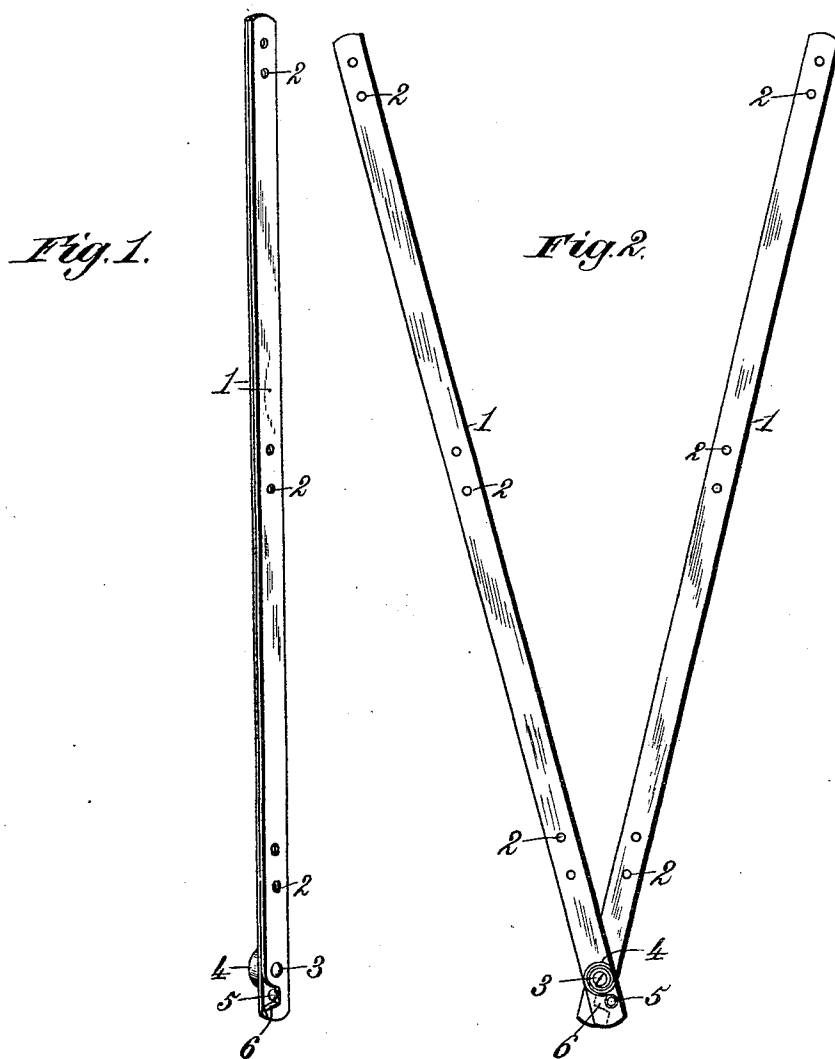


(No Model.)

E. GUMBINNER.
PLACKET CLOSER.

No. 546,924.

Patented Sept. 24, 1895.



Witnesses.
Robert Emmett
Dennis Sumby

Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL GUMBINNER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PLACKET-CLOSER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 546,924, dated September 24, 1895.

Application filed July 20, 1895. Serial No. 556,612. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL GUMBINNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Automatic Placket-Closers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to placket-closers for ladies' dress-skirts, my purpose being to provide a device of this kind which shall be extremely simple and economical in construction, automatic in operation, and capable of yielding elastically to conform substantially to the form or position of the parts to which it is attached. It is my purpose also to so unite the elastic members of the placket-closer that they shall lie one upon the other when closed and to combine them with a closing-spring in such manner that there shall be no points, projections, or sharp edges to catch, tear, or wear away the dress or any part of the clothing with which the device may have contact.

The invention consists, to these ends, in the novel features of construction and new combinations of parts fully explained hereinafter, and then particularly pointed out and defined in the claims.

To enable others to fully understand and to practice my said invention, I will now describe the same in detail, reference being made for this purpose to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation, showing the placket-closer in closed position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the parts opened far enough to show the construction at the pivotally-connected ends.

The reference-numeral 1 in said drawings indicates each of the members of the placket-closer, consisting of a thin narrow strip of a suitable metal, or suitable non-metallic material—such as horn, ivory, celluloid, bone, whalebone, wood, or other substance. These strips are quite thin to render them suitably elastic and are provided at proper intervals with small perforations 2 to enable them to be stitched to the garment.

Close to one end the strips 1 are connected together by a pivot 3, having its end slightly projecting from the flat face of one of said strips to form an attachment for one end of a narrow coiled spring 4, which surrounds the

projecting end of the pivot. The other end of said spring is secured to a small stud 5, rigidly mounted between the pivot 2 and the neighboring end of the strip, which turns loosely upon said pivot, the latter being rigidly connected to the other strip. The stud 5 is placed near the edge of the strip and projects through and very slightly beyond its other face, this projecting end serving as a stop for the arms when they fully coincide. A notch 6, cut in the edge of the strip, which is rigid with the pivot 2, provides an opening which is entered by the projecting end of the stud 5.

The parts composing the placket-closer are of course rounded at their ends and edges to remove all sharp angles or points which might cause injury to the clothing.

The small spiral spring 4 exerts a force which is amply sufficient to close the two members of the device and hold them closed.

It presents no projecting points or angles which can wear or injure the dress or the clothing.

The entire device is of light weight, highly elastic, and as the parts lie one upon the other they are practically invisible. They can yield to conform to the various positions and form of the part to which they are attached, and, when formed of metal, they may be either plated with nickel or other suitable metal to prevent oxidation and avoid rust stains upon the clothing. They may also be japanned or otherwise treated for the same purpose.

The device may be used without any material change for similar general purposes, such as a glove-fastener, and for all analogous uses. For example, it may be used as a safeguard to prevent the picking of pockets in ladies' skirts.

The apertures in the strips, by which they are stitched to the garment, may be arranged as desired; but I prefer to use three pairs of such apertures, which should be eyeleted to prevent the edges of the strips from wearing or cutting the thread. I do not, however, limit my invention to the presence of either of these features, although I consider them desirable.

The parts composing the placket-closer may, if desired, be covered or sheathed by any suitable fabric or flexible material, to accommo-

date those who may prefer to sew them on top of the skirt instead of inside.

Heretofore and previous to my invention spring-actuated devices have been proposed for glove-fasteners and analogous uses in which the two members are formed of wire, which is twisted or bent into a coil or spiral at the connected ends of the said members. This spring is integral with the other parts and forms the only connection between them, no pivot-pin being used. A placket-closer has also been proposed having two arms or strips pivotally connected at one end, but without any actuating-spring. Such constructions I make no claim to.

What I claim is—

1. A placket closer consisting of two elastic strips mounted one loosely and the other rigidly upon a pivot-pin, a spring fastened by one end to the projecting portion of the said pivot and coiled around the same, its other end being secured to a stud on the loosely mounted strip, said stud projecting through

and beyond the other side of said strip to serve as a stop to limit the closing movement, substantially as described.

2. In a placket-closer, the combination with two elastic strips one loosely and the other rigidly mounted upon a pivot-pin a little above their lower ends, of a spiral spring coiled around a prolongation of said pin to which one end of said spring is attached, its other end being secured to a stud on the loosely mounted strip, which passes through the latter below the pivot-pin and upon one side of the central line of the strip its projecting end being adapted to lie in a notch cut in the edge of the rigidly mounted strip, to serve as a stop, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMIL GUMBINNER.

Witnesses:

SAML. KING LEVI,
LEW GUMBINNER.