March 29, 1955 W. H. HANSEN 2,705,150

SAFETY SKI BINDING

Filed Oct. 10, 1950

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

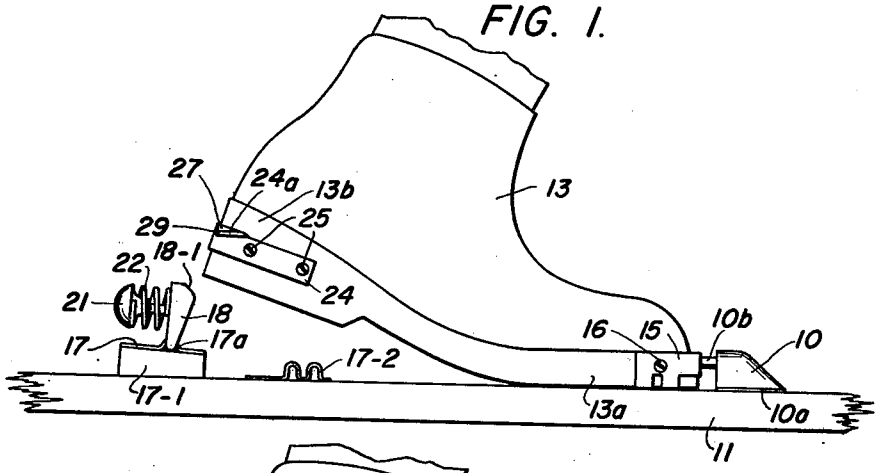


FIG. 2.

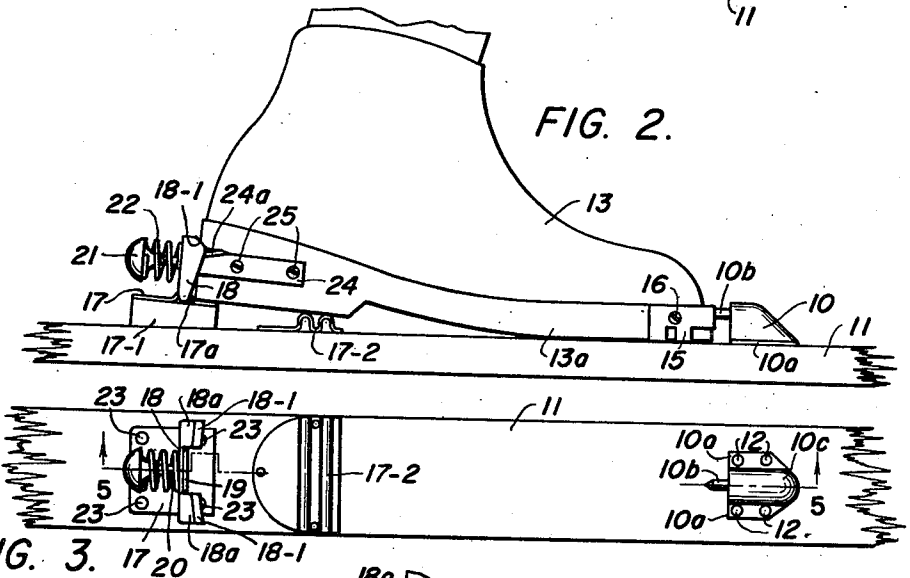
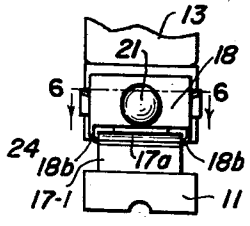


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.



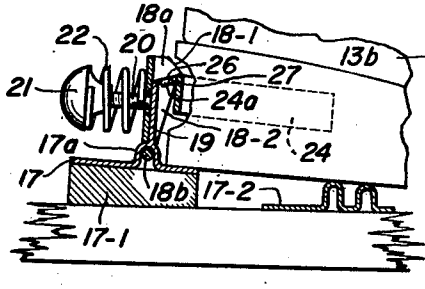


FIG. 5.

