L. A. McSTAY.

GARMENT CLASP OR HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 10, 1908.

901,818. Patented Oct. 20, 1908.

Fig. 1.

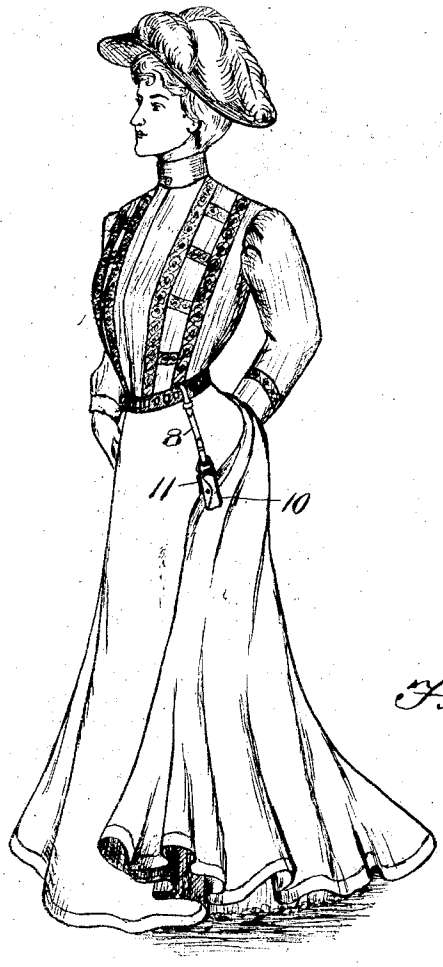


Fig. 2.

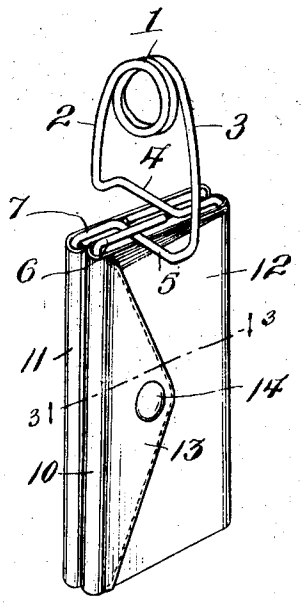


Fig. 4.

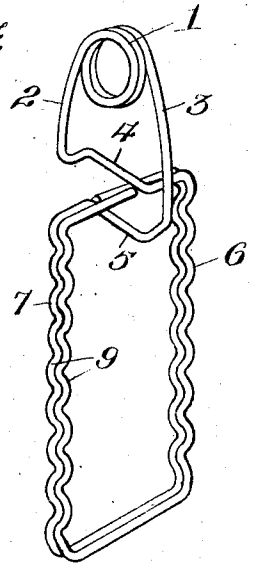
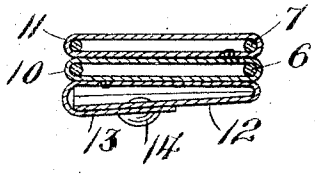


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GARMENT CLASP OR HOLDER.

No. 901,818. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 20, 1908.

Application filed March 10, 1908. Serial No. 420,226.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEROY A. McSTAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Glen Elder, in the county of Mitchell and State of Kansas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Garment Clasps or Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in garment clasps or holders, and contemplates the provision of a device for holding a pocket-book, handkerchief or like article, singly or in conjunction, and supporting a dress skirt above the surface of the floor or ground, such device having means for suspending it from the belt or some other suitable part of the dress of the wearer.

The particular object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective device of this character preferably formed from a single piece of wire and embodying a pair of spring jaws and a suspending member.

A further object of the invention is to provide flexible covers for the jaws, one or both of which may form a continuation of the material of a pocket-book, or like receptacle, and serve as a means for connecting said receptacle with the clasp or holder.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the application of the invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device detached and illustrated with the jaws covered and provided with the pocket-book or receptacle. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the device *per se* without the covering or receptacle.

In its structural organization, the device is preferably formed of a single length or continuous strip of wire or other suitable material, the central or intermediate portion of the wire being first coiled to form a suspending loop or eye 1, and thence bent downward on opposite sides of the loop to form oppositely disposed arms 2 and 3, and thence projected inwardly and laterally to provide stems 4 and 5 respectively connecting said arms with the upper ends of a pair of oblong rectangular spring jaws 6 and 7, formed by properly bent continuations of the terminals of the wire from the said stems. The arms 2 and 3 constitute operating arms or finger pieces which are normally held spaced apart through the spring action of the coil 1 to maintain the jaws 6 and 7 in clamping engagement, and which are adapted to be pressed toward one another to open or force the jaws apart against the resistance of such spring action. The coil 1, in addition to performing such function, serves as a suspending eye for engagement with a suitable supporting device, such as a strap 8, adapted for engagement with the belt around the waist of the wearer or some other suitable part of the dress of the wearer. The device may be employed in the form shown in Fig. 4 for use as a clasp to engage the dress skirt for the purpose of supporting the same at a suitable elevation and preventing the edge of the skirt from trailing along the ground or floor surface, or for holding a handkerchief, pocket-book or any other desired article. The sides of the jaws may be corrugated or otherwise suitably constructed to form along the length thereof shoulders or teeth 9 to adapt them to firmly and securely grip the article to be held.

In Figs. 1, 2 and 3 I have shown the jaws 6 and 7 of the clamp enveloped by coverings or pockets 10 and 11 of leather or other suitable material. Upon the outer face of the covering or pocket surrounding one of the jaws, as the jaw 6, is arranged a pocket-book or other like receptacle 12 having a cover or closing flap 13 adapted to be secured in closed position by the ordinary stud and socket fastener 14. The inner wall of this pocket-book or receptacle may be formed by the adjacent side of the cover 10, or said receptacle may be complete in itself and suitably attached to the said adjacent side of the cover 10, it being apparent in either case the receptacle forms a permanent attachment of the clasp or holder and does not interfere with the normal use of the jaws 6 and 7, which may be opened or forced apart by compressing the arms 2 and 3 to engage the skirt or to hold a handkerchief or other article, and that upon the release of pressure from the arms the spring coil 1 will close the jaws together.

From the foregoing description, the construction and mode of use of my improved garment clasp or holder will be readily understood, and it will be seen that the invention provides a device which may be made as ornamental as desired, and which

in addition to forming a support for a pocket-book also provides a means for holding a dress skirt elevated or for holding any other desired article in a secure manner.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

The herein described garment clasp or holder formed of a single piece of wire and comprising a pair of vertically disposed counterpart oblong rectangular clamping jaws, said jaws being formed by the terminal portions of the wire which are bent to partially form the upper cross bars of the jaws, a spring coil formed by the central portion of the wire and constituting a suspending loop arranged transversely of and above the upper ends of the jaws, arms diverging from the sides of said coil beyond the outer sides of the jaws, connecting stems extending inwardly at an angle to the arms transversely of the jaws and projecting respectively above and below the upper cross bars of said jaws and connecting said arms with the other portions of the cross bars, and a suspending device connected with the coil for supporting the clasp from the garment of the wearer.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LEROY A. McSTAY.

Witnesses:

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