March 8, 1932. F. W. BARRETT 1,848,407

SEPARABLE BUCKLE

Filed Feb. 14, 1931

FIG 1

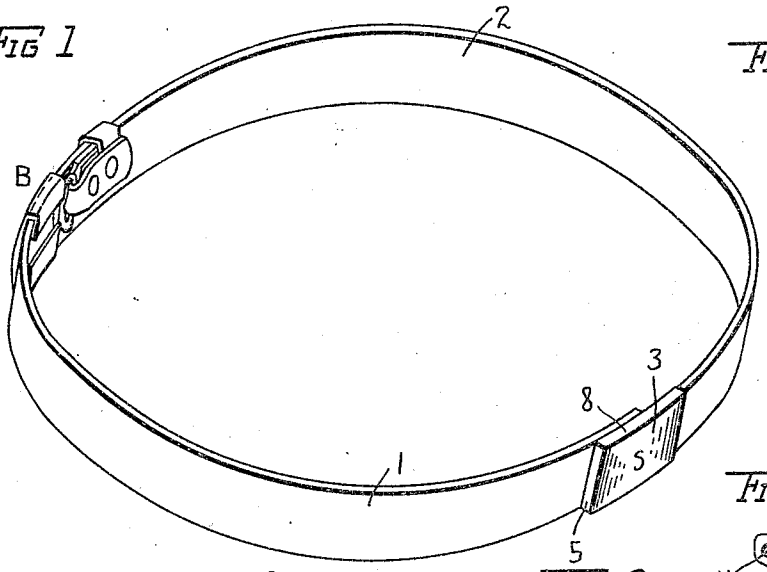


FIG 8

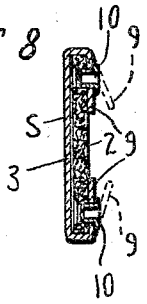


FIG 7

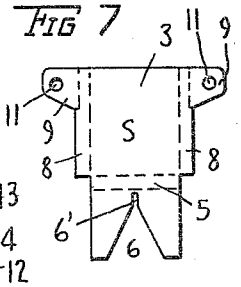


FIG 2

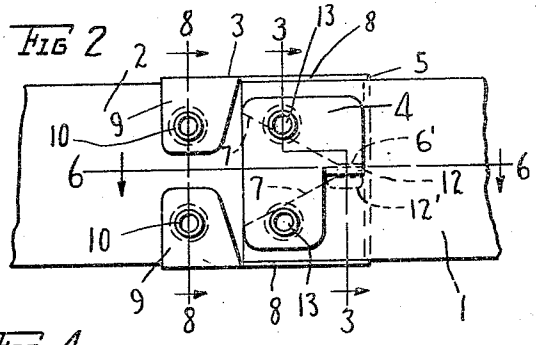


FIG 3

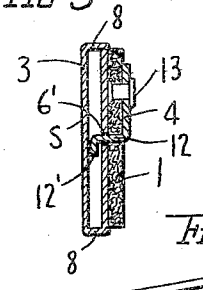


FIG 5

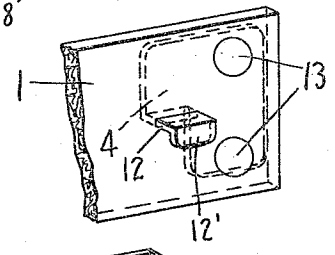


FIG 4

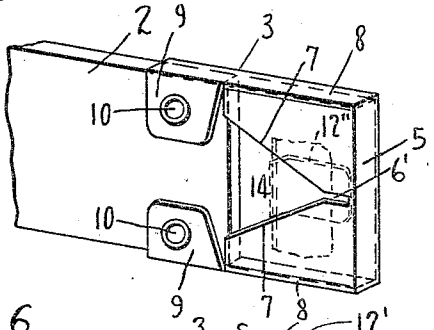


FIG 9

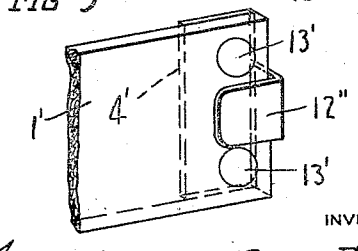
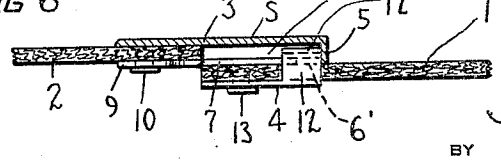


FIG 6



INVENTOR

Frederic W. Barrett

BY

Staley & Welch

ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FREDERIC W. BARRETT, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

SEPARABLE BUCKLE

Application filed February 14, 1931. Serial No. 515,806.

This invention relates to improvements in garment supporters, it more particularly relating to a quickly separable buckle.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of an improved garment supporter having a quickly separable belt buckle of inexpensive construction.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a garment supporter in which the principles of my invention are embodied.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged rear elevation of the improved buckle attached to fragmentary portions of a belt.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged rear view in perspective of one of the buckle members shown attached to a portion of a belt.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged rear view in perspective of the mating buckle member shown attached to a portion of the belt.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a view of a detail on a reduced scale.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged vertical section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged rear view in perspective of a modification of one of the members.

