Feb. 5, 1924.

1,482,662

T. C. SHEPPARD

MAIL BAG FASTENER

Filed May 2, 1923

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

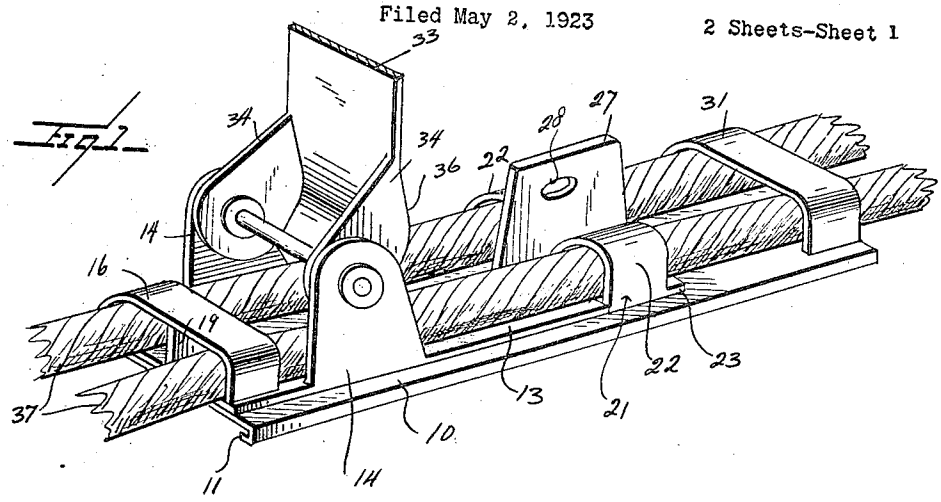


Fig. 2.

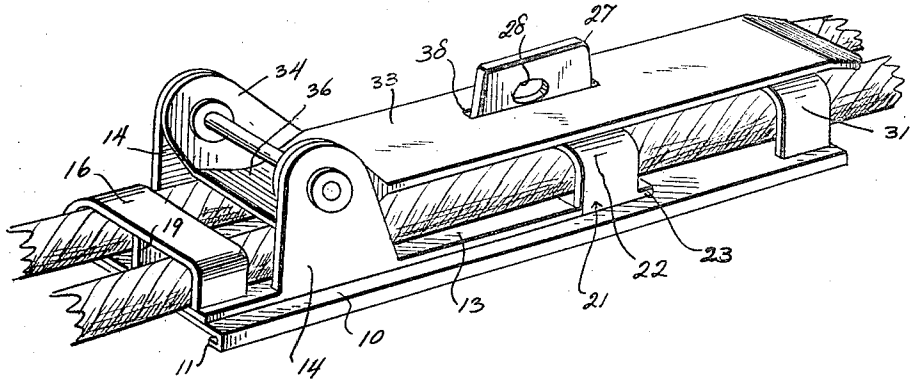
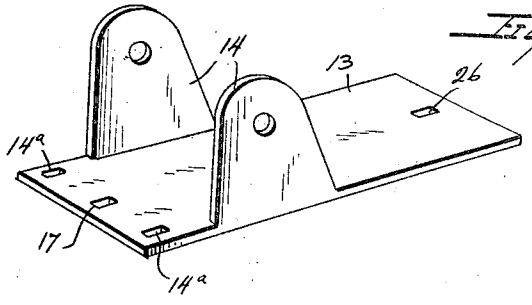


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

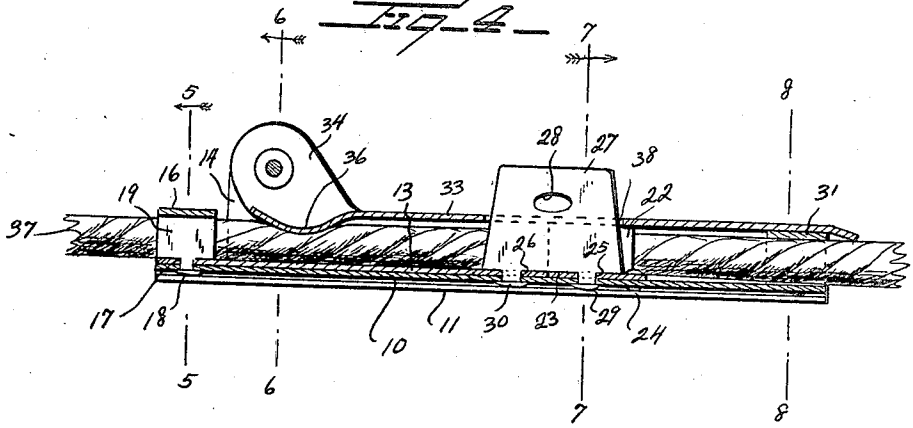


Fig. 5.

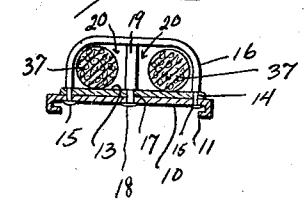


Fig. 6.

