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BELT BUCKLE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 29, 1915.

1,170,151. Patented Feb. 1, 1916.

Fig. 1.

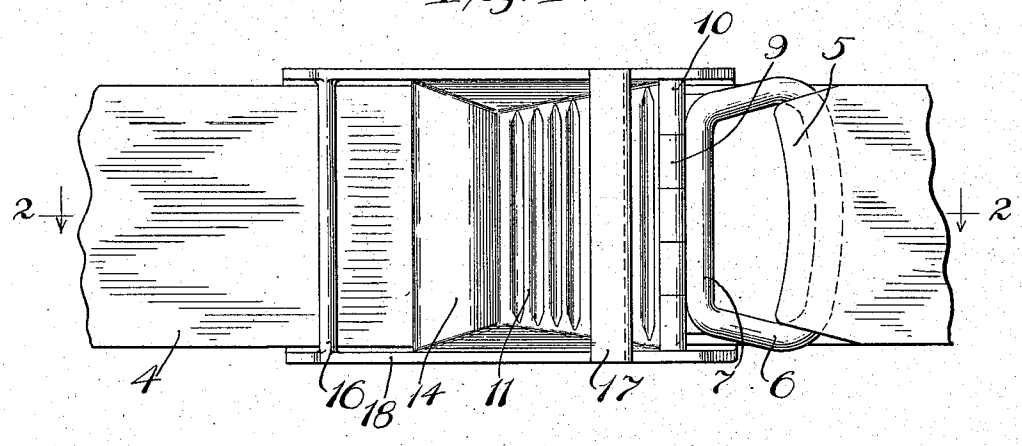


Fig. 2.

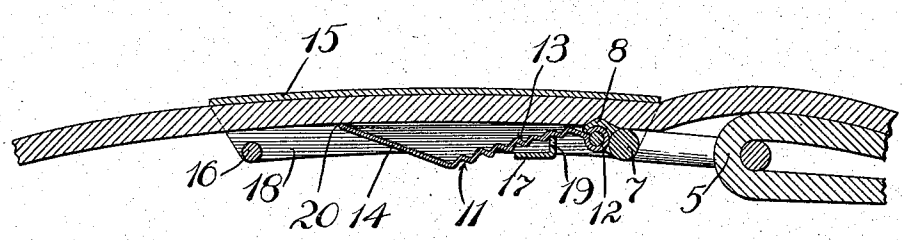
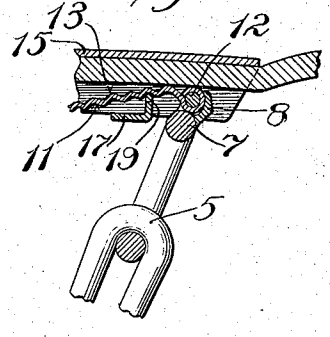


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BELT-BUCKLE.

1,170,151. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 1, 1916.

Application filed May 29, 1915. Serial No. 31,201.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS F. HATHAWAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elgin, in the county of Kane and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Belt-Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to a buckle adapted for engaging and holding in place the ordinary holding belt.

The object of the invention is to provide a buckle of the character specified, which will be simple of construction as well as durable.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for effecting a clamping engagement to hold the belt against movement through the buckle, which engagement will be readily and easily effected.

A further object is to provide means whereby the clamping member can be readily and quickly adjusted with respect to the face plate of the buckle, so as to be brought into the desired operative engagement with the surface of the belt, no matter what the thickness of the belt may be.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for retaining the clamping member in place by the coöperation of fixed and movable locking members for the clamping member.

The invention further consists in the features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a rear view of the buckle of the present invention, with a belt extending therethrough, and with the buckle in closed or clamping position; Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a detail, showing the buckle in open or non-clamping position to permit the passage of the belt therethrough.

The invention is illustrated in connection with the ordinary belt 4, of leather or other suitable material, which is affixed by any suitable means at one end 5 to a ring 6, the other end being free. This ring has its rear bar 7 formed or provided with an acting or clamping surface 8. The said rear bar is further formed or provided with ears 9, adapted to aline with ears 10 on the end of a plate 11, and a pintle or pin 12 is passed through the ears 9 and 10 to make a hinge connection between the ring 6, which may be termed the acting portion of the clamping member, and the plate 11, which may be termed the movable locking means for the clamping member. This plate 11 is formed of a portion 13 and a portion 14, angularly disposed with respect to one another, so that this plate is of a general V-shape in cross section, as will be seen from Fig. 2.

