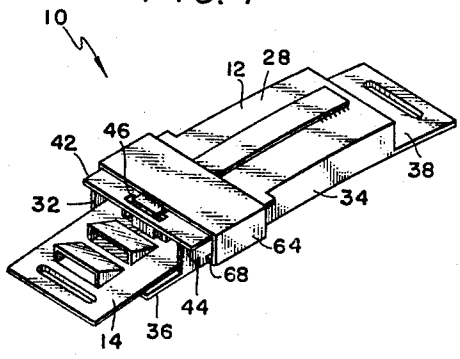
Aug. 23, 1966 C. M. ECKART 3,267,545

OVERSHOE BUCKLE

Filed Aug. 21, 1964

FIG. 1



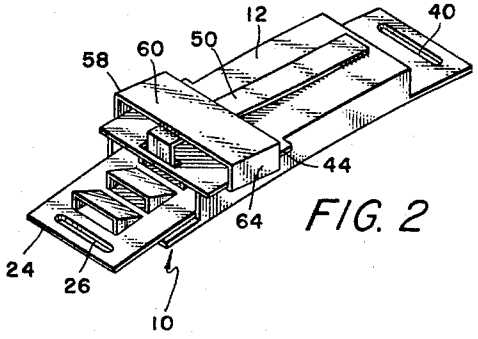


FIG. 2

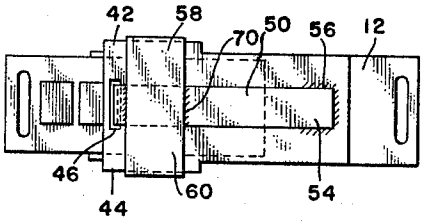


FIG. 3

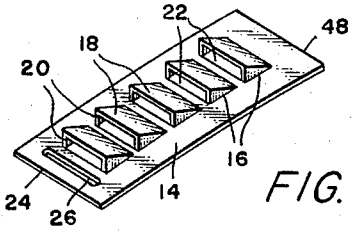


FIG. 6

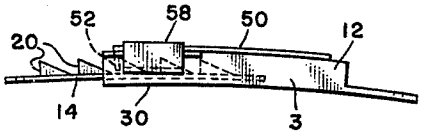
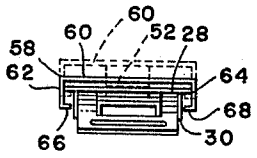


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



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OVERSHOE BUCKLE

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Filed Aug. 21, 1964, Ser. No. 391,103
1 Claim. (Cl. 24—206)

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in overshoe buckles, and particularly pertains to an overshoe buckle having a catch or latch element resiliently biased into latching position, such latch element being provided with manually operable means for moving the latch element to a limited extent sufficient to displace the same from latching position.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an overshoe buckle that will not become inadvertently unbuckled when the user thereof is working in tall grass, weeds, brush or the like.

Attainment of such primary object will become evident in the light of the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, the same to be taken in conjunction with accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of the overshoe buckle of this invention showing the lift in its normal lowered position toward which it is resiliently biased to latch the buckle;

FIGURE 2 is an isometric view of the buckle shown in FIGURE 1; however, this view showing the lift raised to its upper limited position unlatching the buckle;

FIGURE 3 is a top elevational view of the buckle shown in FIGURE 1, with hidden details of construction being shown in dashed outline;

FIGURE 4 is a side elevational view of the buckle shown in FIGURE 1, with hidden details of construction being shown in dashed outline;

FIGURE 5 is an end view of the buckle shown in FIGURE 1, the view being taken as from the left end of such showing, with the latch being shown in latching position in full lines and in unlatching position in dashed outline; and,

FIGURE 6 is an isometric view of the notched member.

Referring now to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the various views, the reference numeral **10** designates generally the shoe buckle, the same being comprised of latch structure **12** and an elongated or strip-like latchable element **14**.

The latchable element **14** is provided with a series of upstanding teeth or notch defining portions **16** along the extent thereof. The teeth **16** have inclined upper surfaces **18** facing in one direction and have ends or notch faces **20** substantially normal to the extent of the element **14** and which face in a direction opposite to that faced by the inclined surfaces **18**. As clearly shown in the drawings, the notch faces **20** are centrally open as indicated at **22**. At the end **24** of the element **14** toward which the notches face, the element **14** is provided with a transverse slot **26** by means of which the element **14** can be secured to a shoe, not shown, in a conventional manner.

As will be evident on inspection of the drawings, especially FIGURES 4 and 6 thereof, the element **14** is arcuate along its length with the teeth or notches **16** being on the convex or upper side thereof.

