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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BUCKLE.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JULIUS MALTBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Buckles; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the characters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this application and represent in—

Fig. 1 a view in front elevation of a garter-buckle embodying my invention, applied to a short length of garter-webbing.

Fig. 2 an edge view thereof.

Fig. 3 a rear view thereof, with one corner of the extreme lower end of the webbing broken away.

Fig. 4 a view thereof in vertical section.

Fig. 5 a detached view in front elevation of the buckle-frame.

Fig. 6 an end view thereof.

Fig. 7 an enlarged, sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 a corresponding view of a modified form of buckle, showing a "cupped" rather than a perforated pintle-receiving ear.

My invention relates to an improvement in buckles for personal wear, such as garter and suspender buckles, the object being to produce a simple, convenient, effective and compact buckle constructed with particular reference to economy in its use of webbing and to its adaptation to be assembled by the jobber, so that he may use buckle-levers, in great variety of design, with a standard buckle-frame.

With these ends in view, my invention consists in a buckle having certain details of construction and combination of parts as will be hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In carrying out my invention, as herein shown, I employ a sheet-metal buckle-frame 10 provided at its ends with integral, forwardly-turned ears 11 standing at a right angle to it and perforated as at 12 for the reception of flat pintles 13 respectively located at the ends of the serrated gripping-arm 14 of the buckle-lever 15, from the upper edge of which the said arm 14 is bent rearwardly at nearly a right angle. It is customary in the trade to make the front

faces of the levers 15 in a great variety of designs, without otherwise changing them.

To provide for the speedy and convenient manual installation of the buckle-levers into the frames thereof, one of the arms 11 of each frame is formed with a V-shaped flute or crimp 16 arranged radially, as it were, with respect to the perforation 12 in the said arm, the widest end of the flute being formed in the edge of the arm, so as to cause the flute to open outward and thus provide a guide for the flatwise introduction into it of one of the pintles 13 of any given buckle-lever, the other pintle whereof has previously been inserted into the perforation 12 of the other arm 11 of the buckle-frame. The lever is now crowded flatwise between the two arms, whereby the same are sprung apart just enough to permit the guided pintle to snap into the perforation at which the said crimp terminates. The lever is now securely held in place in the buckle-frame, the arms of which spring back into place as soon as crowding pressure upon the lever is removed.

By reason of the construction just above described, the manufacturer is enabled to produce and ship buckle-frames and buckle-levers in bulk, leaving it to the jobber to put them together, whereby the jobber using a standard buckle-frame may furnish different customers with buckles having as many buckle-frames varying in design, though not in essential form and structure.

The said buckle-frame 10 is cut and struck from front to rear to form two horizontal rows of opposed, rearwardly-projecting fastening-prongs or hooks, of which those of the lower row point upward and those of the upper row point downward, as shown in Figure 3, in which the prongs of the respective rows are arranged in line with each other. These two rows of prongs are separated by a parallel, rearwardly-struck rib 18 located centrally between them and designed to form a hump 19 in the webbing 20, as it passes over the rib. This hump, by contact with the wearer of the buckle, if used as a garter-buckle, holds the same sufficiently away from the skin to preclude any possibility of the clinched and embedded ends 21 of the prongs 17 scratching the leg. The rib or webbing-elevator 18, however, is not essential, though I shall preferably employ it, nor is it essential that I shall em-

ploy two rows of fastening-prongs, as one would suffice.

As shown, the upper edge of the back of the buckle-frame is turned rearwardly at a right angle to form an abutment-flange 22 substantially corresponding in depth to the thickness of the webbing and providing a stop therefor, as well as furnishing a finish for the buckle by covering and concealing the raw edge of the end of the webbing.

The said flange also facilitates the initial application of the webbing and effects an economy thereof, since otherwise great care would have to be taken in positioning the webbing upon the back of the buckle-frame, before clinching the prongs upon it. Without the said flange, the end of the webbing would oftentimes be carried beyond the upper edge of the frame, entailing a waste of webbing and resulting in an article of poor appearance, so that, while this abutment-flange is not necessary, it is a highly desirable feature of my improved garter-buckle.

In the modification shown by Figure 8, the ear 11 of the buckle-frame is cupped, as at 23, for the reception of one of the pintles of the buckle-lever, instead of being formed with a perforation 12 for the same purpose, as shown in Fig. 7.

I claim:

1. In a buckle, the combination with a buckle-frame provided at its ends with forwardly-projecting, pintle-carrying ears, having its upper edge turned rearwardly to form an abutment-flange, and formed with rearwardly-projecting fastening-prongs adapted in length to pass through the webbing

and to be embedded by clenching therein, while the upper edge of the webbing is abutted against the said flange; of a buckle-lever formed at its ends with pintles pivotally mounted in the ears of the buckle-frame.

2. In a buckle, the combination with a buckle-frame, provided at its ends with forwardly-projecting, pintle-carrying ears, and formed with rearwardly-projecting fastening-prongs, and with a rearwardly-projecting rib located adjacent to the said prongs for forming a hump in the webbing secured in place thereby, so as to hold the ends of the prongs away from the surface with which the rear face of the buckle is in contact; of a buckle-lever pivotally mounted in the ears of the buckle-frame.

3. In a buckle, the combination with a buckle-frame, of a buckle-lever mounted therein, two rows of prongs cut from the buckle-frame and projecting rearwardly therefrom for the application thereto of the end of a piece of webbing, and a rib projecting rearwardly from the buckle-frame between the said rows of prongs and producing a hump in the webbing, whereby the wearer is protected against being scratched by the ends of the prongs.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JULIUS MALTBY.

Witnesses:

MARTIN T. LYNN,  
CHESTER LITTLE.