L. W. SHIELDS.

BELT BUCKLE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 25, 1921.

1,416,892. **Patented May 23, 1922.**

FIG. 1

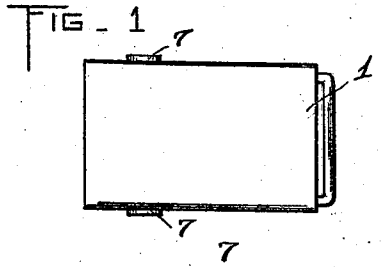


FIG. 2

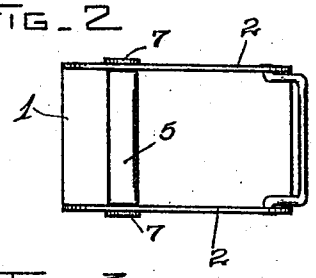


FIG. 4

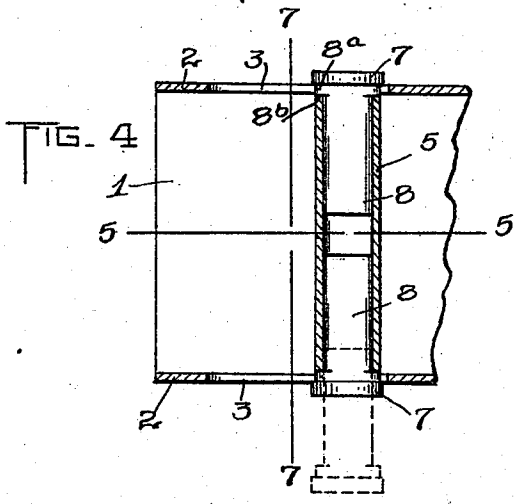


FIG. 3

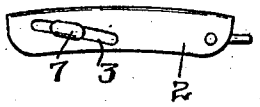


FIG. 13

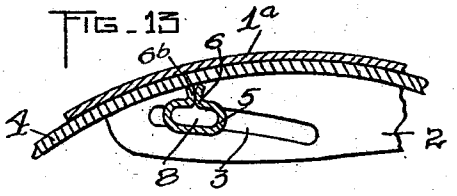


FIG. 5

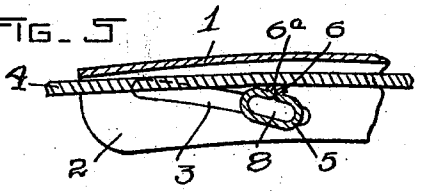


FIG. 14

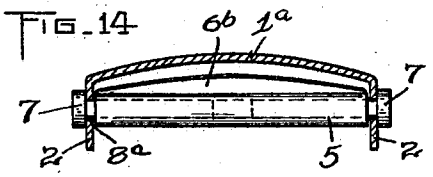


FIG. 6

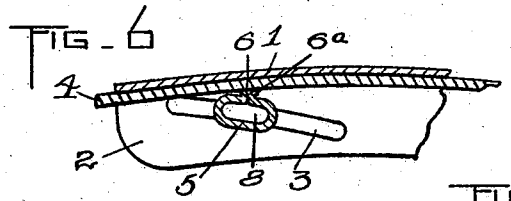


FIG. 7

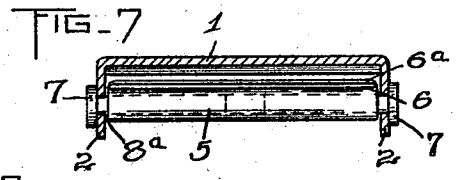


FIG. 8

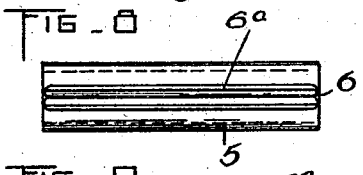


FIG. 10

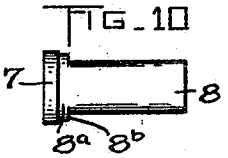


FIG. 11

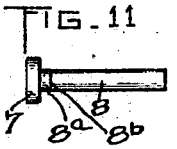


FIG. 9

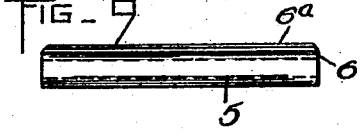
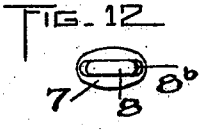


FIG. 12



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BELT BUCKLE.

1,416,892. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 23, 1922.

Application filed April 25, 1921. Serial No. 464,252.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOWELL W. SHIELDS, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Belt Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to belt buckles, and more particularly to the type in which the body of the buckle is formed by a front plate with side flanges provided with guides on which the clamping member operates to clamp the belt end against the front plate, an object of this invention being to improve the construction of the clamping member whereby a greater clamping action is secured and the wear of the guides in the side flanges is reduced to a minimum.

