Oct. 11, 1938. G. R. EATON 2,132,608

BELT BUCKLE

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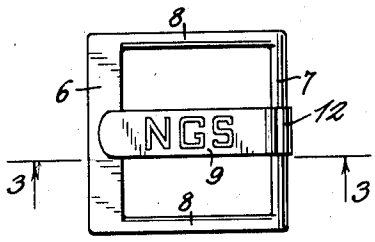


Fig. 1.

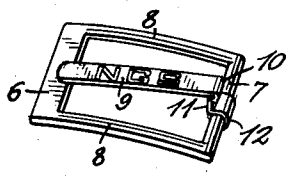


Fig. 2.

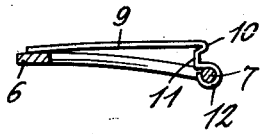


Fig. 3.

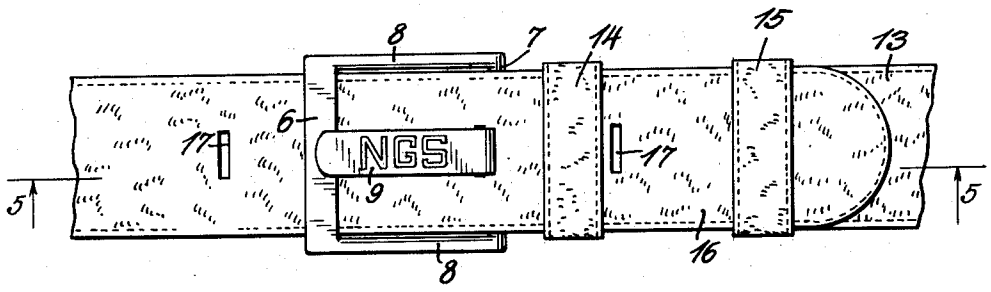


Fig. 4.

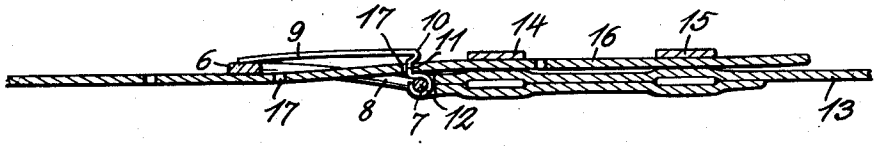


Fig. 5.

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BELT BUCKLE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—178)

This invention relates to improvements in buckles, and has reference more particularly to a belt buckle.

The buckles usually employed in connection with men's belts are of the type known as "harness buckles" and are of a substantially common construction with the exception that the frame is somewhat ornamental.

It is the object of this invention to produce a buckle suitable for use with men's belts that shall be so constructed that practically the entire length of the tongue will be exposed when the belt is in position, which makes it possible to apply to the tongue letters indicating the initial of the wearer or any other insignia or ornamentation.

The invention, briefly described, consists in replacing the ordinary buckle tongue with a tongue made of a flat wide strip of metal having one end provided with an eyelet which encircles one transverse bar of the buckle and the other end being in position to lap the other cross bar of the buckle. The tongue is straight from the free end to a point near the eyelet and is connected with the latter by a section that extends practically at right angles to the straight portion. This short section serves as a shoulder that cooperates with the belt in a manner that will become clear as the description proceeds.

Having thus briefly described the invention, the same will now be described in detail and for this purpose reference will be had to the accompanying drawing in which the invention has been illustrated in its preferred form and in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved buckle that forms the subject of this invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the buckle;

Figure 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 Fig. 1;

Figure 4 is a plan view of a belt showing the same provided with one of the improved buckles; and

Figure 5 is a section taken on line 5—5 Fig. 4.

The buckle, as above stated, is of the type known as a "harness buckle" and consists of a substantially rectangular frame having a front cross bar 6 and a rear cross bar 7. Corresponding ends of the cross bars are connected by side members 8, which are preferably curved in the manner shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Cross bar 7 is preferably round and serves as a hinge pin for the tongue. The tongue is formed from a flat strip of metal and has a straight section 9 that extends from the free end thereof towards the cross bar 7 and which terminates in a reverse bend 10 that serves to hold the belt in place. The reverse bend terminates in a short section 11 whose end is formed into an eyelet 12 that encircles the cross bar 7. As will be seen from the drawing, the free end of the tongue laps the front cross bar 6 but does not extend beyond the latter.

In Fig. 5, a buckle constructed as above described, is shown attached to a belt. One end of the belt 13 is doubled and encloses the rear cross bar 7 in the manner usual in belt construction. Two loops 14 and 15 are secured to the belt near the buckle in the manner shown in Fig. 5. The other end of the belt, which has been designated by reference numeral 16, is provided with a plurality of rectangular openings 17, of the proper size to receive the tongue 9. When the belt is buckled, one of the openings in the belt is positioned beneath the reverse bend, 10 with its edge engaging the part 11, which forms a shoulder that holds the belt in position. It will be clear from Figs. 4 and 5 that after the belt has been buckled, the straight part of the tongue will be exposed so as to be visible for its entire length and this exposed portion may be ornamented in any way, such as by being engraved or letters may be attached to it in any desired manner or they may be applied by engraving, as above mentioned. Instead of the letters which usually indicate the wearer's initials, insignias such as are employed by lodges and fraternities may be engraved on the tongue or applied to it.

It will be seen from the above that by the simple expedient of replacing the ordinary tongue of a "harness buckle" with a tongue constructed in the manner shown and described, a buckle is obtained that lends itself admirably to ornamentation and makes it practical to apply initials to it in the same manner as initials are now applied to necktie holders and similar articles of jewelry.

If the buckles are sold through the general trade, the construction should be such that preformed letters can be readily applied as this makes it possible for the merchant to supply any combination of letters desired. For more expensive buckles, the letters can be engraved on the tongue.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. An ornamental belt buckle, having a frame provided with a cross bar at its front end, and a cross bar at its rear end, corresponding ends of the cross bars being joined by curved sides, the rear cross bar being in a plane lower than the front cross bar, a wide tongue having one end provided with an eyelet for enclosing the rear

cross bar to form a pivotal connection therewith, the free end of the tongue lapping the front cross bar, the tongue being straight from its free end, for a distance substantially equal to the distance between the front and rear cross bars, the rear end of the tongue terminating in a reverse bend, the forwardly extending portion of the reverse bend being connected to the eyelet by a section substantially perpendicular to the straight portion.

2. An ornamental belt buckle having a frame provided with a cross bar at its front end and another cross bar at its rear end, corresponding ends of the cross bars being joined by curved sides, the rear cross bar being in a plane lower than the front cross bar, a wide tongue having one end provided with an eyelet for enclosing the rear cross bar to form a pivotal connection therewith, the free end of the tongue lapping the front cross bar, the tongue being straight from its free end for a distance substantially equal to the distance between the front and rear cross bars, the rear end of the tongue terminating in a reverse bend open in front, the forwardly extending portion of the reverse bend being connected with the eyelet which encloses the rear cross bar.

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