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S. LINDEN

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SNAP FASTENER BRACE FOR CHILD'S CAR BED AND THE LIKE

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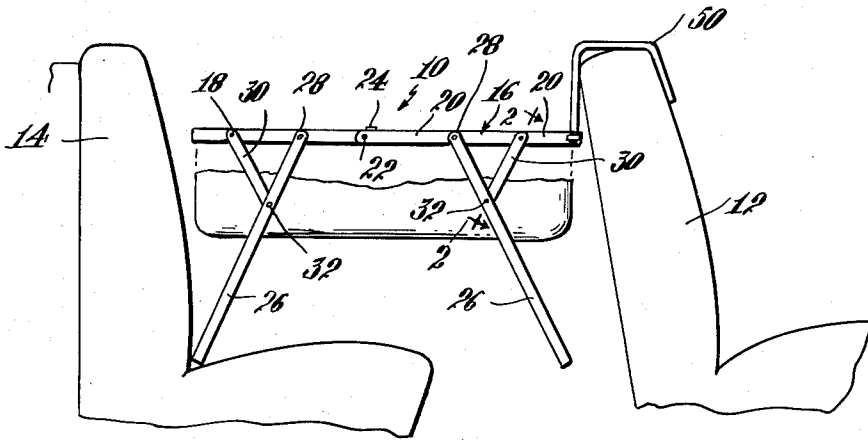


Fig. 1

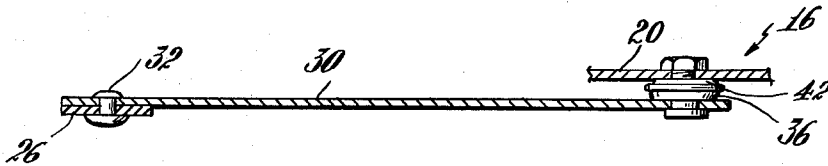


Fig. 2

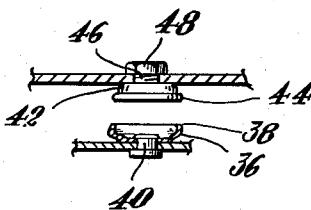


Fig. 3

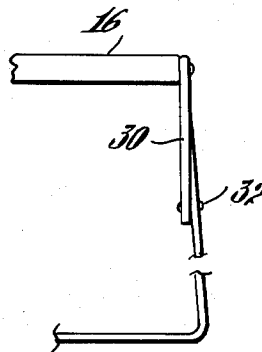


Fig. 4

INVENTOR.
Samuel Linden
BY
Roberts, Cushman & Groves
ATT'YS

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**SNAP FASTENER BRACE FOR CHILD'S CAR
BED AND THE LIKE**

Samuel Linden, Swampscott, Mass., assignor to Bunny
Bear Inc., Everett, Mass., a corporation of Massachu-
setts

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1 Claim. (Cl. 5—315)

This invention relates to improved braces for articu-
lated parts and especially to parts of children's car beds,
bassinets and/or seats which are collapsible and have
to be set up with bracing for use, it being understood
however that the invention may be employed equally as
well in other structures where there are articulated parts
which must be held distended at a given angle with refer-
ence to each other for use.

Objects of the invention are to provide a brace for
collapsible or foldable structures having parts jointed,
which can be quickly and easily set between the parts
across the joint to hold them distended; to provide a de-
tachably brace which is less likely to be accidentally
collapsed than the knee-type brace commonly in use;
and to provide a brace which is simple, inexpensive and
may be applied to conventional structures without modifi-
cation of the latter.

As herein illustrated, the invention comprises a single
link which is pivotally mounted at one end to a part
at one side of the jointed parts, a first snap fastener
member mounted on the distal end of the link and a
second snap fastener member mounted on the part at
the other side of the jointed parts, the second snap fas-
tener member being adapted to snap fit with the first
snap fastener member. In this manner, the single link
may conveniently be connected across the pivoted or
foldable joint joining two parts, when desired, for rigidly
bracing the parts in a particular angular relation and
yet may quickly and easily be detached to permit folding
the parts.

In a more specific aspect, the invention includes a car
bed or bassinet having a frame and foldable legs piv-
otally mounted thereon. A link is pivotally mounted
at one end on each leg and at its opposite end mounts
a first snap fastener member. A second snap fastener
member is mounted on the frame adjacent each leg, and
is adapted to snap fit with the respective first snap fastener
member on each link. Thereby each link can be con-
nected between a leg and the frame for bracing the leg
in downwardly extending operative position, or, when
desired, the links can be detached from the frame at one
end for permitting folding of the leg. Alternatively, the
braces may be pivotally mounted at one end on the frame
and the snap fastener members may be mounted respec-
tively at the other ends of the braces and on the legs,
there being of course four such braces and four pairs of
snap fasteners.