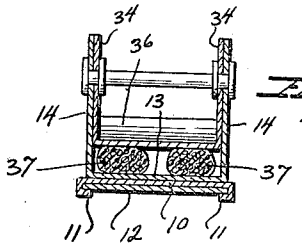


Fig. 7.

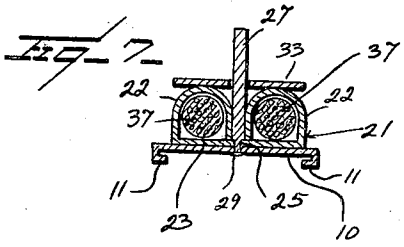


Fig. 8.

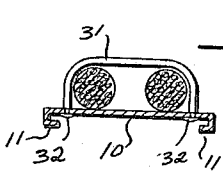


Fig. 9.

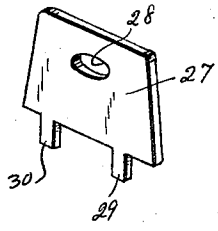


Fig. 10.

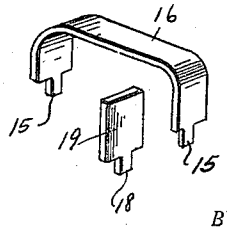
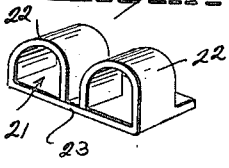


Fig. 11.



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Patented Feb. 5, 1924. 1,482,662

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TEAFORD C. SHEPPARD, OF SOUTH RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

MAIL-BAG FASTENER.

Application filed May 2, 1923. Serial No. 636,245.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TEAFORD C. SHEPPARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Fasteners, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to mail bag fasteners.

An important object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which may be cheaply and readily produced and which is so constructed as to afford guides preventing twisting of the cords forming the actual closure of the mail bag.

A further and more specific object of the invention is to provide in combination with a mail bag fastener including a cam, a clamping element for clamping the cords of the bag to prevent movement thereof with relation to the fastener, a mounting for the clamping mechanism provided at opposite sides thereof with guides maintaining the cords separated to thereby prevent twisting of the cords under the clamping mechanism. It is well known that this twisting of the cords often causes improper action of the clamping mechanism and further causes an undue pressure to be placed upon the cords which has a tendency to sever them.

These and other objects I attain by the construction shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention and wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail bag fastener constructed in accordance with my invention, showing the hasp in released position;

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the hasp in closed position;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the hasp mounting plate removed;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken through the device;

Figure 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a section on the line 6—6 of Figure 4;

Figure 7 is a section on the line 7—7 of Figure 4;

Figure 8 is a section on the line 8—8 of Figure 4;

Figure 9 is a perspective of the staple removed;

Figure 10 is a perspective of one end guide removed; and

Figure 11 is a perspective of the center guide removed.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 10 indicates a base plate provided upon its under surface at its longitudinal edges with reverted flanges 11 forming guides for edges of an address slip 12. Upon the upper surface of the plate 10 at one end thereof is arranged a mounting plate 13 which is provided at its sides and at points spaced from its ends with upstanding aligned flanges 14, the purpose of which will presently appear. One end of the plate 13 is arranged to coincide with one end of the base plate 10, the plate 13 and the base plate 10 having aligned openings 14ª through which extend rivets 15 formed upon the extremities of an arched guide plate 16, the rivets being headed upon the under surface of the plate 10. The plate 13 has formed therein at this end and immediately below the arch a further opening 17 aligned with a similar opening formed in the base plate and through which extends a rivet 18 formed on the lower end of a partition plate 19 which extends from the upper surface of the plate 13 to the under surface of the arch guide 16 and divides this arch to provide a pair of guide openings 20. It will be noted that the partition plate 19 and arch guide 16 serve, in addition to the function of providing the guide channels 20, as a means for securing this end of the plate 13 to the base plate 10.

The numeral 21 designates a guide formed by providing a single piece of metal and bending the ends of the metal back upon the central portion thereof to form loops 22, the adjacent faces of which are spaced, and a base 23. The base 23 is preferably slightly longer than the loops 22 and this base abuts the opposite end of the plate 13 from the guide 16, the excess width of the base being arranged at the opposite end of the loops 22 from the plate 13 and being secured to the base plate by means of rivets 24. The base 23 has formed therein intermediate the adjacent faces of the loops 22 an opening 25

aligning with a similar opening formed in the base plate 10, and the adjacent end of the plate 13 has an opening 26 formed approximately centrally of the plate which likewise aligns with an opening formed in the base 10. The numeral 27 designates a staple in the form of a plate having a hasp receiving opening 28 and abutting with its lower end the adjacent ends of the plate 30 and base 23 of the guide 21, this plate being provided upon its lower edge with integral extensions 29 and 30 engaging through the openings 25 and 26 of the base and plate 13. respectively, and serving as rivets. It will be noted that the staple 27 serves to anchor the rear end of the plate 13 and the forward end of the base 23 of the guide 21 and to fasten these devices to the base plate 10, in addition to serving as the staple. This plate 27 by its engagement between the loops 22 of the guide is steadied thereby and prevented from sidewise movement in event of accidental engagement thereof. At the opposite end of the base plate 10 from that engaged by the plate 13 an arch guide 31 is disposed, having at its ends rivets 32 directed through openings formed in the base plate and riveted upon the under surface thereof.

