Sept. 20, 1932. L. B. WHEELER 1,878,048

BELT CONSTRUCTION

Filed May 7, 1931

Fig. 1.

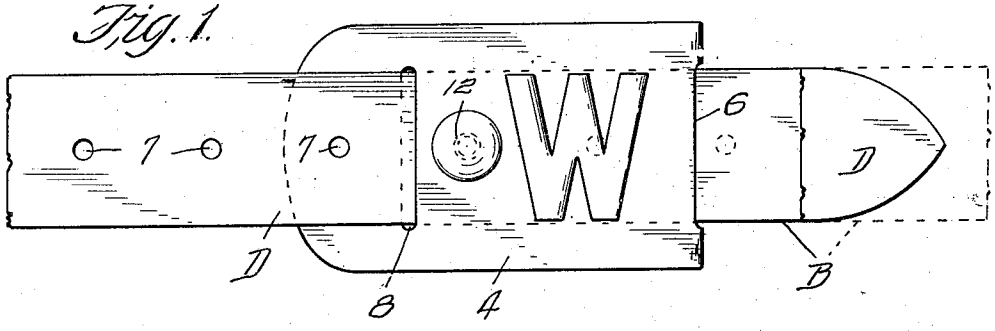


Fig. 2.

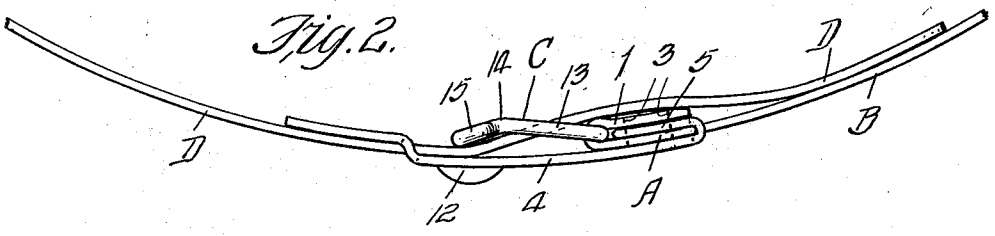


Fig. 3.

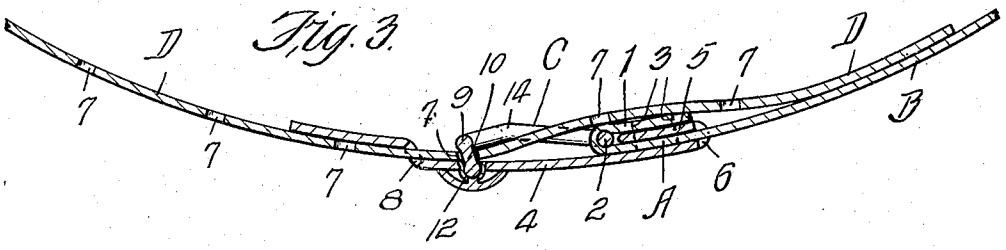
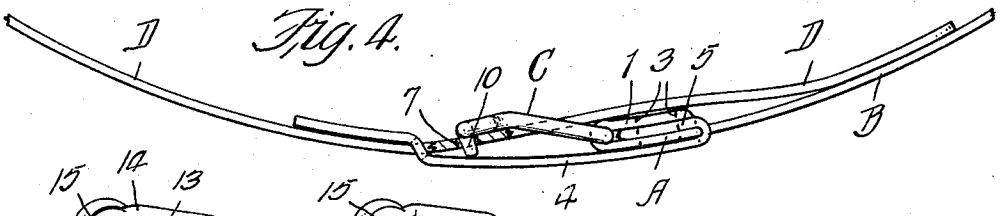


Fig. 4.



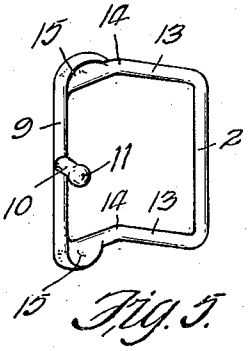


Fig. 5.

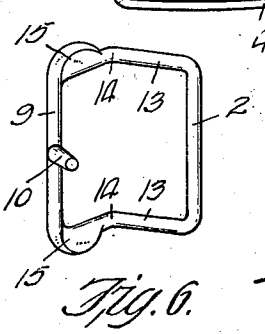


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LAWRENCE B. WHEELER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

BELT CONSTRUCTION

Application filed May 7, 1931. Serial No. 535,665.

