Jan. 3, 1928. 1,654,805

W. L. HAMRIC

BELT BUCKLE

Filed Nov. 6, 1926

Fig. 1

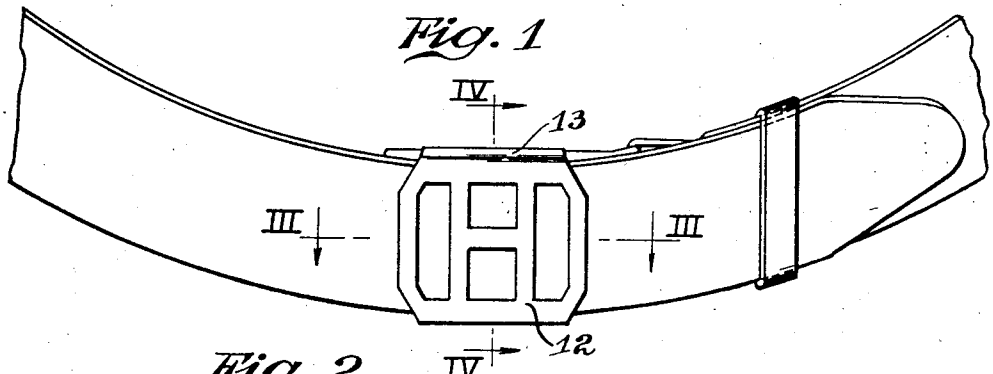


Fig. 2

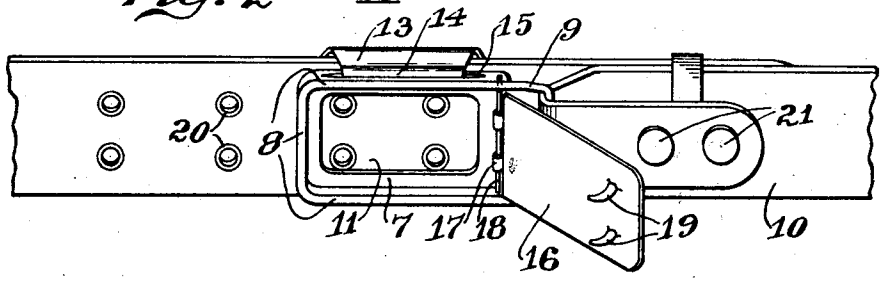


Fig. 3

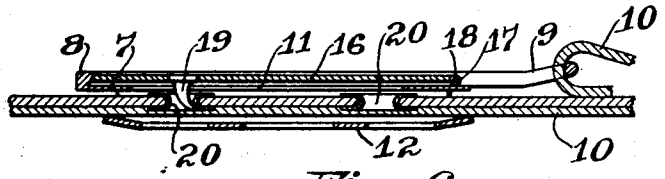


Fig. 4

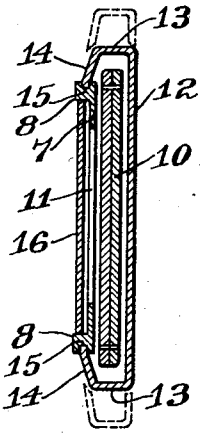


Fig. 5

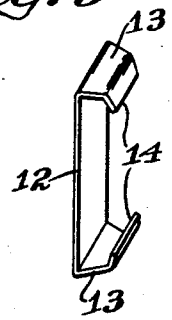
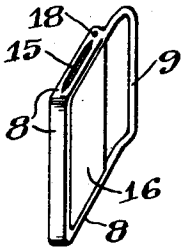


Fig. 6



Inventor

Waldo L. Hamric

By

Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALDO L. HAMRIC, OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

BELT BUCKLE.

Application filed November 6, 1926. Serial No. 146,799.

This invention relates to buckles in general, and refers particularly to those of the type especially adapted for use as belt-buckles.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a buckle which is especially suitable for use on belts, and which comprises hinged holding means for engaging eyelets or the like, said means being adapted when in holding position to transfer the strain thereon to the frame of the buckle, so that no strain is imposed upon the hinge.

A further object is to provide in such a buckle a hinged holding member which snaps into holding position and does not automatically release when the belt becomes slack, but requires pressure thereagainst at an angle to the face of the belt for its release.

Another object is to provide such a buckle in which there is no considerable strain upon its front or side portions when the belt is taut, but substantially all of the pull is transferred from the holding means to the back portion of the buckle.

And a still further object is to provide such a buckle in which the front and sides, the former of which commonly forms or bears a monogram or other special design, and the spacing of the latter of which determines the width of belt with which the buckle can be used, are unitary and detachably secured to the back, so that fronts of different design, and belts of different widths, readily may be used interchangeably with the same buckle.

