Sept. 9, 1952 P. A. BEYER 2,609,577

BELT BUCKLE

Filed Dec. 6, 1949

FIG. 1

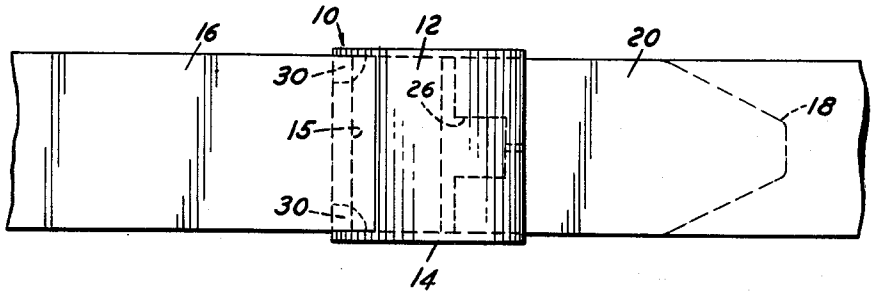


FIG. 2

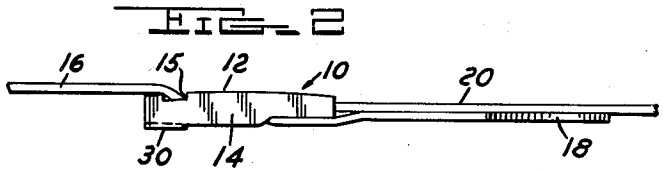


FIG. 3

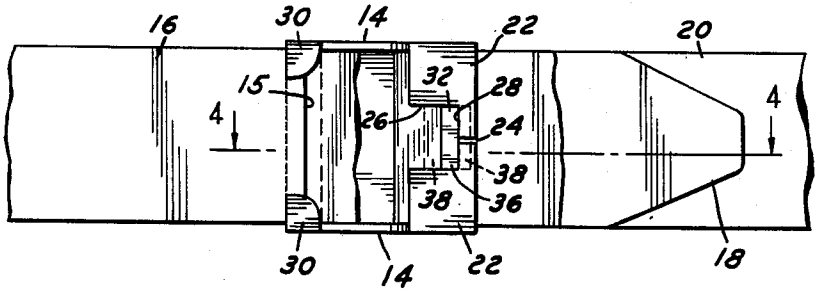
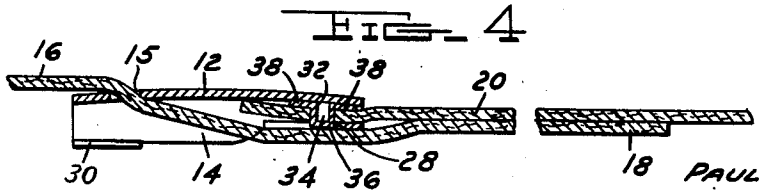


FIG. 4



INVENTOR.
PAUL A. BEYER
BY
Burton & Parker
ATTORNEYS

Patented Sept. 9, 1952 2,609,577

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,609,577

BELT BUCKLE

Paul A. Beyer, St. Clair Shores, Mich.

Application December 6, 1949, Serial No. 131,341

2 Claims. (Cl. 24—77)

1

This invention relates to buckles and particularly belt buckles for wearing apparel.

It is an important object of the present invention to provide an improved buckle which is composed of very few parts and is capable of being manufactured and assembled at low cost. Another important object of the invention is to provide a belt buckle which is so constructed that in use it conceals both of the ends of the belt from view and exhibits a relatively wide expanse of uninterrupted surface on its front side to improve the appearance and balance of the wearing apparel. A further important object of the invention is to provide a belt buckle which is designed in a novel manner to save on the amount of leather or other material used for the belt and reduces the thickness and resulting pressure of the belt on the body of the person wearing the same.

