July 7, 1936. J. B. FREYSINGER 2,046,734

BUCKLE FOR APPAREL

Filed Jan. 15, 1935

Fig. 1

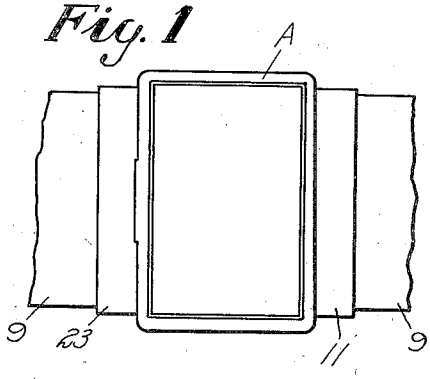


Fig. 2

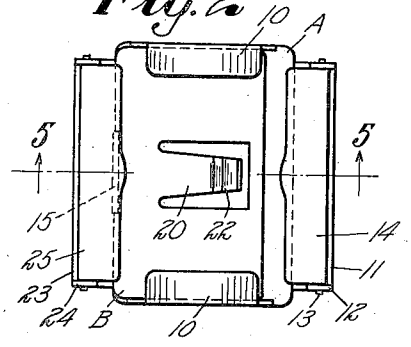


Fig. 3

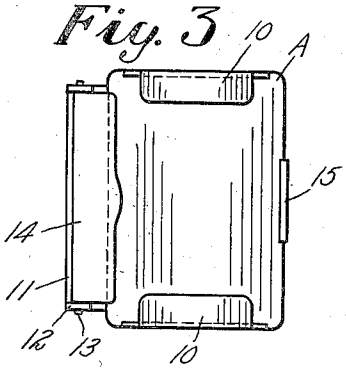


Fig. 4

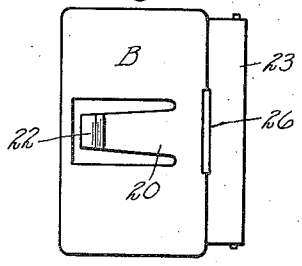


Fig. 5

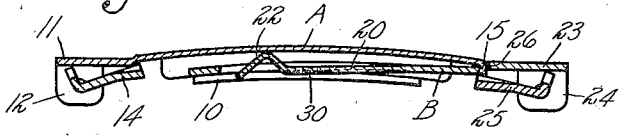
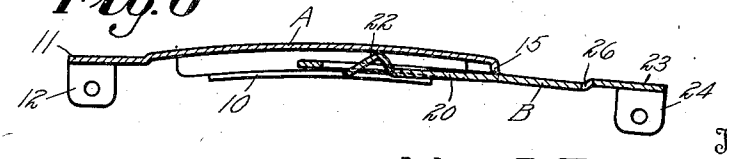


Fig. 6



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BUCKLE FOR APPAREL

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3 Claims. (Cl. 24—230)

This invention relates to buckles for wearing apparel, such as belts.

The aim of the invention is to provide an improved buckle which may be economically manufactured and the parts of which may be very quickly and conveniently connected together and disconnected from one another.

In accordance with the present invention, the locking arrangement between the two members of the buckle is very simple in construction, is effective in operation, and is such that close tolerances need not be observed in the manufacture of the parts. The two parts of the buckle may be assembled by merely slipping one plate member behind the other and may be separated by urging one end of one of the plates rearwardly and then sliding the members apart.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent as the description proceeds.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing wherein is shown, for illustrative purposes, one embodiment which the present invention may take,

Figure 1 is a front view of the buckle as applied to the ends of a belt;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the assembled buckle;

Fig. 3 is a rear view of the front member of the buckle;

Fig. 4 is a front view of the rear member of the buckle;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view through the assembled buckle, this view being taken substantially on line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 but showing the parts in the act of being assembled.

In accordance with the present invention, I provide a front plate A and a rear plate B adapted to telescope in behind the plate A and to be detachably connected thereto. These plates, which may be of any suitable or desired shape and configuration, are formed from sheet metal. In Fig. 1 they are shown as being respectively connected to the ends of a belt 9.

