July 29, 1947. C. GOLDBLATT 2,424,656

COUPLING FOR BANDS OR THE LIKE

Filed Aug. 31, 1944

Fig. 1.

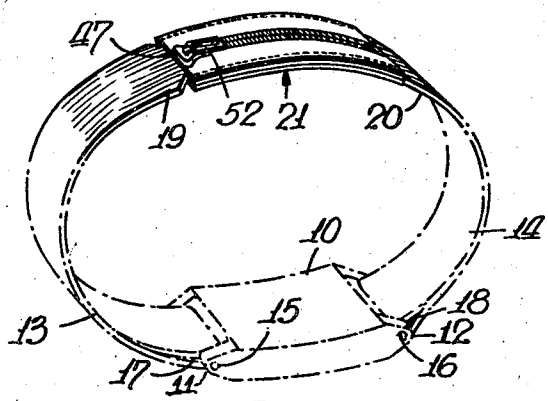


Fig. 2.

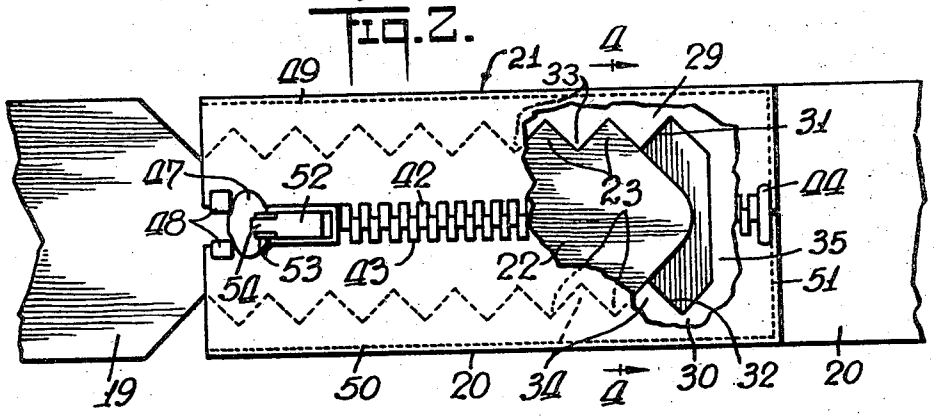


Fig. 3.

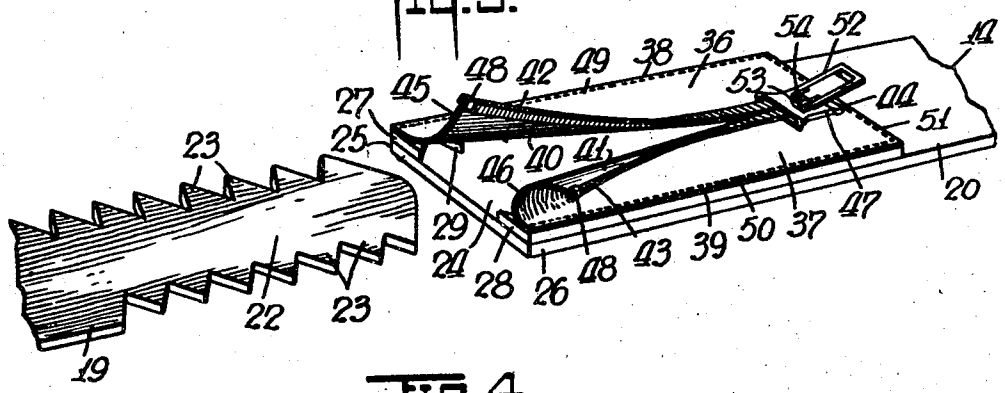
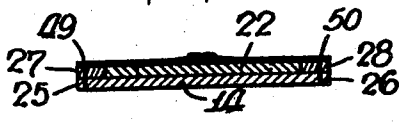


Fig. 4.



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COUPLING FOR BANDS OR THE LIKE

Charles Goldblatt, New York, N. Y.

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12 Claims. (Cl. 24—206)

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This invention relates to clasps or couplings for straps, wrist bands for watches, belts, suspenders or the like, and more particularly to an adjustable coupling or clasp for joining overlapping strap members in coupling engagement.