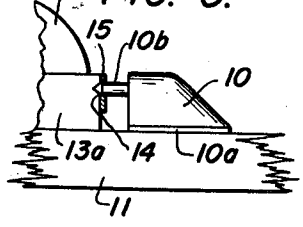
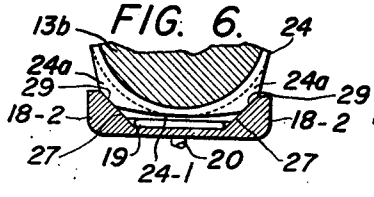


FIG. 6.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 7.

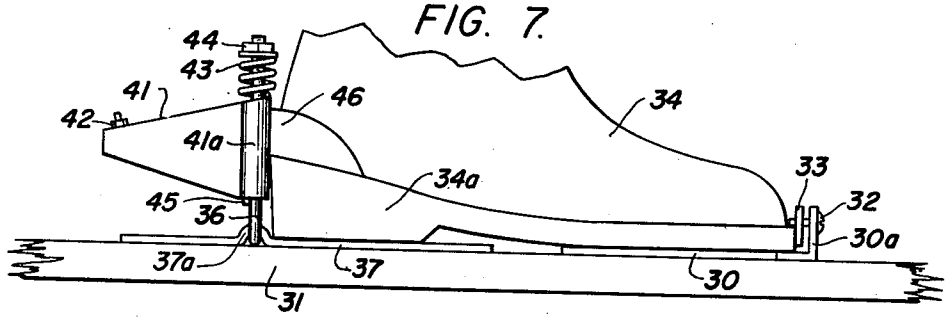


FIG. 8.

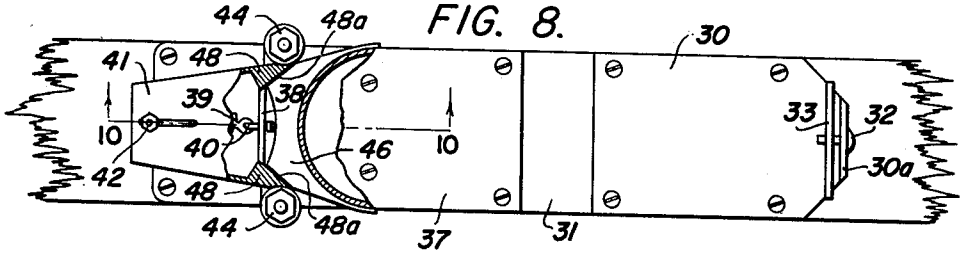


FIG. 9.

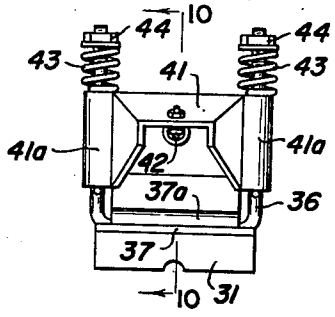


FIG. 10.

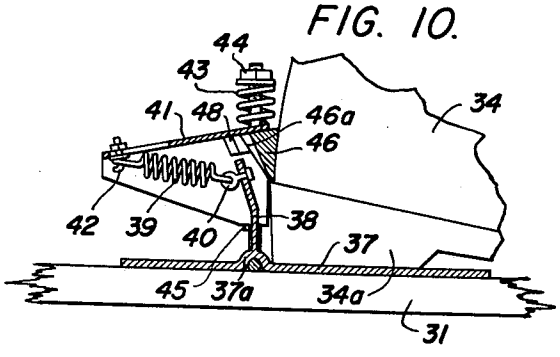
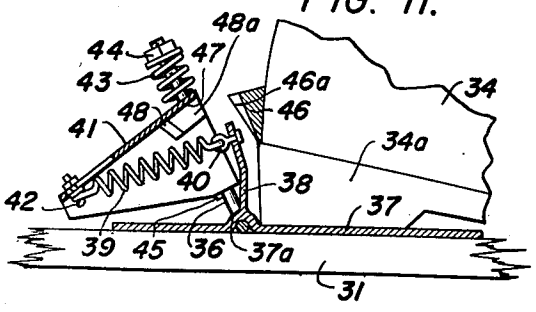


FIG. 11.



