Sept. 29, 1959 D. KRASNOW ET AL 2,905,994

BELT BUCKLE

Filed Jan. 17, 1956

Fig. 1.

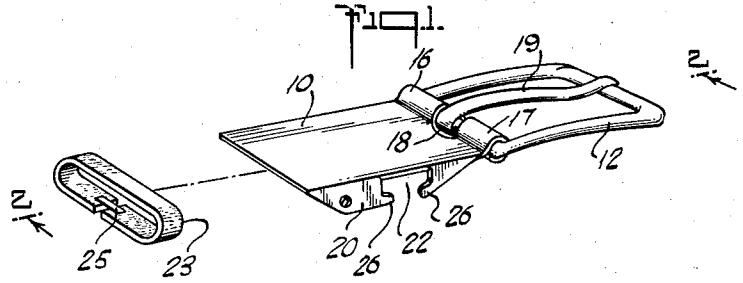


Fig. 2.

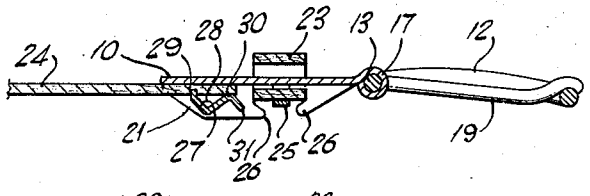


Fig. 3.

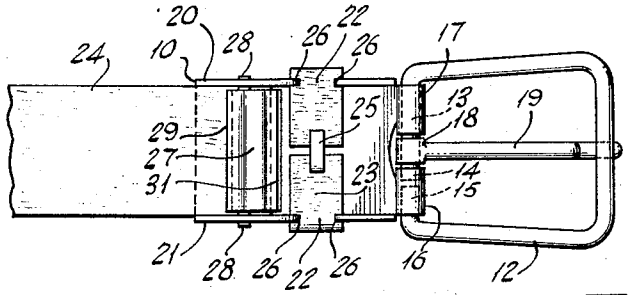


Fig. 4.

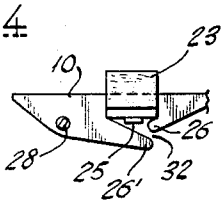


Fig. 5.

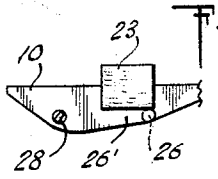


Fig. 6.

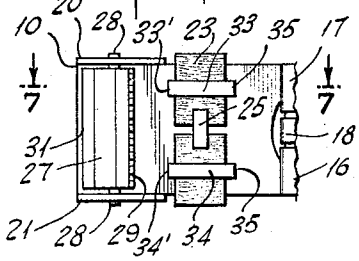
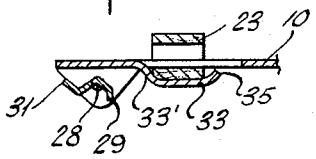


Fig. 7.



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BELT BUCKLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—182)

This invention relates to buckles for belts, straps and the like and more specifically to an improved buckle for waist belts affording means for releasably holding both the flexible belt material to the buckle and a belt loop for receiving the free end of the belt after engagement with the tongue and loop of the buckle.

One object of the invention resides in the provision of an improved buckle having a combination and arrangement of elements for releasably holding a flexible belt and belt loop that is characterized by its simplicity, effectiveness and low cost. While the invention is of general usefulness, it is particularly adaptable for use on men's and women's belts enabling the wearer to adjust the size of the belt and at the same time giving the appearance of a conventional belt wherein the belt and buckle are permanently secured one to the other.

Another object of the invention is an improved buckle for belts, straps and the like that enables the belt, buckle and belt loop to be assembled quickly and easily without the need for special tools or equipment. In this way belting, matching or contrasting loops and the buckle can be assembled to meet the desires of an individual purchaser without necessitating the maintenance of large stocks of belts in various sizes and colors.

Still another object of the invention resides in the provision of an improved buckle for belts wherein the buckle frame includes means pivotally attached thereto for releasably holding one end of a belt and means for securing a belt loop. In the case of waist belts forming part of one wearing apparel, the invention not only enables the wearer to adjust the belt length but also permits replacement of both the belt and belt loop should they become damaged or worn.

A still further object of the invention is a new and improved belt buckle.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings forming part of this application.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a buckle in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of Fig. 1 taken along the line 2—2 thereof with the belt retaining loop in place on the buckle;

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of Fig. 2;

Figs. 4 and 5 are side elevations of a fragmentary portion of the invention illustrating a modification thereof; and

Figs. 6 and 7 are bottom and side views of still another modified form of the invention.

Referring now to the drawings and more specifically to Figs. 1 to 3 thereof, the buckle in accordance with the invention includes a frame 10, a buckle loop 12 and a cooperating tongue 14 for engagement with a belt when the latter is fed through the buckle loop 12.

