Jan. 1, 1924

1,479,515

T. RUSSELL

TONGUE BUCKLE

Filed Nov. 6, 1922

Fig. 1

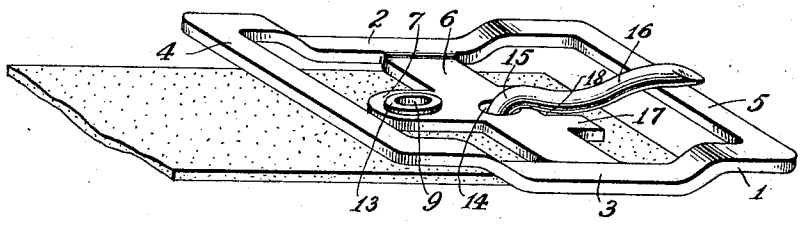


Fig. 2

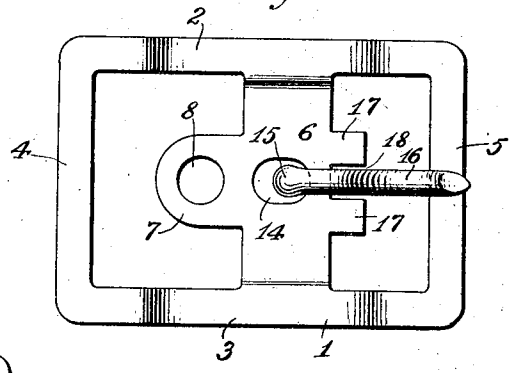


Fig. 5

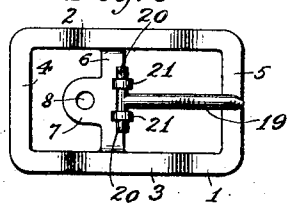


Fig. 3

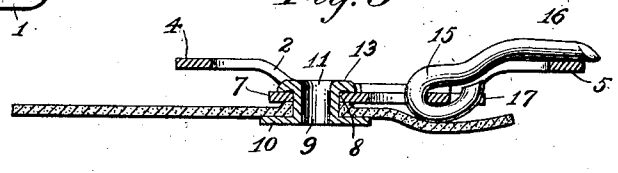


Fig. 4

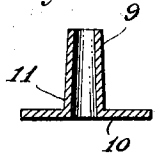
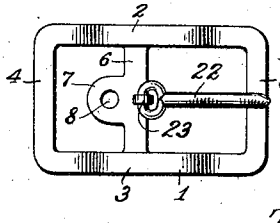


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE RUSSELL, OF NAUGATUCK, CONNECTICUT.

TONGUE BUCKLE.

Application filed November 6, 1922. Serial No. 599,262.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it know that I, THEODORE RUSSELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Naugatuck, county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tongue Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to buckles, and more particularly to an improved form of tongue buckle adapted to be secured to a strap or fabric.

One object of this invention is to provide a buckle of the type above defined which will be especially adapted for use upon the straps of shoes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a buckle of the above type having a frame and a crosspiece integral therewith, the crosspiece being perforated to receive an eyelet or rivet for securing the buckle to a strap or fabric, and having means for pivotally mounting a tongue thereon.

A further object is to provide a buckle of the type last described having means on the crosspiece for preventing lateral movement of the buckle tongue.

A further object is to provide a combined shoe strap and buckle in which the buckle is secured to the strap without the use of unsightly staples or stitches, and in which the securing means is ornamental and cannot form bulges or other projections which could stick into the foot and injure it.

With these and other objects in view, there have been illustrated on the accompanying drawing, several forms in which the invention may be conveniently embodied in practice.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of the improved tongue buckle, as it appears when attached to a strap.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the buckle shown in Fig. 1, as it appears when detached from the strap.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken through the buckle and strap shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the securing eyelet as it appears in its original condition before being headed over into engagement with the strap.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of buckle also embodying the invention.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of another modified form of buckle.

The first illustrated embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 4 will now be described, reference being had to the drawings in which like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views.

