

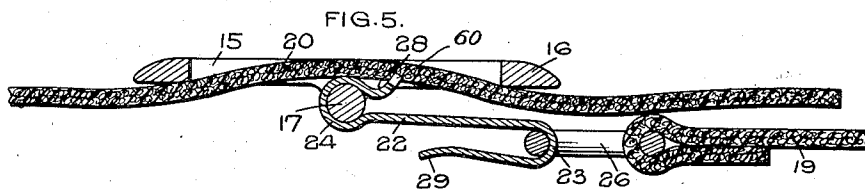
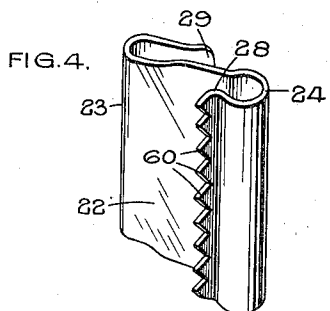
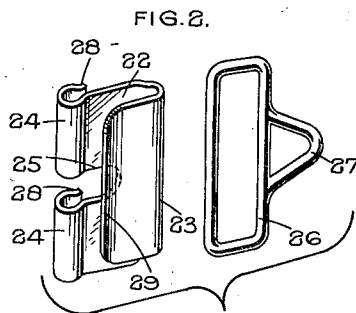
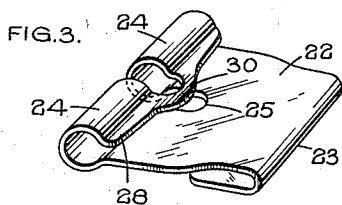
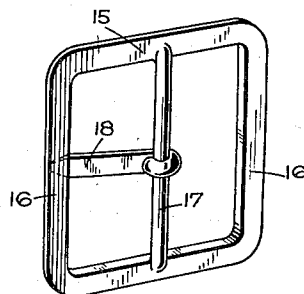
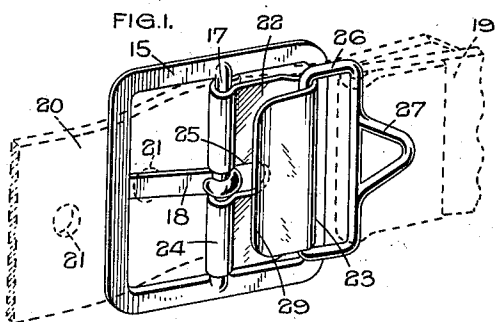
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STRAP FASTENING

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,079,981

STRAP FASTENING

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6 Claims. (Cl. 24-77)

This invention relates to strap fastenings and although applicable to straps generally, is of particular advantage when applied to a fastening for use with the leather or fabric belts of leather or fabric garments. In connection with such belts, it has been proposed to provide a releasable fastening between the buckle and the part of the strap to be attached thereto in order to avoid having to draw the belt through the buckle every time it is unfastened and refastened, as a result of which, particularly when the softer kinds of leather or fabric are used, the exterior surface of the belt becomes injured and presents an unsightly appearance long before the rest of the garment shows any wear at all. The same applies to the buckle itself, when the frame of this is covered with leather or fabric as is commonly the case.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a releasable fastening which can be applied to an existing or normal buckle, but which does not necessitate the belt being threaded through the buckle when connecting or disconnecting the ends thereof.

A further object is to provide a cheap or simplified form of releasable fastening which will be easy to construct and operate in use.

Referring to the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a perspective rear view of a strap fastening constructed in accordance with the invention, showing the manner in which it is applied to a belt.

Figure 2 is a similar view, but with the parts of the fastening separated one from another.

Figure 3 is a perspective front view of one of the fastening members shown in Figures 1 and 2, but in a slightly modified form.

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing a modification.

Figure 5 is a section through a buckle incorporating the member shown in Figure 4.

In the constructions illustrated in Figures 1 to 3, the fastening includes a buckle of the well-known type comprising a substantially rectangular frame 15, intermediate the ends 16 of which is disposed a cross-bar 17 having a tongue 18 pivoted centrally thereof.