The plate A is, by preference, longitudinally curved and has, at its upper and lower edges, rearwardly and inwardly turned flanges 10 which are also preferably longitudinally curved correspondingly to the curvature of the body portion of the plate A, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. At one side of the body portion of the plate A is a laterally extending portion 11 the opposite ends of which are bent rearwardly so as to provide lugs 12. These lugs are apertured to receive the pivots 13 on the opposite ends of a clamping member 14 which may be of the usual construction. The plate A, at its opposite edge, has a rearwardly directed locking lip 15.

The rear plate B is substantially flat and is of such size that its upper and lower edges will engage behind the curved flanges 10. This rear plate is provided with a centrally disposed spring tongue 20 struck out of the metal of the plate. The spring is provided at its free end with an angular portion which forms a bump 22 adapted to engage the rear face of the body portion of the plate A when the parts are assembled. The plate B has a laterally extending offset portion 23 provided with ears 24 adapted to pivotally support a clamping member 25 similar to the clamping member 14. At the juncture of the body portion of the plate B and the extension 23 is a vertical slot 26 adapted to receive the locking lip 15 when the parts are in the assembled position shown in Fig. 5. The rear plate is of such size and shape that, when the parts are assembled, the upper and lower marginal edges of the rear plate will engage behind the flanges 10, and the line of engagement between the rear plate and the flanges (approximately the position designated by the numeral 30 in Fig. 5) is located between the interlocking lip and slot at one side and the point of engagement of the spring against the front plate at the other side.

It is observed that the curved flanges form fulcrums, so to speak, for the rear plate and the rear plate slides along these flanges during the operation of assembling the parts. When the parts are assembled, as shown in Fig. 5, the rear plate is fulcrumed substantially at 30, and the bump 22 of the spring 20 engages the rear plate to the inner side of this fulcrum so that the outer end of the plate is urged towards the plate A thereby resiliently holding the plates in such position that the locking lip engages in the slot 26. It will further be seen that a buckle construction in accordance with the present invention is of extreme simplicity and may be very economically manufactured.

With the arrangement described, when it is desired to connect the two members forming the buckle, the leading ends of the upper and lower marginal edges of the plate B are engaged in the guideways provided behind the flanges 10 and then the plates are slid towards each other until the slot 26 registers with the lip 15 where-

upon, due to pressure exerted by the spring tongue **20**, the plate B will swing about the curved flanges from the position shown in Fig. 6 to that shown in Fig. 5, thereby engaging the lip **15** in the notch **26**. To disengage the parts, it is merely necessary to push rearwardly on the extending portion **23** of the plate B until the slot **16** is free of the lip **15** and then slide the plates apart.

As many changes could be made in the above construction and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the language used in the following claims is intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

I claim as my invention:

1. A buckle of the character described comprising two separable plate members, one of said members being provided at its top and bottom edges with rearwardly and inwardly turned portions forming guideways between themselves and the body portion thereof, the inwardly turned portions being curved longitudinally of the buckle, said plate member also having a locking lip at one side, the other of said plate members having its upper and lower marginal edges engaging in said curved guideways and fulcrumed on the curved surfaces of said inwardly turned portions, the second mentioned plate member having a slot adjacent one side adapted to receive said locking lip, said second mentioned plate having a spring engaging said first plate member to one side of the line of fulcrum between the members and said lip and slot being to the opposite side of said line.

2. A buckle of the character described comprising a front plate member and a rear plate member, said front plate member having at its top and lower edges inwardly turned flanges convexly curved in the direction of their lengths, said front plate member also having a locking lip at one end, said rear plate member having its upper and lower marginal edges engaging in the guideways provided by said flanges and resting against said flanges, said rear plate member having an integral spring finger adapted to bear against said front plate, said rear plate member also having a slot remote from the spring finger and adjacent one end adapted to receive said locking lip.

3. A buckle of the character described having a seperable front plate member and a rear plate member each formed of sheet metal, said front plate member being longitudinally curved and having at its upper and lower edges inwardly turned similarly longitudinally curved flanges, said front plate member having at one side edge a rearwardly directed locking lip, said rear plate member having a slot at one edge and an integral struck-out spring finger, said rear plate member having its upper and lower marginal edges engaging behind and fulcrumed on the curved contour of said flanges, and said spring finger engaging said front plate member to that side of the line of fulcrum between the said flanges and rear plate which is opposite said locking lip.

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