

G. P. SPANGLER.  
CLASP OR BUCKLE.  
APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1910.

972,937.

Patented Oct. 18, 1910.

Fig. 1.

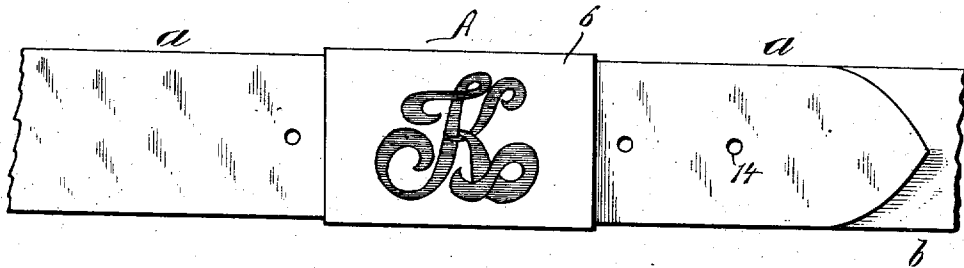


Fig. 2.

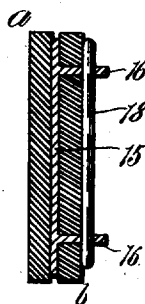
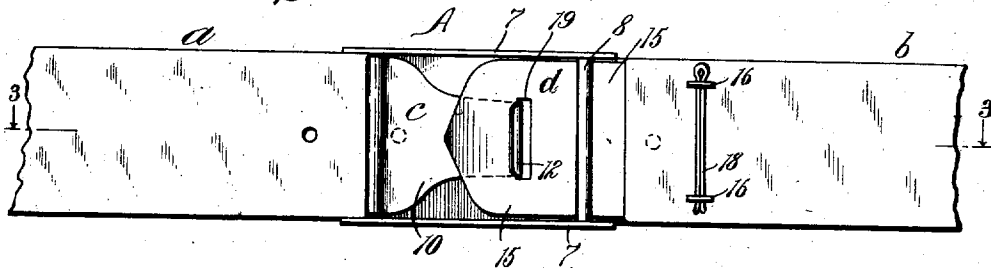


Fig. 4.

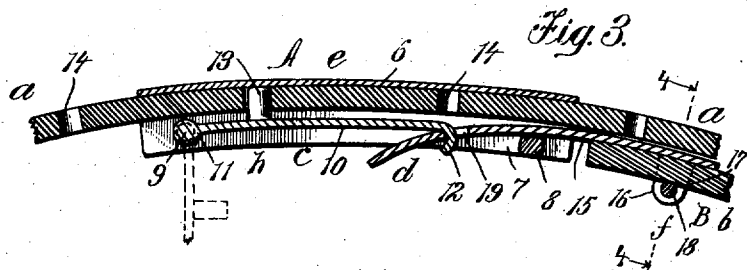


Fig. 3.

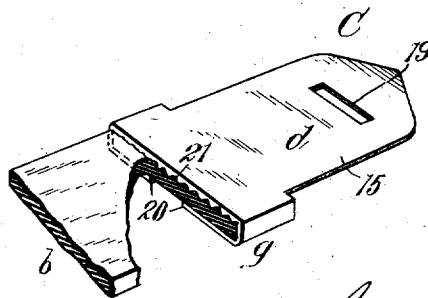


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE P. SPANGLER, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

## CLASP OR BUCKLE.

972,937.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 18, 1910.

Application filed May 5, 1910. Serial No. 559,625.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE P. SPANGLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Clasps or Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to clasps or buckles, or similar adjustable connection and attachment devices; and it has for its object to provide improvements with relation thereto which will be superior in point of positiveness in operation, convenience in use and manipulation, facility in installation or connection, and disconnection, with respect to working position, relative simplicity and inexpensiveness in construction and general efficiency.

The invention has for its particular objects the provision of an improved clasp or buckle which will be more sightly in appearance and more conveniently manipulated, in service, than are devices of the same general character now customarily employed; and the use of which is attended by less injury to the belt or other device or object in connection with which it is employed.