The latch structure **12** comprises an elongated, tubular member or tube of substantially rectangular transverse configuration including spaced upper and bottom side walls **28** and **30**, respectively, which are connected by spaced side walls **32** and **34**. The bottom wall **30** is of relatively extended length at the front and rear ends of the tubular member to define, respectively, a lip and an attaching portion **38**, the latter being provided with a transverse slot **40** by means of which the latch structure **12** can be conventionally secured to a shoe, not shown.

The upper wall **28** is provided with laterally projecting flanges or detents **42** and **44** that extend outwardly from the side walls **32** and **34**, respectively, for a purpose to be presently described. Additionally, the upper wall **28** is provided adjacent its forward end with a transverse slot **46**, also for a purpose to be presently explained.

The latch structure **12** is, in a manner generally similar to the latchable element **14**, of arcuate configuration with the convex side uppermost.

The latchable element **14** is slidable into and out of the latch construction **12** with the lip **36** serving to aid the user in guiding the introduction of the element **14** into the hollow interior of the latch structure **12**. The element **14** is introduced into the forward end of the latch structure **12** with an end **48** of the element **14** being foremost and with the notches **16** extending upwardly toward the internal surface of the upper wall **28**.

Such introduction of the element **14** into the latch structure **12** sequentially passes the series of notches or teeth **16** directly below the slot **46**.

An L-shaped leaf spring including a relatively long leg **50** and a relatively short leg **52** is provided, and an end portion **54** of the leg **50** remote from the leg **52** is welded securely to the external top surface of the upper wall **28** adjacent the rear end of the latter as indicated at **56**. The underside of the leg **50** seats flush against the top of the upper wall **28** in the absence of the application of external forces against the resiliency or bias of th leaf spring constituted of the legs **50** and **52**. The leg **52** which constitutes a catch or latch projects downwardly through the slot **46** and into the interior of the latch structure **12** to such an extent (when the leg **50** is seated against the upper wall **28**) as to engage one of the notch faces **20** and to prevent withdrawal of the latchable element **14** when the latter is inserted into the latch structure **12**, as will be clearly apparent.

Means are provided to enable the manual raising of the leg or latch **52** from engagement with the notches or teeth **16** to permit withdrawal of the latchable element **14** from the latch structure **12**. Such means comprises a lift **58** secured to the leg **50**. The lift **58** is a generally U-shaped member including a central horizontal web **60** and depending legs **62** and **64**, the legs **62** and **64** at their lowermost extremities being provided with inturned flanges **66** and **68**, respectively. The web **60** overlies the spring leg **50** adjacent the juncture of the latter with the leg or latch **52** and is fixedly secured thereto as by welding **70**.

As clearly shown in the drawings, the legs **62** and **64** are at right angles to the central or base portion **60** of the lift **58** and are disposed on opposite sides of the flanges or detents **42** and **44**. The inwardly extending bends or flanges **66** and **68** are at right angles to the legs **62** and **64** and are directed towards the side walls **32** and **34**, the arrangement being such that the lift **58** can be held by the fingers gripping the legs **62** and **64** thereof and lifted so as to flex the spring leg **50** and to thereby raise the leg or catch **52** from the notches **16**, such raising action being limited by engagement of the flanges **66** and **68** against the undersides of the detents **42** and **68**, respectively. Release of the lift **58** results in the leg or catch **52** returning to its latching position because of the resiliency or bias of the spring leg **50**.

It is important to note that when the buckle **10** is latched that the space between the lift **58** and other parts of the latch structure **12** is so limited that the liklihood is minimized that grass, weeds or brush may bcome engaged in such space so as to inadvertently unlatch the buckle **10**.

The buckle **10** can, for example, be made of such materials as afford the requisite resiliency of the spring leg **50** and which lend themselves to the welding **56** and **70**.

The making, usage and advantages of the invention will be amply clear from the foregoing, particularly to those familiar with the art, and further explanation is unnecessary.

Having thus completely and fully described the invention, what is now claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

An overshoe buckle comprising a strip-like part having notches; a tubular member for receiving said part, a detent on the exterior of two opposite side walls of said tubular member, there being a slot in the top wall of said tubular member, a leaf spring attached at one end to the exterior of said top wall and having a bent portion forming a catch at its other end extending through said slot into the interior of said tubular member to engage the notches on said strip-like part, a substantially U-shaped

lift for manual engagement attached at its base portions to said spring adjacent said catch and having its legs extending along the exterior of said side walls, inwardly extending bends on the ends of the legs directed toward said side wall and engageable with said detents to limit upward movement of said lift.

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