

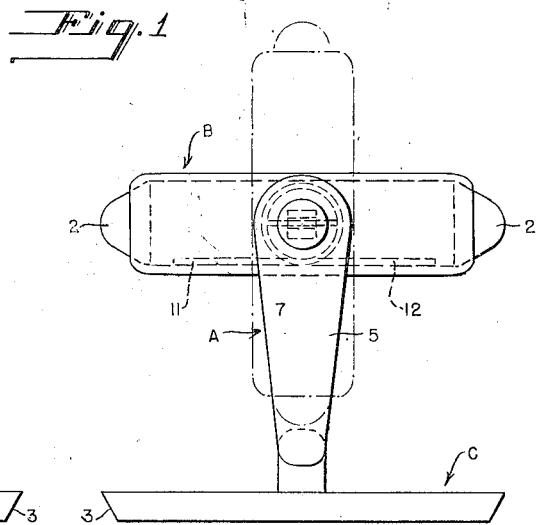
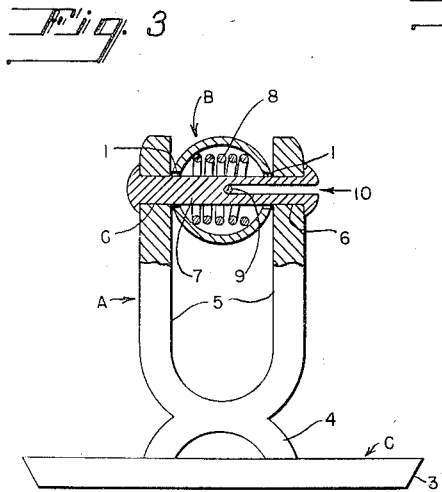
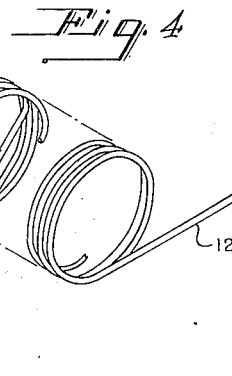
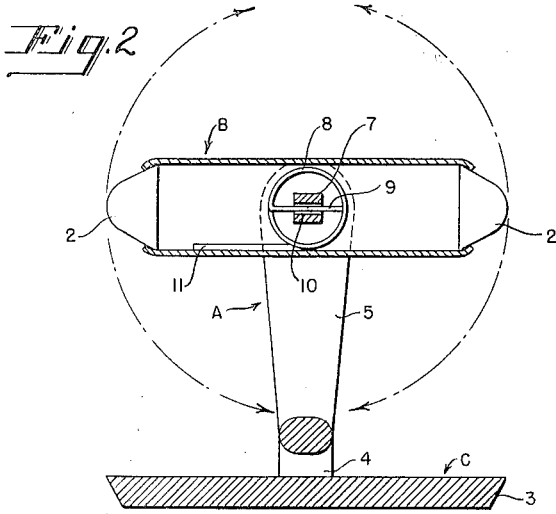
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CUFF LINK

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CUFF LINK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24-97)

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This invention relates generally to sleeve buttons or cuff links of the type including a shank having a head or base mounted at one end and an elongate or bar-like head pivotally mounted at the other end and adapted to be manually swung either into substantial alinement with the shank or perpendicular to said shank so that the pivoted head and shank first can be inserted in alinement with each other through a button-hole and said pivoted head can then be automatically swung perpendicularly to the shank to normal closed position to hold the latter against slipping out of the button hole.

In cuff links of this general character, means are provided for holding or locking the pivoted head in moved position in substantial longitudinal alinement with or in the plane of the shank in order to facilitate introduction of the link into the button-hole after which the pivoted head must be manually restored to perpendicular position. This necessity for manual operation is objectionable because if the user forgets to manually restore the pivoted head to closed position, the link is liable to slip out of the button-hole. Furthermore, the pivoted head is liable to be accidentally moved to such aligned position with the shank without the knowledge of the wearer and will be held in such position by the holding means and is liable to slip through the button-hole.

In the known constructions, the pivoted head is usually selectively movable into two positions at right angles to each other and held in its selected position by at least two springs. These constructions have accordingly been heavy and expensive.

A prime object therefore of my invention is to provide a cuff link of the general character described which shall embody novel and improved features of construction and avoid all of the above-mentioned difficulties and disadvantages and objections of the known constructions.

Another object is to provide a simple and inexpensive cuff link that shall embody a novel and improved construction for automatically restoring the pivoted head of the link to perpendicular position and thereby prevent the link from slipping through the button-hole.

A specific object is to provide a single spring for automatically moving the pivoted head, which spring is strong and durable and highly efficient in action.