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United States Patent Office 2,705,150 Patented Mar. 29, 1955

2,705,150

SAFETY SKI BINDING

Walter H. Hansen, Ephraim, Utah

Application October 10, 1950, Serial No. 189,326

14 Claims. (Cl. 280—11.35)

This invention relates to ski bindings as customarily employed to attach skis to the feet of a skier.

The sport of skiing requires that the skis be attached as tightly as possible if full advantage of the various maneuvers possible in the sport is to be had. For example, in the execution of high speed turns in so-called "slalom" racing, the ski must faithfully respond to the various and often abrupt movements of the skier's body, almost as if they were a part of it. On the other hand, if the skier is to be reasonably safe from bodily injury, the skis should be readily separable from the feet when excessive and abnormal strains occur. For example, should a skier fall while executing a high speed turn, there is great danger of twisting and breaking a leg, and of even causing a more serious injury, if the skis are so securely attached to the feet that separation is next to impossible.

Heretofore, there has been no ski binding which offers tight securement, yet ready separability under abnormal conditions. As a consequence, many broken bones are suffered by daring amateurs, and also by experts.

A principal object of the present invention is to effect a tight and positive securement of the skier's boots to his skis, so that they are inseparable during all normal maneuvers, yet substantially instantaneously separable under abnormal stresses and strains incident to such falls as are likely to result in bodily injury.

Another object is to attain substantially complete rigidity of ski boot with ski, so that for all practical purposes they function as an integral unit, substantially without give.

While this latter object of the invention is not necessarily coupled with the first, and is actually frowned upon by some expert skiers, I have found it to be a source of considerably greater satisfaction in the sport, in that high speed turns are easier to execute, and all downhill skiing can be carried out with greater facility.

Attainment of these objects of the invention, and of greatly improved results over existing types of ski binding, are due largely to the elimination of all straps, cables, or other flexible binding means of similar nature, in favor of a comparatively compact and simple latch mechanism operative upon a special keeper permanently affixed to the heel of the ski boot, and, in combination therewith, a reaction member rigidly affixed to the ski as part of a toe-retaining structure. The latch mechanism serves as a movable clamping jaw, while the reaction member serves as a stationary clamping jaw.

The latching mechanism embodies a resilient member whose tension is advantageously readily adjustable, for varying the degree of latching security in accordance with any given skiing condition or desire of the user.

The safety ski binding of the invention necessitates only the insertion of the foot—shod with an appropriately prepared ski boot—between the spaced toe-retaining assembly and latching mechanism, for effecting the desired rigid attachment of a ski to a foot of the skier. Downward pressure upon the heel of the ski boot, by the wearer's heel, clicks the assembly into its latched position. Either a manual pulling of the latch backwardly against the tension of the resilient member, which tension may be appropriately reduced for the purpose, or a sidewise twist of or upward pull on the heel of the foot to an abnormal extent and with abnormal force, instantaneously frees the ski boot from its attachment to the ski. Accordingly, the improved binding of the invention is uniquely quick and easy to use.

Since only a very forcible sidewise or upward movement of the heel of the foot relative to the ski will release the skier's boot from its rigid attachment to the ski when when the resilient member is under proper operating tension, a force not generally possible during normal skiing where the ski is free to follow the movement of the body of the skier, a safety condition is achieved which is completely absent in all ski bindings of known construction.

Additional objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of preferred specific forms illustrated in the accompanying drawings to exemplify the generic inventive concepts defined in the broader of the claims hereof.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of one preferred form of ski binding conforming to the invention, the binding being installed on a ski which is illustrated fragmentarily, and the booted foot of a skier being shown in a position immediately in advance of being pressed downwardly into latched attachment to the ski;

Fig. 2, a view corresponding to that of Fig. 1, but illustrating the booted foot of the skier securely latched to the ski;

Fig. 3, a top plan view of the binding and ski of the above figures, with the skier's foot and boot removed;