The buckle loop 12 may have any desired configuration and is preferably provided with a generally cylindrical transverse portion 13 for coupling the loop to the buckle frame 10. In the specific embodiment of the invention the buckle loop 12 is fabricated of a single piece of metal bent in the form of a rectangle with the transverse member 13 being formed by bending the ends of the rod 14 and 15 inwardly one of the other to form a substantially closed loop with the gap between the ends 14 and 15 being offset from the center thereof. The frame 10 is provided with a pair of lugs or tabs 16 and 17 that are spaced one from the other to leave a gap 18 therebetween. These tabs are bent about the transverse member 13 of the buckle loop 12 as shown in Fig. 1 to secure the frame to the loop with the loop 16 covering the gap between the ends 14 and 15 of the loop 12 and forming part of the transverse member 13. The tongue 19 is pivotally supported by the transverse member 13 and within the gap 18 and it may be installed either before or after the buckle loop and frame are secured together. The tongue 19 overlaps the outer end of the loop 12 and functions to engage an opening in a strap inserted through the loop 12.

The frame 10 is provided with a pair of rearwardly extending walls 20 and 21, each having a slot 22 for the reception of a flexible belt loop 23. The belt loop 23 is preferably formed of leather or other material matching or contrasting with the material of which the belt 24 is formed and is preferably secured in the form of a loop by a suitable metal clip 25. The loop is retained within the slots 22 by a pair of tabs 26 extending inwardly one of the other to partially close the entrance to the slot 22. The tabs 26 are preferably rounded so that they will not catch or damage any fabric that may contact the back side of the buckle. With this arrangement the flexible belt loop 23 can be readily and easily inserted within the slot 22 after fabrication of the buckle as previously described and if desired the loop 23 can be removed from the slots 22 for replacement or insertion of a different loop. In normal practice the width of the frame 10 is preferably made equal to or slightly narrower than the belt 24 with which the buckle is to be used so that when the belt end is engaged with the buckle loop 12 and tongue 19 and then inserted through the belt loop 23 it will cover the frame 10 and give the appearance of a conventional buckle wherein the belt is permanently secured to the buckle loop.

The frame 10 further includes means for releasably securing the belt 24 to the frame 10 and comprises generally an S-shaped member or clamp 27 extending between the walls 20 and 21 and pivoted thereto by outwardly extending pins 28 arranged to engage cooperating openings in the walls. To insert the belt 24 into the buckle the S-shaped member 27 is rotated in a clockwise direction as viewed in Fig. 2 and the end of the belt 24 is inserted between the clamp 27 and the frame body 10. The clamp 27 is then rotated in a counter clockwise direction whereupon the edge 29 of the clamp 27 engages the belt and rotates until the rounded portion 30 of the clamp 27 bears against the underside of the belt 24. This automatically locks the belt 24 in position in the buckle. The right hand end 31 of the clamping member 27 is curved outwardly as illustrated in order to facilitate release of the clamp and removal of the belt 24 from the buckle.

With the buckle as described above both the belt 24 as well as the belt loop 23 are removably secured to the buckle and enable the ultimate user of the belt to modify its length to meet his particular needs. Moreover, the belt loop 23 can be selected independently of the belt 24 so that the purchaser may have either a matching or contrasting loop. This procedure not only facilitates selection of the belt on the part of the purchaser but greatly reduces the stock a retailer must maintain in order

to meet the needs of his customers. For instance, a retailer need only stock a supply of buckles, belt loops and several sizes of belts of various colors and materials in order to afford his customers a wide selection of belts. Then, too, if a belt becomes worn or broken the user need only replace the belt and belt loop and thereby avoid the cost of an additional buckle.

In certain instances it may be desirable to provide a complete closure for the slots **22** in the frame **10** shown in Fig. 1. One procedure for the attainment of the end is shown in Figs. 4 and 5. In this modification one of the tabs **26** is made somewhat larger and is denoted in these figures by the numeral **26'**. The tab **26'** actually extends slightly beyond the cooperating tab **26** and is disposed outwardly therefrom to leave a small opening **32** for insertion of the belt loop **23**. After the loop is in place the tab **26'** is depressed as shown in Fig. 5 to slightly overlap the tab **26** and completely close the slot **22**.

Still another modification of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. In this modification the belt loop **23** is secured to the frame **10** by a pair of tabs **33** and **34** punched from the metal forming the frame itself. The tab **33** in this embodiment of the invention is connected with the frame **10** along the line **33'** while the tab **34** is connected to the frame **10** along the line **34'**. In the fabrication of the buckle these tabs are bent outwardly from the underside of the frame **10** to form an angle of about 45 degrees and the belt loop **23** is then inserted beneath both tabs. The tabs are then pressed downwardly in place as shown in Fig. 7 with the ends **34** thereof being provided with a slight reverse bend to securely retain the loop **23** and prevent any possiiblity of the ends of these tabs snagging clothing or fabric which it may contact.

While only certain embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, it is apparent that modifications, alterations and changes may be made without departing from the true scope and spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

A buckle comprising a plate having front, rear and side edges, a buckle loop pivotally secured to said front edge of the plate, side walls joined to said side edges and disposed in planes substantially perpendicular to the plane of the plate, and means carried by said side walls and positioned near the rear edge of the plate for releasably securing a belt to said buckle, each of said side walls having a slot substantially midway between the ends of the plate for accommodating and holding a belt loop in encircling relationship to the plate for receiving the end of said belt when engaged in said buckle loop, each slot extending lengthwise of its associated side wall and opening in the outer edge thereof with said edge opening being less than the width of the slot to permit engagement of the belt loop with the slot and retain it in position therein.

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