April 20, 1926. 1,581,822

C. F. WARDEN

BELT BUCKLE

Filed April 11, 1925

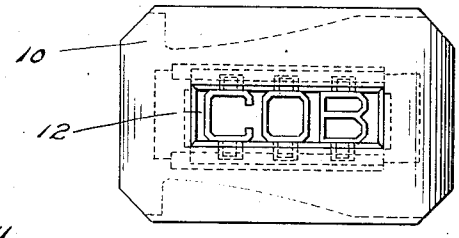


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

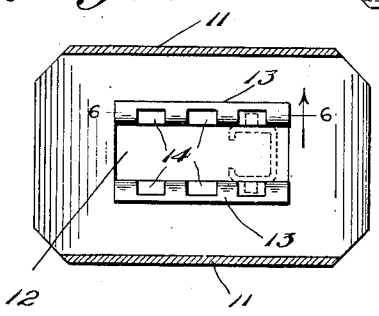


Fig. 9.

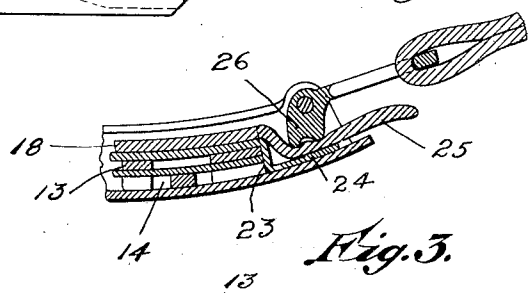


Fig. 3.

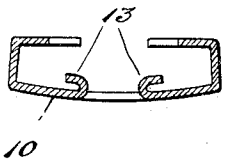


Fig. 6.

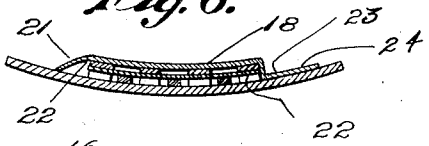
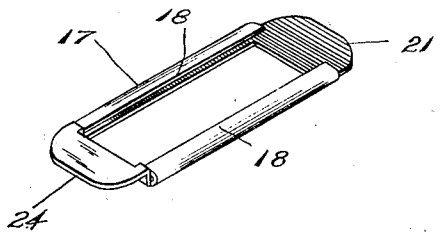


Fig. 4.



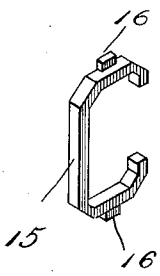


Fig. 5.

Fig. 7.

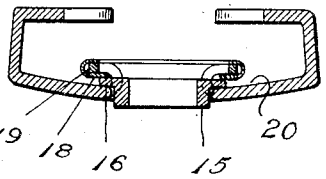
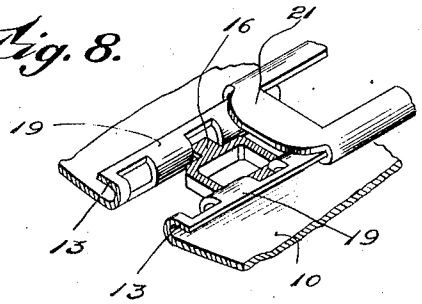


Fig. 8.



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Patented Apr. 20, 1926. 1,581,822

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. WARDEN, OF WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO C. A. MARSH & CO., A COPARTNERSHIP COMPRISING GEORGE L. SHEPARDSON AND FRANK C. ROUNSEVILLE, OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS.

BELT BUCKLE.

Application filed April 11, 1925. Serial No. 22,269.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. WARDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at West Boylston, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Belt Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved means for removably mounting an insert in a plate, and has for its object to provide an opening in the plate of a buckle cigarette case, vanity case, match case, or other device and to removably mount in this opening one or more inserts such as letters, ornaments or the like, and also to provide means for locking the inserts in this opening against accidental removal therefrom.

A further object of this invention is the forming of the opening in the plate by folding the marginal stock of the opening rearwardly and providing means in the folded portion for receiving and retaining an insert therein.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved buckle showing letter inserts mounted in the opening in the front thereof.

Figure 2 is a rear view of my improved buckle showing the stock of the opening as turned inwardly to form flanges adapted to receive the different inserts to be mounted therein.

Figure 3 is a central transverse section through the buckle illustrating the marginal edges of the stock of the opening as extending rearwardly and then turned to extend in opposite directions to form a guide or support for the inserts.

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the inside of the lock plate with a square abutment shoulder formed on one end.

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing one of the inserts in the form of a letter.

Figure 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Figure 2, and showing a portion of the lock-plate in section with one end portion as bent squarely down to engage the ends of the insert guides and form an abutment or stop to limit its inward motion, the plate serving as a lock for retaining the inserts in the opening.

Figure 7 is an enlarged view showing the letter inserts as locked in the guideways by the locking plate or frame.

Figure 8 is a perspective fragmental view illustrating one of the letters as set in the notches of the guideways and the lock-plate as entering the guideways to lock the letter therein.

Figure 9 is a sectional side elevation showing the square shoulder of the lock-plate as forced against the guide flanges by the binding action of the belt-gripping acting through the belt upon the extending lip of the lock-plate.

