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(54) **Necklace convertible into a bracelet**

(57) A pair of chains or strings (1,2) to which clasps are attached at one end (8,9), and ornamental parts (3,4) with holes allowing the chain or strings to pass through at the other end. With the chains or strings different from each other passed through the holes of the ornamental parts (3,4), the necklace bracelet can be used as a bracelet when the joints are slid to expand the space of the ornamental parts, thus shortening the chains or strings (1,2), and as a necklace when the joints are slid to reduce the space of the ornamental parts, thus lengthening the chains or strings.

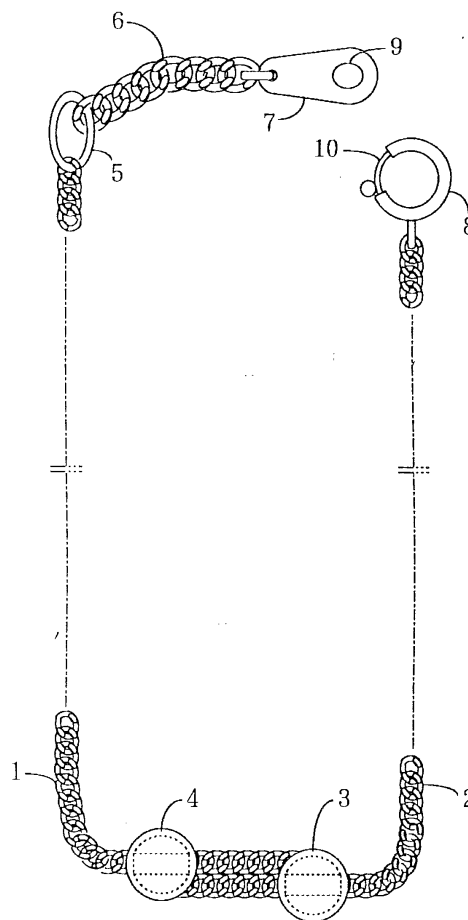


FIG. 1

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Description

Field of the Invention:

[0001] The object of the present invention is to provide a necklace bracelet which can be used both as a necklace and a bracelet. In particular, the length of the necklace bracelet is easily adjusted to fit either form without losing any ornamental quality.

Prior Art:

[0002] As a prior art, there is a mechanism already capable of adjusting the length of a necklace both for a necklace and a bracelet. As shown in Jitsukohei No. 4-40484 Official Report, the ring diameter of the necklace can be changed by nipping the necklace in the middle by a metal nipper attached to one end of the necklace. Although this adjustable-length mechanism is suitable for bead chain necklaces, it is difficult to apply it to a necklace consisting of a precious metal chain or string.

[0003] For an adjustable-length mechanism applicable to precious metal or string necklaces, as shown in the Utility Model Registration No.3005130 Official Report, there is a necklace featuring a plate clasp with a pair of holes shaped like small and large circles joined, and the length of the necklace can be adjusted by passing a chain or string through them and fixing it at desired length. However, such an adjustable-length mechanism has shortcomings; it is troublesome to adjust the length, the shape of the plate spoils the appearance of the necklace, and it is difficult to handle.

[0004] To cope with these problems, as shown in the Utility Model Registration No.3041836, No.3042071, Tokukaihei No.10-295420, No.10-295421, and No. 11-46826, an adjustable-length mechanism for necklaces consisting of a chain or string which uses a clasp capable of sliding through the chain or string has been developed recently.

Problems to Be Solved by the Invention:

[0005] However, the adjustable-length mechanism for the necklace consisting of a chain or string as shown in the above Utility Model Registration No.3041836 is not easy to handle when it is used both as a necklace and bracelet, since one end of the chain or string is passed through the hole of the clasp attached to the correct position at the other end of the chain.

[0006] In addition, in the adjustable-length mechanism for the necklace consisting of a chain or string using a slide-type clasp as shown in the Utility Model Registration No.3042071 and Tokukaihei No.10-295421, the diameter of the ring in either case is adjusted by sliding the clasp that joins both ends of the chain. This type of necklace can not be fitted around the neck with an ordinary clasp with the length of the necklace adjusted. Moreover, the diameter of the ring must be made smaller

by sliding the clasp again after putting it around the neck over the head to fit the neck correctly, which is rather troublesome.

[0007] Furthermore, as shown in the Tokukaihei 10-295420, there is a necklace featuring a hollow clasp with a spring pin inside. The diameter of the ring can be adjusted by hooking the pin on the chain or string passed through the clasp and holding it in the desired position. However, this type of necklace adopts a known adjustable-length mechanism used to adjust the length of a loop tie or string for Japanese clothes, and the tip projected from the clasp droops from the necklace, thus spoiling its ornamental quality. Therefore, it is impossible to use it both as a necklace and a bracelet.