In carrying out the invention, the belt buckle is composed of two parts. One part, which constitutes the main body, is provided adjacent to one end thereof with a transverse slot extending substantially the full width and through which the free end of the belt is insertable. The remaining part of the main body member exhibits on the front side thereof a relatively wide expanse of uninterrupted and unbroken surface which, since both ends of the belt are concealed from view, forms a balanced centered design on the wearing apparel. The main body member is provided on the back side thereof and adjacent to the end thereof opposite to the slot with a bearing support which extends in a plane spaced inwardly from the front side of the body member to form a passage through which the opposite end of the belt may extend. The bearing support may be formed by providing complementary extensions on the opposite sides of the main body member which are inwardly bent toward one another. The bearing support is provided with a recess opening in the direction of the transverse slot. Cooperating with the bearing support is an element or clip which constitutes the second part of the buckle assembly. This element is secured to the end of the belt received in the passage and is shaped to slidingly bear against the back side of the main body member and to project into and engage the recess formed in the bearing support. In this manner, the buckle is detachably connected to one end of the belt.

As a result of this buckle construction, it is not necessary to fold the end of the belt to which the buckle is attached and provide auxiliary loops on the belt as has been customary. This saves

2

in the use of material and reduces the thickness of the buckle assembly and the resulting pressure on the abdomen. An important feature of the invention, as hereinabove indicated, is the arrangement whereby the free end of the belt is concealed from view. The transverse slot on the main body member receives the free end of the belt by a movement from the front side of the back side and thereby disposes the free end behind the opposite end of the belt. The latter end of the belt is secured in concealed manner to the buckle and without a fold so that it appears to the eye that the buckle is simply a plate carried on an intermediate portion of the belt.

Various other objects, advantages and meritorious features of this invention will become more fully apparent from the following specification, appended claims and accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the buckle of the present invention showing the use thereof in conjunction with a belt,

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the belt buckle assembly shown in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a back view of the belt buckle assembly shown in Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In the illustrated embodiment of the invention, the buckle comprises two separable parts, one of which constitutes the main body member and is exposed to view on the wearing apparel and the other of which a relatively small element secured to one end of the belt or strap with which the buckle is associated and is normally concealed from view. The two parts cooperate together to secure the buckle to one end of a belt or strap, the connection being such that the buckle may be easily removed from the belt and attached thereto by the user.

Referring particularly to the drawings, the main body member of the buckle is generally indicated at 10 and comprises a relatively flat front side 12 and opposed similarly shaped side walls 14—14 which project inwardly perpendicularly to the front side 12. The main body 10 is provided with a transverse slot 15 adjacent to one end thereof and extending substantially the full width of the body. The slot has such a dimension that it may readily receive the free end 16 of a belt, strap or other similar article with which the buckle is associated. As in conventional practice, the free end 16 of the belt may be provided with a tapered extremity 18, shown in Figs. 1 and 3. In use, the tapered extremity 18 of the belt is

passed through the slot 15 from the front side of the buckle and in properly worn condition the extremity is concealed behind the opposite end of the belt, as shown in Fig. 2. The slot 15 is located, as previously mentioned, adjacent to one end of the buckle. The remaining expanse of the front side 12 of the buckle exhibits an uninterrupted smooth surface which faces forwardly of the body upon which the buckle is worn and is exposed to view. Any suitable monograms or other symbols may be formed on this expanse, as is the customary practice.

The back side of the main body member 10 is provided with a bearing support spaced from the front side to form a passage through which the opposite end 20 of the belt extends in assembled condition. This bearing support is formed by providing extensions 22—22 on the side walls or flanges 14—14. As shown in Fig. 3, the two extensions 22—22 are bent inwardly from their connection to the flanges 14—14 and toward one another in complementary opposed relationship. The two extensions may terminate short of one another to provide a narrow clearance 24, indicated in Fig. 3, but, if desired, they may be connected together at this point to form a complete supporting surface from one side of the buckle to the other side thereof. The passage formed between the extensions 22—22 and the rear face of the front section 12 is of such a depth as to slidingly receive the belt portion passing therethrough.

The side of the extensions 22—22 adjacent to the slot 15 is provided with a recess 26 which opens in the direction of the slot 15, as shown in Fig. 3. Preferably, the recess 26 is of rectangular formation having parallel side walls and a back wall or edge 28 which extends perpendicularly to the side walls and transversely to the longitudinal dimension of the buckle.

