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CLASP FOR GARTERS AND THE LIKE

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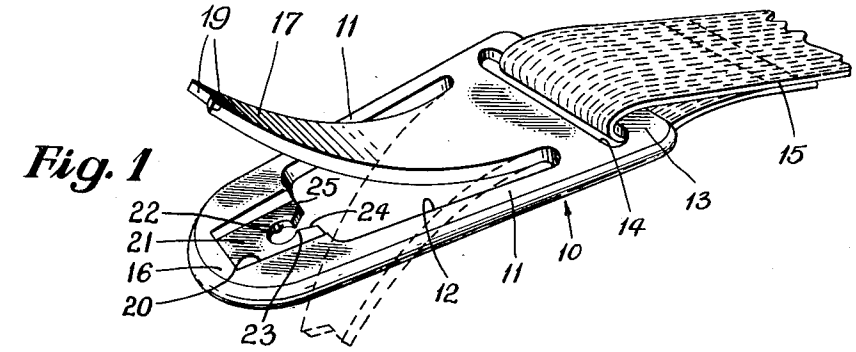


Fig. 1

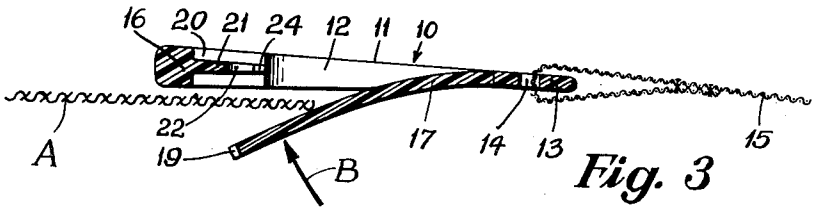


Fig. 3

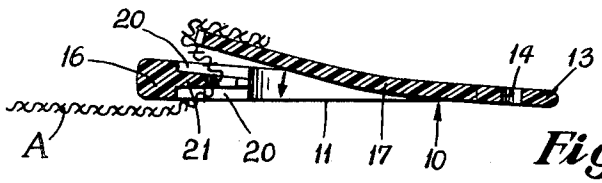


Fig. 4

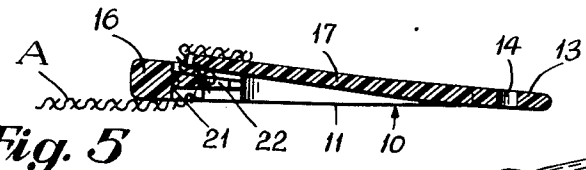


Fig. 5

Fig. 2

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CLASP FOR GARTERS AND THE LIKE

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The present invention relates to improvements in clasps and, more particularly, to clasps for use on personal wear such as, for example, garters and the like.

The general object of the present invention is the provision of an improved clasp which securely fastens fabric in a positive manner whereby said fabric cannot become accidentally disengaged therefrom.

Yet another important object of the present invention is the provision of an improved clasp of the character described which is made of a one-piece synthetic resin which can be manufactured at a minimum cost and which is nevertheless durable and efficient.

Still another important object of the present invention is the provision of a clasp of the character described more particularly adapted for fastening hosiery, socks and the like and which can be very quickly and easily attached and detached from the fabric.

Still another important object of the present invention is the provision of a clasp of the character described which is reversible, that is, which can be used from either side whereby attachment of the clasp to a garter, or the like, during manufacture, is simplified.

The foregoing and other important objects of the present invention will become more apparent during the following disclosure and by referring to the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the clasp in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the clasp fastened to a piece of fabric;

FIGURE 3 is a longitudinal section of the same shown in the initial position for fastening a fabric;

FIGURE 4 is a longitudinal section of the clasp showing the second position for the fastening operation; and

FIGURE 5 is a longitudinal section showing the fabric fastened to the clasp and taken along line 5—5 of FIGURE 2.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings in which like reference characters indicate like elements throughout, the clasp **10** is preferably made of a one-piece synthetic resin, such as polyethylene and the like, and has a generally elongated shape with a main opening **12** to define two spaced, slightly converging side members **11** which are integrally connected at one end by a transverse head member **13** provided with a transversely extending elongated slot **14** for attachment of the clasp **10** to a conventional retaining piece **15**, made of fabric or the like.

The other ends of the side members **11** are interconnected by an integral transversely extending portion **16** forming the foot end of the clasp **10**. The portion **16** has a rounded outline, and similarly the corners of the head member **13** are rounded so that the clasp **10** will not tear or damage fabrics coming in contact therewith.

