April 12, 1932. L. ALTERSON 1,853,889

BUCKLE OR CLASP

Filed Dec. 9, 1931

Fig. 1.

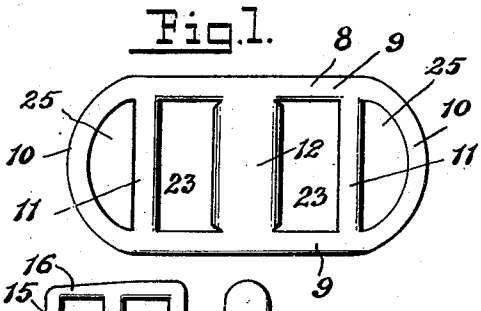


Fig. 2.

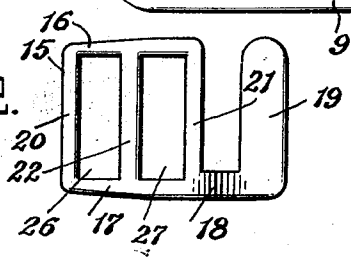


Fig. 3.

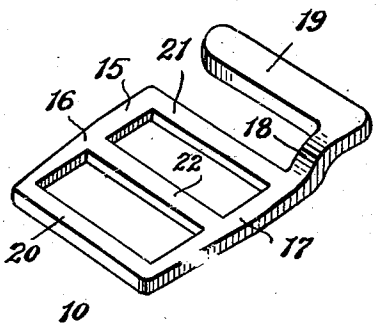


Fig. 4.

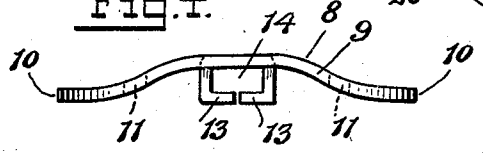


Fig. 5.

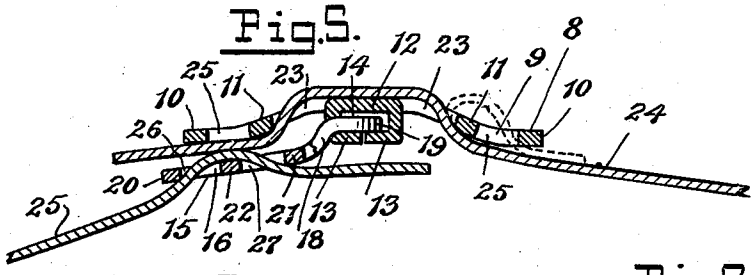


Fig. 6.

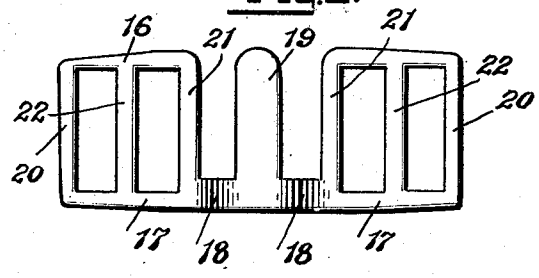
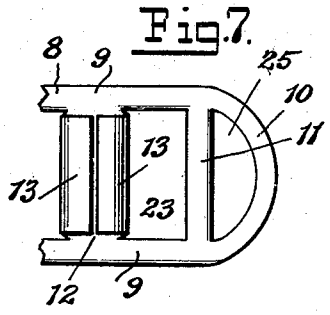


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LOUIS ALTERSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BUCKLE OR CLASP

Application filed December 9, 1931. Serial No. 579,876.

This invention relates to a buckle or clasp adapted for use on shoes, belts or in any other environment where it is desired to detachably unite the two ends of a strap. The object of the invention is to provide a buckle or clasp of the character described, which will be of simple and sturdy construction; which will securely, yet detachably, unite the two ends of a strap whether the same be a belt, a shoe strap, or the like, and which will avoid repetitious adjustment of the strap through the buckle. A further object of the invention is to provide a buckle so constructed that the same may be attached to the strap without the use of stitching, rivets or other fastening means, thus enabling the buckle to be removed when desired and another easily substituted.

With most buckles it is necessary to move the strap or belt longitudinally through the buckle frame each time that the belt or strap is opened and closed. This imposes frictional wear on the belt or strap, which after a short period of use becomes worn and shabby in appearance. With my improved buckle or clasp, repeated longitudinal shifting of the strap through the buckle frame is unnecessary since the strap when once adjusted need not be again shifted. Wear and tear on the strap is thus avoided and a constant and uniform fit of the belt or strap is maintained.

In the accompanying drawings, in which the preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated, Fig. 1 is a plan view of the main buckle member or frame; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the other buckle member; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the member shown in Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the member shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view through the two buckle members and the straps, showing the buckle members in their connected position; Fig. 6 is a plan view of a modification of the buckle member shown in Figs. 2 and 3; and Fig. 7 is a rear view of a portion of the main buckle member shown in Fig. 1.