This invention relates to a belt construction and an object thereof is to provide a belt having a buckle, wherein the buckle is concealed from front view thereby enabling the entire front of the belt to be available for purpose of ornamentation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a belt, wherein the free end of the belt is concealed behind the opposite, or buckle holding end of the belt, and thus not exposed to view.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flexible flap for the buckle end of the belt, which flap is provided with transverse slotted openings for opposite ends of the belt strap to pass through, and to conceal from view the connecting ends of the belt and the buckle, through which buckle the free end of the belt passes, and which flap is available for an ornament, such for instance as an initial, or other ornament.

A still further object of the invention resides in providing an open buckle having its upper and lower bars bent at an obtuse angle, and one of its end bars provided with a stud, or fixed tongue adapted to be received in an opening in the free end of the belt, for holding the belt in a non-slipping adjusted position upon the wearer thereof.

A still further object of the invention resides in providing the free end of the buckle stud or tongue with a head for detachable connection with a snap socket carried by the flexible flap of the belt for securely locking the buckle stud in a belt opening, after the free end of the belt has passed through a slotted end of the flap, and the buckle, and the belt has been adjusted to fit the wearer thereof.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a belt construction, which possesses advantages in points of simplicity and efficiency, and, at the same time proves itself comparatively inexpensive in cost of manufacture.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel features of construction, arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter more fully described and finally pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, wherein like characters of reference denote similar parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the invention in operative position.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the one embodiment of the invention in operative position.

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the invention in operative position.

Fig. 4 is a view partly in top elevation and partly in sectional elevation of a modified form of the invention in operative position.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the buckle shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the buckle shown in Fig. 4.

In proceeding, in accordance with the present invention, as illustrated, the end A of the belt B is folded, or looped as at 1 about the end bar 2 of an open buckle C and secured by stitching 3, or equivalent fastening means, and from which belt loop the buckle is free for swinging movement.

A flexible flap 4 has its one end folded over, as at 5, and held between the folded end of the belt and the belt A. This folded end 5 of the flap 4 is securely held in position upon the belt by the above stitchings 3. The flap 4 is preferably wider than the width of the belt, as illustrated. The flap 4 is provided with a transverse slotted opening 6 along the fold line thereof and through said slot 6, the end of the belt adjacent the buckle holding loop thereof passes.

The free end D, of the belt B is provided with a plurality of punched openings 7. The free end of the belt D is adapted to first pass through a transverse slotted opening 8 near

the free end of the flexible flap 4 and then passes through the buckle C so that the free end of the belt will first lie behind the flexible flap 4, before entering the buckle C, then behind the buckle carrying loop of the belt after passing through the buckle, and finally behind the end A of the belt adjacent the looped end thereof, thus the free end of the belt is concealed from view.

The cross bar 9 at the free end of the buckle C is provided midway its ends with a forwardly projecting stud, or fixed tongue 10, which stud is adapted to pass through one of the belt openings 7 when the belt has been tightened, or adjusted to fit the wearer thereof so as to lock the belt in its adjusted position.

As shown in Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, the free end of the stud 10 is provided with a spherical head 11 which is adapted for detachable connection with a suitable snap socket 12 carried by the flexible flap 4 for securely locking the buckle stud 10 to the flap 4 after the stud 10 has passed through one of the belt openings 7. It will thus be seen that the headed end 11 of the stud 10 and the socket 12 act in the capacity of a snap fastener for detachably locking the free end of the buckle to the flap 4.

However, as shown in the modification in Fig. 4, the free end of the buckle stud 10 is minus the head 11 and the flap 4 is minus the snap socket 12, shown in Fig. 3, otherwise the belt structure shown in Fig. 4 is the same as that shown in Fig. 3.

The upper and lower bars 13 of the open buckle C are each bent at an obtuse angle, as at 14, so that the bars will be angular in side elevation, instead of straight, thus the free end of the buckle which carries the stud 10 is offset forwardly from the remainder of the buckle. The junctures of the upper and lower bars 13 of the buckle with the stud bar 9 thereof are each provided with enlarged corners or ears 15, which serve to provide finger grips for the wearer of the belt to grasp when adjusting the belt to fit himself in connecting and disconnecting the snap fastener and when removing the buckle stud 10 from the belt opening in disconnecting the free end of the belt from the buckle.

From the foregoing description, it is evident that I provide a belt, the free end of which will not slip in the buckle, which will conceal the buckle and free end of the belt from view, which is easily and quickly connected and disconnected and wherein the flexible flap thereof forms the front of the belt at the connecting ends thereof, enabling the entire front of the belt to be available for purpose of ornamentation, as is manifest.