It is found in the practical construction of belt buckles, vanity cases, cigarette cases and other devices, of advantage to provide means whereby numerals, letters or other characters may be inserted into an opening in the front or other plate thereof and to provide means whereby these inserts may be readily removed to be rearranged or replaced by others as desired, particularly where the initials of the wearer or user are required, it is very desirous to so construct the buckle or device that these initials may be removed and others inserted so that a dealer may be required to carry but a relatively small stock of devices, and by carrying a comparatively large stock of the relatively inexpensive letters, they may be arranged in the buckle or device to suit the requirements of each individual wearer or user. To accomplish this in a simple and practical way, without the use of solder, applicant has herein shown one device to which the inserts are attached which is that of a buckle with an opening in its front, the stock of the buckle about the opening being preferably rolled or turned inwardly forming opposite edges of flanges for the reception of the letters, and he has mounted a readily-removable lock-plate or member on these flanges, whereby the different combinations of letters may be easily arranged and inserted into the opening in the buckle as desired; and the following is a detailed description of one embodiment of my invention showing one means whereby these advantageous results may be accomplished:—

With reference to the drawings, 10 desig-

nates the body of a buckle which is provided with the usual rearwardly extending side flanges 11 and is also provided with an opening 12 which may be formed in any suitable way, but I preferably form the same by cutting the stock about the opening and rolling the marginal edges thereof rearwardly, as best illustrated in Figure 3, and then turning these edges outwardly in directions opposite to each other forming oppositely-extending marginal flanges 13.

It is found in the practical construction of a buckle or other device of this character, of great advantage from a manufacturing standpoint to be able to form these flanges 13 integral with the marginal edges of the opening as by so doing two advantages are obtained; first, the guides are provided on the back of the buckle without the use of solder as the heat for soldering necessarily destroys the finish of the buckle which renders such a construction quite unsatisfactory; second, the turning of this stock is a machine operation and therefore by employing this stock which is cut from the buckle the same is saved and not thrown away as scrap material.

These guides or flanges 13 may be notched along their inner edges as at 14 to receive the edge portions of the different letters or inserts. These inserts when made in the form of letters 15 are preferably formed with lugs 16 extending from opposite edges thereof to be inserted and fitted into the opposite notches 14 in the guide flanges and in order to lock these lugs 16 in these notches, I have formed a sliding lock plate or frame 17, the edges 18 of which are rolled over inwardly to fit and slide over the edges 19 of the flanges 13 so that when this plate is slid over these guides, its edge flanges 18 will engage the inner face of the lugs 16 on the letters and bind them against the inner face 20 of the front plate of the buckle body.

It has also been found desirous to so form the lock plate frame or member that when it is slid into position on the guide flanges it will not be inadvertently removed therefrom. Therefore, in order to lock this plate or member to these guides, I have provided a square shoulder 23 in one end of the lip 21 on either end of this lock-plate, which serves a double purpose; first, upon extending down over the ends 22 of the guide flanges 13 they prevent accidental endwise movement of this lock-plate; also by extending downwardly over the ends of these guides or flanges they serve to guide the entering end of the belt up over the flange ends as it is being passed into the body of the buckle between the flanges 11 thereof.

My improved construction of belt buckle is very strong, durable and practical, and by its use any desired style of insert may be readily applied to and removed from the buckle and securely locked therein and that without the use of solder in securing these parts to the buckle.

The foregoing description is directed solely towards the construction illustrated, but I desire it to be understood that I reserve the privilege of resorting to all the mechanical changes to which the device is susceptible, the invention being defined and limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a device having a front plate with an opening therein, integral rearwardly-extending flanges on the edges of said opening with spaced notches therein, letters having lugs at top and bottom in said notches and in engagement with the rear surface of said front plate, a slide back plate for engaging said letters to hold them against front plate, and rolled over portions on one of said plates for slidable engagement with portions integral with the other of said plates whereby said back plate may be slid into locking position.

2. In a device having a front plate with an opening therein, integral rearwardly-folded portions on the opposite edges of said opening extending back over said plate and spaced therefrom and having spaced notches therein, character designating members having lugs to set in said notches and engage the back of said plate, and a member having portions to wedge between the lugs, and the said folded back portion to force said lugs against said plate to hold said member in position.

3. A device having a plate with an opening therein, rearwardly-extending oppositely turned notched marginal flanges about said opening, a removable insert having parts extending into the notches in said flanges, a locking member slidable over the oppositely turned portions of said flanges to engage and retain said insert in set position therein, and means for retaining said locking member in operating position on said flanges.

4. A device having a plate with an opening therein, rearwardly-folded integral edge portions oppositely turned and spaced from said plate and provided with spaced notches in said flanges, a removable character designating insert having extensions projecting into said notches, and a locking member having grooved edges to embrace said flanges and engage and retain said inserts in position.

5. A device having a plate with an opening therein, marginal flanges about said opening extending back over said plate and having notches therein, a removable character designating insert having parts extending into said notches, and a locking member having rolled-in edges to slidably engage

said flanges and portions of said insert to hold the insert in position and an abutment at one end of said member to limit its sliding movement.

6. A buckle having a body portion, a clamping gripper pivotally mounted in said body, said body having an opening therein, oppositely-turned notched marginal flanges about said opening, a removable insert having parts extending into said notches, a locking member slidable over said flanges to retain said insert in set position therein, said member having a lip against which the gripper binds the belt in the buckle and having an abutment for limiting its entering movement on said flanges.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES F. WARDEN.