The means by which the foregoing and other objects are accomplished by my invention, and the manner of their accomplishment, readily will be understood from the following description on reference to the accompanying drawings, which depict a preferred embodiment of the invention, and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the front portion of a belt, having its ends secured together by one of my improved belt-buckles.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the inner side of the portion of the belt at the junction of its two ends, showing the holding member of the buckle as swung back out of holding position.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view, showing a section substantially on line III—III of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view, showing a section substantially on line IV—IV of Fig. 1.

Figs. 5 and 6 are enlarged perspective detail views of the unitary front and sides, and the back, respectively.

As shown in the drawings, in which similar parts are indicated by corresponding reference characters throughout the several views, the buckle comprises a back-plate 7, the outer surface of which is substantially plane, while its inner surface has a shallow flange 8 around three sides thereof, said flange being extended beyond the fourth side to form the chape 9 by which the buckle is secured to one end of the belt 10, and there being an opening 11 in the plane portion of the back-plate. The front-plate 12 of the buckle preferably is formed of resilient metal, and has two of its marginal portions bent at right angles to the substantially plane body portion thereof to form the two sides 13, each of which terminates in an inwardly-bent portion 14. In the outer surface of the flange 8, at each side of the back-plate 7, is a shallow groove 15 adapted to receive the bent portion 14 of the side, and the unitary front and sides are retained in place by engagement of said bent portions with said grooves. The holding member comprises a plate 16, having hinges 17 which co-operate with a pintle 18 in the form of a resilient pin supported between the two side portions of the flange 8, said pin being supported at its two ends only. To the inner face of the plate 16 is secured two similar studs or pins 19, which project substantially at right angles from said plate, and the free ends of which are tapered and are curved toward the hinges 17, the spacing of said pins conforming with that of eyelets 20, which are arranged in pairs at the inner side of the belt, but do not extend therethrough and hence are not visible when the belt is in use. The length of the plate 16 is slightly greater than the distance from the hinge-pin 18 to the end portion of the flange 8, so that when said plate is pressed into its holding position said pin yields slightly to permit the end of the plate to be snapped into position against said flange, and the resilient reaction of said pin tends to hold the plate in such position until it is disengaged by pressure against its inner face or by being moved toward the hinge-pin. When said plate

is in its holding position, the studs or pins 19 project the desired distance through the opening 11 in the back-plate 7. Thus, when said studs or pins are engaged with any pair of the eyelets, substantially all of the strain due to tension upon the belt is brought against the end portion of the flange 8, and, due to the curved shape of the studs or pins 19, there is no considerable lateral strain imposed upon the face-plate 16. Preferably, the standing end of the belt is secured to the chape 9 of the buckle by snap-buttons 21, so as to be readily detachable when desired.

In use, the running end of the belt is passed between the face-plate 16 and sides 13 and the back-plate 7, and while the belt is being tightened the eyelets 20 pass freely over the curved ends of the studs or pins 19, but upon any reverse movement of the belt said eyelets will be engaged by said studs or pins, such engagement being insured by a slight pressure of the thumb against the holding member 16, and being readily discernible by feeling said member to determine whether it is in its holding position with its free end against the end portion of the flange 8. To loosen the belt, it is only necessary to give a slight pull or jerk to its free end, which will spring the hinge-pin 18 back and release the free end of the plate 16 from the flange 8, thereby detaching the hooks 19 from the eyelets 20.

Various modifications of minor details of my improved belt-buckle doubtless readily will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which it appertains, but such modifications fall within the scope of my inventive rights, and the invention is not to be construed as being limited to any details not specifically set out in the claims.

Having thus fully disclosed the invention, what I claim as new, and seek to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A buckle comprising a back, a front and two sides, enclosing a space adapted to receive a belt, said back having an opening therein and having a flange at one end of its outer face, and a holding member pivotally mounted upon a stationary resilient support carried by said back at the end opposite said flange, the free end of said member being abutted against said flange when said member is in holding position, and said member carrying a pin in position to project through said opening in the back and engage a belt in said belt-receiving space.

2. A buckle conforming to claim 1, in which the holding member is yieldingly retained in engagement with the flange by the resilient support upon which said member is mounted.

3. A buckle conforming to claim 1, in which the belt-engaging pin has its free end curved toward the support for the holding member.

4. A buckle conforming to claim 1, in which the belt is provided with apertures arranged in series longitudinally thereof, and the pin on the holding member is adapted to enter one of said apertures upon movement of the holding member to holding position, and to be detached therefrom upon reverse movement of said member.

5. A buckle comprising a back, a front, and two sides, enclosing a space adapted to receive a belt, said sides being connected together by the front and the back being separate from the front and sides, and the sides and back forming complementary interlocking members, one of which is yieldable whereby different fronts and sides may be used interchangeably with the same back, and means carried by the back for retaining a belt in said belt-receiving space.

6. A buckle conforming to claim 5, in which the front and sides are unitary, said unitary structure being resilient to provide for yielding engagement of the sides with the back.

7. A buckle conforming to claim 5, in which a portion of each of the sides yieldingly engages a groove at the corresponding side of the back.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WALDO L. HAMRIC.