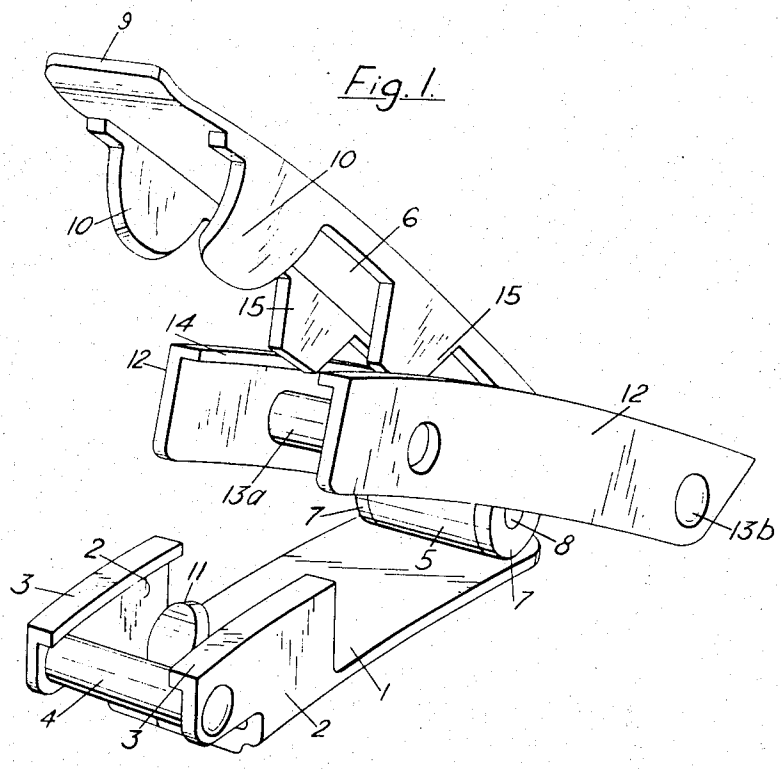
Dec. 12, 1967 A. E. GAZELEY 3,357,069

BUCKLES FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.



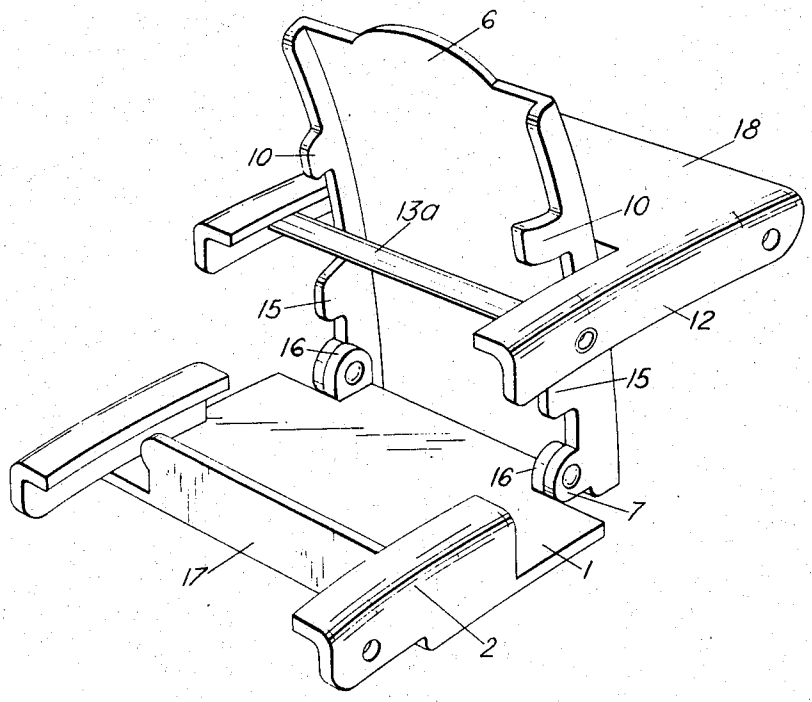
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Fig. 2.



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BUCKLES FOR BRACELETS AND THE LIKE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 24—232)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a fastener for a wrist band or bracelet a loop member is interlinked by a clasp member comprising a plate member and a catch member pivoted together which interlock by spring jaws engaging a tongue, and side walls conceal these interlocking parts. Additional lugs of the clasp member engage the loop member as a safety catch.

The invention relates to buckles for bracelets and the like, such as used, for example, to hold a watch to a wearer's wrist.

The invention consists in a buckle for a bracelet or the like comprising a loop member, a plate member formed with a catch member pivoted to the plate member, the catch member being adapted to be passed through the loop member to be folded back, about its pivot, to the plate member, the catch member and plate member being provided with cooperating means adapted to interengage in order to hold the catch member in said folded position adjacent to the plate member, and thus to interlink the loop member with the plate member.

The cooperating means adapted to interengage in order to hold the buckle locked may comprise fastening claws on one member arranged to interlock with a retaining tongue on the other member. There may also be provided additional safety catch means adapted to guard against separation of the loop member and the plate member if the interlocking means of the catch member and plate member should become disengaged. The loop member may comprise side strips held apart in spaced parallel relationship by one or more tubes or rods.