[0008] The objective of the present invention is to improve the prior cases and provide a necklace bracelet which is very easy to handle and convenient. The constant length of the chain or string on both sides of the balls which are part of the ornaments prevents both the slippage of the joint position of the loose ends and unattractiveness. In addition, it can be readily fitted around the neck with ordinary clasps.

Constitution of the Invention:

[0009] This invention features a pair of chains or strings to which clasps are attached at one end, and ornamental parts with holes allowing the chains or strings to pass through at the other end. With the chains or strings different from each other passed through the holes of the ornamental parts, the necklace bracelet can be used as a bracelet when the joints are slid to expand the space of the ornamental parts, thus shortening the chains or strings, and as a necklace when the joints are slid to reduce the space of the ornamental parts, thus lengthening the chains or strings.

[0010] This invention features the above ornamental parts which are hollow precious metal balls.

[0011] This invention features the above elastic matter made of soft synthetic resin such as silicon resin.

[0012] This invention provides a necklace bracelet which is very easy to handle and convenient. The constant length of the chains or strings on both sides of the balls which are part of ornaments prevents both the slippage of the joint position of the loose ends and unattractiveness. In addition, it can be readily fitted around the neck with ordinary clasps.

Embodiments of the Invention:

[0013] The following is the detailed description of the embodiments of the necklace bracelet based on the drawings.

[0014] Figure 1 shows an approximate front view of the necklace bracelet when it is used as a necklace, while Figure 2 illustrates the cross section of the main part of it. Figure 3 shows an approximate front view of the necklace bracelet when it is used as a bracelet with

its length changed.

[0015] In Figures 1 and 2, 1 and 2 represent a pair of chains to which clasps are attached at one end and ornamental parts consisting of balls 3 and 4 at the other end. The precious metal chains 1 and 2 can be substituted with precious metal wires or string. If chains are used, various forms of chain such as Kihei, Maruazuki, and Venetian can also be used.

[0016] For the above clasps, various kinds of clasp can be used, besides the combination of the extended chain 6 connected to the end of the precious metal chains 1 via the ring 5, the perforate plate 7, and the sliding-pull ring 8 to be connect to 7. After fitting the necklace around the neck, the perforated plate 7 can be easily connected to the hole 9 by simply joining the sliding-pull ring 8 to the hole 9 of the perforated plate 7 to make the chains 1 and 2 into a ring-like shape.

[0017] Each of the above balls serving as ornamental parts is formed having a hollow inside and can be made of gold, silver, platinum, or alloy thereof. The hollow of the ball can be formed not only by mechanical processing such as matching a pair of press-worked hemispheres by brazing or rolling a plate material gradually into a ball, but also by a chemical process such as electrical molding.

[0018] As shown in Figure 2, the hollows of the above balls 3 and 4 are filled with the elastic matter 11. Soft synthetic resin such as silicon resin is suitable for the elastic matter 11. The balls 3 and 4 have the through-hole 12 along the axis which also penetrates the elastic matter 11. In this invention, the precious metal chains 1 and 2 are connected to the balls 3 and 4 respectively. While the precious metal chain 2 is passed through the hole 12 of the ball 3, the precious metal chain 1 is passed through the hole 12 of the ball 4. The size of the hole 12 should be determined so that the balls have the elastic force on the surfaces of the chains 1 and 2 and can be slid but not easily slipped.

[0019] By sliding the balls 3 and 4 manually to widen the space between them, the lengthy accessory is shortened to be used as a bracelet. Conversely, by sliding the balls 3 and 4 with the ends of the precious metal chains 1 and 2 held by hand, the lengthy accessory is lengthened to be used as a necklace. Since the mechanism of either expansion or contraction of the length uses elastic force working on the surfaces of the precious metal chain 1 and 2 as they pass through the hole 12 whose hollows are filled with the elastic matter 11, the precious metal chains 1 and 2 can be slid inside the balls 3 and 4, fixed in the desired position when sliding is stopped, and do not slip by themselves.

[0020] The necklace bracelet constructed as stated above can be readily adjusted to fit the size of the hand or neck of the user depending on its use. By sliding the balls 3 and 4 manually to widen the space between them, the lengthy accessory is shortened to be used as a bracelet. Conversely, by sliding the balls 3 and 4 with the ends of the precious metal chains 1 and 2 held by

hand, the lengthy accessory is lengthened to be used as a necklace.