My invention is concerned with supplanting the present-day buckles or clasps for wrist bands, belts, suspenders or like members for joining leather or fabric straps or bands to each other where these parts are made of metal, resulting in the need for perforations in the complemental portions of the straps, or in the employment of inflexible clasp parts.

Those devices as known to me, especially in the form of wrist watch bands or bracelets, deteriorate quickly where the bands or straps are made of leather, fabric or the like, where these leather or fabric parts are joined by metallic or rigid buckles. The leather or fabric must either be highly flexed or perforated to secure adjustability to the shape of the body, such as to the arm or wrist, and in order to secure adequate engagement of the buckle with the flexible leather or fabric portion. Thus, in my experience, the use of buckles or clasps of metal with bands of leather or fabric, has undesirable qualities which it is the object of my invention to overcome.

It is an object of my invention to provide for the ends of straps made of leather or like material, a coupling or clasp which is adjustable to the size of the body of the wearer, as required in connection with wrist watch bracelet bands, which retains all the flexible qualities of the straps of which the bands are made and provides a wide range of adjustability, to accommodate the straps to the individual wearer.

It is further an object of my invention to provide a coupling for straps made of leather or like material which eliminates any metallic contact with the body of the wearer and the use of perforations which tend to weaken the tie members, resulting in a high degree of flexibility and adjustability.

It is a further object of my invention to provide for the straps of wrist bands, belts, suspenders or the like, a coupling or clasp which retains, to the maximum extent, the inherent flexibility of such strap elements, while minimizing any tendency to deteriorate the inter-connecting parts caused by perforation or undue bending, and preserving compactness and an aesthetic appearance.

Still more particularly, it is an object of my invention to provide a coupling for the straps or

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bands of wrist bracelets, belts, suspenders or like articles of apparel, which is capable of being worked in leather or like material, to preserve to the maximum extent, the flexibility inherent in this form of strap or band, yet providing adequate adjustability and variability in size to accommodate the body of the wearer.

Still further objects of my invention reside in the provision of a coupling or clasp for strap parts which is economical in construction and ornamental in appearance.

To attain these objects and such further objects as may appear herein or be hereinafter pointed out, I make reference to the accompanying drawing, forming a part hereof, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view exemplifying my device in the form of a wrist watch band;

Figure 2 is a magnified view of the coupling section, with parts broken away;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of the coupling parts;

Figure 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Making reference to the drawing, I have illustrated my invention in connection with a wrist watch 10, to the ends 11 and 12 whereof are attached band or strap elements 13 and 14, respectively, which are anchored to the usual watch pins 15 and 16, by loops 17 and 18, in a manner well understood in this art.

The straps or bands 13 and 14 have their free ends 19 and 20 joined by a coupling 21. For this purpose the strap 13 terminates adjacent the end 19 with a tongue 22, the side edges of which are formed with serrations 23, cut from the body of the material of which the strap section 13 is formed. The complemental strap section 14 forms a bottom layer for a pocket portion or retainer member 24 formed by attaching adjacent the edges 25 and 26 spaced strips 27 and 28, whose outer edges 29 and 30 are co-terminous with the edges 25 and 26, respectively, of the strap section 14, and whose inner edges 31 and 32 are formed with serrations 33 and 34, complementary to the serrations 23 formed on the tongue 22, previously described. The strips 27 and 28 may be formed integrally and may be joined by the mounting strip 35 adjacent the inner end of the pocket portion, though it will be understood that a filler piece may be employed of a thickness equal to the strips 27 and 28 to provide a uniform layer.

With the strips 27 and 28 as described thus provided, I superimpose a closure layer comprising stringers 36 and 37 of flexible material, the side edges of which 38 and 39 are arranged to be

co-terminous with the edges 25 and 26 of the strap 14, and the inner edges whereof, 40 and 41, are provided with complementary fastener elements 42 and 43, respectively. The stringers 36 and 37 are permanently joined at one end by a stop ring 44. The outer ends 45 and 46 define the open end of the pocket portion 24. A slider 47 serves to inter-engage the complementary fastener elements 42 and 43, in a manner now well understood in this art, by sliding from the stop ring 44 toward the ends 45 and 46. Suitable abutment lugs 48 adjacent the ends 45 and 46 serve to limit the movement of the slider 47 to the closed position.