The many advantages of the herein described invention will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which it appertains.

From the foregoing description, it is evident that a simple device for this purpose has been disclosed, but it is to be understood that I do not desire to restrict, or limit myself to the very details of the construction shown and described, which is merely illustrative, it being obvious that changes, not involving the exercise of invention, may be made without conflicting or departing from the spirit of the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a belt construction, a flexible strap having buckle tongue openings in the free end thereof, a buckle swingingly secured to the opposite end of the strap, a flap secured to the latter end of the strap and extending beyond the buckle to conceal the same from view, said flap having a transverse opening at its free end through which the free end of the strap passes from the front thereof to the rear thereof before passing through the buckle and a fixed tongue carried by the free end of the buckle to pass through a selected strap opening for connecting the free end of the strap with the buckle when the belt has been adjusted to the size of the wearer.

2. In a belt construction, a flexible strap having buckle tongue openings in the free and thereof, a buckle swingingly secured to the opposite end of the strap, a flap secured to the latter end of the strap and extending beyond the buckle to conceal the same from view, said flap having a transverse opening at its free end through which the free end of the strap passes from the front thereof to the rear threeof before passing through the buckle, a fixed tongue carried by the free end of the buckle to pass through a selected strap opening for connecting the free end of the strap with the buckle when the belt has been adjusted to the size of the wearer and a snap fastener connection between the fixed tongue of the buckle and the flap for holding the flap in locked connection with the buckle.

3. In a belt construction, a flexible strap having buckle tongue openings in the free end thereof, a buckle swingingly secured to the opposite end of the strap, a flap secured to the latter end of the strap and extending beyond the buckle to conceal the same from view, said flap having transverse slotted openings at its ends through which the belt strap passes and means for connecting the free end of the belt strap to the buckle to the rear of the flap.

4. A belt construction comprising, in combination, a strap having a plurality of spaced openings in one end therein, a buckle secured to the opposite end of the strap, a fixed tongue on the buckle, a flexible flap secured at a folded end thereof to the strap adjacent the buckle and having a transverse slot through which the end of the strap adjacent the

buckle passes, said flap having a second transverse slotted opening through which the end of the strap having the openings therein first passes and then through the buckle with the fixed tongue thereof receivable in one of the strap openings and that portion of the strap which passes through the buckle adapted to lie to the rear of the flap and the end of the strap adjacent the buckle.

5. A belt construction comprising, in combination, a strap having a plurality of spaced openings in one end therein, a buckle secured to the opposite end of the strap, a fixed tongue on the buckle, a flexible flap secured at a folded end thereof to the strap adjacent the buckle and having a transverse slot through which the end of the strap adjacent the buckle passes, said flap having a second transverse slotted opening through which the end of the strap having the openings therein first passes and then through the buckle with the fixed tongue thereof receivable in one of the strap openings and that portion of the strap which passes through the buckle adapted to lie to the rear of the flap and the end of the strap adjacent the buckle and coacting fastening means carried by the flap and the fixed stud of the buckle for detachably locking the flap to the buckle.

6. A belt comprising, in combination, a flexible strap having a plurality of openings at one end thereof, a buckle swingingly carried at the opposite end of the strap, a flexible flap secured at one end to the end of the strap adjacent the buckle and having a slotted opening through which the strap passes, said flap having a slotted opening therein through which the free end of the strap passes from front to rear thereof before passing through the buckle, and said buckle having a fixed tongue adapted to pass through a selected opening of the strap.

7. In combination, a belt adapted to be folded over at one end, a buckle carried by the folded end of the belt, a fixed tongue on said buckle, a flexible member secured at a folded end thereof between the folded end of the belt and the belt and provided with a transverse slotted opening through which the belt passes, separable co-engaging fastening means carried by the flexible member and the buckle tongue to detachably secure the flexible member to the buckle tongue after one end of the belt has been passed through a second opening in the flexible member and passed through the buckle to lie to the rear of the fixed end of the flap and the belt adjacent thereto.

8. In combination, a belt adapted to be folded over at one end, a buckle carried by the folded end of the belt, a front flap having a transverse slot near one end thereof, said flap being folded along the slot to receive the belt in the slot and secured at its folded end between the folded end of the belt and the belt, means for securing the folded end of the belt and flap together, said flap having a transverse slot at its opposite end for the free end of the belt to pass through, a stud carried by the buckle adapted to pass through a selected opening in the end of the belt that has passed through the latter flap slot for holding the belt in its adjusted position and said free end of the belt lying behind the flap and the folded end of the belt.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

LAWRENCE B. WHEELER.