[0021] After changing the use and size of the necklace bracelet in this way, the precious metal chains 1 and 2 can be made into ring-like shape by putting them around the neck or hand of the user and simply joining the perforated plate 7 and the sliding-pull ring 8. Although it is desirable to change the size of the necklace bracelet before fitting it around the neck or hand, the size can be adjusted according to the above procedures with the necklace bracelet put around.

Effect of the Invention:

[0022] The present invention has made it possible to provide a necklace bracelet which can be easily converted into a necklace or a bracelet depending on its use. The constant length of the chains or strings on both sides of the balls which are part of the ornaments prevents both the slippage of the joint position of the loose ends and unattractiveness. In addition, necklace bracelet can be readily fitted around the neck with ordinary clasps.

Claims

1. A necklace bracelet featuring a pair of chains or strings to which clasps are attached at one end and ornamental parts with holes allowing the chain or strings to pass through at the other end. With the chains or strings different from each other passed through the holes of the ornamental parts, the necklace bracelet can be used as a bracelet when the joints are slid to expand the space of the ornamental parts, thus shortening the chains or strings, and as a necklace when the joints are slid to reduce the space of the ornamental parts, thus lengthening the chains or strings
2. The necklace bracelet stated in Claim 1 whose ornamental parts are hollow precious metal balls.
3. The necklace bracelet stated in Claim 2 whose ornamental parts are hollow precious metal balls filled with elastic matter made of soft synthetic resin such as silicon resin.