With an assembly of this character superimposed upon the strap section 14, I unite the sections together by side stitchings 49 and 50, and end stitching 51 to join together the strap 14 and the strips 27 and 28 and stringers 36 and 37 into a unitary assembly.

With the assembly thus provided for attachment in coupling engagement, I first actuate the slider 47 to disengage the complementary fastener elements free from each other to the point where the slider is moved adjacent the stop ring 44. In this position the stringers 36 and 37 may be folded back, as shown in Figure 3. Thereupon the tongue 22 is inserted in the pocket 24 to engage the serrations 23 in complementary fashion with the serrated strips 33 and 34, in accordance with the adjustment desired by the wearer. Thereupon the slider 47 is moved toward the ends 45 and 46, to inter-lock the complementary fastening elements 42 and 43 in engagement with each other, thereby locking the tongue 22 against displacement within the pocket portion 24.

I may provide the slider 47 with an actuating handle 52 which, in its engagement with the loops 53, serves to actuate a locking cam 54 to prevent accidental movement of the slider 47 from the closed position. The locking cam 54 forms no part of my present invention and is illustrative only, it being understood that when the actuating handle 52 is folded down against the stringers 36 and 37 (see Figure 2) it will frictionally remain in this position and prevent actuation of the slider 47 to the open position unless tilted to release the actuating handle 52, in a manner well understood.

It will be observed that all the operative parts of my coupling device are flexible in the direction where flexibility is of importance in one plane, and where the bands 13 and 14 are formed of leather, woven webbing, or plastic material, the inherent flexible characteristics of these materials will be preserved notwithstanding the embodiment of the coupling 21 herein illustrated, since the stringers 36 and 37 and the strips 27 and 28, though including the interlocking complementary fastener elements, generally retain a flexible assembly in the composite. Adequate stiffness to assure the desired binding action is secured edgewise. By forming the tongue 22 as described with the serrations 23, which lie flat within the pocket portion 24 when in engagement with the serrations 33 and 34, displacement of these inter-engaging parts is made impossible since the actuation of the inter-locking fastener elements to the closed position serves to arrange the stringers 36 and 37 to the strips 27 and 28 to hold these elements flat and prevent dislodgement.

Furthermore, since the serrations on both the tongue 22 and the strips 27 and 28 are fully protected by the closure provided by the stringers 36 and 37, wear on these parts is minimized. Superimposing the tongue 22 over the strap or band 14 within the pocket portion 24 assures long life of these inter-engaging parts as there is no sharp bending or abrasion as experienced in straps employing buckles or like clasps.

It will be understood that while I have described and illustrated my invention in connection with the straps 13 and 14 of a wrist watch band or bracelet, the coupling 21 for these parts may be used in other locations where it is desirable to join the terminals of like members, as will be experienced in forming a belt or joining the adjustable parts of suspenders. Other applications of the coupling which I have described will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

It will be further understood that while I have exemplified the inter-engaging elements in the form of serrations 33 and 34, the configuration of these inter-engaging parts is illustrative only, and other configurations will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

In general it will be observed that I have provided an adjustable coupling for straps or other like elements, which is simple and economical, and retains the desirable inherent flexibility of the materials of which these strap elements are formed.

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

1. A flexible coupling for the ends of straps or bands to be connected, comprising in combination a tongue portion for one end arranged to overlap the second end to be connected therewith, a pocket portion located on the second end to receive said tongue portion, said pocket portion having an open end into which the tongue portion extends and a closure for said pocket portion comprising complementary stringers, running longitudinally of the pocket and joined by a slider-actuated series of separable fastener elements.

2. A flexible and adjustable coupling for the ends of straps or bands to be connected, comprising in combination a tongue portion having a series of serrations for one strap end and arranged to overlap the second strap end to be connected therewith, a pocket portion formed on the second end, said pocket portion having an open end into which the tongue portion extends, an under-layer and overlying spaced strips having serrations complementary to said serrations of the tongue, a closure affixed in overlying position over said strips formed of spaced stringers, running longitudinally of the pocket joined by a slider-actuated series of separable fastener elements.

