T. C. ERPENBECK.

BUCKLE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 15, 1919.

1,353,331. Patented Sept. 21, 1920.

Fig. 1.

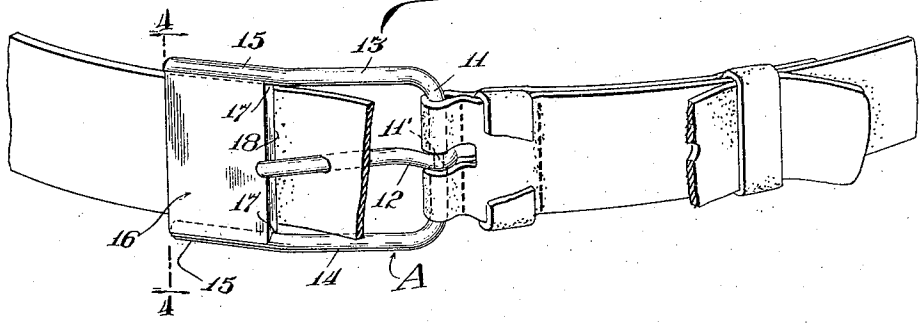


Fig. 2.

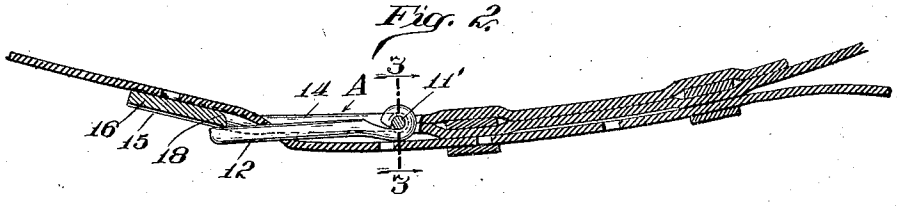


Fig. 3.

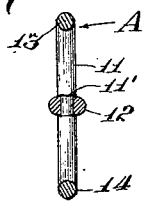


Fig. 4.

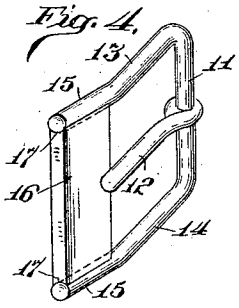


Fig. 5.

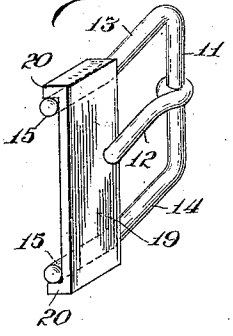


Fig. 6.

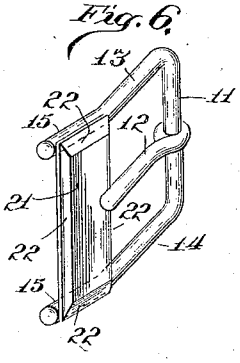


Fig. 7.

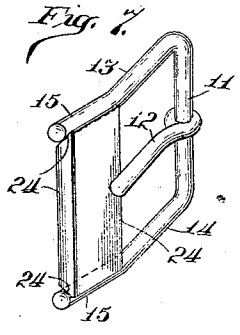


Fig. 8.

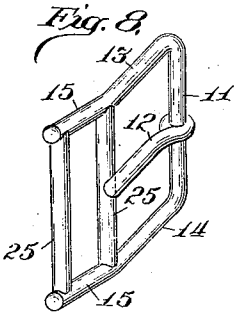


Fig. 9.

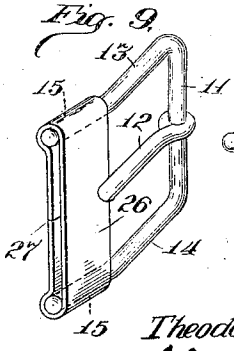


Fig. 10.



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BUCKLE.

