Jan. 20, 1953 R. E. HERRICK 2,626,172

BAGGAGE LATCH

Filed March 28, 1950

FIG. 1

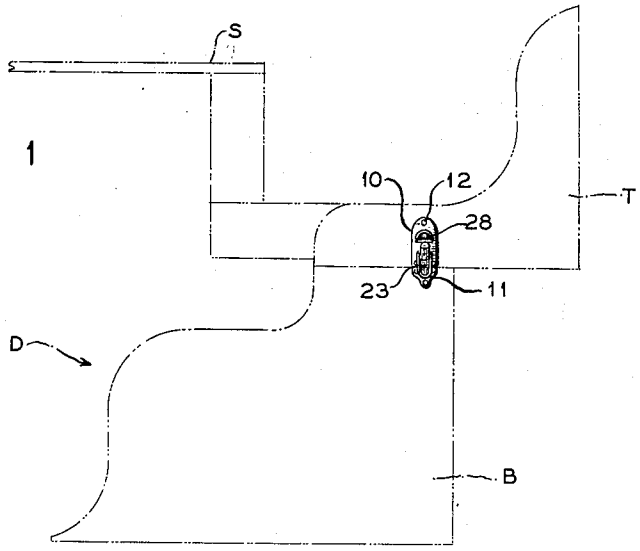


FIG. 2

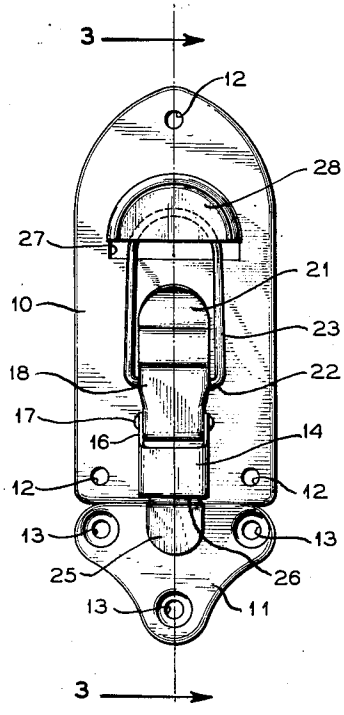


FIG. 3

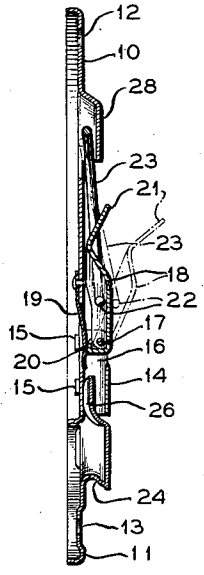
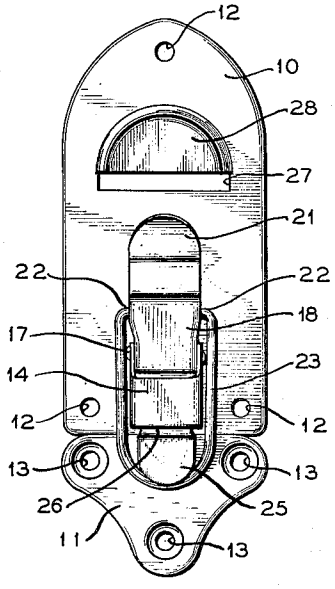


FIG. 4



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BAGGAGE LATCH

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4 Claims. (Cl. 292—247)

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This invention relates to fastening devices and more particularly to that class of fastening device which is especially designed for use in connection with trunks, boxes, suit cases and the like.

Fastening devices of the character with which we are presently concerned generally include a hasp in the form of a loop which is carried by a pivotal member and is intended to engage with a hook-like member or projection when the device is in locking position. Resilient or spring means is normally employed for retaining the pivotal member in either open or closed position and the hasp or loop is mounted on the pivotal member so as to swing freely thereupon. It will be readily apparent that when the device is in locked position the hasp or loop is securely retained upon the locking projection but when the fastening device is in unlocked position the loop is free to swing or extend outwardly and is thus susceptible to damage or may cause injury to persons or objects which may inadvertently strike thereagainst.

It is accordingly a major object of the present invention to provide a fastening device of the class described which includes novel means for housing the hasp or loop when the device is in unlocked position.

It is a further object of the invention to provide in a fastening device of the class set forth, means for preventing free swinging or movement of the hasp or loop when the device is in unlocked position.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a latch of the class described including novel means for protecting the hasp or loop against damage when the device is in unlocked position.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an improved fastening device of the class set forth which will function with maximum efficiency, will be particularly strong and durable, and may be economically manufactured.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of one embodiment of the invention, illustrating the fastening device applied to a particular form of collapsible desk;

Fig. 2, an elevation of the fastening device of the instant application, disclosing the elements thereof assembled in unlocked position;

Fig. 3, a vertical sectional view, taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

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Fig. 4, an elevation of the fastening device, similar to Fig. 2, but disclosing the elements thereof assembled in locked position.

As shown in the drawing, the novel fastening device comprises base plates 10 and 11 which are respectively designed to be secured in abutting relation to the bottom portion and to the lid of a trunk, box, suit case, or the like. The base plate 10 is provided with a plurality of spaced apertures 12 intended for the reception of any desired type of fastening means such as screws, rivets, or the like. In like manner, the base plate 11 is provided with a plurality of spaced apertures 13, also intended for the reception of any desired form of fastener. Preferably, as is well known in this and related arts, the apertures 12 as well as the apertures 13 may be countersunk to conveniently receive the heads of the rivets, screws, or other fasteners employed.