Other objects, advantages, and details of construction
will appear in the following description which refers to
the drawings in which

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of the foldable car bed
of this invention, with the legs distended;

FIG. 2 is a partial sectional view along along the line
2—2 of FIG. 1, showing the snap fastener parts en-
gaged;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary section similar to FIG. 2 show-
ing the snap fastener parts disengaged; and

FIG. 4 is a partial end view of the car bed.

Referring to the drawings, FIG. 1, there is shown a
car bed 10 mounted between the front and back seats 12
and 14 of an automobile. The car bed includes a frame
16 which comprises a pair of rigid U-shaped members
18 and 20, disposed with their open ends adjacent and

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pivotally interconnected at their ends by rivets 22. An
ear 24 near the end of each arm of the U-shaped mem-
ber 18 overlaps the corresponding arm of the U-shaped
member 20, adjacent the respective pins 22, thereby pre-
venting downward pivotal movement of the members
relative to each other while permitting upward pivotal
movement so that the frame may be folded when desired.

The frame is provided with a pair of foldable U-
shaped leg members 26—26, which are each pivotally
connected at their open ends to the respective sides of
the frame 16 near its opposite ends by rivets 28. The
legs thus may be folded substantially parallel to the
frame when not in use or for storage of the frame, or
may be set up at angles to the frame for supporting
the latter on a flat surface. To hold the legs distended
from the frame, each of the arms of the leg members
26—26 respectively, is provided with a link 30 which
is pivotally connected at one end to the leg by a rivet 32.
The other end of each link is provided with one com-
ponent of a snap fastener which comprises a cup-shaped
button 36 (FIGS. 2 and 3), having an inturned edge
38 at its rim, and a rivet neck 40 by means of which
the button is attached to the link 30. The other com-
ponent of the snap fastener comprises a cylindrical but-
ton 42 having a peripheral bead 44 and a threaded stud
46 for receiving a nut 48, by means of which the button
is fastened to the frame 16 between the outside ends of
the frame members 18 and 20 and the upper pivoted
ends of the legs. The snap fastener components are
adapted to be engaged by forcing the lip 44 on the
button 42 into the inturned edge 38 of the button 36
and when thus engaged, to hold the link 30 across the
leg joint for bracing the leg members in downwardly
extending operative position.

In this manner the legs 26—26 are held distended by
one-piece detachable braces as distinguished from the
usual knee-type braces which are prone to collapse.
Since the links 30 form a triangle with portions of the
legs and the frame, the legs will be rigidly braced, and
since the strain exerted upon the snap fastener members
36 and 42 is transverse to the direction of movement of
the members necessary for separating the members from
their snap fitting engagement, the fasteners will provide
safe, long lasting connections.

As previously indicated, the legs 26—26 may be folded
parallel to the frame 16 when the snap fastener members
36 and 42 have been separated. Separation of the snap
fastener members requires that the button 36, as shown
in FIG. 2, move axially relative to the button 42.
Preferably the link 30 is rectangular in transverse section,
the broad side of the section being parallel to the brac-
ing strain thereon and the short side of the section being
parallel to the direction of movement necessary for sep-
aration of the buttons 36 and 42. As thus constructed,
the link will be rigid in bracing the legs but will readily
flex to permit detachment of the brace. Preferably, the
pivotal mounting of the links 30 by the rivets 32 can
be loose for permitting separation of the buttons 36 and
42 without substantial flexing of the links.

The usual U-shaped suspending brackets 50—50 are
pivotally mounted at either side of one end of the frame
16 for supporting the car bed from the back rest of the
front seat of an automobile when the car bed is mounted
between the front and back seats, as shown in FIG. 1.

It should be understood that, although a particular
embodiment of the brace of this invention is here shown,
this invention includes all modifications and equivalents
which fall within the scope of the appended claim. For
example, although the link 30 is here shown pivotally
connected to a leg member, and the snap fastener com-
ponents are shown mounted on the link and on the frame,
the link could be pivotally connected to the frame with

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snap fastener components being mounted on the link and on the leg. Moreover, the detachable brace provided by this invention can be readily applied to devices other than car beds such as chairs, tables, market carts and various other types of foldable or collapsible apparatus wherein it is desirable to brace pivoted members in operative position.

I claim:

In a bassinet, a rigid, substantially rectangular frame, rigid, substantially U-shaped legs, means pivotally connecting the open ends of the U-shaped legs to the side members of the frame, rigid braces for holding the legs in fixed predetermined positions with respect to the frame to support the latter in a horizontal position for use, means pivotally connecting said braces to said sides of the frame and the legs at points spaced from the means pivotally connecting the legs to the frame, the means at one end, at least, of said several braces comprising snap fasteners having cooperable components fastened respectively to the braces and the parts of the bassinet associated with the braces at that end, said component parts being separable by displacement of the braces relative

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to the parts to which they are associated without modifying the angular disposition of the legs and/or braces, the means at the other ends of the braces being loosely engaged with the parts of the bassinet with which they are associated so as to permit displacement of the braces sufficiently to disengage and re-engage the cooperable components of the snap fasteners with ease.

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