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Charm Anchor

Abstract

A jewelry bail for affixing a charm on a chain is provided. The jewelry bail includes a body having a first surface and an opposing second surface with an opening within the body. The opening has a latching portion and an ornament portion connected by an elongated portion. The latching potion's width is greater than the elongated portion's width. The latching portion and the elongated portion are adapted to mate with the chain such that the latching portion fits between links of the chain and the elongated width is smaller than the width of the links of a chain. The ornament portion is adapted to receive a charm. The structure and utility of the jewelry bail have the advantage of allowing versatility, the prevention of charms gathering in one location, and the prevention of chain migration around the wearer's neck.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCES TO ANY RELATED PATENT APPLICATION [0001] The present application comprises a continuation application of U.S. Design Application No. 29/876,466 filed on May 23, 2023, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
[0002] The present invention relates to a device that secures a charm to a ball or link chain such as a necklace or bracelet. Specifically, the invention relates to a component of jewelry that allows the wearer to change and choose the location of a charm on a chain. The use of the jewelry bail prevents the accumulation of charms on a chain allowing the wearer to display the charms clearly for a viewer to appreciate the beauty of each one.
[0003] The current commercially available jewelry bails are found in many configurations, such as round, oval, or triangular shapes, which are utilized to attach charms to a chain. Avid wearers of jewelry with chains such as necklaces, bracelets, and anklets often don charms for ornamental purposes. When the wearer desires to display one or more charms on a chain, gravity tends to pull the charms together resulting in a mass of ornamentation on one location of the chain. Therefore, the ornaments are not displayed separately and clearly. Moreover, the collection of charms can create tangles between the charms and the chain and between the charms on the chain.
[0004] Furthermore, the chain can migrate to undesired positions on the wearer. While other jewelry bails on the market prevent decorative chains from migrating around the wearer's neck, the present invention's novel shape successfully keeps the chain in the wearer's desired position. The present invention is utilized to prevent the migration of charms on a chain and to prevent the migration of the chain allowing the wearer to customize their jewelry.
[0005] Prior art US 2020/0000187A (Kimoto '187), titled “Ornament Components and Ornaments”, describes an ornament that enables a “string-like” member with a clasp to be worn without movement of the clasp around the wearer's neck. Furthermore, '187 is also described to “provide such an ornament”. Use of patent '187 is limited to a necklace, as insinuated by the mention of the “wearer's neck. The present invention's utility is not limited to a “string-like member” and may be used with any ball or link-styled chain. Additionally, the present invention's utility is not limited to the wearer's neck, as specified in the '187 patent. Here, the invention's utility can be applied to ball and link chains that may be donned on the neck, wrist, ankle, or ear (with an earring).
[0006] Moreover, patent '187 is utilized to be worn on a “string-like” member to hang from the “recessed portion” to allow the chain to fall into. The recessed portion is designed to keep the charm from shifting along the chain, but the size of the recessed portion in the '187 patent is wide and shallow. With a wide and shallow recessed portion, a chain, potentially, may lose contact with the wearer's movements. In contrast, the present invention's recessed portion has a pronounced rounded top followed by an elongated narrower portion. The configuration of the present invention allows for a chain to not only sit in the recessed portion with greater specificity, but the elongated portion allows for a decreased chance that the chain would dislodge from the recessed portion due to the movement of the wearer.
[0007] Patent U.S. Pat. No. 5,651,275 (Towne '275) is a “Spring Bail” that functions to hold a chain stationary to prevent the clasp from moving about the wearer's neck. Patent '275 is a jewelry bail that requires the utilization of a spring to keep the bail in place along a chain. In the present invention, a spring device is not necessary to keep the charms from moving along a chain.
[0008] The Delano Patent U.S. Pat. No. 11,317,684 (Delano '684) is described as a “Necklace having integrated pendant anchor”. Patent '684 is a necklace with a divot that cannot be removed

from the necklace. The divot comes in a variety of configurations to accommodate charms of different shapes. The links of the necklace are therefore interrupted by the divot because the necklace is attached to the opposing ends. In the present invention, the jewelry bail does not require a permanent attachment to a chain to be utilized. The bail can be affixed to the chain in more than one location of the chain, wherever the wearer desires.

[0009] Patent U.S. Pat. No. 3,122,900 (Beghetto '900) describes a “Means for securing a pendant to a chain, including means for blocking release thereof”. Patent '900 requires the use of a loop to thread a chain through and a clamping mechanism to keep the device from migrating along the chain when worn. The present patent does require the wearer to utilize a clamping mechanism to affix the jewelry bail on the desired location of a chain.

