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APPAREL BELT STRUCTURE

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FIG. 1

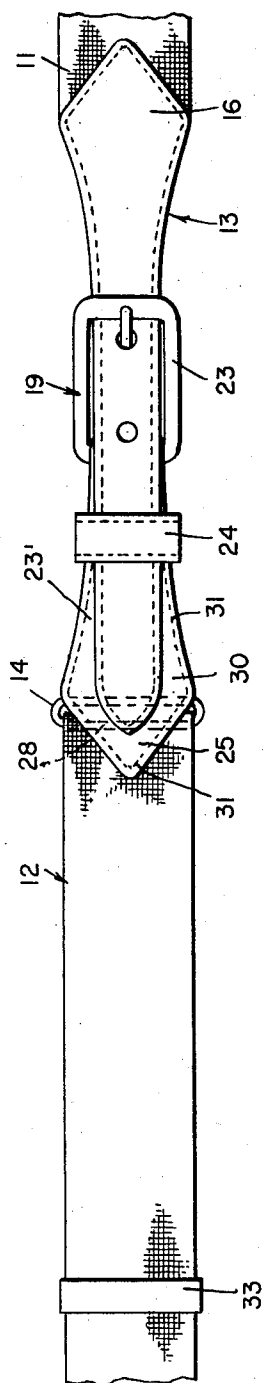
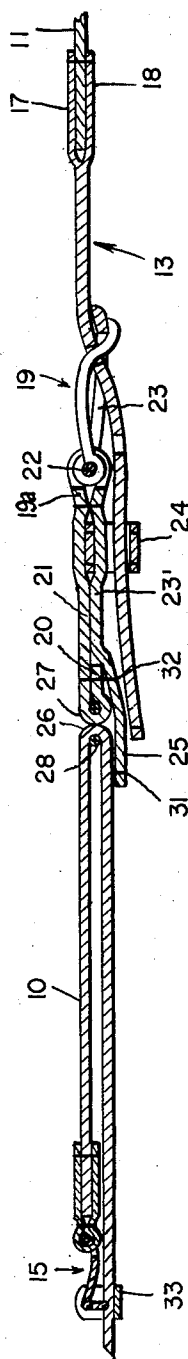


FIG. 2



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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—322)

This invention relates to belts and pertains more particularly to improvements in the adjustment feature of belts.

It frequently happens in connection with belts, that suitable adjustment structure must be utilized in order to permit the belt to accommodate for different size waists. One means of permitting length adjustments of belts is to incorporate a metal loop and a clasp cooperable therewith so that the belt may be passed through the loop and doubled back upon itself with the free end provided with the clasps to be cinched upon itself to vary the length of the doubled-back portion and thus accommodate for various belt lengths. However, it frequently occurs that the belt design does not lend itself readily to the incorporation of this type of adjustment since the looped back portion of the belt may detract from the appearance of the belt or otherwise unbalance the design thereof.

It is, therefore, of primary concern in connection with this invention to provide an improved belt construction particularly adapted to conceal an adjustment loop portion so that the same will not detract from the appearance of the belt.

Another object of this invention is to incorporate an improved construction in belts wherein the attaching tab construction employed in securing the belt buckle assembly to the waistband encircling portion of the belt is utilized to conceal the adjustment loop construction in the waistband encircling portion of the belt.

Still another object of this invention is to provide an improved belt construction incorporating an improved means for attaching the belt buckle and tongue assembly to the waistband encircling portion whereby to lend a more pleasing appearance to the belt and yet retaining suitable adjustment features thereof.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportions, and minor details of construction, within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a partial plan view of a belt constructed in accordance with this invention and showing the manner in which the doubled-back loop portion thereof is concealed; and

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken through the assembly shown in Fig. 1 and showing details of the belt construction.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, the reference numerals 10 and 11 indicate the opposite ends of a waistband encircling portion of the belt which is indicated generally by the reference character 12. Attached to the end 11 is a tongue assembly indicated generally by the reference character 13 and, as will be seen most

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clearly in Fig. 2, the opposite end 10 is doubled back upon itself by being passed through the ring 14 and carries at its extremity a clasp structure 15 by means of which it is cinched upon the waistband encircling portion.

Thus, the length of the belt is doubled back upon itself and by loosening the clasp 15 and repositioning the same, the loop portion can be adjusted in length and, consequently, the total length of the waistband encircling portion of the belt to accommodate for different sizes of waists.