3. A flexible and adjustable coupling for the ends of straps or bands to be connected, comprising in combination a tongue member on one end and having on its side edges a series of serrations constituting one strap end and arranged to overlap the second strap end to be connected therewith, a pocket portion on said second end having a mouth to receive said tongue and comprising a layer, one face of which carries strips outlining spaced serrations complementary to said serrations on the side edges of said tongue and a closure to hold said ends in overlapping position comprising stringers, running longitudinally of the pocket overlying said strips carrying the

spaced serrations and complementary fastening means for said stringers.

4. A flexible and adjustable coupling for the ends of bands of a wrist watch bracelet or the like, comprising a tongue portion arranged for attachment to one band end and a pocket portion arranged for attachment to the other band end, each portion being made of flexible sheeting material, said pocket portion having an open end to receive said tongue portion, and a closure carried by said pocket to bind said tongue against displacement in said pocket portion, comprising stringer tapes and a slider-actuated series of separable fastener elements running longitudinally of the pocket portion whereby flexibility of the coupling is maintained.

5. A coupling for bands to provide variable adjustability by overlapping portions thereof over each other, including a pocket portion on one band portion having an entrance end for another band portion and a closure for said pocket portion carried thereby comprising stringers running longitudinally of said pocket, joined by slider-actuated separable fasteners to frictionally bind said second band portion within said pocket portion.

6. A coupling in accordance with claim 5 wherein said pocket portion and said second band portion each includes edges of interengaging strips having serrated edges for complementary engagement of said serrated edges along their lengths.

7. A coupling for leather bands or the like for wrist watch bracelets or the like, one band portion being formed with a tongue portion, the other band portion being formed with an open ended pocket to receive edgewise said tongue portion and a separable fastener closure for said pocket portion running longitudinally thereof and transverse of the mouth of the pocket.

8. A coupling for leather bands or the like, for wrist watch bracelets or the like, comprising a pocket portion to receive a tongue portion of the band to be connected, said pocket portion comprising a sheeted material constituting a bottom layer to receive said tongue portion to overlap the same and stringers attached from the side edges of said layer running longitudinally of said pocket, having separable fasteners joining said stringers to each other to form a closure over and bind said tongue portion.

9. A variable coupling for leather bands or the like, for wrist watch bracelets or the like, comprising a pocket portion for one band portion to receive a second band portion to be connected therewith, said pocket portion having a layer over which said second band portion overlaps, having an open end, longitudinally directed stringers adjacent the edges of said layer and directed to form a lamination over said first layer and slider-actuated separable fasteners for said stringers.

10. A variable coupling for leather or the like bands of wrist watch bracelets or the like, comprising a pocket portion for one band portion having an open end to receive a second band portion to be connected therewith, said pocket portion having a layer over which said second band portion is arranged to lie in overlapping position, longitudinally directed strips stitched to said layer formed with inwardly directed serrations, and longitudinally directed stringers overlying said strips having slider-actuated separable fasteners.

11. A variable coupling for leather or like bands of wrist watch bracelets or the like, comprising a pocket portion for one band portion to receive a second band portion to be connected therewith, said pocket portion having an open end and comprising a layer, spaced strips over said layer, and over which said second band portion is arranged to lie in overlapping position between said spaced strips, the outer edges of which strips are stitched co-terminously with the side edges of said layer and longitudinally thereof and having their inwardly directed edges formed with serrations, and a closure overlying said strips including longitudinally directed spaced stringers with their outer edges affixed co-terminously with the edges of said layer and with their inner edges having slider-actuated fastener elements.

12. A variable coupling for joining the leather or like band portions of wrist watch bracelets or the like comprising a retainer member for one band portion having an open end to receive a second band portion to be connected therewith in adjustable overlapping position, said retainer member having a bottom layer over which said second band portion lies to form a second layer, longitudinally directed stringers affixed adjacent the edges of one of said layers and directed to form a lamination over said last mentioned layer, and slider actuated separable fasteners carried by said stringers.

CHARLES GOLDBLATT.

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