Such a buckle is attached to one end 19 of a leather or other belt or strap in a manner to be described hereinafter. The free end 20 of the belt is provided with a plurality of spaced holes 21 adapted for selective engagement by the tongue 18 after the end 20 has been passed through the buckle and the length of the belt adjusted as desired. When the tongue has been entered in

one of the holes 21, an endwise pull on the belt holds the tongue in contact with the end 16 of the frame, and prevents the belt becoming disengaged therefrom.

That portion of the end 20 of the belt which extends beyond the tongue 18 will usually be passed back through the buckle on the opposite side of the cross-bar 17, so as to overlap the other end 19 of the belt, and it may be threaded through a leather or other loop thereon.

It is found that, when the end 19 of the belt is permanently attached to the cross-bar 17, as has been the usual practice hitherto, the rapid wear of the free end 20 which occurs, due to its having to be drawn through the buckle every time the belt is fastened or unfastened, soon renders the belt unsightly.

In a fastening constructed in accordance with the present invention, however, such damage to the belt is avoided by providing a detachable connection between the end 19 thereof and the buckle frame, such connection involving a pair of fastening members, one of which is adapted to be secured to the end of the belt whilst the other is fixedly or otherwise attached to the back of the frame on or adjacent the cross-bar 17.

With any of the arrangements now to be described, it will be seen that, once the effective length of the belt has been adjusted in the usual manner, the buckle need not be moved on the belt again until a fresh setting is desired, the connection and disconnection of the belt ends ordinarily being effected by means of the fastening members above-mentioned. As these are in all cases arranged at the back of the buckle, they are concealed by the overlapping end 20 of the belt, and the fastening as a whole thus presents a perfectly normal appearance. Furthermore the connection of the ends can be effected more rapidly than with the ordinary form of buckle.

In the construction shown in Figures 1 and 2, the fastening members employed are adapted for application to an existing buckle, and take the form of a hook and eye. The hook member is constructed from a sheet metal blank 22 which is bent upon itself at 23, one end being curled over as at 24 to enable the member to be clipped on to the cross-bar 17. This end of the blank is slotted at 25 to accommodate the tongue 18 on the latter. The other member, which forms the eye, consists of a rectangular link 26 of wire, cast or strip metal through which the extremity of the belt end 19 is passed before being turned over and stitched to the adjacent part of the belt. Preferably the side of the link 26 around which

the end of the belt is stitched is formed with an ear or tab to prevent angular movement of the link in relation to the belt, and this may consist of a U-shaped length of wire or strip 27, which is cast with or brazed on or otherwise attached to the link 26. The part 27 forms a finger piece whereby the link 26 may be conveniently handled when fastening or unfastening.

The ends of the sheet metal blank 22 may be turned up somewhat as at 28, 29 to facilitate their engagement with the cross-bar 17 and the link 26 respectively. Figure 3 illustrates a modified construction of hook member 22 in which an integral or other connecting piece 30 extends across the end of the slot 25, so as to engage behind the tongue 18 when the member 22 is in place on the cross-bar and thereby assist its retention thereon.

In the construction shown in Figures 4 and 5 the edges 28 of the curled over parts 24 are serrated so as to form teeth 60, such teeth being adapted to engage the back surface of the strap and serving to retain it against slipping, this construction being particularly useful when a buckle is used which has no prong.

It will, of course, be understood that the invention is equally applicable to what are known as "slides" or "slide buckles", in which the tongue 18 is dispensed with, the adjustment of the belt being maintained solely by the friction which resists movement of the belt in relation to the buckle. Such buckles are applicable to webbing straps as used on military equipment, spikes or projections being frequently provided on the cross-bar 17 to improve the grip.

The constructions having behind the buckle a hook, or a plate with a hooked end, can be very readily operated to engage or disengage the fastening, since the hook or hooked end is located definitely behind the buckle and the loop on the end of the strap can be held between the fingers in a suitable position for engaging the hook. When the loop is provided at the back of the buckle and the hook is on the end of the strap it is more difficult to turn the hook so as to engage it in the loop, since the latter is hidden behind the buckle and cannot easily be gripped or located by the fingers, whilst it is somewhat difficult to manipulate the hook behind the buckle, since if the belt is to be tight when fastened, there is little space at the back of the buckle and the hook cannot be firmly gripped.

