

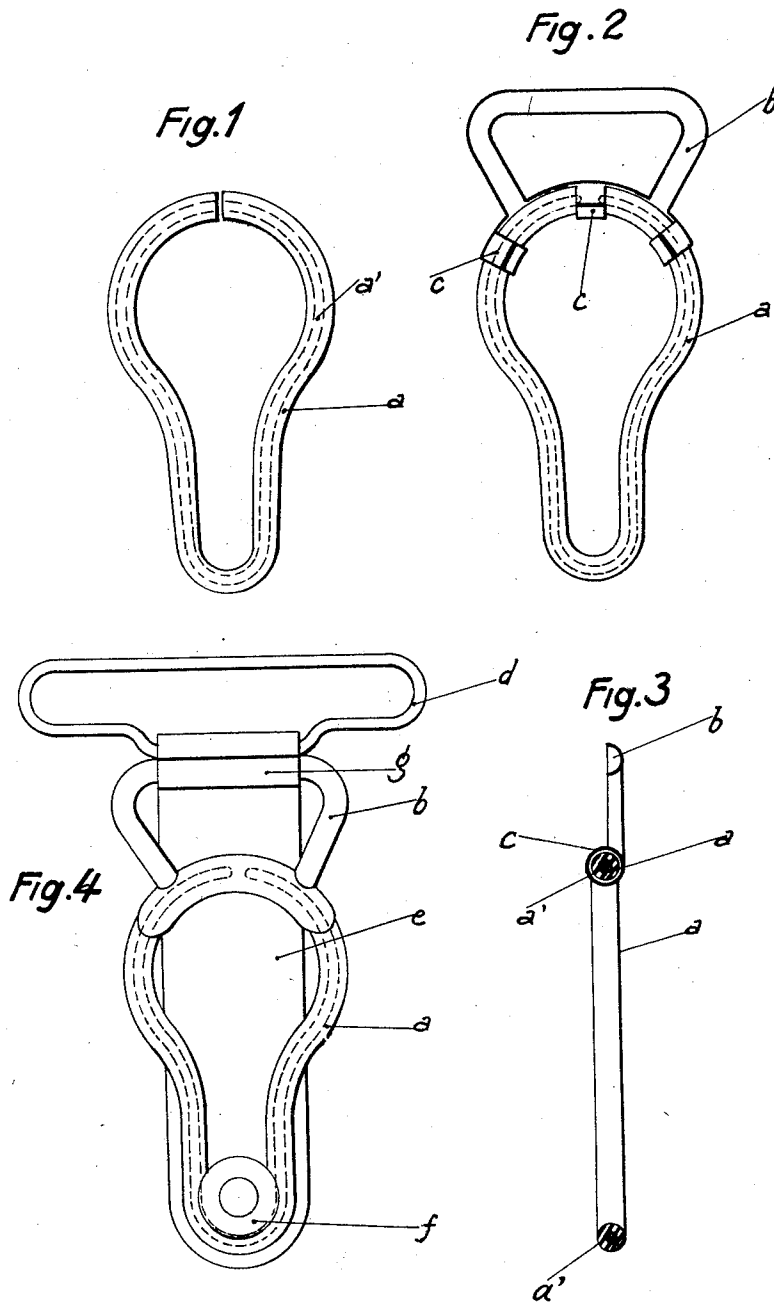
Dec. 15, 1931.

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1,836,770

GARTER BUCKLE

Filed April 22, 1929



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## GARTER BUCKLE

Application filed April 22, 1929, Serial No. 357,221, and in France May 1, 1928.

It is known in the art that buckles of metal rapidly wear the stockings.

In order to overcome this disadvantage, such buckles have been covered with fabrics and rubber and likewise flexible buckles of rubber or twisted material have been made.

The disadvantage of such buckles resides in the fact that they become damaged very rapidly as concerns the fabric or rubber and do not offer sufficient resistance.

Buckles have likewise been made of plastic materials and semi-rigid materials, said material being more suitable to the preservation of the stocking, but buckles cut from a sheet are of a single piece and are very breakable. Furthermore such a way of manufacturing is burdensome and produces a large waste of raw material.

The present invention has for its object a buckle of the type indicated for garters which overcomes the aforementioned disadvantages and constitutes a new industrial product. My method of manufacture consists essentially in forming the so-called buckle of a bent rod of plastic material, said rod being connected to and fixed upon a metallic support, destined to receive the elastic fabric as well as the button-carrying strap, by suitable means. My method allows producing an article constituted partly of plastic material and partly of metal, which presents considerable advantage over similar buckles entirely of metal and obtaining in equality of weight a buckle of larger transverse section. The increase in section of the button cover of plastic material resulting diminishes consequently the risks of tearing, the surfaces of contact with the stocking being larger. Another feature of the invention consists in reinforcing the rod by means of a metallic core in a way that the deformations to which the plastic material is subjected cannot become sufficiently great to endanger rupture. The said reinforcing likewise prevents the buckle from becoming deformed permanently. In this end the rod can be perforated by an axial channel of suitable section, into which is introduced before shaping, the thread-shaped reinforcing of flexible metal. I may likewise establish in a single opera-

tion by means of a suitable filling machine, the covering of the metallic core by the plastic material, which eliminates the threading of the said reinforcing therein. The buckle is then formed while hot to the desired shape.

In the drawings given by way of example—

Fig. 1 is a view of the bent rod of plastic material adapted to form the buckle, the metallic core being shown in dotted lines;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the rod connected to a metallic mounting;

Fig. 3 is a transverse section of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is an assembly view of the buckle and the button carrying strap.

As hereinbefore indicated the essential feature of the garter buckle forming the object of my invention resides in the fact that the part *a* thereof in which the securing button is to be engaged, is composed of a tube of plastic material which is carried by the metallic mounting *b*. Said tube *a* is formed when hot and its shape is definitely fixed by cooling as in the art of moulding plastic materials. Said tube *a* is subsequently, by suitable means connected to the metallic support *b*. It may be reinforced by means of a metallic core.

By way of example, the support *b* may include during stamping the lugs *c*, said lugs being bent over in a manner as to bite into the upper part of the tube *a* of plastic material. The metallic support *b* is joined to the carrier *d* by an assembling roller *g* upon which is attached the button strap *e* carrying the button *f*.

My method, above disclosed reduces to a minimum, and without cutting waste the use of a plastic material, the parts in contact with the stocking being of this material only.

The connection of the metallic support *d* with the button receiving loop *a* of plastic material, reinforces said loop, limits the necessary elasticity thereof and eliminates sliding of the stocking which is strongly held without deterioration.

Having described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A garter fastener of the type described,

including a button-receiving loop formed from a bent tube of rigid plastic material having a central reinforcing wire rendered integral therewith by the process of manufacture, a stamped up sheet metal support 5 shaped to fit one end of said button-receiving loop, a plurality of lugs integral with said support extending around the said end of the button-receiving loop and coming into 10 gripping relationship with the tubular rigid plastic material surrounding the reinforcing wire, and means for connecting the stamped up metallic support to the garter, for the purposes set forth.

15 In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ANDRÉE PUGNIET.

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