasing mechanism may include a relatively rigid region where respective first ends of the first and second retaining members meet. Advantageously, by having the biasing mechanism integrally formed with the present invention, this may both alleviate manufacturing costs as well as simplify the overall structure of the present invention.

Typically, the gap includes a tear-drop shape characteristic.

Typically, the first retaining member includes a base resembling an eye-shaped characteristic.

Typically, at least one of the first and second retaining members may be hollow. Advantageously this may alleviate the overall weight of the present invention. It may also assist in reducing manufacturing costs associated with the present invention.

Typically, the present invention may be adjusted into the first position from the second position by a user ordinarily pulling apart the first and second retaining members with his/her fingers.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention will become more fully understood from the following detailed description of a preferred but non-limiting embodiment thereof, described in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

- **Figure 1** shows a side-view of a first embodiment of the present invention arranged in a second position;
- **Figure 2** shows a perspective-view of the first embodiment of the present invention arranged in the second position;
- **Figure 3** shows a side-view of the first embodiment of the present invention arranged into a first position;

- **Figure 4** shows the first embodiment in use in releasably coupling a first and second section of a sleeve.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Figures 1 to 4 depict a cuff link in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention.

The first embodiment cuff link includes a first retaining member (1) having a first end (1a) which is joined to a first end (2a) of a second retaining member (2) as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The second retaining member (2) extends outwardly away from the first end (1a) of the first retaining member (1) in arc-like fashion before curving inwardly towards the first retaining member (1) such that a second end (2b) of the second retaining member (2) is arranged adjacent a second end (1b) of the first retaining member (1). In this manner, the first and second retaining members (1,2) define a gap (3) between them which substantially resembles a tear-drop shape.

A tip (2c) of the second end (2a) of the second retaining member (2) is slightly curved away from the second end (1b) of the first retaining member (1).

The second retaining member (2) includes a relatively sleek shape characteristic having a circular-shaped cross-section. The first retaining member (1) is relatively larger than the second retaining member (2) and includes a substantially eye-shaped cross-section.

In this embodiment, the first and second retaining members (1,2) are integrally formed together and are hollow.

The first and second retaining members (1,2) are resiliently adjustable relative to each other between at least a first position as shown in Fig. 3, and, a second position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. They are biased into the second position for instance by providing a relatively more rigid region (X) where the first and second retaining members (1,2) meet in contrast to a degree of rigidity of the second retaining member (2) so that the second retaining member (2) is adapted to resiliently move between first and second positions.

The first and second retaining members (1,2) can be arranged into the first position by a person using his/her fingers to force the second end (1b) of the second retaining member away from the second end (2b) of the first retaining member (2). In doing so, the gap (3) is relatively expanded, and, the second retaining member (2) is free to be inserted through holes disposed in the first and second sections (Y,Z) of the sleeve. This is shown in Fig. 3.

When the second retaining member (2) has been inserted through the holes disposed in each of the first and second sections (Y,Z) of the sleeve, the first and second sections (Y,Z) of the sleeve are disposed between the first and second retaining members (1,2).

Thereafter, by releasing the second ends (1b,2b) of the first and second retaining members (1,2), they are able to resiliently return into the second position by virtue of the biasing mechanism working upon them. In doing so, the gap (3) becomes relatively contracted and the first and second retaining members (1,2) press inwardly

towards each other so as so clasp the first and second sections (Y,Z) of the sleeve between them. This is partially depicted in Fig. 4

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that the prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described without departing from the scope of the invention. All such variations and modification which become apparent to persons skilled in the art, should be considered to fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as broadly hereinbefore described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variations and modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps and features, referred or indicated in the specification, individually or collectively, and any and all combinations of any two or more of said steps or features.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A cuff link for releasably coupling a first section of a sleeve to a second section of a sleeve, the cuff link including:

a first retaining member; and

a second retaining member extending from the first retaining member so as to define a gap, the second retaining member being resiliently adjustable relative to the first retaining member between at least a first position and a second position;

wherein when disposed in the first position, the gap is relatively expanded to allow the second retaining member to be inserted through a hole disposed in each of the first and second sections of the sleeve so that the first and second sleeve sections are arranged between the first and second retaining members, and, when arranged into the second position, the gap is relatively contracted so that the first and second retaining members are adapted to move inwardly towards the first and second sections of the sleeve disposed between them.

2. A cuff link as claimed in claim 1 wherein when the first and second retaining members are arranged into the second position, they are adapted to press inwardly against the first and second sections of the sleeve disposed between them.

3. A cuff link as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the second retaining member includes a relatively sleek shape characteristic relative to the first retaining member.

4. A cuff link as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein a first end of the second retaining member is coupled to a first end of the first retaining member.

5. A cuff link as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the second retaining member extends outwardly away from the first end of the first retaining member in arc-like fashion and curves inwardly towards the first retaining member such that a second end of the second retaining member is positioned adjacent a second end of the first retaining member.

6. A cuff link as claimed in claim 5 wherein a tip of the second end of the second retaining member is slightly curved away from the second end of the first retaining member.

7. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the second retaining member includes a substantially circular shaped cross-section.

8. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the first retaining member includes an eye-shaped cross-section.

9. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims including at least one of a metal, ceramic, or a plastic material.

10. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least the first and second retaining members are integrally formed together.

11. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims including a biasing mechanism adapted for biasing the first and second retaining members into the second position.

12. A cuff link as claimed in claim 11 wherein the biasing mechanism is integrally formed with at least one of the first or second retaining members.

13. A cuff link as claimed in claim 11 or 12 wherein the biasing mechanism includes a relatively rigid region disposed adjacent a junction of the first and second retaining members.

14. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the gap includes a tear-drop shape characteristic.

15. A cuff link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least one of the first and second retaining members is hollow.