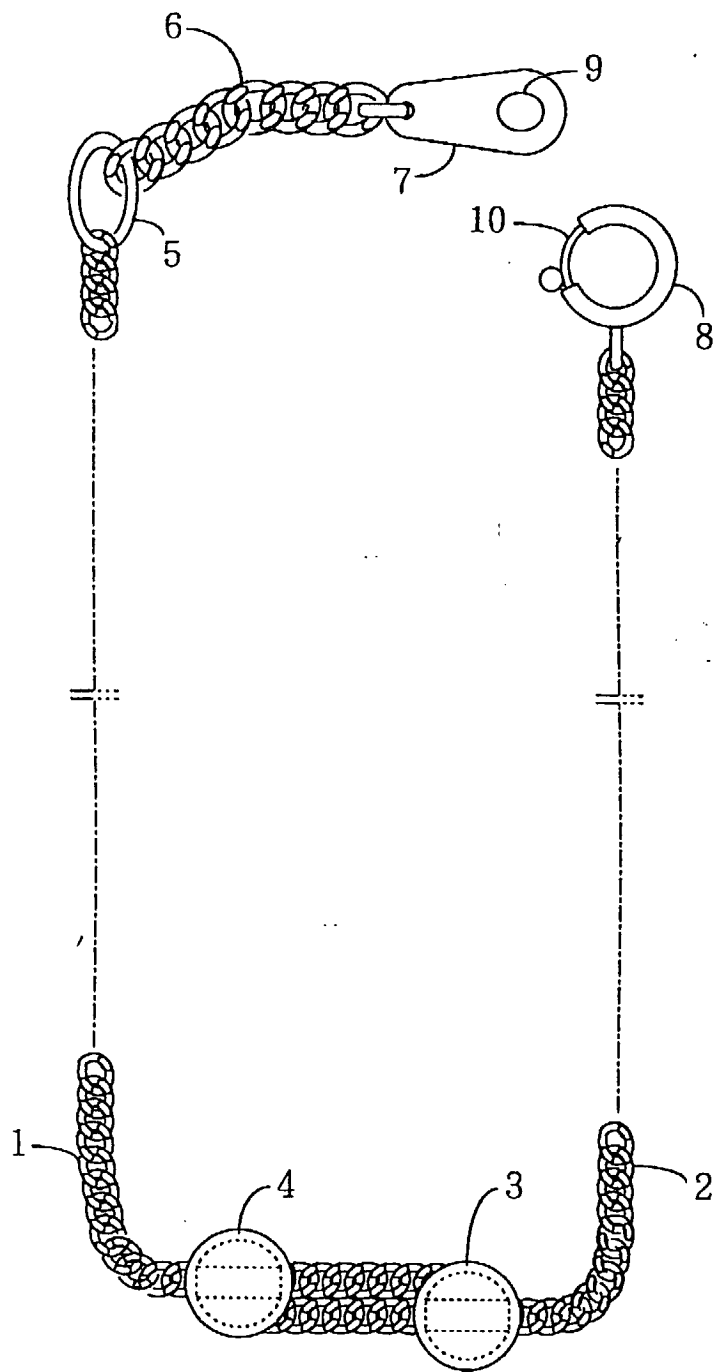


FIG. 1

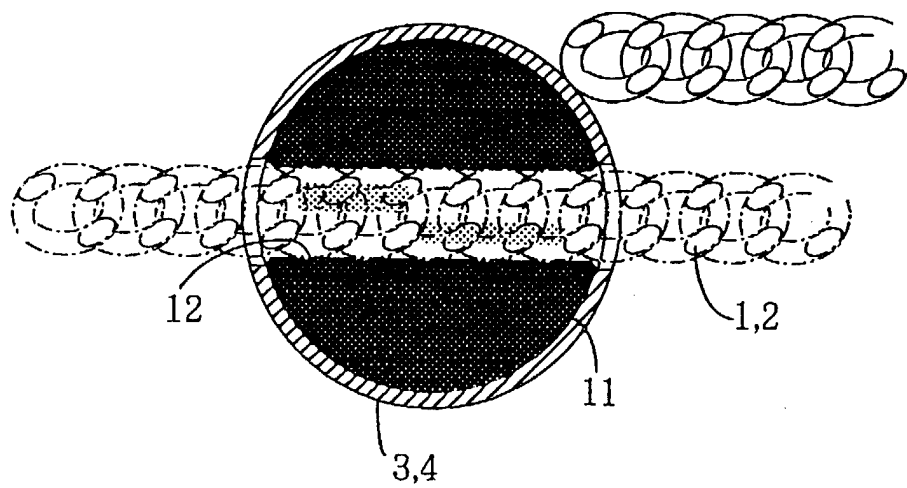


FIG. 2

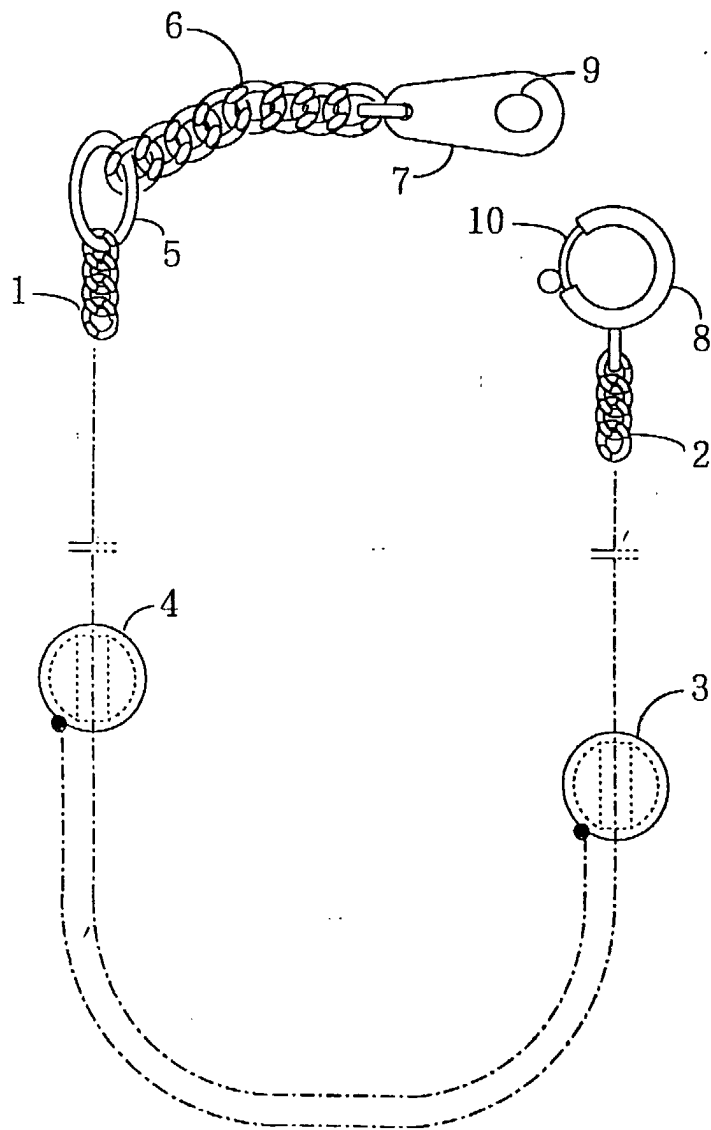


FIG. 3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 4271

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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X	US 4 334 413 A (P. GASTON) 15 June 1982 (1982-06-15) * column 2, line 20 - column 3, paragraph 1; figures 1-4 *	1,3	
X	EP 0 047 186 A (R. L. BOROFSKY) 10 March 1982 (1982-03-10) * page 4, line 1 - page 5, line 5; claims 1-9; figures 1,2 *	1-3	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) A44C
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 July 2000	Examiner Garnier, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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