

(No Model.)

E. C. MIX.
CLIP FOR SUPPORTING DRESSES, &c.

No. 487,757

Patented Dec. 13, 1892.

FIG. 1.

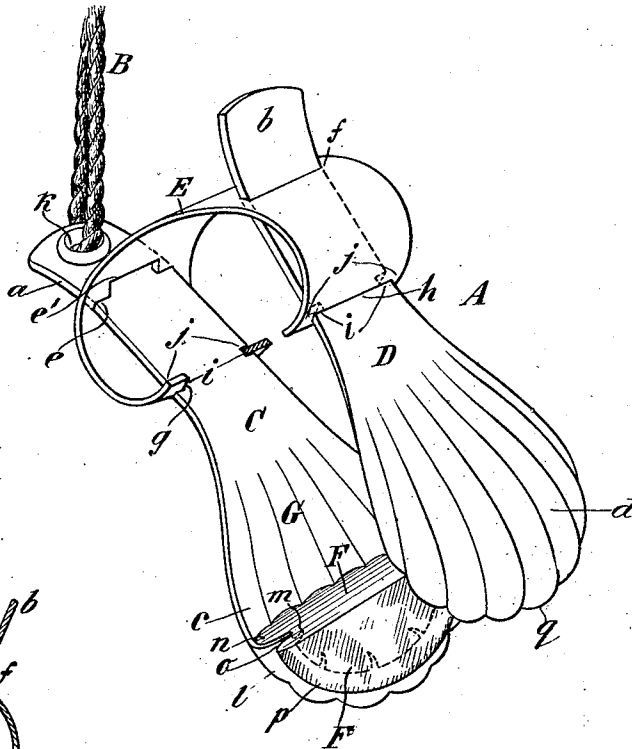


FIG. 2.

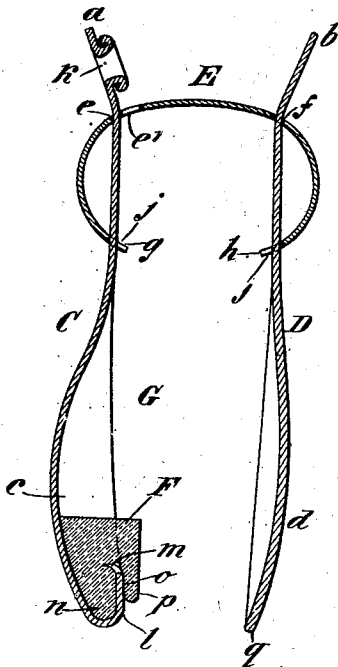
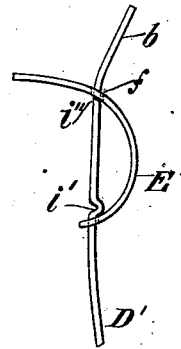


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

John Decher
Fred White

INVENTOR:

Edward C. Mix.

By his Attorneys,

Arthur C. Granger & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD C. MIX, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

CLIP FOR SUPPORTING DRESSES, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 487,757, dated December 13, 1892.

Application filed July 15, 1892. Serial No. 440,105. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD C. MIX, a citizen of the United States, residing in Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clips for Supporting Dresses, &c., of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates most particularly to clips for supporting ladies' dresses and is designed to provide an improved device of this character; but it may be availed of for other purposes and may be applied to other clips.

The invention aims to provide a clip which will be simple and economical of construction, convenient and effective of operation, and which will not impair the most delicate material to which it is applied.

To this end, in carrying out the preferred form of my invention, I construct the clip of preferably shell-shaped jaws and a substantially-elliptical spring maintaining the jaws in position and giving them their elastic grasping tendency, the jaws and spring being constructed to in themselves constitute the three essential members of the clip and to each prevent the displacement of the other, and I construct the jaws at their gripper ends the one with an elastic rubber or cushion, which is held in the jaw in an improved manner, and the other with a substantially-straight end adapted to contact with the dress to hold it against the cushion of the other jaw.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form of my improved dress-clip, the spring being shown partially in section. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of my improved clip, and Fig. 3 is a fragmentary elevation showing a modification.

Referring to the drawings, let A indicate the clip as a whole; B, the supporting-cord, which may be attached to the waist of the user; C, one of the jaws; D, the opposing jaw; E, the intermediate spring connecting and actuating the jaws, and F the rubber or other cushion for protecting the material engaged by the clip.

The jaws C and D are constructed with handle ends *a b*, respectively, and gripping ends *c d*, respectively, and the spring E is constructed with transverse slots *e* and *f* at back and with notches *g h* at its edges, or with equivalent mechanical provisions. The jaw C passes at its handle end into and through the slot *e*, and is engaged toward its middle portion by the notch *g* of the outer edge of the spring, and the jaw D passes through the slot *f* at its handle end and is engaged near its middle by the notch *h* at the outer edge of the spring. By this provision the slots *e* and *f* and the notches *g* and *h* serve to retain the jaws in relative lateral position, and the portion of the spring E between their handle ends yields when these ends are pressed together to serve as an elastic connection or fulcrum between the jaws. To lock the jaws against longitudinal displacement relatively to the spring or to each other according to my invention, I provide interengaging faces or shoulders on the jaws and spring. Preferably these are disposed as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, where the respective jaws are shown as constructed with opposite recesses or shoulders *i i*, adapted to receive the projecting ends *j j* of the spring E when the jaws respectively pass into their notches *g* and *h* in the ends of the spring. By this provision the inner and outer faces of the spring E abut against the opposite faces of the recesses *i* of the jaws, and thereby serve to prevent longitudinal movement of either jaw relatively to the spring or to the other jaw. This simple provision also serves to render the connection between the jaws and spring more stable and avoids complication in the assembling of the parts and permits their ready separation for replacement or repair.