In the embodiment of my invention disclosed, the buckle or clasp is composed of two main elements or members 8 and 15. The outer member or main frame element 8 is best shown in Figs. 1 and 4. It consists of an elongated sheet metal frame, which may be made in many ornamental shapes and designs, and it is provided with spaced parallel longitudinal side bars 9 integrally connected by curved ends 10. Cross-bars 11 connect the two side bars providing spaces 25 between said cross-bars and the curved ends 10 through which a strap may be passed as will appear hereinafter. Located centrally of the frame and extending transversely of the same is an integrally formed member 12, from which flanges 13 extend rearwardly and thence toward one another and co-operate to form a box-like enclosure 14 at the rear of the frame 8. This enclosure 14 forms an eye or loop which is adapted to receive a tongue 19 on the other buckle member 15 and thus hold the two buckle members 8 and 15 detachably connected. The flanges 13 forming the enclosure 14 are preferably formed from metal originally located in the spaces 23, which, to produce the enclosure, is cut and bent rearwardly as clearly shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 7.

The second or rear buckle element or frame, 15, is provided with side bars 16 and 17 connected by the spaced cross-bars 20, 21 and 22. The side bar 17 is continued beyond the cross-bar 21 where it is bent or off-set at 18 and connected to the tongue 19. The tongue 19 and portion 18 act to form an offset hook, which as previously explained slides into the box-like enclosure at the back of the member 8, the two parts 8 and 15 of the buckle being thus engaged by a sidewise movement of either of them and being retained in this engagement by the normal longitudinal pull imposed on the buckle.

In Fig. 5 the manner in which the buckle elements are applied to the two strap ends is disclosed. The strap 24 is applied by passing it from below through one of the openings 23, then passing it over the member 12 and then projecting it downwardly through the second opening 23 and extending it beneath the cross-bar 11. Another way of applying the strap is to extend it up through the opening 23, then doubling it back on top of the cross-bar 11 and then projecting it

downwardly through the opening 25, as clearly shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5. Either way of attaching the buckle member 8 to the strap will act to securely, yet adjustably, attach it.

The strap 25 attached to the second or rear buckle member 15 is passed upwardly through the opening 26 and extended over the cross-bar 22 and then projected downwardly through the opening 27 under the cross-bar 21. This strap may also be attached by first passing it up through the opening 27, then bringing it back over the top of the cross-bar 22 and then projecting it downwardly through the opening 26 and beneath the bar 20.

It will be seen from the foregoing that both of the straps are held on the buckle elements by friction only, no supplemental fastening means being used. The two strap-ends carrying their respective buckle elements, are easily, detachably connected by the insertion of the tongue 19 in the enclosure 14. The buckle elements are held indefinitely in this connected position by the normal longitudinal pull on the straps 24 and 25. They are readily disconnected by a simple sidewise movement of one or the other of the buckle elements.

In Fig. 6 a modification of the member 15 is disclosed. Here that portion of the frame shown to the left of the tongue 19 in Figs. 2 and 3 is duplicated to the right of the tongue. This structure operates similarly to the structure disclosed in Figs. 1 and 3. Various other structural changes may be made without departing from the spirit of this invention.

What I claim is:—

1. A buckle having a pair of frames, one of said frames having a pair of rearwardly bent flanges co-operating to form an enclosure at the back of said frame, the other frame having an off-set tongue projecting from one of its ends and extending transversely of the frame on which it is formed and adapted to be extended into the enclosure by a sidewise movement of either of the frames, and means on each of the frames for frictionally retaining a strap-end.

2. A buckle having a frame provided with side bars, a transverse member connecting the same, said member having its longitudinal sides bent rearwardly and thence toward one another to form a box-like enclosure at the rear of the frame, a second frame having strap-retaining means and an off-set bend connected to a tongue which extends transversely of the frame, said tongue being adapted to fit into the box-like enclosure at the rear of the first frame to detachably unite the two frame members.

3. A buckle having a frame provided with side bars, a transverse member connecting the side bars, said member having its edges bent rearwardly and co-operating to form a chamber at the rear of the frame and in back of the transverse member, a second frame adapted to interlock with the first frame, the second frame having side bars and strap-receiving means, a tongue provided on the second frame for entry into the chamber at the back of the first frame, the tongue extending transversely of the frame on which it is formed and connected thereto by an extension of one of the side bars formed on said frame.

4. A buckle having a frame member provided with a box-like enclosure located at its rear and having its entrance openings located at the sides of the frame, a second frame adapted for interlocking engagement with the first frame by transverse movement of one frame with respect to the other, said second frame having an off-set tongue extending transversely of it, and adapted for entry into the enclosure, and means on each of the frames for receiving a strap.

Signed at the city of New York, county of New York and State of New York, this 8th day of December, 1931.

LOUIS ALTERSON.