Fig. 4, a rear elevation of the structure shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5, a view corresponding to that of Fig. 2, but showing certain ports of the ski binding in vertical section taken on the line **5—5** of Fig. 3, central portions being broken out for convenience of illustration;

Fig. 6, a fragmentary horizontal section taken on the line **6—6** of Fig. 4;

Fig. 7, a view corresponding to that of Fig. 2, but of another embodiment of the invention constructed to afford limited flexibility, or "give," between ski boot and ski during all phases of the sport;

Fig. 8, a view corresponding to that of Fig. 3, but of the embodiment of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9, a rear elevation of the embodiment of Figs. 7 and 8, as illustrated in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10, a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line **10—10** of Figs. 8 and 9, but showing a ski boot latched to the ski; and

Fig. 11, a view corresponding to that of Fig. 10, but illustrating the latch mechanism in its unlatched position.

Referring now to the drawings: in the embodiment of Figs. 1 through 6, the device of the invention comprises a toe-retaining structure **10** rigidly secured to the upper surface of a ski **11**, adjacent the forward end of the usual foot-receiving portion thereof, by means of screws **12** passing through and bearing down against lateral wing portions **10***a*, respectively. A rigid spike member **10***b* projects rearwardly from the upstanding central portion **10***c* of such toe-retaining structure, in fixed relationship therewith and in a position to be received by an appropriately correlated part of the toe of a ski boot **13**, for example, by an opening **14**, Fig. 5, formed in a rigid strip **15** fixedly attached about the toe portion of the sole **13***a* of ski boot **13**, as by means of screws **16**.

The toe-retaining structure **10** serves as a reaction member, and, in effect, forms a stationary clamping jaw when considered in combination with a movable clamping jaw made up of latching mechanism about to be described.

The movable clamping jaw, in this instance, includes a base plate **17**, which may or may not be raised, as is here shown by a block **17—1**, depending upon the whim of the individual skier. Upon such base plate **17** is journaled a latching element **18**, provided with a pair of mutually spaced and laterally disposed latching wings **18***a*, see Fig. 3. The base plate **17** has a rib **17***a* extending transversely across the upper surface thereof, which receives and journals, at its ends, respective pivot pin members **18***b*, Figs. 4 and 5, of the latching element **18**.

Rising from securement, as by welding, to the ridge line of the rib **17***a* is a standard **19**, Figs. 3 and 5. Extending centrally and rearwardly from fixed securement in such standard **19** is a threaded shank **20**. Such shank **20** passes through a suitably located aperture in the intermediate portion of the latch element **18**, and has a knob **21**

threaded onto its free end. Interposed between such knob **21** and the latch element **18**, in encircling relationship with the shank **20**, is a coil compression spring **22**, which urges the latch element **18** forwardly relative to the knob **21**. By screwing the knob **21** forwardly or backwardly on the shank **20**, forward tension of latch element **18** is adjusted to a greater or to a less degree, respectively.

The base plate **17** is rigidly fastened to the upper surface of the ski **11** at a location spaced rearwardly from the toe-retaining structure **10** and adjacent the rearward end of the afore-mentioned foot-receiving portion of the ski, as by means of screws **23**, Fig. 3.

The respective wing portions **18***a* of the latch element **18** are beveled forwardly and downwardly on top, as at **18—1**, and are forwardly recessed below to provide overhanging lips for receiving respective keepers **24***a*, which project rearwardly from a keeper plate **24** carried by the ski boot **13**.

Keeper plate **24** is preferably a U-shaped rigid element of some non-rustable metal, such as aluminum, brass, or the like, having the keepers **24***a* struck downwardly from its upper margin. It is securely attached about the heel of the ski boot **13**, as by means of screws **25**. Because of the forwardly directed bevels **18—1** at the tops of the respective latch wings **18***a*, the keepers **24***a* can easily react upon and slide downwardly past the overhanging lips of the wing portions **18***a* of latch element **18**, pushing such latch element backwardly against the face of the spring **22** and catching under such overhanging lips when the wing portions **18***a* have clicked forwardly to latching position at the limit of the downward movement of the ski boot heel. Thus, such overhanging lips provide for latching against upwardly directed forces exerted by a skier's foot.

