W. A. L. MILLER.

Ear-Ring.

No. 221,178. Patented Nov. 4, 1879.

Fig. 1.

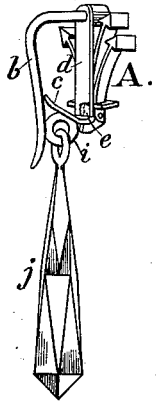
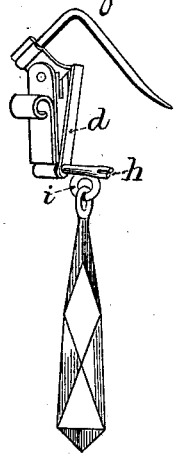


Fig. 2.



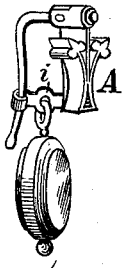


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:
W. Floyd Quickett
W. H. Clark

Inventor
William A. L. Miller
per J. L. Boone
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. L. MILLER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN EAR-RINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **221,178**, dated November 4, 1879; application filed April 9, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. L. MILLER, of the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ladies' Ear-Rings; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention has reference to that class of ladies' ear-rings in which the retaining-bar is connected with the ear-ring by a spring-hinge; and it consists, essentially, in an arrangement of the hook-bar, spring, and hinge, by which a small retaining-bar can be used, all as hereinafter more fully described.

Referring to the drawings, A is the ear-ring. *b* is the hook-bar, and *c* is the hinged retaining-bar. *d* is the spring which keeps the retaining-bar closed.

Heretofore the retaining-bar has usually been made quite heavy and clumsy, for two reasons—first, to obtain the amount of weight necessary to keep the ear-ring close up against the ear; and, secondly, to admit of the spring being attached to it. I attach the spring, however, to the back of the ear-ring, where it will be out of the way, allowing its free end to extend down to the lower end of the ear-ring.

The retaining-bar *c* is hinged to the lower end of the ear-ring, and has a lug, *e*, on it, against which the free end of the spring presses when the bar is in its opened or closed position.

This arrangement of the spring is simple and better than the old way, because it is out of sight, is more easily applied, and can be made much stronger, and the retaining-bar can be made smaller and neater.

To provide the necessary weight to make the ear-ring hang close to the ear, I form an eye, *i*, on the retaining-bar at a short distance behind the ear-ring, and in this eye I hang the pendant *j*, so that its weight will draw the ear-ring close up against the front of the ear.

In Figure 2 the ear-wire is hinged to the upper end of the ear-ring, so that it can be thrown upward into a convenient position to be passed through the hole in the ear.

The spring *d* is attached to the back of the ear-ring, as before stated, only its free end is at the top instead of at the bottom. In this case I employ a stationary bar, *h*, at the lower end of the ear-ring, which projects to the rear far enough to allow the wire, when closed, to strike its outer end, which is made forked to receive it. The eye *i* for the pendant is formed on this bar a short distance back of the ear-ring, as and for the purpose before described.

Fig. 3 shows an ear-ring with a stationary ear-wire, which bends downward, and a short clasp attached by a spring-hinge, as before described, at the lower end of the ear-ring. This clasp closes across the space between the lower end of the ear-ring and the ear-wire, and has the eye *i* attached to or formed on it, as before described.

Fig. 3 represents an ear-ring, A, with a loose-jointed ear-wire attached to its upper end, and a stationary hook-clasp at its lower end. This ear-ring has no spring; but it has an eye, *i*, on the lower cross-bar, as above described.

In all of these ear-rings the pendants form the counter-weight to keep the ear-ring close against the ear, and in order to accomplish this they are attached to the clasp or projecting bar at the lower end of the ear-ring and at a short distance behind the ear-ring, so that their weight will be behind the point of suspension in the ear.

Under my improvement in ear-rings it will be seen that either the ear-wire or the retaining-bar may be hinged and used in connection with the flat spring *d* with like results.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

An ear-ring, A, provided with the rearwardly-projecting retaining-bar *c*, having the pendant-eye *i* set back from the ear-ring, the spring *d*, adapted to hold the bar *c* in position, and the hook-bar *b*, all constructed and combined substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

WILLIAM A. L. MILLER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

W. F. CLARK,

W. FLOYD DUCKETT.