The head member **13** has a depending integral tongue **17** extending longitudinally of the clasp and normally filling the major portion of the main opening **12** formed in the clasp. The tongue **17** is tapered towards its outer end and said outer end is terminated by two spaced points **19** defining a V-shaped free end. The cross portion **16** is provided at each opposite flat face thereof with a recess **20** of a size and depth to fit the outer end portion of the tongue **17** so that when the latter enters any one of the recesses **20**, its outer surface will be substantially flush with the associated side face of the clasp **10**. This is also

effected by the fact that the outer end portions of each recess **10** are shallower than the portion of said recess nearer the head member **13** of the clasp. Thus the partition or web **21** separating the two recesses **20** has a tapered longitudinal section, as clearly shown in FIGURE 3, and the outer end portion of the tongue **17** will lie flat against said web **21** despite the fact that the tongue **17** extends at an angle with respect to the general plane containing the clasp, the end portion of said tongue **17** connected to the head member **13** lying in the same plane as said head member.

In accordance with a further characteristic of the present invention, the web **21** is provided with a circular through hole **22** which has a restricted communication **23** with a V-shaped notch **24** made at the free edge **25** of the web **21**. When the tongue **17** contacts the web **21**, the hole **22** is completely covered by the end portion of said tongue **17**.

The tongue **17** is made of flexible material and can be easily bent and pressed through the main opening **12** of the clasp whereby the end portion of the tongue **17** may rest on either side of the web **21**. Thus it is seen that the clasp **10** is completely symmetrical in its construction and is reversible, that is, either one of its flat faces may be used as the external face.

The clasp of the present invention is used as follows:

Referring to FIGURE 3, the edge portion of the piece of fabric A is inserted between the main body of the clasp and the outwardly bent tongue **17**, care being taken to insert the fabric A a certain distance past the free edge **25** of the web **21**. The tongue **17** is then pressed towards the main body of the clasp and in the direction of the arrow B such that it engages the marginal portion of the fabric A; upon further pressing on the tongue, both the fabric and the tongue are passed through the main opening **12** of the clasp frame **10**, as clearly shown in FIGURE 4. Thereafter, a slight pulling on the fabric A causes a portion of the fabric to enter the small circular hole **22** through the V-shaped notch **24** and to maintain the end portion of the tongue against the web **21**; the fabric is thus positively fastened to the clasp.

The points **19** at the outer end of the tongue **17** provide secure fastening of the fabric and flat application of said fabric over the end portion of the tongue **17**. The fact that at least a certain portion of the fabric is engaged in the hole **22** positively prevents loosening of the engagement between the tongue and the fabric above the web **21** due to the frictional engagement of the fabric with the hole **22**. Thus the clasp will never become accidentally disengaged from the fabric even when there is no tension on the fabric.

While a preferred embodiment in accordance with the present invention has been illustrated and described, it is understood that various modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A clasp comprising a rigid frame having a main opening defined by two spaced apart side members and a first and a second cross member, a flexible tongue integrally depending from said first cross member and having a free end portion terminated by two spaced points, said second cross member having a recess therein, a web at the bottom of said recess, said tongue being receivable within said opening with said free end sitting in said recess and against said web in operative position of said clasp, and there being a through hole made through said web having a restricted communication with the free edge of said web bordering on said main opening.

2. A clasp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said web has a surface inclined in the direction of said main opening.

3. A clasp comprising a rigid frame having a main opening defined by two spaced apart side members and by a first and a second cross member, a flexible tongue integrally depending from said first cross member and having a free end portion terminated by two spaced points, said second cross member having two opposite recesses separated by a web, said tongue being receivable within said opening with said free end sitting in either of said recesses and against said web in operative position of said clasp, said web being integral with said second cross member, and there being a through hole extending through said web and having a restricted communication with the free edge thereof.

4. A clasp as claimed in claim 3, wherein said tongue tapers towards its free end and said clasp is further provided with a transverse elongated slot made in said first cross member.

5. A clasp comprising a one-piece elongated rigid frame member of synthetic resinous material having a main opening made therein, an elongated tapering flexible tongue integrally connected to one cross portion of said elongated frame and extending longitudinally of said frame and having its free outer end terminated by points, the other cross member of said frame being provided with

opposite flat surfaces and with opposite recesses opening onto said flat surfaces and separated by a common web, either one of said recesses being adapted to receive the free end portion of said tongue, said web having a through hole made therein and said hole having a restricted communication with the free edge of said web bordering on said main opening.

6. A clasp claimed in claim 5, wherein said web has a thickness which decreases towards the free edge thereof.

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