The wing portions **18***a* of the latch element **18** have forwardly directed walls **18—2** at their outer sides, providing for latching the keepers **24***a* against sidewardly directed forces exerted by a skier's foot.

Both the overhanging lip or upper latching member of each latching wing **18***a*, and the side wall or side latching member **18—2** thereof, have their latching surfaces sloping outwardly of the latching recess, while each keeper member **24***a* has its respective latching surfaces correspondingly sloped, so as to permit unlatching of the received and latched keeper member **24***a* by the exertion of appropriately directed force by the skier's heel.

Thus, the undersurface **26** of the overhanging lip or upper latching member is sloped upwardly and forwardly in the manner illustrated in Fig. 5, while the inner surface **27** of the side wall or side latching member **18—2** is sloped outwardly in the manner illustrated in Fig. 6. The respectively corresponding latching surface **28**, Fig. 5, and **29**, Fig. 6, are correspondingly sloped, as illustrated, for face-to-face mating engagement therewith during the latched condition of the ski binding.

I have found that best results are generally obtained when the slope of the side inner surface is approximately forty five degrees (45°) from either the longitudinal or transverse axis of the ski, and the slope of the lip's undersurface **26** is considerably less, for example, twenty degrees (20°). It should require much more stress for release of the foot upwardly and forwardly than for release sidewardly.

The rearward edges of the keepers **24***a* and the rearward surface of the keeper plate **24** are preferably curved along an arc having its center at approximately the point of securement of the toe, at **24—1**, Fig. 6, to prevent restrictive binding of the heel as it is released sidewardly.

In this embodiment, a corrugated heel plate **17—2** is separably secured to the foot-receiving portion of the ski **11** somewhat in advance of the latching mechanism, so as to provide, together with the forward portion of the raised base plate **17**, a support for the heel of the ski boot. The corrugations of this heel plate **17—2**, and the space between it and base plate **17**, accommodate any snow which may be caked on the heel of the ski boot. In many instances, however, base plate **17** will be lower than shown, to suit individual tastes, and it and heel plate **17—2** may even be perfectly flat where no elevating of the heel is desired.

A skier attaches his foot to the ski **11** by first inserting his ski boot between the spaced toe-retaining structure and latching mechanism, so that the spike **10***b* enters the receiving opening **14** at the toe of the boot, see Fig. 1.

With his foot thus aligned, the skier need merely press down on his heel to latch the heel of the ski boot securely in the attached position of Fig. 2. It should be noted that the keepers **24***a* push latch element **18** backwardly against the tension of spring **22** during the downward movement of the heel of the ski boot, and that, when such keepers pass below the forwardly-directed lips of the wing portions **18***a*, such latch element **18** springs forwardly under the urging of spring **22** to latch over the upper and sideward latching edges of the keepers **24***a*.

The skier's foot is held securely to the ski by this latching arrangement during all normal skiing maneuvers, but upon the occurrence of abnormal side-wise or upward and forward stresses due to a fall, the skier's foot will be immediately released from the ski without injury.

Normal removal of the skier's foot from the ski, for example at the completion of a period of skiing, is best effected by reaching down and twisting the knob **21** to release tension of the spring **22**, and by then pulling backwardly on the latch member **18** against the urge of spring **22**, thereby releasing the ski boot so it may be lifted from the ski. Releasing the grasp on the latch member **18**, it should be noted, will result in its automatic return to the position of Fig. 1, where, upon turning the knob **21** back to its initial position, the ski binding is ready to again receive and secure a ski boot as explained above.

The degree of tension of spring **22**, and, thus, the point of release of the binding under abnormal circumstances, may be adjusted to suit individual skiing conditions by merely screwing the knob **21** backwardly and forwardly, more or less, on its threaded shank **20**.

The embodiment of Figs. 7 to 11 is indicative of the variant structural forms which my invention may be given. In this instance, provision is made for limited "give" of the binding upwardly, a condition most desired during ordinary running or climbing on skis.

