



National Association of

WATCH&CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

NAWCC Chapter 52 - Los Padres

Early Ball Hands

My thanks to Tom Brown and Gerald Zimmerman for showing me the way to the US patent office and locating these design patents for me.

Webb's earliest hand design patent was applied for in April and granted in August 1893. An example can be seen by clicking on the link to Jeff Hess's symposium Howard watch. The dates closely match the actual production of the watches and dials.

Interestingly enough, the hands on on 936 Ball Hamilton watches are very similar, but the ball on the hands are further up the shaft. I could find no patent granted for this modification and believe none was applied for. Click on Joel's 936 to view the slight difference.

The pierced hands patent was applied for in 3/95 and granted in July of 1895, matching very nicely the debut of the 938 ORRS watches. This leads me to believe that the pierced hands seen on Ball Hamilton 601 (936) are likely to be replacements.

Correct or original is always subject to opinion and debate, but in view of this documentation, This is the way I would expect the 936's, 938's and early 999's to appear.

IMO Ball simplified his design and the fancier hands and dials went out of favor as he began to disapprove of freakish dials and anything that might distract the railroad employee from instant recognition of time.

Interestingly enough, both styles of hands are still featured in the 1902 Ball co factory catalog!

Scroll down to see the patent designs and texts for these two types of hands.

910-127. OR D 22,702 EX

DESIGN.
—o—
W. C. BALL.
HAND FOR TIMEPIECES.

No. 22,702.

Patented Aug. 15, 1893.



WITNESSES:

J. C. Turner
H. J. Leckner

INVENTOR,

W. C. Dall
by Hall & Fay

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WEBSTER C. BALL, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

DESIGN FOR A HAND FOR TIMEPIECES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Design No. 22,702, dated August 15, 1893.

Application filed April 26, 1893. Serial No. 471,982. Term of patent 14 years.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WEBSTER C. BALL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, have invented and produced a new and original Design for Hands for Timepieces, &c., of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part thereof, and which represents a view of a hand embodying my design.

The leading feature of my design consists in a lanceolate enlargement at the end of the hand, and a smaller, round enlargement at the base of the larger enlargement.

The hand A, is formed with a lanceolate en-

largement, B, at its end, and with a circular enlargement, C, of smaller diameter than the widest portion of the lanceolate enlargement, and arranged immediately at the base of such enlargement.

What I claim is—

The design for a hand for timepieces, &c., substantially as described and illustrated.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing to be my invention I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of February, A. D. 1893.

WEBSTER C. BALL.

Witnesses:

J. B. FAY,

J. C. TURNER.

D10-127

AU 2903

EX

RD10G

OR

D 24,446

DESIGN.

W. C. BALL.

HAND FOR TIMEPIECES.

No. 24,446.

Patented July 2, 1895.



WITNESSES,

J. C. Turner
J. J. Jackson

INVENTOR,

W. C. Ball
By *Hall & Gay*
attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WEBSTER C. BALL, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

DESIGN FOR A HAND FOR TIMEPIECES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Design No. 24,446, dated July 2, 1895.

Application filed March 22, 1895. Serial No. 542,856. Term of patent 14 years.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WEBSTER C. BALL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, have invented and produced a new and original Design for Hands for Timepieces, &c., of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part thereof, and which represents a view of a hand embodying my design.

The leading feature of my design consists in an opening in the lanceolate or ovate-acuminate point of the hand, shaped to substantially conform to the exterior outline of said point, but having an enlargement at its apex, which causes it to resemble the outline of a balloon and basket.

The hand A is formed at its end with a

lanceolate or ovate-acuminate enlargement A', having an opening which substantially follows the outline of said enlargement and which is shaped to roughly resemble the outline of a balloon and its basket, consisting of a larger pear-shaped opening *a* and a smaller round opening *a'* at the point of said larger opening.

What I claim is—

The design for the hands of time pieces, &c., substantially as described and illustrated.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing to be my invention I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of March, A. D. 1895.

WEBSTER C. BALL.

Witnesses:

WM. SECHER,
DAVID T. DAVIES.

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