[0010] Patent U.S. Pat. No. 10,357,085B2 (Heller '085) is a “Jewelry enhancer” with a jewelry bail that allows the wearer to string multiple chains together, pin onto the wearer's clothing, and cover buttons. The jewelry bail in the '085 patent is specifically configured and used to attach the jewelry enhancer to a chain. Patent '085's large size only allows the wearer to use one jewelry enhancer per chain. The present invention allows the wearer to use multiple jewelry bails on the same chain to display more than one charm at once. Furthermore, contrary to '085, the present invention can be used to display different types of charms.

[0011] One objective of the present invention prevents the migration of the charm from moving away from the desired positioning around the wearer's neck. Moreover, the invention allows the wearer to display charms on specific locations of a chain without the influence of gravity causing the charms to collect on the center or lowermost position of the chain. The invention also functions to allow the wearer to customize their jewelry by changing the location of the charms on a chain. The invention can be used for the customization of necklaces, anklets, bracelets, or any decorative jewelry with a chain.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The anti-slip jewelry bail of the present invention is utilized to prevent the movement of a charm on a chain. For example, during use, charms tend to fall to the lowest point on the necklace. The user may desire to position the charm at a specific point along the necklace other than the lowest point. Additionally, the anti-slip jewelry bail also keeps the clasp centered behind the wearer's neck. When the wearer desires to display charms along the chain, the weight and the gravitational pull of the charm on the anti-slip jewelry bail prevents the locking mechanism of the chain from migrating to the front of the wearer. The fact that the anti-slip jewelry bail keeps the chain's locking mechanism from migrating to the front of the wearer is essential because the locking-mechanism is not for the purpose of display, but for the sole purpose of functioning to lock the ends of the chains together.

[0013] In one example embodiment, the anti-slip jewelry bail includes the ornament portion, elongated portion, latching portion, and ball chain. In another example embodiment, the anti-slip jewelry bail includes the ornament portion, elongated portion, latching portion, and link chain. Both embodiments are utilized in the same manner, but each embodiment is configured for different types of chains.

[0014] The first example embodiment is utilized by threading a ball chain through the ornamental portion of the jewelry bail. The ball chain is passed through by lifting the region between the balls on the ball chain inside the elongated portion of the opening within the jewelry bail. Once the region between the balls on the ball chain reaches the latching portion of the jewelry bail, the ball is pushed into the latching portion and locked in place. While the ball is locked into the latching portion of the ball chain, the rest of the jewelry bail hangs from the chain. A charm can be attached to the ornament portion, which is the part of the jewelry bail furthest from the chain.

[0015] When the second example embodiment is in use, a link chain is threaded through the ornament portion of the jewelry bail. Most linked chains comprise links that are attached in alternating horizontal and vertical positions. A vertical link of the chain is lifted through the

elongated portion of the jewelry bail. When the vertical chain link reaches the latching portion, the vertical link is rotated to a horizontal position as the latching portion is adapted to horizontally positioned chain links. Once the vertical link is turned to a horizontal position, the jewelry bail is locked in position between the junctions where the vertically positioned links on either side of the horizontal link are joined. The ornament portion of the jewelry bail is used to attach a charm.
[0016] In a third embodiment, the jewelry bail prevents the chain, usually a necklace, from moving around the wearer's neck. The third embodiment is especially essential because the clasp of the necklace that connects the two ends of the chain
[0017] is normally worn at the back of the wearer's neck. Movement of the clasp from the back of the wearer's neck to the front is a common issue that the necklace wearer experiences. The clasp is not a portion of the necklace that wearers desire to display. The weight of the hanging jewelry bail prevents the movement of the chain preventing the clasp from moving from the wearer's desired position.
[0018] The jewelry bail can be removed from a location on a chain and relocated to another region of the wearer's choosing on the same chain. To move the jewelry bail to another location on the chain in the first example embodiment, the ball, on the ball chain would be pushed out of the latching portion. The anti-slip jewelry bail, hanging in the region between the balls of the ball chain, would be lifted to allow the region between the balls to pass through the elongated portion. The wearer would slide the jewelry bail across the chain so the chain passes through the ornament portion until the wearer chooses a place to affix the bail.
[0019] In the second example embodiment, the wearer can remove the jewelry bail by lifting the horizontal link until the link touches the top of the latching portion. The wearer would slide the jewelry bail toward the neighboring vertically positioned link to allow the link to slide in between the elongated portion towards the ornament portion. The wearer can relocate the jewelry bail by allowing the chain to pass through the ornament portion along the chain to the next desired location.