As illustrated, the toe-retaining structure comprises a toe plate **30** fastened to the ski **31** by any suitable means, for example the screws illustrated. The forward end of the toe plate is bent upwardly at an angle to provide an upstanding member **30***a*, through which is threaded a toe-retaining screw **32**. Such screw **32** is adapted to be received by a suitable opening in a toe-piece **33**, secured to the toe tip of the sole of the ski boot **34** and corresponding in function with the toe strip **15** of the previously described embodiment.

The latching mechanism here comprises a U-shaped rocker **36** having its mid-portion journaled by an upstanding rib **37***a* of an otherwise flat heel plate **37**. The heel plate **37** is fastened to the ski **31** in any suitable manner, for example, by means of the screws illustrated.

Raising from rigid securement to and along the upper surface of the rib **37***a* is a rigid standard **38**, Fig. 10, which provides anchorage for one end of a tension spring **39** through the intermediacy of a connection fitting **40**. Slideably received by the upstanding legs of the U-shaped rocker **36** are oppositely disposed slideway members **41***a* of a latch element **41**. Such latch element **41** is of inverted, elongate, general channel formation, advantageously tapered toward the rear, so as to accommodate the length of compression spring **39** and provide anchorage for the other end thereof, as by means of an adjustably positioned connection fitting **42**. The spring **39** thus serves to constantly urge the latch element **41** into its latched position of Figs. 7 to 10.

Coil compression springs **43** are mounted on the upper ends of the respective legs of the U-shaped rocker **36**, so as to be disposed between the upper ends of slideway members **41***a* and respective nuts **44**. Such nuts **44** are screwed onto the threaded upper ends of the leg members of rocker **36** as adjustable abutments means for the springs. Accordingly, the latch element **41** is constantly urged downwardly to the limit of its downward travel, as established by respective pins **45**, projecting from the respective legs of rocker **36** as limit stop members, but is free to move upwardly against the tension of springs **43**.

Keepers **46***a* of a keeper plate **46**, which corresponds generally to the keeper plate **24** of the prior embodiment, but which, in this instance, is secured to the boot **34** immediately above the heel **34***a* thereof, coact with the sloping undersurface **47** of the overhanging lip formation of latch element **41** in substantially the same manner as in the prior embodiment, and, likewise, coact

with sloping latching surfaces **48***a* of sidewardly disposed latching lugs **48**. Such lugs are attached to or formed at the inside of latch element **41** in any suitable manner, for example, by welding.

It should be noted, however, that, because of the freedom of travel of the latch element **41** against the downward urge of springs **43**, limited "give" between ski boot and ski is provided, without release of the ski boot from the ski. Because of such "give" it is advisable to make the latching surfaces of the keepers **46***a* of greater extent than in the prior embodiment.

In this instance the rearward surfaces of the keepers **46***a* and of that portion of keeper plate **46** lying therebetween are beveled downwardly and forwardly for the purpose of pushing latch element backwardly when the heel of the ski boot is pushed down into latching position. In this respect, the construction is opposite that of the first embodiment. Nevertheless, it is obvious that either construction may be utilized in either of the embodiments, depending upon the particular manner in which it may be desired to fabricate each embodiment.

Whereas this invention is here illustrated and described with respect to a particular preferred embodiment thereof, it should be understood that various changes, apart from the mere substitution of equivalents, may be made therein and various other constructions may be adopted on the basis of the teachings hereof, by those skilled in the art, without departing from the protective scope of those of the following claims which are generic to the broader inventive concepts displosed.

I claim:

1. In a ski binding, heel latching mechanism adapted for securement to a ski at the heel end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a width approximating the width of the heel of a ski boot and disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the mechanism is secured to a ski; means for securing said latch element to a ski; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element forwardly with respect to the ski; a keeper for attachment to the heel of a ski boot, said keeper having an effective width such as will be snugly received by said latch element; and coactive latching surfaces associated with the said latch element and with the said keeper, respectively, said latching surfaces comprising transversely spaced sets of outwardly and forwardly directed and upwardly and forwardly directed surfaces for effecting release of said heel of the boot under predetermined stress.

