

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. HINMAN, OF OMRO, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUCKLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 33,840, dated December 3, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. HINMAN, of Omro, in the county of Winnebago and State of Wisconsin, have invented a certain Improvement in Buckles, the construction and operation of which I have described in the following specification and illustrated in its accompanying drawings with sufficient clearness to enable competent and skillful workmen in the arts to which it pertains or is most nearly allied to make and use my invention.

My said invention consists in the combination, in the manner hereinafter described, of a sliding tongue with a bar upon which it is allowed to slide and by which it is kept in position and prevented from turning, and two cross-bars, between which the strap to be held passes, by which cross-bars the tongue is supported at both ends, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan of the buckle as it would appear when laid down upon a table, the side strap of a harness, and a portion of a tug secured in the buckle being also shown with it. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same parts. Fig. 3 is a plan of the buckle without the attachments. Fig. 4 is an under side view.

The main body of the buckle is cast of malleable iron or brass or other suitable material.

1 is the bar, to which the strap which is permanently attached, is secured.

2 2 are the sides.

3 is the outer end piece at the end farthest from the bar 1. At the point where this portion of the buckle is joined to the sides another bar 4 divides from it and the side pieces and crosses in a similar form from one side piece to the other. This is more clearly shown in Fig. 4. These bars 3 and 4 are sufficiently far apart to allow the strap 5, which the buckle is designed to secure, to pass freely between them, as indicated in Fig. 2.

6 is the tongue of the buckle. It is made with an eye or hole at one end to fit freely upon the bar 7, upon which it is permitted to slide. This bar 7 is not cylindrical, but is

made of an oval or other form which will prevent the tongue from turning upon it, the hole in the tongue being made to correspond. One end of this bar 7 is joined to the bar 4, by which it is supported, and the other end is supported by the bar 8, which is joined at its ends to the sides 2 2, it being carried down sufficiently low to avoid the strap 5.

The bar 1, sides 2 2, bars 3, 4, 7, and 8, are together a single casting. The eye of the tongue, if it is forged, may be bent around the bar 7, or if it is a closed eye or the tongue is cast instead of being forged one part first made must be set into the sand and the other cast into or upon it in a manner well known to molders of articles of like nature. It will be observed by an inspection of the drawings that the ends of the tongue are both supported at the same time—one by the bar 3 and the other by the bar 4—and that only the thickness of the strap and a trifle more intervenes between the points of support. The power of resistance of the tongue to the strain thrown upon it by draft upon the strap is therefore very great in proportion to the amount of metal employed. This advantage is realized without the sacrifice of any of the essential qualities of a good buckle. The tongue passes directly through the strap. Consequently there is no oblique strain, and by slacking the strap and drawing it back a short distance, so as to bring the tongue back to that end of the bar 7 which is nearest the bar 1, it may be raised from the tongue with the greatest facility and removed or adjusted as occasion may require.

One of the bars 1 and 8 may be dispensed with, if desired, the bar 7 being joined to the one which remains; but the construction I have described I deem the best.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim is—

A buckle constructed, combined, and operating substantially as described.

JOHN W. HINMAN.

Witnesses:

JAS T. RUSSELL,
E. R. COLTON.