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MULTICOLORED ARTICLE AND METHOD OF PRODUCING IT

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The invention relates to decorative articles, including articles for personal wear or use, such as bracelets, buttons, toilet articles, and the like, characterized by a plurality of colors. It relates more particularly to such articles which are cast or molded from materials in a fluent plastic condition and thereafter hardened to a non-plastic condition.

Plastic materials found particularly acceptable for decorative articles, are the resinous condensation products obtained from phenols and formaldehyde or equivalent substances. These resins while plastic can be cast or molded to any desired shape and are hardenable by heating to a non-plastic stage. When hardened the clear products have a transparency and high refractive index that render them especially attractive and desirable for articles of adornment. They have been further improved as to color and resistance to light whereby color effects of great variety and delicacy are made possible.

According to the present invention articles of variegated surface appearance are obtained through the medium of two or more colored resins or equivalent plastic materials that can be cast molded or otherwise shaped. In brief it comprises first preparing a body from a base material of one color and conformation, then casting, molding or otherwise disposing a second material of a different color in adhering contact with the base material, and simultaneously with that operation or subsequently thereto shaping the second material into a body of different conformation whereby portions of the first body are exposed and the color contrasts brought out in variegated surface patterns as desired.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood it is herein described as applied to bracelets; but other applications are obvious and the invention is not to be construed as limited to these particular articles.

In the accompanying drawing.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a bracelet;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of another form of bracelet;

Fig. 3 is a top view of a blank from which the form shown in Fig. 2 is obtained;

Fig. 4 is a cross section of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a cross section of the blank of Fig. 3 after a bracelet has been machined from it into the finished form shown in Fig. 2.

The procedure followed in making the bracelets illustrated is to first cast or otherwise form a primary body for instance an annular cylinder from a material of one color while plastic and hardening the material sufficiently so that it is self supporting and a second primary body of a plastic material of another color can later be formed around it; in the casting or equivalent operation it can be given the desired cross sec-

tion or contour or it can be subsequently machined to the desired form. The cylinder is then inserted in a suitable mold for casting a fluent material of contrasting color about it, or the plastic material can be pressed or otherwise formed into shape about the cylinder; the mass is then hardened to a unitary composite body. The hardened blank so obtained is cut into bands of desired width and the bands are machined to bring out the patterns desired; the machining into the final form can take place simultaneously with the cutting of the bands. The cylinders can be given the same or different peripheral conformations or cross sections in the casting or forming operations so that additional variegated surface appearances of different patterns are obtainable in the finished articles.

For the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 an annular cylinder 10 of circular transverse cross section is cast. About this is then cast another annulus 11 of circular transverse cross section. The cylinder after hardening is cut into bands and these are machined into bracelets having a convex profile so as to leave a band of the annulus 11 about a wider band of the annulus 10.

For the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 an annular cylinder 12 having a non-circular or polygonal transverse cross section or contour taken perpendicular to the axis of symmetry, is formed. About this is then formed another cylinder 13 of a different polygonal or circular transverse cross section which, as illustrated in Fig. 4 may have two axes of symmetry. When hardened and machined into an annulus with a convex profile as shown in cross section in Fig. 5 for example, the appearance in perspective as shown in Fig. 2 can be obtained.

Obviously varied effects can be obtained depending upon the relative thicknesses and conformations of the annular cylinders and the shapes into which the bracelets are formed. With a many sided polygonal interior portion and the whole machined into a circular band of convex profile for example, patterns in the form of round splotches or beads of one color on a background of another color are obtained in the finished article; with fewer sides to the interior cylinder, markings of oval contour are obtained. These markings are further varied by the profiles adopted; for instance grooves or ridges can be cut on the surface to impart further varieties of surface patterns. Thus variegated surface designs different from the surface of the original composite body may be obtained.

Instead of casting or forming a second annular cylinder about the first, the order can be reversed by casting or forming the second within the first. Furthermore cylinders can be cast or formed both within and without to give a plurality of color effects. Obviously also the castings