No. 672,793. Patented Apr. 23, 1901.

C. E. MIXER.

CLASP.

(Application filed Sept. 4, 1900.)

(No Model.)

FIG. 1.

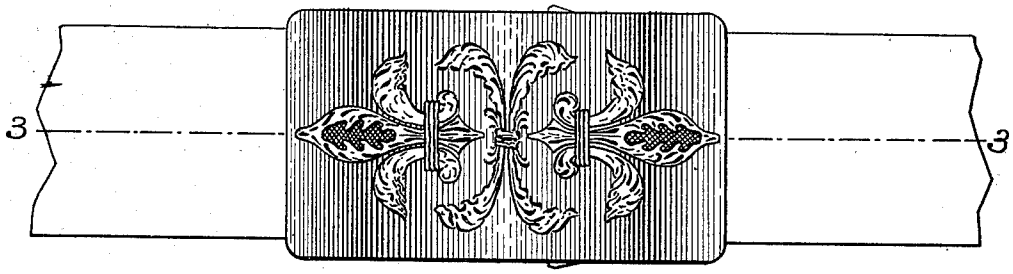
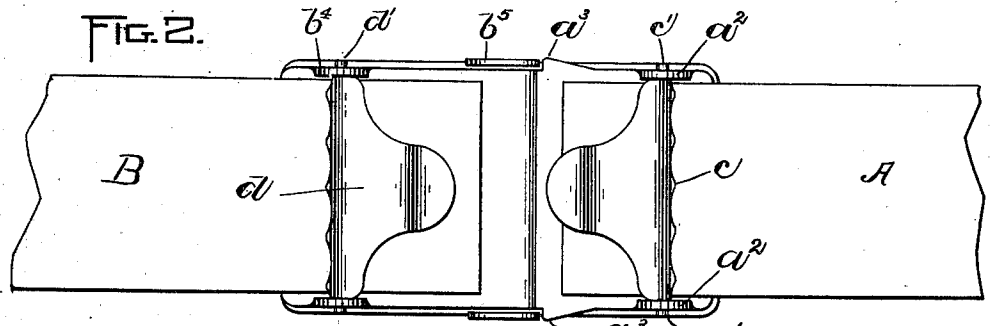


FIG. 2.



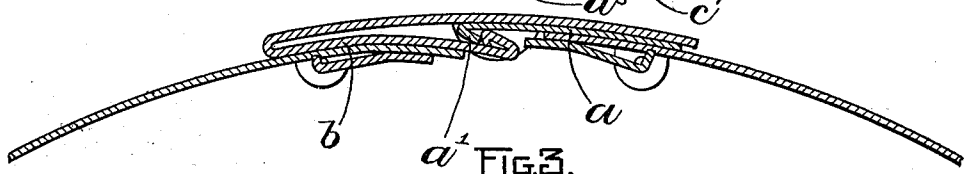


FIG. 3.

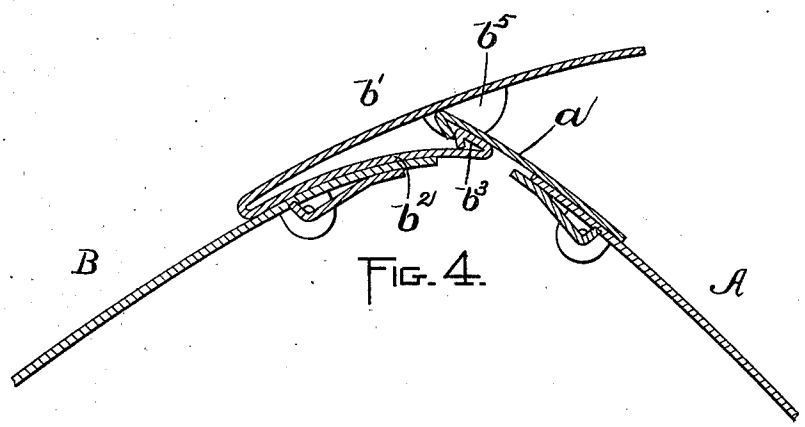


FIG. 4.

WITNESSES.

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CHARLES E. MIXER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 672,793, dated April 23, 1901.

Application filed September 4, 1900. Serial No. 28,885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. MIXER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps or Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has relation to clasps or fasteners, and has for its object the provision of a device of the class named which may be employed for a variety of purposes and which is capable of ornamentation, so as to present a pleasing and ornate appearance when used for securing together the ends of an article of wear, such as a belt or garter or the detachable parts of a pair of suspenders.

In carrying out the invention I employ two members which are adapted to interlock at their meeting ends, one of said members being formed with an outer portion or plate which is adapted to cover and conceal the interlocking body portions of both members. The outer plate is thus adapted for the reception of filigree or for any other ornamentation that it may be found desirable to use.

Referring to the drawings, which represent one embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 represents in front elevation a clasp or fastener as in the form best adapted for use in connection with a belt or garter. Fig. 2 represents a rear view of the same. Fig. 3 represents a section on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1 with the members of the fastener interlocked. Fig. 4 represents a similar section that shows the members in the positions assumed by them when being detached.