To this and other ends, the invention consists of certain parts and combinations of parts all of which will be hereinafter described, the novel features being pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a face view of a buckle constructed in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the buckle;

Fig. 3 is a side view;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section showing the manner in which the clamping member is formed;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary section on the line 5—5, Fig. 4, showing the clamping member in one position;

Fig. 6 is a similar fragmentary section showing the clamping member in another position;

Fig. 7 is a section on the line 7—7, Fig. 4;

Fig. 8 is a view of one face of the tubular central portion of the clamping member;

Fig. 9 is a view of another face of the tubular central portion of the clamping member;

Figs. 10, 11 and 12 are detail views of the headed guide ends of the clamping member;

Fig. 13 is a section similar to Fig. 5 of another embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 14 is a section similar to Fig. 7 of the embodiment shown in Fig. 13.

Referring to the illustrated embodiment of the invention, 1 indicates the face plate of the body of the buckle which is provided with flanges 2 along opposite edges formed, in this instance, from the sheet material from which the face plate 1 is made. These side flanges are provided with guides 3 formed, in this instance, by slotting the side flanges, said guides extending at a slight angle to the plane of the front plate 1 so that as the clamping member moves toward one end of the slide, it will clamp the belt end 4 against the rear face of the back plate and when moved toward the other end of the guide will permit the belt end to freely move between the clamping member and the front plate.

The clamping member, in the illustrated embodiment, comprises a central tubular portion 5 formed from a single piece of flat stock rolled into flat tubular form. At least one edge and preferably both edges of this stock are bent outwardly at 6 to provide a rib extending longitudinally of the tubular member, the ribs when formed on both edges extending in divergent relation to each other so that one edge of each outwardly turned portion 6^a will grip with the belt end 4. The length of the tubular member is substantially equal to the distance between the side flanges 2 and into each end of the tubular member an end piece is introduced.

Each end piece preferably has a head 7 which cooperates with an outer face of one of the flanges 2. A stem 8 projects from this head and preferably has opposite sides flattened so as to fit within an end of the tubular portion 5 and to provide flat bearing surfaces 8^a beyond the tubular portion and between said tubular portion and the head 7. Other opposite sides of the end piece are provided with shoulders 8^b which will cooperate with an end of the tubular portion 5 and limit the insertion of the end piece into the tubular portion. The end pieces will travel into the opposite open ends of the tubular portion 5 and firmly engage with the inner walls of said inner portion so that they may be removed without the aid of tools.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 13 and 14, the front piece 1^a is curved transversely as well as longitudinally, and the flanges 6^b are curved from one end to the other to conform to the transverse curve of the front plate. The other parts of this embodiment are the same as the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 12.

From the foregoing it will be seen that

there has been provided a belt buckle in which the clamping member is formed with a longitudinally extending rib for engaging with the belt. This rib is preferably provided by forming the clamping member from a central tubular portion made from flat stock, one or both edges of the stock being bent to provide the clamping edges. Into the ends of the central tubular portion, guiding heads are introduced which have flattened surfaces between the ends of the tubular member and the heads for cooperating with opposite walls of slots in the buckle body. These end pieces are also provided on opposite sides with shoulders which limit the introduction of the end pieces into the tubular central portion.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In combination with a buckle body having a front plate and side flanges provided with guide slots, a clamping member having heads at opposite ends cooperating with the outer faces of the side flanges, and flattened faces of greater width than the slot adjacent said heads, cooperating with opposite walls of the slots, the clamping member between said flanges having a belt engaging projection cooperating with the inner face of the front plate to clamp a belt.

2. In combination with a buckle body having a front plate and side flanges provided with guide slots, a clamping member having a tubular central portion and headed guiding end pieces operating in the guide slots and having flat opposite sides for cooperating with opposite walls of the slot.

3. In combination with a buckle body having a front plate and side flanges provided with guide slots, a clamping member embodying a central flattened tubular portion, and headed guiding end pieces operating in the slots, fitted in the ends of the tubular portions having flat faces between the tubular portion and the heads for cooperating with opposite walls of the slots and having shoulders on other opposite sides for cooperating with the ends of the tubular portion for limiting the introduction of the end pieces in the tubular portion.

4. In combination with a buckle body having a front plate and side flanges provided with guides, a clamping member operating on said guides and embodying a central tubular portion formed from flat stock, at least one edge of said stock being extended to provide a rib for cooperating with the belt end between the clamping member and the rear face of the front plate.

5. In combination with a buckle body having a front plate and side flanges provided with guides, a clamping member operating on said guides embodying a central tubular portion made from flat stock with both edges of said stock extended in divergent relation to provide flanges for cooperating with a belt end.

LOWELL W. SHIELDS.