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R. U. G. JEANNOTTE ET AL

AUTO LICENSE BUCKLE

Filed July 7, 1923

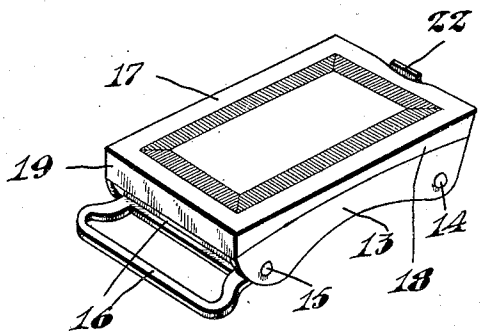


Fig. 1.

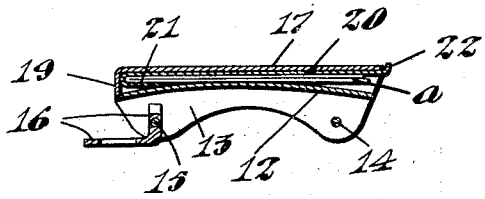


Fig. 2.

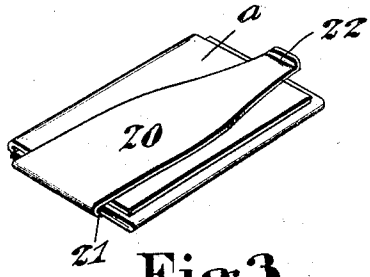


Fig. 3.

INVENTORS.
RALPH U. G. JEANNOTTE
AND
ROBERT A. DE MONTIGNY.
BY
O. M. Harrison
ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH U. G. JEANNOTTE AND ROBERT A. DE MONTIGNY, OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

AUTO LICENSE BUCKLE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, RALPH U. G. JEANNOTTE and ROBERT A. DE MONTIGNY, citizens of the United States, and residents of Nashua, in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Auto License Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for enabling a person to have, in an always quickly accessible position for reference, such an article as an automobile license, a lodge membership identification, or other small device access to which may be desirable at various times; and the invention has particular reference to buckles, especially belt buckles, provided with a cavity or pocket, and a container removably fitting such cavity and adapted to removably hold such license or other small device.

An important feature of the invention resides in the fact that a person can, while having one hand employed in some other occupation such as controlling the steering wheel of an automobile, employ the other hand in removing the container from the cavity of the buckle and passing it to the officer who may inquire for it. Since a belt buckle is always worn at the front of the waist, no time need be lost in locating the desired article. And in case of accident, if the wearer is injured, there is practically no liability of the article (identification or other piece of paper) becoming so separated from the wearer that its utility is gone.

The invention consists in the combination with or addition to any suitable form or style of buckle, of a cavity as a part of the buckle, and a container which is removable from the cavity and adapted to carry with it, when removed, a piece of paper such as an automobile license or other device, the device usually being folded when it is the size of an automobile license.

Of the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of complete buckle including our invention.

Figure 2 represents a longitudinal section of the same.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the container or carrier removed from the buckle and holding a folded piece of paper.

Similar reference characters designate similar parts in all of the views.

The particular buckle illustrated, comprises a plate 12 having side flanges 13 connected by small bars 14, 15, with a strap clamping member 16 mounted on the latter.

An upper plate 17 having side flanges 18 and an end flange 19 is secured to the plate 12 as by brazing or other connection or by suitable construction to provide integral connection, the space between the plates 12 and 17 forming a pocket or cavity for frictionally holding the carrier or container which, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated, comprises a strip 20 having an inwardly bent end 21 to receive and grip so as to retain hold of a folded piece of paper or other device which is to be accessible for examination, such folded piece of paper being indicated at *a*. The strip 20 is illustrated in Figure 3 as slightly curved from end to end. This ensures frictional retention of the carrier or container in the cavity between the plates 17, 12, even if no folded piece of paper is in the cavity.

The tip of the strip 20 is bent upward to form a lip 22 which, when the carrier is in the cavity or pocket of the buckle, extends slightly above the plane of the surface of the face plate 17.

The cavity or pocket of the buckle comprises the space between the plates 12 and 17 and when the plate 12 is slightly curved, as illustrated, the pocket as a whole is less thick at its mid-length than at its bottom or mouth. This feature has a function when the device in the carrier is a folded piece of paper because the folds in the paper usually cause the device to be thicker at its inner end than elsewhere. Therefore, when such device is pushed way in, the thicker portion of the folded paper passes the thinner portion of the pocket and is less liable to slip out than if the pocket were of uniform thickness.

In use, if an automobilist wearing one of our improved buckles with his license in the carrier is accosted by an officer, he simply engages a finger nail with the lip 22 and pulls the carrier or container out and hands it to the officer. Said carrier or container retains its hold of the folded license or other paper so that only the officer needs to handle the paper itself. The owner does not have to un-do the buckle either to remove the carrier or to restore it to the buckle pocket. And instead of employing two

hands as is necessary when one has to feel through pockets for a wallet and select the paper or article which is to be exhibited, he can leave one hand otherwise occupied. If in doubt as to whether the accoster is an officer, he can keep one hand on his gun if he has one, and still pass his license carrier and the license over. And he can pass the carrier and license over without stopping driving his car, if such performance seems desirable and permissible.

Having now described our invention, we claim:

1. A belt buckle having a continuous face plate and an inner plate spaced therefrom, the space between said plates being open at one end, and a container removably fitting said space and normally retained therein solely by friction, said container comprising a strip of resilient metal doubled at its inner end to grip and retain hold of an article to be exhibited.

2. A belt buckle having a pocket with a closed front face open at one end and of less cross area at its mid-width than at its ends, the open end of the pocket being flaring and a container removably fitting said pocket, said container comprising a strip of resilient metal doubled at its inner end to grip and retain hold of an article to be exhibited after removal of the container from said pocket.

In testimony whereof we have affixed our signatures.

RALPH U. G. JEANNOTTE.
ROBERT A. DE MONTIGNY.