The base plate 10 is provided, adjacent the bottom edge thereof, with a keeper or bolt-receiving shell 14 which may be rigidly secured thereto in any desired manner. Preferably the keeper 14 is provided with a plurality of integral lugs 15 which engage within suitable apertures (not shown) in the base plate, whereby a rigid structure may be had.

The keeper 14 is further provided, on the end portion thereof remote from the edge of the base plate 10, with a pair of longitudinally extending lugs or ears 16 suitably apertured for the reception of a rivet or pin 17 upon which is pivotally mounted, between the ears 16, an extremity of a spring-controlled lever 18. A spring 19 is rigidly secured to the under surface of the base plate 10 and projects through an aperture 20 formed therein so as to engage with an extremity of the lever 18 whereby this lever may be resiliently maintained in extreme positions, as is well known in this art. The free extremity of the lever 18 is provided with a finger engaging portion 21 whereby manipulation of the lever may be facilitated.

Pivotally connected to the longitudinally extending side walls of the keeper 18 are the inturned extremities 22 of a hasp or loop 23 intended to engage with the undercut face 24 of a catch 25 mounted upon or formed integrally with the base plate 11. Preferably the catch 25 includes a tongue or bolt 26 which is designed to enter the keeper 14 when the base plates 10 and 11 are properly aligned for locking engagement therebetween.

The operation of the structure thus described is well known and it is considered that no par-

ticular discussion thereof is required here. When the fastening device is in the locked position illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawing, the hasp or loop 23 is securely retained upon the catch 25 by reason of engagement with the undercut face 24 thereof. However, when the hasp is disengaged from this catch, it is free to swing about its pivotally mounted extremities and is thus susceptible to damage, particularly when the article upon which the fastening device is employed is moved from place to place. Such damage may result in bending the hasp so that it cannot function properly or, where the hasp is free to swing or project outwardly from the fastening device, injury to persons or property may result from inadvertent contact therewith.

To this end the base plate 10 is provided with a novel protective housing intended to receive a portion of the hasp when the fastening device is in unlocked position and prevent free swinging or other movement thereof. Preferably the base plate 10 is provided with a slot or aperture 27 providing access into an arcuate raised or upstruck portion 28 pressed outwardly from the surface of the base plate and intended to receive therein the free extremity of the loop 23. Obviously, the housing or raised portion 28 may be formed separately from the base plate and may be suitably mounted thereupon, however, it has been found in practice that such a portion may be conveniently stamped out from the sheet material of which the base plate is formed during the initial stamping or other operation required for the manufacture thereof.

Movement of the hasp or loop 23 from the locked position illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawing to the unlocked but retained position shown in Fig. 2 is particularly simple. The spring-controlled lever 18 is raised to permit disengagement of the loop 23 from the undercut shoulder 24 of the catch 25. The hasp or loop is then pivoted to the position illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 3 of the drawing where the free extremity of the loop may enter the slot 27. The lever 18 is then permitted to return to its spring-urged normal position and the loop 23 is carried therewith to the retained position disclosed in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawing. It will be noted that in this housed or retained position the hasp or loop lies substantially parallel to and upon the face of the base plate 10, in a plane between that of the housing 28 and the lever 18, and is thus prevented from swinging freely, when the fastening device is in unlocked position and the article upon which the device is employed is being moved about, and is effectively protected from receiving or inflicting injury.

There has been illustrated, in Fig. 1 of the drawing, the application of the fastening device described herein upon a collapsible desk, indicated generally at D, which forms the subject matter of a copending application. As shown, the base plates 10 and 11 are mounted upon a side wall of the top T and bottom B of the desk D which is opened to provide a suitable working surface S supported upon brackets or the like. It will be obvious, however, that use of the instant fastening device is in no manner limited to such a structure and that the disclosure of Fig. 1 of the drawing is merely illustrative and can in no manner be considered limitive.

There has thus been described a novel fastening device of the character employing a hasp or loop which is freely movable upon a spring-controlled pivotal lever and which includes

means for housing or retaining the loop against inadvertent movement when the device is in unlocked position. The device may be economically manufactured, readily applied to the article in connection with which it is intended to be used, and is strong and durable as well as particularly efficient in operation.

It will be obvious to those skilled in this art that various changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof and, therefore, the invention is not limited by that which is shown in the drawing and described in the specification but only as indicated in the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A fastening device of the class set forth including aligned base plates designed to be secured to the parts to be fastened together, a catch carried by one of said plates, a lever pivotally attached to the other plate, and a hasp pivotally mounted at one extremity thereof upon said lever, the free end of said hasp being adapted to engage said catch to lock said plates together, said other plate having a slot providing access to an arcuate upstruck portion adapted to receive said free end of said hasp to retain said hasp against pivotal movement when the device is in unlocked position.

2. A fastening device of the class set forth including aligned base plates designed to be secured to the parts to be fastened together, a catch carried by one of said plates, a lever pivotally attached to the other plate, and a hasp pivotally mounted upon said lever and adapted to engage said catch to lock said plates together, said other plate having a slot providing access to an upstruck portion for receiving and retaining said hasp against pivotal movement when the device is in unlocked position.

3. A fastening device of the class set forth including aligned base plates designed to be secured to the parts to be fastened together, a catch carried by one of said plates, a lever pivotally attached to the other plate, and a hasp pivotally mounted upon said lever and adapted to engage said catch to lock said plates together, said other plate being provided with a slot for receiving and retaining said hasp against pivotal movement when the device is in unlocked position.

4. A fastening device of the class set forth including aligned base plates designed to be secured to the parts to be fastened together, a catch carried by one of said plates, a lever pivotally attached to the other of said plates, a hasp pivotally mounted upon said lever and adapted to engage said catch to lock said plates together, and a housing on said other plate for receiving and retaining said hasp against pivotal movement when the device is in unlocked position.

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