What I claim then is:—

1. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame having a cross-bar over which one part of the strap is placed, a loop for attachment to the other strap part and a fastening member for releasably connecting said loop to said buckle frame, said fastening member consisting of a plate adapted to be located entirely behind said buckle frame, one edge of said plate being curled over to form an open hooked portion adapted to engage detachably over said cross bar, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly away from the surface of the plate to increase the width of the open mouth of the open hooked portion and to extend towards the strap placed over the cross bar and the opposite edge of said flat plate being bent over in the opposite direction to form a further open hooked portion on the opposite face of the plate to that at which is disposed the first named hooked portion, said further hooked portion being releasably engageable with said loop.

2. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame, having a cross-bar over which one part of said strap is passed, a tongue on said cross-bar, and a two part releasable fastening, one fastening part comprising a plate adapted to be located behind said buckle frame, one edge of said plate being curled over to form an open hooked portion divided to engage detachably over said cross bar on each side of said tongue, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly away from the surface of the plate to increase the width of the open mouth of the open hooked portion and to extend towards the strap placed over the cross bar and the opposite edge of said plate being bent over in the opposite direction to form a further open hooked portion on the opposite face of the plate to that at which is disposed the first named hooked portion, said further hooked portion being releasably engageable with the other fastening part comprising a loop for attachment to a further strap.

3. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame having a cross-bar over which one part of the strap is placed, a loop for attachment to the other strap part and a fastening member consisting of a plate adapted to be located behind said buckle frame, one edge of said plate being curled over to form an open hooked portion adapted to engage detachably over said cross bar, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly away from the surface of the plate to increase the width of the open mouth of the open hooked portion and to extend towards the strap placed over the cross bar, teeth on said projecting edge to assist in preventing the strap from slipping and the opposite edge of said plate being bent over in the opposite direction to form a further open hooked portion on the opposite face of the plate to that at which is disposed the first named hooked portion, said further hooked portion being releasably engageable with said loop.

4. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame of normal construction having a cross-bar over which one part of the strap is placed, a tongue on said cross-bar for engagement in a hole in said strap part, a loop for attachment to the other strap part, a sheet metal plate for releasably connecting said loop to said buckle frame, a part-cylindrical hooked portion at one edge of said plate, said part-cylindrical portion being divided along its length for detachable engagement with said cross bar on each side of said tongue, said hooked portion having an open mouth permitting passage of said cross bar into said part-cylindrical portion, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly to increase the width of the open mouth of said hooked portion, said edge projecting away from the adjacent surface of the plate and towards the strap placed over said cross bar, and a further hooked portion at the opposite edge of said plate, said further hooked portion projecting on the opposite face of the plate to that at which is disposed the part-cylindrical portion, said further hooked portion being releasably engageable with said loop.

5. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame, a cross bar on said frame, a strap engaging over said cross-bar, and a two part releasable fastening, one part comprising a plate adapted to be located behind said buckle and the other part comprising a loop for attachment to the other strap part, a sheet metal plate for releasably connecting said loop to said buckle frame, a part-cylindrical hooked portion at one edge of

5 said plate for detachable engagement with said cross bar, said hooked portion having an open mouth permitting passage of said cross bar into said part-cylindrical portion, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly to increase the width of the open mouth of said hooked portion, said edge projecting away from the adjacent surface of the plate and towards the strap placed over said cross bar, teeth on said 10 projecting edge to assist in preventing the strap from slipping, and a further hooked portion at the opposite edge of said plate, said further hooked portion projecting on the opposite face of the plate to that at which is disposed the part-cylindrical portion, said further hooked portion 15 being releasably engageable with said loop.

6. A strap fastening comprising a buckle frame having a cross bar over which one part of the strap is placed, a loop for attachment to the

other strap part, a sheet metal plate for releasably connecting said loop to said buckle frame, a part-cylindrical hooked portion at one edge of said plate for detachable engagement with said cross bar, said hooked portion having 5 an open mouth permitting passage of said cross bar into said part-cylindrical portion, the projecting edge of the hook being bent outwardly to increase the width of the open mouth of said hooked portion, said edge projecting away from the adjacent surface of the plate and towards 10 the strap placed over said cross bar, and a further hooked portion at the opposite edge of said plate, said further hooked portion projecting on the opposite face of the plate to that at which 15 is disposed the part-cylindrical portion, said further hooked portion being releasably engageable with said loop.

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