The invention consists in the novel provision, construction, formation, combination and association of parts, members and features all as hereinafter described, shown in the drawing, and finally pointed out in claim.

In the drawing:—Figure 1 is a front face view, or outer face view, of a clasp or buckle organized and constructed according to the invention and mounted upon and connected with a belt; Fig. 2 is a rear, or inner face view of the same; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same, taken on the line 3—3, Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view, taken upon the line 4—4, Fig. 3, and looking in the direction of the appended arrow; the showing in this figure being turned into a position at an angle of ninety degrees to that shown in Fig. 3, and, Fig. 5 is an isometric view of a modified form of construction of a feature of the invention shown in Fig. 3, the same being shown in a position the reverse of that of the corresponding feature shown in Fig. 3.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are designated by the same reference characters.

Referring with particularity to the drawing, the improved clasp or buckle therein

shown as embodying the invention comprises two members or parts, A and B respectively, and a member C which is adapted for use in substitution for the member B. The said members A and B are shown as respectively applied to the end portions *a* and *b* of a belt shown fragmentarily in the drawing, the member C being also shown as attached to the end portion *b*, in Fig. 5, for use in substitution for the member B. The members A and B include or are provided with interlocking elements, *c* and *d* respectively, the member C having a similar element *d* for co-action with the element *c*. The member *c* is pivotally mounted upon a body *e* included within the member A; and the member *d* is shown in Fig. 3 as detachably connected with the belt end *b* by holding means *f*; whereas in Fig. 5 the member *d* is shown as permanently connected with the belt end *b* by holding means *g*.

*h* designates holding means for connecting member A with the belt end *a* in position of relative adjustment of the same; such holding means *h* being connected in common formation with the element *c*.

The body *e* preferably comprises a plate or shield 6 which may be given a longitudinal curvature proper to cause it to conform to the line of extension of the belt upon which the clasp or buckle is mounted, when said belt is placed around the body of the wearer. The particular conformation of said shield or plate will, it is to be understood, be predetermined by the nature of the service in which the belt and the clasp or buckle thereon are to be employed. The outer or front face of the plate or shield 6 may be ornamented in any preferred and suitable manner, an example of which is disclosed in Fig. 1. The plate or shield 6 is provided with spaced lateral flanges 7, both directed rearwardly from the plate or shield substantially rectangularly and adjacent to corresponding ends of said flanges the latter are connected by a cross-bar 8 which bridges the space between the flanges and connects the outer edge portions thereof. The opposite end portions of the flanges 7 are connected by a pin or bar 9 upon which is pivotally mounted the element *c*, the latter consisting of a metallic tongue or plate 10 one end of which is formed into a knuckle 11 which pivotally embraces the pin or bar 9, and the other or outer end of which is provided with a curved or angular lip 12,

said lip 12 being directed away from the plate or shield 6. Formed upon or connected with the tongue or plate 10 and projecting from the face thereof and next adjacent to the plate or shield 6, is a stud 13 suitably proportioned to enter and be accommodated by any one of the ordinary belt holes 14 formed in the end portion *a* of the belt, and constituting the holding means *h*. The element *d* comprises a plate or tongue 15, one end of which is provided with ears 16 projecting from the face thereof which is directed away from the plate or shield 6; the ears 16 being formed for projection through suitable openings in the end portion *b* of the belt, and being provided with transverse holes or openings 17 for the reception of a cotter pin 18, or equivalent device serving to detachably secure the plate 15 to the belt end portion *b*. The plate or tongue 15 is adapted to be attached by the holding means *f* to the belt end *b*, and is of such dimension longitudinally, that when the belt end *b* is brought substantially up to the end of the member A at which the cross-bar 8 is disposed, the tongue 15 may lie between the cross-bar 8 and the belt end *a*, which latter will lie directly rearwardly of the plate or shield 6, and so that the element *d* may coengage with the element *c*. To the latter end, the plate or tongue 15 is provided with a transverse elongated slot 19 for the reception of the lip 12 upon the plate or tongue 10; and the plate or tongue 15 is furthermore possessed of an inherent spring quality, and is formed with a longitudinal curvature, so that the outer end portion thereof rides over the lip 12, when the element *d* is passed between the belt end *a* and the cross-bar 8, causing the automatic inter-locking of the elements *c* and *d*. Furthermore, said elements may be disengaged one from the other by the passage of the thumb or finger behind the outer end of the plate or tongue 15, between said outer end and the plate or tongue 10, increasing the longitudinal curvature of or bowing the plate or tongue 15 free from the lip 12. As shown, the belt end *a* normally extends directly rearwardly or behind the plate or shield 6, and between the same and the plate or tongue 10, and overlaps the extreme end portion of the belt end *b*. The total operative length of the belt, or the degree of overlap of the end portions *a* and *b* thereof, is determined in accordance with the adjustment of the member A upon the belt end *a*; the member A and the belt end *a* being maintained in position of relative adjustment by the disposition of the stud 13 in the proper belt hole 14. And the member A is freed from the belt end *a* to enable such relative adjustment, by pivotally swinging the tongue or plate 10 constituting the

