W. F. ROTERMUND.

CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 10, 1914.

1,179,657. Patented Apr. 18, 1916.

Fig. 1.

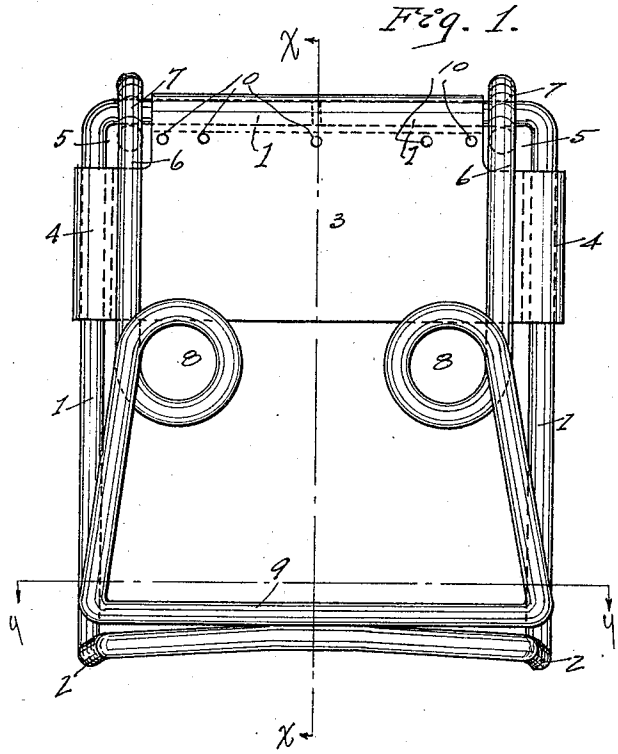


Fig. 2.

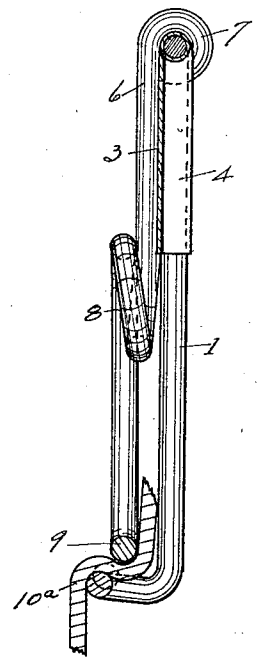
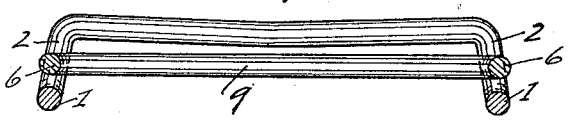


Fig. 3.



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CLASP.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. ROTERMUND, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Seattle, King county, State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to clasps and has for its principal object to provide an article of this character which is of exceedingly simple and inexpensive construction, strong and durable, and which is more quick acting, both in clasping and unclasping, than has heretofore been usual in the art.

The invention will be more fully described in the following specification, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my device. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same upon the line *x*—*x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar view upon the line *y*—*y* of Fig. 1.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, reference numeral 1 designates a wire which is formed into a kind of rectangular framework, as best seen in Fig. 1, and whose lower end (see Fig. 1) is upturned as indicated at 2 at about a right angle to the main body of the said framework. That portion of the said wire which joins the upturned portions 2 is sprung both downwardly (see Fig. 3) and also inwardly (see Fig. 1). In order to stiffen the said framework, and also to afford suitable space for advertising and the like, a plate 3 is provided whose ends are curled over the sides of the wire 1, as at 4, and the upper corners of the said plate are cut away, as at 5, to allow the two ends of a wire 6 to be curled over the wire 1, as indicated at 7, so as to form a kind of hinge joint between the wire 1 and the wire 6. The wire 6 is coiled at each side of the device, as indicated at 8, and passes forwardly, flaring out slightly as shown in Fig. 1, and is bent transversely at substantially right angles to the sides, as at 9.

In operation, one end of the device is secured to a strap, such as a garter or the like, indicated at 10^a by means of sewing the latter to the device by passing threads through the apertures 10. The opposite end of the strap 10^a is passed between the approximately parallel portions of the wires 1 and 6 respectively, and the said portions moved toward each other, in doing which the strap 10^a causes the said portions of the said wires to spring apart slightly until the parts assume their position as seen in Fig. 2, in which position the strap 10^a is firmly held between the approximately parallel portions of the two wires 1 and 6. Normally, the said portions of the said wires touch each other only at about their mid-section, but the wedging action of the strap 10^a tends to straighten out the downwardly and inwardly curved portion of the wire 1 and thus distributes the friction somewhat evenly between that portion and the corresponding portion of the wire 6, as will be understood. There is some inherent spring in both of the said wires, of course, but this would not be sufficient and I therefore provide the loops 8, and also flare that portion of the wire 6 which lies forwardly of the said loops. The closing and unclosing of the device is readily accomplished by a mere pinching action, between the thumb and fingers, of the approximately parallel portions of the wires 1 and 6, as is obvious.

I have shown a form of embodiment of my invention but am aware that many changes therein will readily suggest themselves to others without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention and therefore I desire to avoid being limited to the exact form shown and described except as called for by the appended claim.

What I claim is—

In an article of the class described, the combination of a wire framework bent upwardly in front at about a right angle to a main body, a transverse portion thereof, being also bent downwardly and inwardly, whereby the friction upon the material to be gripped is evenly distributed, a second wire framework hinged to the first mentioned wire framework and having its forward end flared, the transverse portion of which is straight and adapted to coöperate with the said transverse portion of the first mentioned framework, and coils at each side of and between the hinged and the transverse portion of the flared framework, whereby cloth or other such material may be secured between the transverse portion of each of the said frame-

works and there securely held by the resiliency and evenly distributed friction of the transverse portions and by the said coils, a stiffening plate whose edges are curved over the sides and back of the first mentioned framework, whereby the free ends of the wire which form the said framework are securely held together, the said frame stiffened and an advertising space provided.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."