

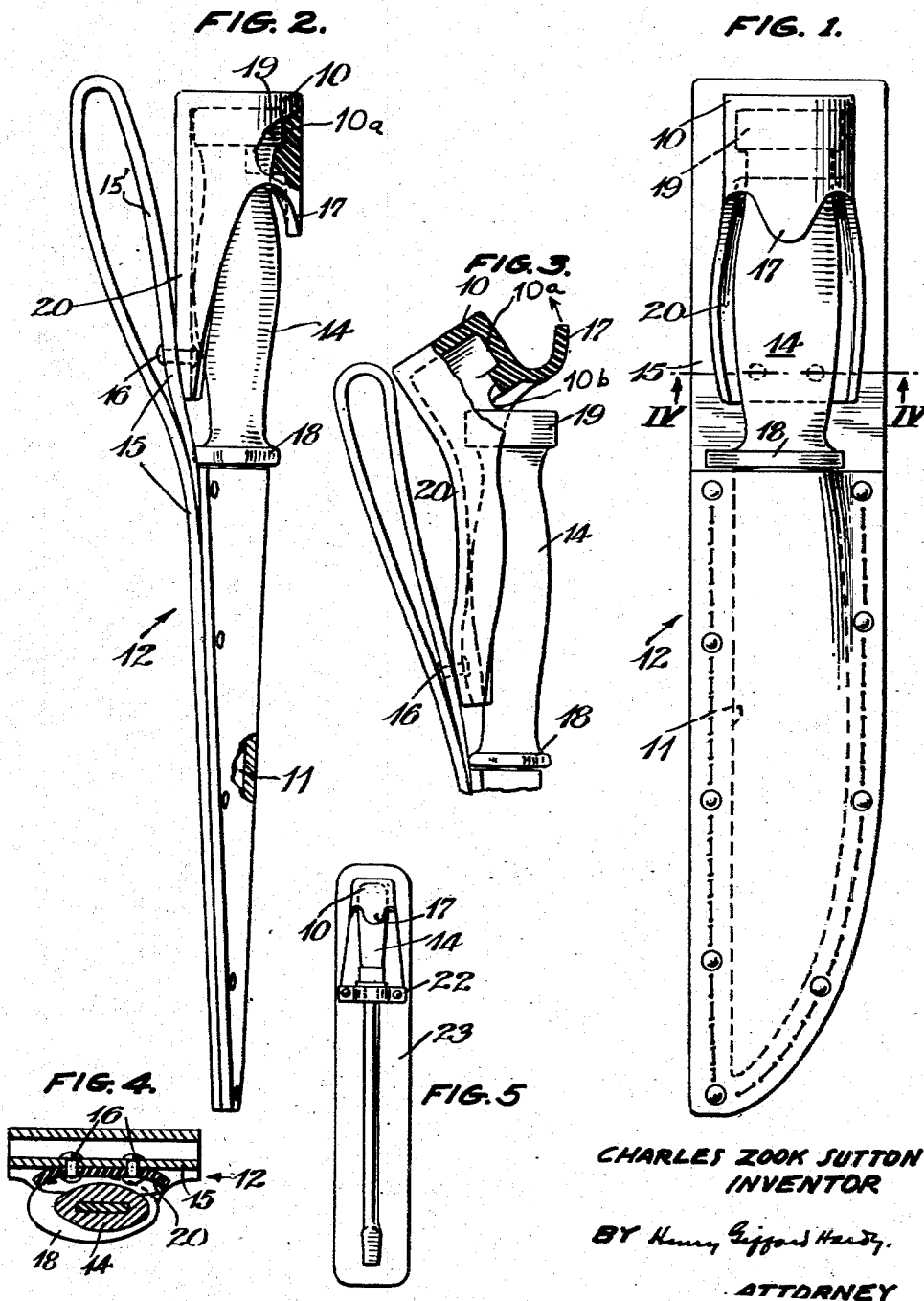
Aug. 31, 1954

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2,687,833

MEANS FOR SECURING KNIVES AND TOOLS IN THEIR SCABBARDS

Filed April 4, 1949



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,687,833

MEANS FOR SECURING KNIVES AND TOOLS
IN THEIR SCABBARDS

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Application April 4, 1949, Serial No. 85,384

2 Claims. (Cl. 224—2)

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This invention relates to a method and means by which implements such as knives and tools are safely retained in their scabbards, and more particularly to a method by which a hunting knife may be secured in its scabbard in such a manner that involuntary removal by accident or otherwise is prevented.

