

J. G. C. QUÉRON & J. COURBON.
CARTRIDGE FEEDING BELT FOR MACHINE GUNS.
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Fig. 1.

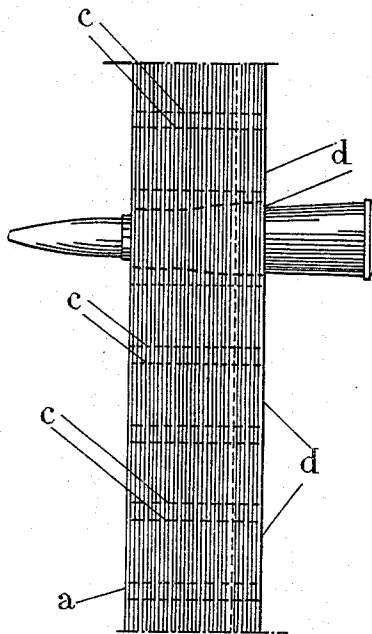
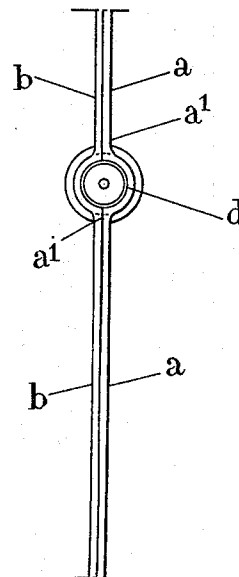


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULES GILBERT CHARLES QUÉRON AND JOANNÉS COURBON, OF ST.-ETIENNE, FRANCE.

CARTRIDGE-FEEDING BELT FOR MACHINE-GUNS.

1,273,670.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 23, 1918.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JULES GILBERT CHARLES QUÉRON and JOANNÉS COURBON, both of 55, 57, 59 Rue Boulevard Valbenoîte, St.-Etienne, Loire, France, manufacturers, have invented Improvements in Cartridge-Feeding Belts for Machine-Guns, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

It is known that the cartridges intended for use in machine guns are carried by flexible or rigid belts which are inserted in a channel at right angles to the barrel of the gun.

The cartridges are engaged in clips or claws carried by the belt, and they are generally brought opposite an extractor by means of claws, while jointed tappets maintain the cartridge which is ready to be introduced into the cartridge chamber of the machine gun, in place immediately behind the cartridge that is to be extracted.

In those circumstances it is absolutely necessary that the clips or claws in which the cartridges are engaged, shall have a strictly determined location, that is to say, the distance between two cartridges must always be the same. If this condition is not satisfied, the gun is liable to get jammed very quickly.

Metal belts, by reason of their practically nil elongation, can receive strictly equidistant clips or claws. This is however not the case with flexible belts that are composed of two thicknesses of fabric connected together by stitching or binding. With such belts the least error in the weaving entails a faulty location of the clips. Moreover, the material of the belt may be caused by certain atmospheric or other conditions to move the clips nearer to or farther away from one another, to an extent which although slight, is not the less injurious in its effect upon the efficient working of the gun.

The present invention has for its object to provide an improved flexible belt for machine gun cartridges, wherein the drawbacks of the ordinary flexible belts are obviated.

The improved belt is characterized essentially by the feature that it is composed of a slightly elastic fabric in which the warp threads are constituted by rubber threads.

Owing to this elasticity of the improved belt, any slight faults of manufacture are compensated, because the improved belt is

capable of stretching to a slight extent between two successive cartridges, so that the driving claws can always engage to their full depth whereby the cartridges are able to assume a position that is always convenient for extraction from the belt.

On the other hand the elasticity of the fabric assures the correct fixing of the cartridges on the belt, and prevents them from rocking to a greater or less extent which is injurious to the efficient operation of the driving claws.

The improved flexible belt is made in the same way as the usual flexible belts, that is to say, of two thicknesses of elastic fabric connected together by stitching or bindings that separate the lodgments for the cartridges.

By reason of this method of manufacture the two thicknesses of fabric are applied closely against each other, and this would render it a difficult matter to space the clips exactly in the absence of any mark indicating the location of the said clips.

In the improved flexible belt the exact location of the stitchings that connect the two thicknesses of fabric together, is marked by colored threads inserted in the weaving.

The accompanying drawings illustrate by way of example a flexible belt for machine gun cartridges, constructed in accordance with this invention.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a face view of a portion of the improved flexible belt; and

Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same.

As shown, the improved flexible belt for machine gun cartridges is composed of two thicknesses *a* and *b* of slightly elastic fabric connected together by stitchings or bindings *a'* at suitable distances apart.

The exact location of said stitchings or bindings is indicated by colored threads arranged in transverse lines *c* on one of the two faces of the belt or on both of said faces.

These colored threads are inserted automatically in the weaving of the belt so that the location of the lines *c* is always absolutely exact.

As shown, each clip *d* is separated from the adjacent clips by two parallel stitchings or bindings whose location is indicated on the outside of the belt by the lines *c* constituted by colored threads. These lines thus render it extremely easy to determine exactly the lo-

cation of the clips *d* when filling the belt with the cartridges *e*.

Having now described our invention what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A flexible belt for machine gun cartridges, composed of a slightly elastic fabric, whereby any unequal spacing of the cartridge clips is compensated, and the cartridges are held correctly in place in the belt.

2. In a flexible belt for machine gun cartridges, the combination of two thicknesses of elastic fabric whereof the warp threads consist of rubber threads, stitchings or bindings connecting said two thicknesses of fabric together, whereby clips are formed for holding the cartridges, and means for indicating the exact location of said clips in the belt.

3. In a flexible belt for machine gun car-

tridges, the combination of two thicknesses of elastic fabric whereof the warp threads consist of rubber threads, stitchings or bindings connecting said two thicknesses of fabric together, whereby clips are formed for holding the cartridges, and colored threads inserted in the weaving, relatively to the said stitchings or bindings, in one or both faces of the belt, whereby the exact location of said clips can be determined by inspection.

The foregoing specification of our improvements in cartridge feeding belts for machine guns, signed by us this 11th day of May, 1918.

JULES GILBERT CHARLES QUÉRON.
JOANNÉS COURBON.

Witnesses:

LOUIS BOURGEY,
ALBERT CRESTIN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."