Referring to the drawings, in Fig. 1 is shown in perspective a garment supporter in the nature of a belt for men's wear. A buckle of any well known form capable of adjusting the length of the belt is shown in general at B, the particular buckle shown being one of the clamping lever type. When it is desired to add the improved buckle to the belt, the strap is severed at some convenient point, and the members of the improved buckle may be attached to the severed ends.

The strap portions after severing are represented at 1 and 2. One of the mating buckle members 3 is secured to the end of the portion 2, while the complementary member 4 is secured to the end of the portion 1, each member, of course being attached to the severed ends of the strap.

The buckle member 3 may be of any suitable form, it being essential however, that certain mechanical features such as are to be described be incorporated in the design of the member in order to obtain the advantages of the invention. It is here shown as being a comparatively large, rectangular part to simulate the frame portion of a conventional form of belt buckle, on whose forward surface S ornamental designs may be engraved. This member 3 is preferably formed of one piece of sheet metal, shown in its flat form before bending in Fig. 7, the broken lines indicating where the several bending operations occur. At one end of the flat blank is an extending portion 5 in which is cut a comparatively deep V-notch 6, at the narrowed extremity of which is provided a narrow, longitudinal slot 6', the diagonal edges 7 forming the sides of the V-notch. The portion 5 is bent over toward the rearward side in two bends of substantially right-angle character to the form as seen in Fig. 6, while the edges 8 are also bent rearwardly and enclose the portion 5 along its upper and lower adjacent edges. The bending of the edge portions 8 also brings over a pair of oppositely positioned ears 9 located at the end opposite to the portion 5, the initial bending of the ears 9 being merely a preparatory bend. The belt portion 2 is then placed in position and the rivets 10 inserted therein and through the openings 11 in the ears after which the final bend is made and the rivets spun over or riveted in any suitable manner. By the method described the buckle member 3 presents a finished appearance as the rivets 10 are concealed below the forward surface.

The member 4 of the buckle is in the nature of a hook member having a peculiarly shaped hook by the use of which great strength and durability is secured. This member may also be a one-piece metallic member formed from the flat sheet metal, and is attached to the severed end of the strap portion 1 at the point of severance. In the present instance the preferred form is shown in Fig. 5, while a modification of the same is seen in Fig. 9. The portion of the member 4 which provides the hooked engagement with the mating buckle member is a thin, flat integral tab 12 bent at right-angles to the body portion, while the

extremity 12′ of this tab is further bent at right angles as seen in Fig. 5. The bending of the tab 12 is such that when this buckle member is in position on the belt, the width of the tab will be longitudinally disposed with reference to the belt, the tab being inserted through a slitted longitudinal opening near the end of the belt portion 1, the tab projecting forwardly from the outer surface of the belt.

In applying the belt, the end of the belt portion 1 having the tab 12 is placed to the rear of the buckle member 3 so that the tab projects into the pocket 14 which is a result of the manner in which the member 3 is formed and is then guided into the slot 6′ by the diagonal edges 7. Since the slot 6′ is only slightly larger than the thickness of the tab 12, a very strong construction is secured, as any tendency for the tab to bend in any manner is counteracted by the parallel edges of the slot, and the fact that the strain thereon is in the direction of the width thereof, while the extremity 12′ prevents disengagement of the members.

In the modified form, the metallic member 4′ is secured to the rearward side of the strap portion 1′ by rivets 13′, while an integral hook member 12″ is bent so as to overlie the outer surface of the belt at the severed end. This modified form may also be used with the buckle member 3, the hook 12″ engaging the diagonal edges 7 as shown by the dotted line 12″ in Fig. 4.

When in engagement, the buckle member 3 entirely conceals the buckle member 4 and also the rivets 13 by which it is secured to the end of the belt portion 1, thereby presenting an attractive appearance. The proper tension of the belt proper is obtained at the buckle B, which thereafter remains in the buckled condition until a new adjustment is to be made, separation of the belt being made by disengaging the buckle members 3 and 4 as the time required is much less than that required to separate the buckle B. In use, it is the intention that the buckle member 3 shall be positioned centrally in front of the wearer, while the buckle B will be positioned preferably at the wearer's side.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a belt of the character described, a quickly attachable and separable device including a member simulating the frame of a conventional form of belt buckle attached to one end of the belt and having a narrow slot on its rear side open at one end approached by a flaring mouth, and a hook member consisting of a base plate attached to the inner side of the belt, a thin flat tab integrally formed with said base plate and extending at right angles thereto through the belt, and a thin, flat lateral projection on the free end of said tab, said tab being adapted to enter the narrow slot with said projection engaging beneath one of the walls of said slot.

2. In a belt of the character described, a quickly attachable and separable device consisting of a member simulating the frame of a conventional form of belt buckle attached to one end of the belt, the under side of said member having a narrow slot approached by a flaring mouth, a hook member attached to the other end of the belt having a flat, thin tab projecting through the belt so positioned that its width extends in the direction of the length of the belt, the free end of said tab being provided with a lateral projection, said hook member being arranged to enter said slot with the projection engaging beneath one of the walls thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of February, 1931.

FREDERIC W. BARRETT.