The main body 10 may be provided with two similar inturned portions 30—30 adjacent to the slot 15 which assist in guiding the tapered extremity 18 of the belt through the slot as well as providing flat surfaces for relieving any pressure on the abdomen which the edges of the side walls 14—14 might impose.

Carried by the end 20 of the belt is the second part of the buckle assembly which is so shaped that it is slidingly received in the recess 26 formed between the extensions 22—22 and is interlockingly engageable therewith to hold the buckle on the end of the belt. This particular part of the assembly is in the form of a one-piece clip 32 which may be, as shown in Fig. 4, of general U-shaped cross section. The clip 32 is secured to the end 20 of the belt by forming in the latter a narrow transverse slot 34 which opens completely therethrough from one side to the other side thereof. The U-shaped head 36 of the element projects through this slot and by virtue of the resiliency of the material of which the belt is composed, such as leather or plastic, the head is retained against accidental dislodgement. The element 32 is provided with oppositely extending lateral flanges or legs 38—38 which, as shown in Fig. 4, serve as bearing surfaces for engaging the inner face of the front section 12 of the buckle.

The clip 32 is so shaped that when the belt 20 is passed through the passage formed by the extensions 22—22 and the front side of the buckle the flanges 38—38 will slidingly engage the back face of the section 12 and project the head 36 of the element into the recess 26. In the final assembled position of the parts, the head 36 abuts the back wall 28 of the recess in the manner shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The spacing of the extensions 22—22 from the front wall 12 of the buckle and the height of the U-shaped head of the element are so gauged that the flat laterally extending leg portions 38—38 of the element slidingly bear on the back face of the buckle while the closed end of the head 36 extends substantially flush with the back side of the extensions 22—22. The width of the clip is substantially equal to the width of the recess, as shown in Fig. 3, in order that the clip may slide into the recess without turning. In this manner the end 20 of the belt is interlockingly connected to the buckle and is prevented from separation therefrom except by a forward slidable movement of the belt end, which action may be easily accomplished by the user in order to interchange either the belt or the buckle.

What I claim is:

1. In combination with a belt, a buckle for detachably securing the opposite ends of the belt together comprising a main body member exhibiting a relatively flat front side and provided adjacent to one end thereof with a transverse slot extending substantially transversely the full width of the member and through which one end of the belt is slidably insertable, said member being provided with side flanges projecting rearwardly of the member relative to the front side thereof and extending substantially the full length of the member to form an open ended channel, the end portions of said side flanges opposite to said slot having extensions bent inwardly toward one another in the same plane to form a back wall spaced from the main body member and cooperating therewith to form a narrow end opening passage of a size to admit the opposite end of the belt, said back wall being shaped to provide a recess opening in the direction of the transverse slot, said opposite end of the belt extending through the end opening of the passage and being received between the main body member and said back wall, and a clip carried by said opposite end of the belt and projecting rearwardly thereof and into said recess to releasably lock the buckle to said end of the belt.

2. In combination with a belt, a buckle for detachably securing the opposite ends of the belt together comprising an elongated substantially flat plate member having a rectangular configuration in plan, said member being provided adjacent to one end thereof with a transverse slot extending substantially the lateral dimension of the member and having a width slightly greater than the thickness of the belt through which one end of the belt is slidably insertable, the front side of the member between said slot and the opposite end thereof exhibiting a relatively large expanse of uninterrupted surface, side flanges forming integral parts of the plate member and bent rearwardly from the front side thereof in parallel spaced apart relation to form the side walls of an open ended channel extending substantially the full length of the member, the end portions of said wall forming flanges opposite to said slot having extensions bent inwardly toward one another in the same plane and substantially edgewise abutting one another to form a back wall paralleling the plate member and spaced therefrom a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the belt, said extensions being complementarily cut-away on their respective edges

adjacent to the slot to form a rectangular recess opening in the direction of the slot, the opposite end of the belt being received between the back wall formed by said extensions and the plate member, and a rectangularly shaped clip carried by the end of the belt thus received and extending therethrough from one side to the other side of the belt, said clip projecting from the rear side of the belt and being of a size to enter said recess and be snugly received therein to releasably lock the buckle to the belt.

PAUL A. BEYER.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,848,407	Barrett	Mar. 8, 1932

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
787,220	France	July 1, 1935