The invention will be clearly understood from the following description of forms (given, however, merely by way of example) which it may assume, and this description will be more readily followed by reference to the accompanying drawings wherein

FIGURE 1 represents in perspective a buckle suitable for use in a bracelet supporting a lady's wrist watch; and

FIGURE 2 represents in like view a buckle suitable for similar use by a gentleman.

In carrying the invention into effect in one convenient manner as shown in FIGURE 1 of the aforesaid drawings, a bracelet buckle is formed of a plate member, a catch member and a loop member. The plate member comprises a plate **1** of strip metal, preferably slightly curved to fit a wearer's wrist, with upturned side walls **2** at, and projecting beyond, one end of the plate **1**. The upper edges of the walls **2** may be inwardly flanged as at **3**, and extending between the outer ends of the walls **2** may be a transverse rod or tube **4**. At the face of the plate **1** adjacent to its other end may be formed or welded on a transverse tube **5**.

The catch member comprises a metal strip **6** (conforming in curvature with the plate **1**) having parts projecting from its flanged edges. At one end project downwardly apertured lugs **7** spaced and dimensioned to fit against opposite ends of the transverse tube **5** of the plate member, and a pivot pin **8** (or an equivalent tube, bar or rivet)

through these lugs **7** and the tube **5** serves to hinge together the plate member and catch member.

The free end of the strip **6** may be slightly bent upwards, as at **9**, and adjacent to this end are downwardly projecting fastening claws **10** curved inwards towards one another as illustrated. The end edge of the plate **1** between the side walls **2** is formed with an upturned tongue **11** of smoothly curved edge, so located that as the catch member **6** is folded down about its hinge **8** towards the plate **1** fastening claws **10** contact the tongue **11**, and when pressure is applied the claws open apart, and descend further to embrace, and make spring engagement with the tongue **11**.

The loop member comprises side walls **12** held in spaced relationship corresponding to that of the wall **2** of the plate member, by transverse rods or tubes **13***a*, **13***b*. These walls **12** are provided with inturned flanges **14** corresponding to the flanges **3** of the plate member, and the width of the catch strip **6** is such as to fit snugly between these flanges. The components **4** and **13***b* may be fixed, or removable spring bars.

In use the plate member **1** is attached, e.g. by the rod or tube **4** to one end of a bracelet or the like, and the loop member **12** is attached to the other end of the bracelet or the like, e.g. by the rearmost rod or tube **13***b*. To secure the end of the bracelet together the opened-out catch member **6** is inserted between the side walls **12** of the loop member and folded back to make locking engagement with the plate member **1** as described above, to interlock with the forward cross-bar **13***a* of the loop member, and to hold the edges of the side walls **12** of the latter against the plate **1** and with the end edges abutting against the side walls **2** of the plate member. When thus closed the upper face of the strip **6** is aligned with the upper surfaces of the flanges **3** and **14** for neat apearance. Safety catch means may comprise downwardly extending side lugs **15** intermediate of the ends of the strip **6** which close in front of the transverse bar **13***a* of the loop member to safeguard complete disengagement of the members if the claws **10** should inadvertently become detached from the tongue **11**.

A rather more robust form of buckle in accordance with the invention for gentlemen's use is shown in FIGURE 2. The lugs **7** of the somewhat wider catch plate **6** are pivoted to separate individual lugs **16** on the plate **1** for hinging the members together. Alternatively the pivot may be of the same kind as shown in FIGURE 1, or a sectional hinge of conventional form. The catch plate **6** may be provided, if desired, with an up-turned tip (such as **9** in FIGURE 1). The plate **1** is provided with a wider tongue **17** for engagement by the spring claws **10** of the catch member **6**. The loop member is formed of metal plate so that the side walls **12** are held apart by an integral transverse metal strip **18**. The construction is otherwise substantially as described above with reference to FIGURE 1.

From the above description it will be seen that the invention provides a simple but effective bracelet buckle of neat appearance, but it should be understood that the invention is not limited solely to the details of the forms described above which may be modified, in order to meet various conditions and requirements encountered, without departing from the scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What we claim is:

1. A fastener for a wrist band or bracelet comprising a loop member, a releasable clasp member adapted to interlink with said loop member, said clasp member including a plate-member and a catch-member pivoted together and adapted to open and close about said pivot, said clasp member incorporating spring claws adapted to engage opposite sides of a tongue for interlocking said plate-

member and catch-member in closed positions, and said fastener having side walls which substantially conceal said engaging tongue and spring claws when the clasp member is closed.

2. A fastener according to claim 1 wherein said spring claws flex apart and spring together in a direction transversely of the fastener and substantially parallel to the pivot axis of said plate-member and said catch-member.

3. A fastener according to claim 1 wherein the said plate member comprises a metal strip having side walls upstanding from opposite side edges, and a tongue upstanding from the end edge of said strip between said side walls.

4. A fastener according to claim 1 wherein the said catch-member comprises a metal strip pivoted by one end to said plate-member, said catch-member having spring claws turned down from opposite side edges near to its other end.

5. A fastener according to claim 1 wherein said loop member comprises spaced side walls having extending between them a cross-bar with which said clasp member can interlink.

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