Description

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0020] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a ball chain necklace using the anti-slip jewelry bail of the present invention in the locked position.
[0021] FIG. **2** is a perspective view the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1** in the moveable position.
[0022] FIG. **3** is a perspective view from the lower right of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0023] FIG. **4** is a perspective view from the lower left of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0024] FIG. **5** is a perspective view from the upper left of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0025] FIG. **6** is a perspective view from the upper right of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0026] FIG. **7** is a front elevational view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0027] FIG. **8** is a rear elevational view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**
[0028] FIG. **9** is a right-side view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**
[0029] FIG. **10** is a left-side view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0030] FIG. **11** is a plan view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0031] FIG. **12** is a bottom plan view of the anti-slip jewelry bail of FIG. **1**.
[0032] FIG. **13** is a perspective view of a link chain necklace using an alternative embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS
[0033] The anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of the present application is used to prevent the migration of a charm attached to a chain from moving around a wearer's neck during use. The anti-slip jewelry bail **100** is also used to affix charms on a chain to prevent the charms from gathering in one

location on the chain. Referring to FIG. **1**, the first embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** secures a charm **102** to a ball chain necklace **104**. The ball chain **104** includes a series of spheres **106** that are individually connected by a chain portion **108**. FIG. **13** illustrates a second embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail **200** securing a charm to a link chain necklace **204**.

[0034] During use, the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** moves between a locked position (See FIG. **1**) and a moveable position (See FIG. **2**) on the ball chain necklace **104**. In the locked position, a locking portion **112** rests on the chain portion **108** of the necklace **104** after the chain portion **108** has been passed through an elongated portion **110** of the bail **100**. The locking bail **100** is secured between two adjacent spheres **106** of the ball chain necklace **104** because the elongated portion **110** prevents movement of the jewelry bail **100** along the length of the chain **104**.

[0035] In the moveable position, the chain portion **108** of the necklace **104** is threaded through the elongated portion **110** of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** and moved into an ornament portion **114** of the jewelry bail **100**, and the jewelry bail **100** can move freely along the necklace.

[0036] FIG. **3** illustrates a first embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100**. The cavity **124** extends between a front, first surface **116** and a rear, second surface **118** of a bail body **126** and defines the latching portion **112** and the ornament portion **114** connected by an elongated portion **110**. In the illustrated embodiment, the latching portion **112** is smaller in diameter than the ornament portion **114**.

[0037] The ornament portion **114** is configured to receives the charm **102**. The first and second surfaces **116**, **118** face outwardly, transverse to a surface facing away from the wearer. (See FIG. **1**). The ball chain **104** is threaded through the ornament portion **114**. The chain portion **108** between the spheres **106** slides within the cavity **124** between the elongated portion **110** of the ball chain **104**, as shown in FIG. **2**. A sphere **106** or link **120** of a chain sits in the latching portion **112** which allows the wearer to hang the jewelry bail **100** from the chain portion **108** without the bail **100** migrating along the chain **108**. Referring to the second embodiment of FIG. **13**, a vertically positioned link **220** of a link chain necklace **222** extends through the cavity **224** of the elongated portion **210** to the latching portion **212**.

[0038] Similar to FIG. **3**, FIG. **4** depicts a lower perspective view of a first embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of the present application. Here, the cavity **124** extends between a first surface **116**, and a second surface **118** of the bail body **126**. The latching portion **112** is sized to receive a sphere **106** of a ball chain **104**. The ornament portion **114** is used to affix charms **102**.

[0039] FIG. **5** is an illustration of a perspective view from the upper left of an anti-slip jewelry bail **100**. The second surface **118** of the bail body **126** includes a latching portion **112**, an elongated portion **110**, and an ornament portion **114**. A cavity **124** extends between the second surface **118** and the first surface **116**. The latching portion **112** is configured to a sphere **106** of a ball chain **104**. The sphere **106** is pushed through the latching portion **112**. The latching portion **112** hangs from the chain portion **108**. The ornament portion **114** is used to affix charms **102**.

[0040] FIG. **6** is a perspective view from the upper right of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of FIG. **1**. The anti-slip jewelry bail **100** is depicted with a first surface **116** including a latching portion **112**, an elongated portion **110**, and an ornamental portion **114**. Here, the cavity **124** extends between a first surface **116** and a second surface **118**.