The body of the buckle consists of a face plate 15 of any suitable character or design, and a back comprised of a bar 16 and an angular bar 17, which latter may be termed the fixed locking means for the clamping member. These bars are suitably joined to side flanges 18 depending from the front piece 15. When the clamping portion is placed in operative relation to the body of the buckle, the plate 11 lies between the face plate and the fixed locking member 17, as shown in the drawing. The corrugation in the portion 13 of the plate 11 engages with and rests upon the edge of the upturned portion 19 of the fixed locking member 17.

The foregoing constitutes a description of the parts and their arrangement.

The operation is briefly as follows: The belt is threaded through the buckle so as to lie between the face plate 15 and the clamping member, as will be apparent from Figs. 2 and 3. After the belt has been so threaded, the first step is to draw the clamping member until the acting portion or clamping surface 8 is in engagement with the lower face of that portion of the belt threaded through the buckle. Just how far the clamping member will have to be drawn until this engagement is effected depends upon the thickness of the belt, and this is one of the principal features of the present invention, namely, the ability to quickly and easily adjust the clamping member in correspondence with the thickness of the belt. When the clamping member has been drawn sufficiently to cause the acting portion thereof to engage the surface of the belt, as aforesaid, said clamping member will be held in place by reason of the end 20 of the portion 14 of the plate 11 engaging the surface of the belt, and the corrugations on the parts 13 of the plate 11 interlocking with the edge of the upturning portion 19 of the bar 17, so that the plate 11, coöperating with the bar 17, constitutes a means for locking the clamp-

ing member in position. The plate 11, as will be apparent from Fig. 2, is thus wedged into place, and slippage out of place prevented by the interlocking of the corrugations of the movable locking member with the surface of the fixed locking member. After the clamping member is thus locked in place, the acting portion of the clamping member can be swung about the hinge connection until it engages with the lower face of the belt, as in Fig. 2, and such gripping or engagement will act to prevent slipping of the belt through the buckle. When it is desired to release the belt to allow it to slide through the buckle, the acting portion of the clamping member is turned down into the position shown in Fig. 3, after which the plate 11 can be slid backward out of its wedged or locking position, and the belt slid freely through the buckle.

It is obvious from the foregoing that a clamping means has been devised which will have no positive connection with the body of the buckle, and which can, therefore, be shifted readily and quickly into desired position to effect its clamping action against the belt, no matter what the thickness of the belt may be; and means have been provided for locking this clamping member in position after it has been adjusted, whereby slipping of the belt by disconnection of the clamping member is eliminated. By employing the corrugated surfaces referred to, it is obvious that an adjustment of the clamping member to almost any degree can be effected, and, therefore, belts of all varying thicknesses can be securely retained.

I claim:

1. In a buckle, the combination of a body portion embodying a face plate, a clamping member movable longitudinally with respect to the body portion, a V-shaped member attached to the clamping member, and a member affixed to the body of the buckle and arranged to effect a wedging of said V-shaped member to maintain the clamping member in a desired spaced relation with respect to the face plate of the buckle, substantially as described.

2. A buckle comprising a body portion embodying a face plate, a bar extending crosswise of the body portion and on the under side thereof, a clamping member movable with respect to the body portion, and a V-shaped plate attached to the clamping member and provided with a serrated surface, said serrated surface engaging with said crosswise extending bar to maintain the clamping member in a desired spaced relation with respect to the face plate, substantially as described.

3. In a buckle, the combination of a body portion embodying a plate, a bar spaced rearwardly of the plate to provide a straight line passage for a strap, a V-shaped clamping member having one end thereof disposed between the bar and the plate with the extremities of the member arranged to engage upon the strap, said clamping member being longitudinally movable with respect to the bar, whereby the extremities of the clamping member may be brought nearer to or farther from the strap as desired, and means for locking the V-shaped clamping member in desired position longitudinally of the bar, substantially as described.

4. In a buckle, the combination of a body portion embodying a substantially flat plate, a bar spaced rearwardly from the plate, whereby a strap may be threaded between the plate and bar in a straight line, and a clamping member arranged to act upon the strap to press the same against the plate, comprising an angularly disposed longitudinally movable element arranged to be wedged between the bar and strap with a desired degree of pressure, and means for locking the said element in desired position longitudinally of the bar, substantially as described.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."