Other objects, advantages and results of the invention will appear from the following descrip-

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tion when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a cuff link embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view through the pivoted head, shank and fixed head.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view and partial section.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the spring. Specifically describing the invention, the cuff link is of generally known construction including a shank A having a bar-like or elongate head B pivotally mounted at one end thereof and a fixed head C connected rigidly to the opposite end of the shank.

As shown the pivoted head B is preferably tubular and formed of one piece of thin metal, with transversely aligned pivot openings 1 disposed intermediate the ends of the tube. The tube may be of any desirable cross-sectional shape, but preferably is circular, and the ends of the tube may carry suitable tapered closure members 2 preferably formed of the same material as the tube but may be formed of colored stones or other ornaments and secured in the ends of the tube in any suitable manner.

The fixed head C is in the form of a rectangular-shaped plate with a beveled edge 3 to enhance its appearance.

In accordance with the invention, the shank A is U-shaped or looped and formed of one-piece of flat metal or wire. The shank has an integral base or lower end portion 4 of substantially inverted U-shape suitably fastened to the fixed head C, and upstanding arms 5 at opposite sides of the head B and in juxtaposed spaced relation to each other in a common plane so that the ends of the head B may swing into a position between the arms 5 and in substantial longitudinal alignment with or in the plane of the shank. The upper free ends of the arms have openings 6 for receiving a pivot pin which extends through the pivot openings 1 of the head B. The pin is preferably square in cross-section where it passes through the tubular head but circular for the remainder of its length with its ends suitably secured to the outside of the arms. Each arm preferably is of a length substantially less than twice the greater of the distances between the pivot pin 7 and the respective ends of the head B so that the shank shall be conveniently short and when the link is in use the arms will be located in the button-hole to restrain rotation of the link in the button-hole.

An important feature of the invention is the spring mechanism for holding the pivoted head selectively perpendicular to the shank and for automatically restoring said head to such perpendicular position after it has been manually or accidentally moved out of such position. This mechanism as shown comprises a helical coil spring 3 positioned around the pivot pin 7 inside of the tubular head B, one of the convolutions of the spring intermediate its ends being deformed into semi-circular shape and providing a transverse portion 9 which extends diametrically across the coil and is seated in the end of a slot 10 formed lengthwise of the pivot pin 7 through one end thereof thereby holding the spring against bodily rotation on or into interlocked relation to said pivot pin and within the tube. The end coils of the spring are straightened out to form free ends 11 and 12. When the spring is in position on the pin, the free end 11 thereof extends to one side of the axis of the pivot pin and along one side of said tube impinging against the inner wall thereof, and the other free end 12 extending to the other side of the pivot pin and impinging against the inner wall of the tube as shown in Figure 1. The spring is thus so arranged that its free ends 11 and 12 normally urge the pivoted head to a perpendicular position as shown in Figure 1. If the pivoted head is manually or accidentally tilted clockwise as viewed in Figure 1 to vertical position, it will be against the action of the spring and when pressure is released the free end 11 will automatically restore the head to horizontal position. Likewise when the head is tilted anti-clockwise and pressure is released the free end 12 of the spring will automatically restore the head to normal horizontal position. It will thus be seen that the pivoted head is only held by the spring in the horizontal position perpendicular to the shank. It never is locked in the vertical or aligned position with the shank.

From the foregoing, it will be noted that I have designed a cuff link that is simple and rugged in construction, highly efficient in use and with safety features that reduces to a minimum the chances of its accidentally slipping out of the button-hole.

What I claim is:

1. A cuff link comprising a fixed head, a shank having two upright arms fixed on said head, a pivot pin supported between said arms, a tubular head pivotally mounted intermediate its ends on said pin between said arms, and a helical coil spring inside said tubular head on and coaxial with said pivot pin and having one of its convolutions interlocked with said pivot pin, the end portions of said spring extending in opposite directions and pressing against said tubular head at opposite sides of said pivot pin for continuously urging said tubular head into a position perpendicular to said shank.

2. A cuff link comprising a fixed head, a shank having two upright arms fixed on said head, a pivot pin supported between said arms and having a longitudinal slot opening through one end thereof, a tubular head pivotally mounted intermediate its ends on said pin between said arms, and a helical coil spring inside said tubular head on and coaxial with said pivot pin and having one of its convolutions deformed with a portion thereof extending diametrically of said coil spring and seated in said slot, thereby to hold said spring against bodily rotation on said pivot pin, the end portions of said spring pressing in opposite directions against the tubular head at opposite sides of said pivot pin for continuously urging said tubular head into a position perpendicular to said shank.

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