In this embodiment, the buckle comprises a body or frame portion 1 having side portions 2, 3, and end portions 4, 5. Integral with the sides 2, 3, is a crosspiece 6. As illustrated, this crosspiece 6 and the side 2, 3 are depressed out of the plane of the ends 4, 5, to receive the free end of the strap between the crosspiece 6 and said ends 4, 5. Means is provided whereby the buckle may be permanently secured to a strap or other element or fabric and further means is provided for detachably connecting a strap to the buckle, both these means being provided in connection with the crosspiece 6. In order to secure the buckle to the strap, the crosspiece 6 is provided with an ear 7 at the center thereof, preferably formed with a single perforation 8 adapted to receive an eyelet 9. The eyelet 9, as best seen in Fig. 4, comprises a flat base portion 10 and a tabular shank 11 which tapers inwardly slightly from the base 10 to the top of said shank.

In order to detachably connect the free end of the strap to the buckle, the crosspiece 6 is provided with a second perforation 14 preferably elliptical in shape. This crosspiece is adapted to receive the looped end or eye 15 of a tongue 16. The tongue 16 is adapted to overlie the end 5 of the buckle, and has a pivotal movement about the eye 15 toward and from the end 5. In order to center the tongue 16 or to prevent any substantial lateral movement thereof, the crosspiece 6 is formed with a pair of lugs 17 providing an opening 18 therebetween into which the eye portion 16 of the tongue extends.

In use, when it is desired to attach a buckle to a strap, it will only be necessary to insert the tapered shank of the eyelet upwardly through a perforation in the strap registering with the perforation 8 in the buckle. The portion of the tubular shank which extends above the buckle may then be readily headed over at 13 by any suitable tools.

In the modified form of buckle shown in Fig. 5, a tongue 19 of T-shaped construction, is provided. This tongue 19 has a pair of transverse arms 20, 20, adapted to

be engaged by a pair of lugs 21, 21, bent up from the crosspiece 6 for pivotally mounting said tongue.

In the other modified form of buckle shown in Fig. 6, the rear of the tongue 22 is provided with an integral loop, adapted to be engaged by a single lug 23 bent up from the center of the crosspiece 6.

The use of the modified forms shown in Figs. 5 and 6, is substantially identical with that shown in Figs. 1 to 4.

One advantage of the present invention is that, aside from the loose tongue, the buckles are of solid one-piece integral construction, which is extremely durable and may be cheaply manufactured merely by stamping.

Further advantages of this invention are that the buckle may be very rapidly attached to a strap or fabric, and that in the attaching operation, the base of the eyelet will be drawn or countersunk into the strap or fabric so that it will lie substantially flush with the surface thereof. By means of this construction, there will be practically no protuberance which might injure the foot, and such as was formerly caused by the stitches, or staples hitherto employed for attaching buckles to shoe straps.

A further advantage of the single-eyelet buckle herein disclosed is that the buckle will turn readily upon the strap or other sheet of material to which it is attached. Consequently, the buckle will always move into accurate alinement with the strap even if not originally secured correctly.

While the buckles herein illustrated are especially adapted to be used in connection with shoe straps, it will be understood that it is within the spirit and scope of the invention to employ such buckles in any other desired manner.

While there has been disclosed in this specification, several forms in which the invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that these forms are shown for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention is not to be limited to the specific disclosures, but may be modified and embodied in various other forms without departing from its spirit. In short, the invention includes all the modifications and embodiments coming within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, and for which it is desired to secure Letters Patent, is:

1. A buckle comprising a frame, a crosspiece integral therewith between the ends of the frame, said crosspiece having a perforated ear at one side to receive means for securing the buckle to a strap, and a tongue secured to said crosspiece, said tongue and perforated ear being in alinement in order to maintain said buckle in alinement with said strap, and means on the opposite side of said crosspiece from said ear for engaging the tongue to prevent lateral displacement thereof.

2. The combination with a buckle having a frame, a crosspiece integral therewith between the ends of said frame, said crosspiece having an aperture, of a strip of sheet material having a pierced hole in alinement with said aperture, and a tubular member extending through said pierced hole and aperture, said tubular member being headed over on said buckle, a tongue pivoted on said crosspiece, and means for centering said tongue, said tongue and tongue centering means being in alinement with said aperture in order to maintain said buckle in alinement with said strip of sheet material.

In testimony whereof, I have affixed my signature to this specification.

THEODORE RUSSELL.