2. The combination recited in claim 1, wherein the means for securing the latch element to the ski includes a vertical slideway upon which said latch element is slideably secured; and wherein compression spring means are operably interposed between said latch element and said securing means.

3. In a ski binding, heel latching mechanism adapted for securement to a ski at the heel end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a pair of laterally disposed latching members recessed forwardly to provide respective forwardly directed overhanging lips and outer side walls, said latch element being disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the latching mechanism is secured to a ski; a keeper for attachment to the heel of a ski boot, said keeper having a pair of rearwardly projecting keeper members arranged to coact with respective latching members of said latch element in the latching of said heel of the ski boot to a ski; sets of forwardly, upwardly, and sidewardly directed coactive latching surfaces defined by said latching members and said keeper members for affording safety release of said heel under predetermined stress; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element forwardly; and means for pivotally securing said latch element to a ski transversely of the ski's length.

4. In a ski binding, heel latching mechanism adapted for securement to a ski at the heel end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a pair of laterally disposed latching members recessed forwardly to provide respective forwardly directed overhanging lips and outer side walls, said latch element being disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the latching mechanism is secured to a ski; a keeper for attachment to the heel of a ski boot, said keeper having a pair of rearwardly projecting keeper members arranged to coact with respective latching members of said latch element in latching said heel of the ski boot to a ski; respective pairs of forwardly and outwardly sloping coactive latching surfaces defined by the undersurfaces of said overhanging lips and by the upper surfaces of said keeper members, and respective pairs of forwardly and outwardly sloping coactive latching surfaces defined by the inner surfaces of said outer side walls and by the outer side surfaces of said keeper members, said coactive latching surfaces affording safety release of said heel under predetermined stress; means for constantly urging said latch element forwardly; and means for pivotally securing said latch element to a ski transversely of the ski's length.

5. In a ski binding having rigid toe-retaining structure adapted to be secured to a ski, heel latching mechanism adapted to be secured to the ski in spaced longitudinal alignment rearwardly of said toe-retaining structure, said heel latching mechanism comprising, a base plate adapted for securement to the upper surface of the ski; a latch element pivotally secured to said base plate transversely of the ski's length and rising from said upper surface of the ski, said latch element having a pair of laterally disposed latching members recessed forwardly to provide respective forwardly directed overhanging lips and outer side walls having upwardly sloping undersurfaces and outwardly sloping inner surfaces, respectively; a keeper for attachment to the heel of a ski boot, said keeper having a pair of rearwardly projecting keeper members arranged to coact in latching relationship with the respective latching members of said latch element, said keeper members having upwardly and forwardly sloping upper surfaces and forwardly and outwardly sloping outer side surfaces for face-to-face latching coaction with the said corresponding surfaces of said latching members, for establishing safety release for said heel under predetermined stress; spring means for constantly urging said latch element forwardly; and adjustable means for varying the tension of said spring means, and for, thereby, predetermining the degree of stress required for said safety release.

6. In a ski binding having rigid toe-retaining structure adapted to be secured to a ski, heel latching mechanism adapted to be secured to the ski in spaced longitudinal alignment rearwardly of said toe-retaining structure, said heel latching mechanism comprising, a base plate adapted for securement to the upper surface of the ski; a latch element of elongate, inverted channel formation tapering from front to rear, and having a pair of latching lugs formed with forwardly and outwardly sloping side surfaces adjacent the forward ends of respectively opposite side walls thereof, inwardly of said channel formation; a keeper for attachment to the heel of a ski boot, said keeper having a pair of rearwardly projecting keeper members arranged to coact in latching relationship with the respective latching lugs of said latch element, and said keeper members having upwardly and forwardly sloping upper surfaces and forwardly and outwardly sloping outer side surfaces for face-to-face latching coaction with the undersurface of the top wall of said latch element and with the said inner side surfaces of said latching lugs for establishing safety release for said heel under predetermined stress; an expansion spring anchored between a fixed part of said base plate and the rearward end of said latch member, for constantly urging said latch element forwardly; adjustable anchoring means for varying the tension of said spring means, and for, thereby, predetermining the degree of stress required for said safety release; means slideably pivoting said latch element to said base plate; and compression spring means interposed between said latch element and said pivoting means, whereby limited freedom of movement upwardly under predetermined tension is permitted said heel.