[0041] FIG. **7** illustrates a front elevational view of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of FIG. **1**. The jewelry bail **100** includes a latching portion **112**, an elongated portion **110**, an ornament portion **114**, and a first surface **116**. The cavity **124** extends between a first surface **116** and a second surface **118**.

[0042] Depicted in FIG. **8** is a rear elevational view of an anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of FIG. **1**. Here, the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** includes a latching portion **112**, an elongated portion **110**, an ornament portion **114**, and a second surface. The cavity **124** extends between a first surface **116** and a second surface **118**.

[0043] FIG. **9** illustrates the right-side view of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of FIG. **1**. The anti-slip

jewelry bail **100** depicts a latching portion **112** and an ornament portion **114**. A latching portion **112** is configured for a ball chain **104** or link chain **122**. An ornament portion **114** is adapted for charms **102**.
[0044] Illustrated in FIG. **10** is an anti-slip jewelry bail **100** depicted in a left-side view. The anti-slip jewelry bail **100** includes a latching portion **112** and an ornament portion **114**.
[0045] FIG. **11** is a plan view of an anti-slip jewelry bail **100** (See FIG. **1**). Depicted are a latching portion **112** and an ornament portion **114**. A latching portion **112** is configured for a ball chain **104** or link chain **122**. An ornament portion **114** is configured for a charm **102**.
[0046] FIG. **12** is a bottom plan view of the anti-slip jewelry bail **100** of FIG. **1**. Depicted is an ornament portion **114** configured for a charm **102**.
[0047] FIG. **13** depicts an alternative embodiment of the anti-slip jewelry bail **200** on a link-chain necklace **222** that includes links in alternating vertical and horizontal orientations. In the moveable position, the link chain **222** of the necklace **220** is passed through the ornament portion **214** of the anti-slip jewelry bail **200**, enabling the jewelry bail **200** and the charm **102** connected thereto to move along the length of the necklace **220**.
[0048] In FIG. **13**, a vertically-oriented link **220** of the link chain **222** is slid through the elongated portion **210** of the cavity **224** towards the latching portion **212**. When the vertically-positioned link **220** reaches the latching portion **212**, the necklace **222** is manipulated such that the vertical link **220** is rotated in a horizontal position or the jewelry bail **222** is slid over to the adjacent horizontally-oriented link **220**, so that a horizontally-positioned link **220** is positioned within latching portion **212**.
[0049] During use, several anti-slip jewelry bails **100** and charms **102** may be attached to the link chain necklace **220**. Though gravity pulls on the jewelry bails **100** affixed to the link chain **122** necklace worn around the wearer's neck, the locking mechanism between the horizontally positioned link **120** and the latching portion **112** prevents the jewelry bail **100** from migrating to multiple positions on the link chain **122** necklace. Moreover, the charms **102** are affixed to the ornamental portion **114** which allows the charms **102** to hang away from the necklace to be displayed.
[0050] It will be appreciated that various embodiments of the above-disclosed and other features and functions, or alternatives or varieties thereof, may be desirably combined into many other different embodiments. Various presently unforeseen or unanticipated alternatives, modifications, variations or improvements therein may be subsequently made by those skilled in the art which are also intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

Claims

1. A jewelry bail for affixing an ornament or charm on a ball or linked chain, the jewelry bail comprising: a body having a first surface and an opposing second surface; an opening within the body, wherein the opening has a latching portion and an ornament portion connected by an elongated portion, wherein a latching width of the latching portion is greater than an elongated width of the elongated portion; wherein the latching portion and the elongated portion are adapted to mate with the linked chain such that the latching portion fits between links of the chain and the elongated width is smaller than a width of the links of the chain; and wherein the ornament portion is adapted to receive the ornament.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the opening spans the first surface and the second surface.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein surfaces of the opening are beveled.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the chain is a ball chain or a linked chain.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the latching portion includes a notch configured to mate with a link of the chain.
6. A jewelry item comprising: a chain; and a jewelry bail comprising: a body having a first surface

and an opposing second surface; an opening within the body, wherein the opening has a latching portion and an ornament portion connected by an elongated portion, wherein a latching width of the latching portion is greater than an elongated width of the elongated portion; wherein the latching portion and the elongated portion are adapted to mate with the chain such that the latching portion fits between links of the chain and the elongated width is smaller than a width of the links of the chain; and wherein the ornament portion is adapted to receive the ornament or charm.