According to my invention the handle *a* of the jaw C is constructed with a beaded or upset hole or eye *k*, to which the cord B may be attached to the clip. When thus constructed, I preferably construct the slot *e* with an enlargement *e'* to permit the passage through the slot of the beaded portion surrounding the eye *k*.

According to my invention I provide cer-

tain improvements in the elastic cushion F in its connection to the clip and in the outer ends of the jaws of the clip. Preferably the jaw C is constructed with a cup-shaped gripping end *c* and an overhanging flange *l*, preferably integral with the jaw, which is turned in from the lower end of the jaw, as best seen in Figs. 1 and 2, and preferably constructed on its periphery with claws *m*, and the cushion F is preferably constructed to fit the cup-shaped end *c* of the jaw C, having an inner lower portion *n*, adapted to enter the space beneath the overturned flange *l*, contracted to form a groove *o*, fitting this flange, and exteriorly thereof projecting outwardly in the form of a lip *p*, which preferably terminates about centrally of the overturned flange *l* and is of curved outline substantially corresponding to that of the end of the jaw. By this construction the cushion F can be placed in position and forced home against the claws *m* until these penetrate its body and the cushion is well seated in position, whereupon by slight pressure against the ends of the claws the latter can be bent to prevent the displacement of the cushion, as best seen in Fig. 2. The lip *p* will then conceal the connection between the jaw and its cushion and serve as a contact-face for the cushion, sufficing to keep the larger portion of the material engaged by the clip out of contact with the jaw C, but leaving the lower rounded edge of the flange *l* of this jaw exposed back of the surface of the lip of the cushion and in position to receive the impingement of the outer end of the other jaw B.

A feature of my invention is providing a cushion in only one jaw. The other jaw is preferably constructed with a very slightly-cupped gripper end *d*, terminating in a rounded and almost straight end *q*, which moves against the flange *l* of the other jaw, while its inner face impinges against the lower edge of the lip *p* of the cushion F. When thus constructed, the material engaged by the clip will be held between the face of the cushion and the inner face of the jaw D, the bulk of the material being located in the space or chamber G between the jaws and above the cushion F and the remainder thereof being firmly gripped at the end of the clip.

In operation the clip is opened by seizing the handle ends *a b* of the jaws and forcing them toward each other, thereby distending the elliptical spring E and separating the jaws. When released, the spring will force the jaws together. The cushion F will prevent impairment of the fabric or other material engaged by the clip. Should either jaw become impaired, the spring E can be distended by the hand and the jaw disengaged from its notch, whereupon it can be readily slid from its slot. A new jaw can then be substituted by sliding its end in the slot and then distending the spring sufficiently to bring the jaw into engagement with its notch.

It will be seen that my invention provides an improved clip which is simple and effective in operation, which will hold with great firmness, but without impairing the material engaged, and which is susceptible of use for other purposes than that of supporting dresses.

It will be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact details of construction and arrangement described as the preferred form of my invention, as these may be modified without departing from its essential features.

Fig. 3 shows a modification of the fastening device for locking the jaw to the spring. According to this construction, instead of providing the recesses *ii* in the sides of the jaws, (here lettered D'), I provide abutting faces on the jaw, consisting of a ridge *i'* at the inner side of the end of the spring E (here lettered E') and a shoulder *i''* adjacent to the slot *f* of the spring. By this construction the shoulder *i'* prevents outward movement of the jaw, while the shoulder *i''* prevents its inward movement.

What I claim is, in clips for supporting dresses and for other purposes, the following-defined novel features, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, namely:

1. In a clip, the combination, with the gripper-jaws C and D, constructed with handle ends *a* and *b* and with recesses *ii*, of the curved spring E, constructed with slots *e f*, adapted to receive said handle ends, and constructed with inwardly-curved ends adapted to act against said jaws and force them together, and constructed with projecting ends *j j*, adapted to engage said recesses to prevent relative movement of the parts.

2. In a clip, the combination, with a curved spring E, having slots *e f* at back and having inturned ends adapted to act against the jaws and constructed with notches *g h*, in combination with the jaws of the clip *c d*, constructed to enter said slots, respectively, and adapted when acted on by the inturned ends of the spring to enter said notches *g h*, respectively, whereby their lateral displacement is prevented.

3. In a clip, the combination, with the spring E, of a gripping-jaw C, constructed with a cup-shaped portion *c* and an overturned flange *l*, of a cushion F, constructed with an inner portion *n*, a recess *o*, and an outer portion or lip *p*, overhanging said flange and adapted to receive the impingement of the opposing jaw of the clip.

4. In a clip, the combination, with the spring E and the opposing jaw D, of the jaw C, constructed with the overturned flange *l* and claws *m m*, and the cushion F, having a portion *n* entering behind said flange *l* and adapted to be secured in position by said claws *m*.

5. In a clip, the combination, with a spring E and the opposing jaws C D, the one of said

jaws constructed with a cup-shaped gripping
end *c* and an overturned flange *l* and the other
of said jaws constructed with a cup-shaped
gripping end *d* and with a plain edge *q*, adapt-
5 ed to act against said overturned flange when
the jaws are in engagement.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed

my name in the presence of two subscribing
witnesses.

EDWARD C. MIX.

Witnesses:

GEORGE H. FRASER,
CHARLES K. FRASER.