The method and means disclosed herein also assures such elasticity in holding a hunting knife or other tool in its supporting scabbard that the danger of injury to the wearer is eliminated.

Commonly, a hunting knife or other tool held in a scabbard is retained in the latter by means of a strap riveted to the scabbard. The two ends of such a strap, adapted to be closed around the knife handle protruding above the scabbard, are frequently equipped with a snap such as a glove fastener. There are several dangers inherent in a supporting arrangement of this type which are frequent causes of serious accidents. One such danger is that the knife or other tool may slip through the securing strap, and another is that the strap may become unfastened. In either case injury to the wearer or loss of the instrument may result. Furthermore, should such a safety strap be adjusted to hold the instrument tightly enough to reduce these hazards, the instrument would be so rigidly held within the scabbard that the filled scabbard may itself cause injury, or restrict free movement, especially when a wearer such as a hunter, is exposed to the possibilities of taking falls while climbing or moving over dangerous ground.

This invention makes provision for an elastic retaining cap adapted to fit closely over the top of the handle of a knife, screw driver, or other tool carried in the scabbard or other protective enclosure, accommodating itself to varying shapes. This cap is resiliently engageable with the knife or tool handle by pulling the cap thereover, and the part of the cap running parallel to the scabbard is formed into an elongated resilient tongue or end portion which is adapted to be fastened securely to the scabbard.

In the retaining devices of the prior art, the knife or other tool sometimes escapes from its holder whenever a quick motion of the body of the wearer causes the instrument to slip through its strap, or whenever the conventional glove fastener on the retaining strap inadvertently becomes detached. These dangers are minimized by the present invention, since the conventional retaining strap is eliminated, and a more secure way of fastening the knife or tool to its scabbard is introduced. Moreover, by the use of an elastic method of attachment, freedom of movement is

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given to the scabbard which holds the knife or tool, which movement is largely independent from that of the securing means. Thus, the wearer will be secure in the knowledge that the scabbard will give way even if he should accidentally fall upon it, rather than being subjected to the danger of accidentally running the instrument into his side.

It is an important object of this invention therefor to provide a method and means of fastening a knife or other sharp-edged instrument or a tool securely to its scabbard.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a safe and reliable method and means of fastening a sharp edged tool to a protective holder or to any other object on which it may be carried while attached to the belt of the wearer, for example.

It is another object of this invention to produce a method and means by which sufficient movability is provided in a scabbard holding a knife or other tool so that safety is assured to the wearer while carrying such an instrument on his side.

It is also an object to provide a method of fastening hunting knives, screw drivers, and the like in scabbards or other objects in which they may be carried.

Further objects are to provide a construction of maximum simplicity, economy and ease of assembly and disassembly, and such further objects, advantages and capabilities as will fully appear and as are inherently possessed by the device and invention described herein.

Invention further resides in the combination, construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and while there is shown therein a preferred embodiment and one variant thereof, it is to be understood that the same is illustrative of the invention and that the invention is capable of modification and change and comprehends other details of construction without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing the invention used in conjunction with a conventional hunting knife.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the device illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the knife of Figure 2 showing the elastic retaining cap released from engagement therewith.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken along the line IV—IV of Figure 1.

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Figure 5 is a front elevational view of the scabbard of Figure 1 modified to receive and retain a screw driver.

In the drawings, in which like reference numerals indicate like parts in the several views, there is shown a hunting knife 11 resting in its scabbard 12. Affixed to the belt or attaching loop 15' of the scabbard 12 is an elastic cap 10 which is adapted to be pulled over the top or upper end portion 19 of the knife handle 14. The elongated backing portion 20 of the cap is preferably secured to the area of the scabbard 12 which extends immediately above the hilt 13 of the knife 11. Attachment of the portion 20 to the flexible loop 15' at the upper end of the support panel 15 of the scabbard 12 may be accomplished by any convenient conventional means, such as the rivets 16 or lacing the portion 20 thereto with a leather thong. Preferably, the area of the backing portion 20 which is adjacent to the point or points of attachment to the flexible loop 15' is reinforced with suitable webbing, such as cloth or wire. A flexible tongue 17 is preferably integrally formed with the elastic cap 10, and is adapted to facilitate release of the cap from engagement with the handle 14 in the manner hereinafter to be more fully described.