1,353,331. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Sept. 21, 1920.**

Application filed September 15, 1919. Serial No. 323,702.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE C. ERPENBECK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in buckles and more particularly to that type of buckle wherein the frame part is formed of a single length of wire preferably having the quality of resiliency and one or more separate rigid cross members fixing the free ends of the frame part together; and the principal object of my improvement is to provide a construction to afford a diversity of surface for ornament, decoration or engraving to suit the individual preferences of the purchasers or wearers.

Another object of my improvement is to produce a comparatively thin buckle.

With the above and other related objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features and in the novel combination and arrangement of parts, illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and particularly pointed out in the claims hereunto appended; it being understood that changes, variations and modifications in the details of the invention within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of buckle with parts of belt broken away,

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of belt and buckle,

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 looking in the direction of the arrows,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the buckle in Figs. 1 and 2,

Fig. 5 is a slightly modified form of buckle,

Fig. 6 is a similar view of another slightly modified form of buckle,

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of another slightly modified form of buckle,

Fig. 8 is a similar view of another modification of my invention,

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a slightly modified form of buckle, and

Fig. 10 is a detail view of the engaging end of the tongue of the buckle.

Similar numerals and letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The buckle A, described more in detail, is formed of a single length of wire, preferably having the quality of resiliency and is bent to substantially U-shape having a closed end portion 11 with an external annular groove 11′ in its mid portion and a tongue 12 in operative relation parallel to the given side portions 13, 14. The free ends 15 of the side parallel portions 13, 14, preferably are bent slightly at an angle relative to the parallel portions 13, 14.

For the purpose, among other things, of providing a construction to afford a diversity of surface for engraving, decoration or ornament to suit individual preferences of the purchasers or wearers, and particularly for those to whom a distinctive buckle and not the matter of cost is the chief consideration, I have provided what are termed separate cross members 16 disposed at or near the free ends 15 of the side portions 13, 14, of the frame part of the buckle A and in fixed relation with the free ends 15 by the use of solder or other desired means for the purpose depending somewhat on what kind of material is employed in making said cross members 16, as those skilled in this art will readily determine. The material used in making the frame part of the buckle will depend much upon the price to the particular customer and the amount and character of the labor to be expended, as is apparent.

The preferred form of cross member as disclosed in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4 is formed with end grooves 17, and bevel edge 18.

The modification in Fig. 5 is top surface 19, and end surface 20.

The modified form of cross member 21 in Fig. 6 has bevel edges 22.

The modified form of cross member in Fig. 7 has four edges beveled 24.

The modified form of cross members 25 shown in Fig. 8 consists substantially of round material arcuate ends fixed to the free ends 15 of the side portions 13, 14.

The modified form of cross member 26 disclosed in Fig. 9 consists substantially of a strip of sheet metal folded about the free ends 15 and soldered together at 27.

The Fig. 10 is a modified form of the tongue 12, showing the cut away portion 28.

By reason of the simple character of the structure, on reference to the drawings and

the foregoing description those skilled in this art will readily make and use my invention.

By thus showing and specifically describing the embodiment herein of my invention, I do not intend to restrict the range of equivalents more than is made necessary by the prior state of this art.

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

1. In a buckle, the combination with a frame-part having a closed end and an open end, said closed end being formed with an external annular groove and a tongue in operative relation with said groove, of a separate cross member having a surface for decoration and in fixed relation to said open end.

2. In a buckle, the combination with a length of wire formed substantially U-shaped having a closed end and an open end, said closed end being formed with an external annular groove and a tongue in operative relation with the closed end at said groove, of a separate cross-member having grooved ends and a surface for decoration and in fixed relation to said open end.

3. In a buckle, the combination with a length of wire formed substantially U-shaped having a closed end and an open end, said closed end being formed with an external annular groove and a tongue in operative relation with the closed end at said groove, of a separate cross-member having one or more beveled edges and a surface for decoration and in fixed relation at said open end.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

THEODORE C. ERPENBECK.