

L. A. WILKINSON.
CLASP.

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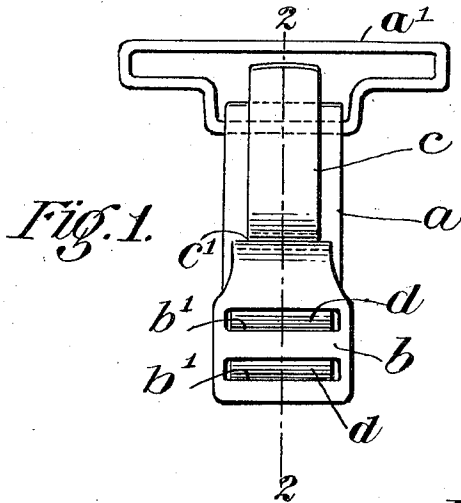


Fig. 2.

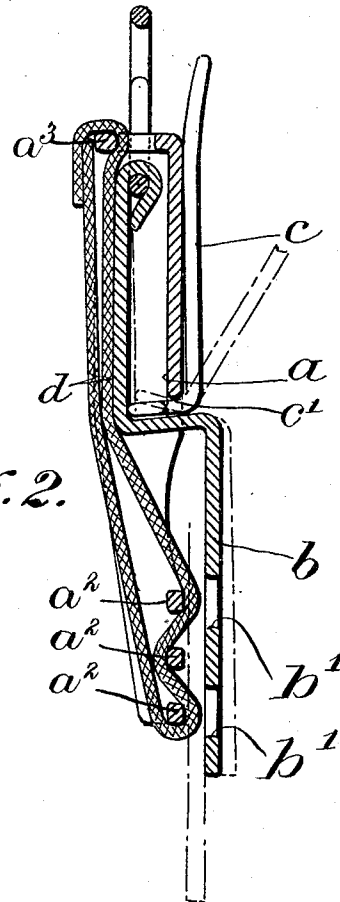
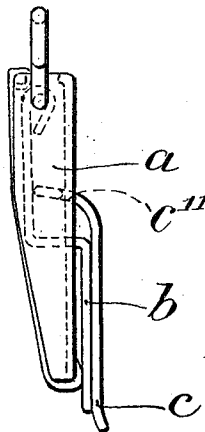


Fig. 3.



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CLASP.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAFAYETTE A. WILKINSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to clasps for securing articles of wearing apparel, and particularly to that type of clasps employed in connection with garters for holding in place hosiery of either a fine or coarse texture.

The object of the present invention is to simplify and improve the construction of clasps of this type, make them easier to manipulate, and to make them better able to control and withstand the conditions of use to which they may be subjected.

The various features of novelty which characterize my invention are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of the specification. For a better understanding of the invention, however, and the advantages possessed by it, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which I have illustrated and described one of the forms in which my invention may be embodied.

Referring now to the drawings:—Figure 1, represents a front elevation of a clasp embodying my improvements. Fig. 2, illustrates an enlarged vertical section as taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3, shows a side elevation of a clasp slightly modified in construction.

As shown in the drawings the clasp embodies but three fundamental parts to wit, a stationary jaw or base plate *a*, which is provided with a wire supporting loop *a*¹ to directly engage other supporting means.

A movable jaw or clamping plate *b* fulcrumed to the base plate, and a clamp *c* for clamping the plate *b*, against the base plate *a*. The base plate *a*, and clamping plate *b* are hinged together by a lower depressed portion of the supporting loop *a*¹, said loop acting not only as a device by which the principal members of the clasp are fulcrumed together, but also as above stated as a direct connection for a garter or other like means of support.

The lowermost portion of the base plate *a* is provided with a series of cross-bars or

ribs *a*², *a*² &c., to engage a strip of webbing *d*, which extends downward from a cross-bar *a*³, in the top of the plate *a* over and under the ribs *a*² and back again to the starting point where the ends of the webbing are stitched or otherwise fastened together. The clamping plate *b* is confined within the base plate *a*, and is then bent outward and downward, its lowermost portion being somewhat broadened out and at this point provided with slotted openings *b*¹, *b*¹ to receive the humps formed by the webbing *d* passing over the ribs *a*². By this arrangement a piece of fabric such for instance as the top of a stocking, when interposed between the clamping plate and base plate of the clasp when the same is closed, is forced into the slots *b*¹, *b*¹ and thereby bent or folded in such a manner as to securely hold the fabric in place.

When the clamping members of the clasp are open as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, the strip of webbing *d*, serves also to raise the clamping plate *b*, against the action of the clamp or clamping lever *c* and thereby hold the clamping member or jaw of the device in an open position. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the clamp *C*, embodies a lever bent nearly at right angles to form a short lever adapted to bear upon the plate *b*, said lever being disposed in a recess formed between the bent portion of the plate *b* and the base plate *a*.

In the modification shown in Fig. 3, the parts of the device are in every respect the same as those of the device illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, except that the lever *c* is adapted to an independent slot *c*¹¹ in the base-plate and is turned downward against the base plate when the jaws of the clasp are locked in a closed position.

It will of course, be understood that the device illustrated and described is simply instanced as an example of the application of my invention and that the claims are in no wise limited to the specific details of illustrated construction except where such details of construction are referred to and made elements of the respective claims.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a clasp, a stationary member provided at its respective ends with ribs and a cross-bar, webbing interposed between the ribs and cross-bar, a movable member, piv-

otally connected to the stationary member and adapted to hold a fabric between it and the stationary member and to be moved into an open position by the webbing and a
5 clamp adapted to press the movable member into engagement with the stationary member against the action of the webbing.

2. In a clasp of the character described, a
10 stationary jaw, a supporting loop, a movable jaw hinged at its upper end to the corresponding portion of the stationary jaw and slotted at its lower end, a cross bar located at the upper end of the stationary jaw, a series of cross-bars located at the lower end
15 of the stationary jaw, a strip of webbing interposed between the upper cross bar and

the lower cross-bars and passing over and under the lower cross-bars to form humps adapted to register with the slots formed in the lower end of the movable jaw, said web- 20
bing being also adapted to engage the movable jaw of the clasp to hold the same with yielding pressure in an open position, and a clamping lever fulcrumed to the stationary jaw and adapted to lock the movable jaw in 25
a closed position.

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

LAFAYETTE A. WILKINSON.

Witnesses:

DAVID S. WILLIAMS,
ARNOLD KATZ.

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