element *c* upon the pin or bar 9, so as to release the stud 13 from the belt hole 14 within which it lies; the position of said tongue or plate 10 resultant upon said pivotal movement being shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3.

Referring to Fig. 5, the holding means *g* shown therein as permanently connecting the element *d* consisting of the tongue or plate 15, with the belt end *b*, comprises integral ears 20 projecting laterally from the plate or tongue 15 and caused to embrace the edge portions of the belt end *b*, under compression; together with integral serrations 21 formed upon the inner end of the plate or tongue 15 and forced into the belt end *b*.

The holding means *f* are preferably employed when the clasp or buckle is to be used in connection with women's belts, sashes and similar articles of wearing apparel, which may be readily interchanged, as desired, in the selection of the same according to style, design or color; whereas the holding means *g* are preferably employed in connection with belts constituting portions of male attire and of the more durable materials, such as leather and canvas. The use of the holding means *f*, permitting ready detachment of the member B from the belt, also enables the wearer to interchangeably use a number of buckles or clasps embodying the invention, which may be variously designed, constituted or ornamented, as desired.

It is manifest that when the belt or other article to which the clasp or buckle is applied is fitted to the body of the wearer, or otherwise disposed in position of service, the only outwardly exposed portion thereof consists of the shield or plate 6, the wearing parts of the clasp or buckle, namely the inter-locking elements *c* and *d*, and the holding means *h* and *f* or *g*, being arranged rearwardly or inwardly of the plate or shield and the strap ends. It will furthermore be noted that the ends of the strap or belt, or other device, are maintained in flat formation, without any distortion such as accompanies the employment of the ordinary buckle tongue, and the life of the belt or strap is therefore extended.

A particular advantage attending the use of the improved clasp or buckle consists in the facility with which the inter-locking members thereof may be co-engaged, or disengaged each from the other. To co-engage the same as set forth, all that is necessary to do is to bring the belt ends together, one over the other, and pass the spring tongue 15 within the cross-bar 8 until the lip 12 enters the slot 19; and to disengage the spring tongue 15 from the plate 10 and the lip 12 thereon, it is only necessary to pass the thumb or finger between the plate or

tongue 10 and the spring tongue 15, at the outer end of the latter, so as to bend the spring tongue 15 sufficiently to release the lip 12 therefrom.

5 Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

10 A clasp or buckle, comprising a shield or plate provided with a rearwardly disposed bar spaced therefrom, holding means for connecting the shield or plate with a strap or other device, inter-locking elements, one of said inter-locking elements being connected with said shield or plate rearwardly  
15 thereof, and holding means for connecting the other of said inter-locking elements with

a strap or other device; one of said inter-locking elements consisting of a spring tongue adapted to be passed between said shield and said bar and being provided with an opening, and the other of said inter-locking elements being formed for hook engagement with said spring tongue through said opening.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE P. SPANGLER.

Witnesses:

RAYMOND I. BLAKESLEE,  
H. O. BOWSER.