7. The combination recited in claim 5, wherein the adjustable means comprises a standard rising from fixed securement to the base plate forwardly of the latch element, a threaded shank extending rearwardly, past the latch element, from securement in said standard, and an adjusting knob screwed to the rearward end of said shank; and wherein the spring means is a coil compression spring positioned about said shank for reaction between the latch element and said knob.

8. The combination recited in claim 5, wherein elevating means is provided for interposition between the base plate and the ski for raising said base plate above the upper surface of the ski, and a transversely corrugated, auxiliary base plate is provided for attachment to the

upper surface of the ski forwardly of the main base plate.

9. In a ski binding having heel and toe retaining means mutually spaced apart to receive and secure a ski boot, a heel base plate assembly adjacent the said heel-retaining means and comprising an elevated, rear base plate member associated with said heel-retaining means, and a transversely corrugated base plate member spaced forwardly from said rear base plate member, so that the latter base member seats the rearward portion of a ski boot heel and the former member seats the forward portion of said heel, leaving an intervening open space comprehending a major portion of the length of said heel intermediate the said rearward and forward portions thereof.

10. In a ski binding, boot latching mechanism adapted for securement to a ski at one end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a width approximating the width of a ski boot and disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the mechanism is secured to a ski; means for securing said latch element to a ski; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element toward the boot-receiving portion of the ski; a keeper for attachment to said one end of a ski boot, said keeper having an effective width such as will be snugly received by said latch element; and coactive latching surfaces associated with the said latch element and with the said keeper, respectively, said latching surfaces comprising transversely spaced sets of outwardly and boot directed and upwardly and boot directed surfaces for effecting release of said boot under predetermined stress.

11. Latch mechanism for use in a ski binding and adapted for securement to a ski at one end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a width approximating the width of a ski boot and disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the mechanism is secured to a ski; means for securing said latch element to a ski; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element toward the boot-receiving portion of the ski; and latching surfaces associated with the said latch element, said latching surfaces comprising transversely spaced sets of outwardly and boot directed and upwardly and boot directed surfaces for effecting release of said boot under predetermined stress.

12. In a ski binding, boot latching mechanism adapted for securement to a ski at one end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a width approximating the width of a ski boot and disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the mechanism is secured to a ski; means for pivotally securing said latch element to a ski on a hinge axis extending transversely of the ski; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element toward the boot-receiving portion of the ski; and a keeper for attachment to said one end of a ski boot, said keeper having an effective width such as will be snugly received by said latch element, and said latch element and said keeper having surfaces which coact in the latching of said boot tightly to the ski and in releasing said boot under predetermined stress, said surfaces comprising sets of coactive surfaces at opposite lateral sides of said latch element and of said keeper, respectively, directed outwardly and toward the boot for effecting sidewise release of said boot under stress, and transversely extending, coactive surfaces above the first-named surfaces for normally retaining said boot tightly against the ski.

13. Latch mechanism for use in a ski binding and adapted for securement to a ski at one end of the boot-receiving area thereof, said mechanism comprising a latch element having a width approximating the width of a ski boot and disposed outside the said boot-receiving area when the mechanism is secured to a ski; means for pivotally securing said latch element to a ski on a hinge axis extending transversely of the ski; resilient means for constantly urging said latch element toward the boot-receiving portion of the ski; and latching surfaces associated with the said latch element, said latching surfaces comprising outwardly and boot directed surfaces at opposite lateral sides of said latch element for effecting sidewise release of said boot under predetermined stress, and transversely extending surfaces above the first-named surfaces and projecting toward the boot for normally retaining the boot tightly against the ski.

14. The combination set forth in claim 13, wherein a standard rises rigidly from the latch element securement means at the boot-receiving side of said latch element as a reaction member for the resilient means, and wherein said resilient means is disposed to normally urge said latch element toward said standard and the boot.

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