The tongue 13 is preferably formed from a multi-layer strip and having a divided tab portion 16 which straddles the terminal portion 11 by the layers 17 and 18 as shown most clearly in Fig. 2, and is stitched thereon to fasten the tongue assembly to the waistband encircling portion of the belt. The belt buckle assembly 19, on the other hand, is also attached to the waistband encircling portion through the medium of a single or multi-layer strip of leather or the like but in this case, one end thereof is folded on itself around the bar 14 of the adjustment ring 14 forming a short tongue 20 which is secured to the adjacent part of the strip. The intermediate and inner portion 21 of the strip extends longitudinally away from the waistband encircling portion and is formed in a loop 19a to receive the bar 22 of the belt buckle 23, in the conventional manner. After having been formed in the loop 19a to receive the bar 22, the attaching strip is doubled back upon itself in the outer portion 23' which portion may pass through a tongue retaining loop member 24, and at its terminal end forms a tab portion 25 which overlies the two loop portions 26 and 27 of the waistband encircling portion and multi-layered strip respectively, the loop portion 26 formed by the turned back waistband portion 10 passing around the other bar 28 of the adjustment ring 14.

It is preferred that, in the region of the adjacent loop portions 26 and 27, the tab portion 25 be the same or substantially the same width as the waistband encircling portion so that the two loop portions 26 and 27 are wholly or substantially wholly concealed therebeneath as is shown most clearly in Fig. 1. In the particular example shown, this portion 30 of the tab 25 substantially wholly conceals the two loop portions and then tapers inwardly to the point 31 and for the sake of symmetry, the tongue attaching tab portion 16 is similarly formed.

The line of stitching 31 which is shown most clearly in Fig. 1 extends circumferentially around the belt buckle attaching strip and it is important to note that, although this line of stitching extends completely around the tab portion 25, it extends only through the tab portion in this region, whereas beyond the widest portion of the tab toward the belt buckle, the line of stitching extends both through the overlying or outer layer of the strip and the underlying portions serving to secure these portions together. That is to say, the line of stitching as is shown in Fig. 2 terminates approximately at 32 in so far as securing together the overlying strip portions and from this point to the left in Fig. 2, the stitching 31 extends only through a single tab portion 25. Thus, the tab 25 forms a flap which is not secured to any underlying portion of the belt and serves merely to overlie and conceal the loop portions 26 and 27 so that in so far as the adjustment feature of the belt is concerned, only the clasp bar 33 is exposed.

I claim:

1. A waist belt assembly comprising a waistband having a portion of one end doubled back upon itself and forming a loop and having the free end thereof adjustably fixed to an intermediate portion of the band, a ring engaged with the loop defined by said doubled-back portion, a belt buckle assembly fixed to said ring and in-

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cluding a flap-like tab permanently positioned in over-
lying relation with said loop on the outer side of said
band, the tab having a maximum width at least equal to
that of the band and concealing the major portion of that
part of the loop which is in engagement with the ring,
said buckle assembly also including overlying inner and
outer strip portions joined to define a loop at one end of
the same, a belt buckle fixed to and against detachment
from the last mentioned loop, the inner strip portion
being permanently fixed to said ring and underlying the
juncture of said outer strip portion and said tab, a tongue
having one end joined to the other end of the band and
having said one end of a contour form similar to said
tab, said tongue having its other end adapted for detach-
able connection with said buckle.

2. A belt assembly comprising a waistband and
a tongue and buckle assembly separably coupling together
the ends of the waistband, a portion of one end of the
waistband being folded back upon itself and forming a
loop and having the free end thereof adjustably attached
to an intermediate portion of the waistband, a ring having
said loop engaged with one side thereof, said tongue and
buckle assembly including a buckle, a tongue and an
elongate body, said elongate body comprising inner and
outer laminations of material joined to form a loop
permanently engaging said buckle, the inner lamination
having an end portion folded upon and fixed against de-
tachment from itself and forming a loop having a side of
said ring fixed therein, the outer lamination having an
end portion extending across the outer side of the ring,
means securing said laminations together through the ma-

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5 jor extent of their length, said securing means stopping
short of the end of said end portion of the outer lamination
whereby said end portion of the outer lamination is
free from and forms a tab lying across the ring and the
loops engaged with the ring, and said tongue comprising
a strip of material having one end secured to the other
end of the waistband and adapted to have its other end
detachably coupled with the buckle.

3. The invention according to claim 2, wherein the said
10 laminations where in looped engagement with the buckle
and the said other end portion of the tongue when engag-
ing the buckle in the use of the belt assembly overlie one
another, the said other end portion of the tongue through
the major portion of its length being of the same width
15 as the laminations where the same engage the buckle, the
said outer lamination being of gradually increasing width
toward the tab to an extent whereby the tab is given a
maximum width approximately equal to that of the waist
band and the tab functioning to overlie and hide the
20 major portion of the ring and that underlying portion
of the loop connected to the ring.

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