Referring to the drawings, the members are designated as a whole by the letters *a* and *b*, respectively. The member *a* (which I term the "latch member" for sake of convenience) consists of a metallic plate curved in the direction of its length and having its front end bent obliquely downward and backward, as at *a'*, to form a wedge-shaped latch. At its side edges the member is provided with lugs or ears a^2 a^2 to receive the trunnions *c' c'* of the toothed lever *c*, by which the end A of the belt is attached to the under side of said member. The said member *a* is likewise provided with laterally-projecting ears or stops a^3 for a purpose to be described. The member *b* (herein termed the "catch member") consists of an elongated strip of sheet metal, which in this particular embodiment of the invention is shown as bent upon itself to provide the outer plate *b'* and the base-plate b^2. The said strip is formed of spring metal, so that when the two plates are separated they have a tendency to spring back to initial position with respect to each other. The outer plate *b'* is much longer than the base-plate b^2, whereby it is adapted to overlap and cover the member *a* when said members are interlocked. The base-plate b^2 is bent obliquely upward and rearward at its end and then downwardly, as at b^3, to provide a wedge-shaped catch to interlock with the bent end or latch *a'* on the member *a*. The said plate *b'* is bent in the direction of its length, so that the member *a* can fit snugly against its under side while the plate b^2 is by reason of the formation of the catch bent slightly away from the plate *b'*.

When the catch is resting against the plate *b'*, there is a V-space between them, into which the latch is inserted to wedge the catch outward until it slips behind the same, after which the end of the latch bears against the downwardly-bent portion of the catch and is held from disengagement so long as said members *a* and *b* are drawn or pulled in opposite directions. The plate *b'* of the member *b* bears yieldingly against the member *a* and holds the latch *a'* in engagement with the catch b^3.

The plate *b'* is provided with the lugs b^4 at its edges near its rear end, which lugs correspond to those at a^2, and in said lugs are journaled the trunnions *d'* of the toothed lever *d*, by which the end B of the belt is attached to the member *b*.

The base-plate b^2 is formed with the lugs b^5 at its edges between its ends, said lugs serving to guide the latch into engagement with the catch and also serving to prevent a lateral movement of the member *a* when engaged with the member *b*. Said lugs coöperate with the stops a^3 in preventing the member *a* from being inserted too far in the member *b*, as shown in Fig. 2.

I prefer to so construct the fastener that when the latch and catch are in engagement they lie substantially midway between the ends of the plate *b'* of the member *b* and also so that the lugs b^5 will cover the said parts and hide them from view.

In interlocking the members it is merely necessary to force the latch of member *a* between the catch b^3 and the plate *b'* of the member *b*, and to detach the said members the member *a* is swung about the catch b^3 as a fulcrum, causing the latch to force the plate *b'* outwardly or, in other words, to separate the plates *b'* and b^2 far enough to permit the latch to be moved out of engagement with the catch b^3. The said members may be separated, however, by grasping the outer end of member *b* between the thumb and forefinger of one hand and pressing the thumb of the other hand against the member *a* so as to bend the plate *b'* of the member *b* out from the plate b^2 far enough to permit the member *a* to be drawn rearwardly in a straight line outward while resting against the said plate *b'*.

It will be understood that in lieu of the levers *c* and *d* the members *a* and *b* may have other provisions for adjustably securing the ends of the belt or garter thereto. The provision of the elongated plate *b'* of the member *b* furnishes a broad surface, which may be ornamented to a high degree. The plate itself may be embossed or it may be filigreed to suit the individual taste of the wearer.

It is evident that the invention may be used for many purposes. In a minute form it may be employed as a dress-fastener in lieu of hooks and eyes or as a fastener for umbrella-straps, and in enlarged form it may be employed as a clasp for horse-blankets or in many other ways.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention and described a way of constructing and using the same, though without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made or all of the modes of its use, it is declared that what is claimed is—

1. A clasp or fastener comprising two members with interlocking ends, one of said members having an outer yieldingly-connected plate which completely overlaps and conceals the other member when the two members are interlocked, and holds the said members in interlocked engagement.

2. A clasp or fastener comprising two interlocking members, one of which consists of a plate having a latch on its end, and the other of which consists of a base-plate having a catch on its end, and having an outer plate which yieldingly holds the latch in engagement with the catch and which is adapted to yield outwardly to permit disengagement or detachment of said members, said outer plate having ears which project beyond the end of the catch to guide the latch into engagement therewith.

3. A clasp or fastener comprising two interlocking members, one of which consists of a plate having a latch on its end, and the other of which consists of a base-plate having a catch on its end, and having an outer plate which yieldingly holds the latch in engagement with the catch and which is adapted to yield outwardly to permit disengagement or detachment of said members, said last-mentioned plate being elongated to cover and conceal the latch member when said members are interlocked.

4. A clasp or fastener comprising two interlocking members, one of which consists of a plate bent obliquely downward and rearward at its inner end to form a latch, and the other of which consists of a base-plate bent obliquely rearward and upward at its inner end to form a catch, and a yielding outer plate between which and the base-plate the latch member may be inserted, said outer plate being elongated to overlap and conceal the latch member, whereby a smooth surface is provided for ornamentation purposes.

5. A clasp or fastener comprising a latch member having a wedge-shaped latch at its inner end and a catch member having a wedge-shaped catch at its inner end, and having a yielding outer plate which holds the latch in engagement with the catch, and which is elongated to conceal the body portion of the latch member, each of said members having provisions located on its under face for attachment to the end of a belt or garter.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES E. MIXER.

Witnesses:
C. C. STECHER,
MARCUS B. MAY.