The flanges 14 of the plate 13, hereinbefore referred to, serve as mountings for the hasp 33, this hasp being formed with flanges 34 through which the pivots extend and being constructed at the pivot to provide a cam 36 which when the hasp is vertically arranged, as regards the base plate, provides sufficient clearance to permit the fastening ropes 37 with which the device is employed to slide readily therethrough. When swung to a horizontal position where it parallels the base plate 10, the hasp abuts the upper surfaces of the guides 21 and 31, being provided with a slot 38 through which the staple 27 extends sufficiently to permit the engagement of the usual fastening means in the opening 28 thereof. When in this position the cam 36 of the hasp abuts the ropes 37 very firmly forcing the same into engagement with the upper surface of the plate 13 and effectually prevents longitudinal movement thereof.

It will be noted from the foregoing that the cam clamping element 36 is disposed intermediate a pair of guides 16 and 21, each including means for maintaining the two strands of the rope separated, and that the staple 27 further assists in maintaining these ropes separated, accordingly, there is practically no possibility of the ropes intermediate these guides becoming twisted so as to prevent their proper engagement by the cam 36. It will furthermore be obvious that the construction hereinbefore set forth is capable of some change and modification without materially departing from the spirit of my invention and I accordingly do not limit myself to such specific structure except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:—

1. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate, a guide mounted upon one end of the hasp plate and secured to the base plate through the hasp plate, a hasp pivoted to the hasp plate, a staple mounted upon the opposite end of the hasp plate, and means for securing the staple to the base plate extending through the hasp plate.

2. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate and secured thereto at one end, a hasp pivoted to said hasp plate and including means for clamping a rope thereto, a guide mounted upon the base plate adjacent the free end of the hasp plate and embodying guide loops extending longitudinally of the base plate, the adjacent faces of said guide loops being spaced, and a staple for said hasp abutting the adjacent ends of said hasp plate and guide and extending intermediate the loops of the guide, and securing means for said staple extending through the hasp plate and guide and engaged with said base plate.

3. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate and secured thereto at one end, a hasp pivoted to said hasp plate and including means for clamping a rope thereto, a guide mounted upon the base plate adjacent the free end of the hasp plate and embodying guide loops extending longitudinally of the base plate, the adjacent faces of said guide loops being spaced, and a staple for said hasp abutting the adjacent ends of said hasp plate and guide and extending intermediate the loops of the guide, and securing means for said staple extending through the hasp plate and guide and engaged with said base plate, the securing means for the first named end of the base plate including an arched rope guide.

4. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate and secured thereto at one end, a hasp pivoted to said hasp plate and including means for clamping a rope thereto, a guide mounted upon the base plate adjacent the free end of the hasp plate and embodying guide loops extending longi tudinally of the base plate, the adjacent faces of said guide loops being spaced, and a staple for said hasp abutting the adjacent ends of said hasp plate and guide and extending intermediate the loops of the guide, and securing means for said staple extending through the hasp plate and guide and engaged with said base plate, the securing means for the first named end of the

base plate including an arched rope guide, and a partition plate extending between the base plate and the guide at the center thereof and subdividing the space therebetween into two rope channels.

5. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate, a hasp carried by the hasp plate and embodying means for clamping a pair of ropes fastened therebeneath to the hasp plate, and means carried by the base plate at opposite ends of the hasp plate for guiding and maintaining in separated relation a pair of ropes passed between the hasp plate and hasp, one of said guides being secured to the base plate through the hasp plate to thereby secure one end of the hasp plate to the base plate.

6. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate, a hasp carried by the hasp plate and embodying means for clamping a pair of ropes fastened therebeneath to the hasp plate, and means carried by the base plate at opposite ends of the hasp plate for guiding and maintaining in separated relation a pair of ropes passed between the hasp plate and hasp, and a staple for said hasp secured to the base plate through said hasp plate at one end thereof to thereby secure one end of the hasp plate to the base plate, the guide at the opposite end of the hasp plate from the staple being secured to the base through the hasp plate.

7. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a hasp plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate and secured thereto at one end, a hasp pivoted to said plate and including means for clamping a rope thereto, and a staple for said hasp abutting the upper surface of the hasp plate and having a portion extending through the hasp and base plates and secured to the base plate whereby to secure the hasp plate to the base plate.

8. In a mail bag fastener, a base plate, a plate mounted upon the upper surface of the base plate and secured thereto at one end, a hasp pivoted to said plate and including means for clamping a rope thereto, a guide mounted upon the base plate adjacent the free end thereof, and a staple for said hasp abutting the upper surfaces of adjacent ends of the guide and plate and secured therethrough to the base plate.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

TEAFORD C. SHEPPARD.