In order to secure the knife 11 or any other tool within the scabbard 12, the knife or other instrument is inserted within the scabbard as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, or through the strap 22 of the unsheathed tool supporting panel 23 illustrated in Figure 5. Then, the tongue 17 of the cap 10 is grasped with the thumb and forefinger so as to pull the resilient cap 10 over the end of the handle of the instrument so that the interior arcuate groove 18a above the resilient lip 18b of the cap is constricted around the upper portion 19 of the handle, as illustrated in Figure 2. In this manner a knife or other sharp edged instrument may be safely retained within its scabbard, and cannot be involuntarily or inadvertently removed. The elasticity of the backing portion 20 constantly urges the instrument to its proper place. Likewise the elastic nature of the cap conforms it to the shape of the top portion 19 of the handle. When it is desired to remove the knife or tool from the scabbard, the cap 10 is lifted manually by grasping the tab 17 and giving a quick pull upwardly. The instrument may be removed from the scabbard or other support as soon as the elastic cap 10 has been pulled or peeled back out of engagement with the handle 14 as illustrated in Figure 3. Once the cap has released the top of the handle of the knife or other instrument, it is immediately available for use.

From this description it will be apparent that this invention produces a method of securely and quickly fastening a knife or tool carried in a scabbard or other protective holder. Where a scabbard as such is not required a method is also provided for securely and quickly fastening a tool onto a protective support. It is also apparent that a method has been provided for quickly and simply removing a knife or tool from its scabbard. Furthermore, this invention provides a means of carrying a tool at one side of the wearer in such a manner that freedom of movement is assured, and danger of injury through rigidity or inflexibility of attachment of the instrument to its scabbard is eliminated.

Any knife or tool which is carried in a protective holder may readily be modified to embody the present invention by providing an elastic cap

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of the type described herein, and by connecting the said resilient cap to the scabbard or other support.

I claim:

1. A device for holding an instrument such as a knife having a blade and a handle affixed to and extending longitudinally from one end of said blade, said device comprising a base having a flexible loop at the upper portion and a holder fixed to the lower portion thereof, said holder having an open end for receiving said blade, said holder also having stop means for contact with said instrument when inserted through the open end of the holder to retain the instrument in a predetermined longitudinal position; said device also comprising a resilient cap fixedly mounted on said loop in longitudinal alignment with said holder and spaced from the open end thereof in the direction of withdrawal of said blade, said cap being closed at the end further from said holder and open at the nearer end; said cap also being spaced from the open end of the holder a distance in relation to the length of the handle of said instrument such that said cap can be flexed to permit insertion of said blade in the holder and such that, upon release, said cap will embrace the upper end of said handle and will exert a longitudinal force thereon to hold the instrument against such stop means with a positive force.

2. A device for holding an instrument such as a knife having a blade and a handle affixed to and extending longitudinally from one end of said blade, said device comprising a base having a flexible loop at its upper portion and a holder fixed to the lower portion thereof, said holder having an open end for receiving said blade, said holder also having stop means for contact with said instrument when inserted through the open end of the holder to retain the instrument in a predetermined longitudinal position; said device also comprising a resilient cap fixedly mounted on said loop in longitudinal alignment with said holder and spaced from the open end thereof in the direction of withdrawal of said blade, said cap being closed at the end further from said holder and open at the nearer end; said cap also being spaced from the open end of the holder a distance in relation to the length of the handle of said instrument such that said cap can be flexed to permit insertion of said blade in the holder and such that, upon release, said cap will embrace the upper end of said handle and will exert a longitudinal force thereon to hold the instrument against such stop means with a positive force; said cap also being formed with a depending lip on the side of the cap removed from said base, said lip being of resilient material integral with the cap.

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