Oct. 14, 1924. 1,511,665

A. B. FAULKNER

BUCKLE

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Fig. 1

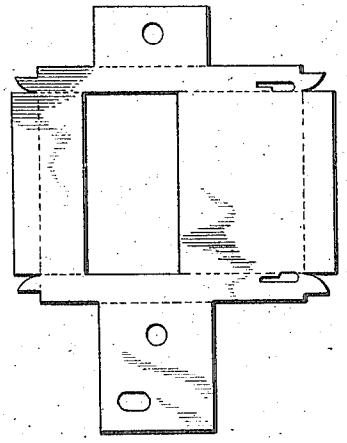


Fig. 2

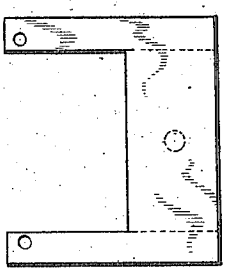


Fig. 3

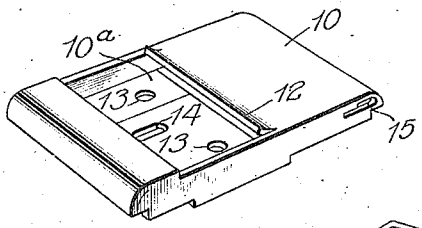


Fig. 4

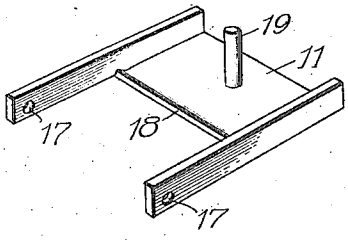
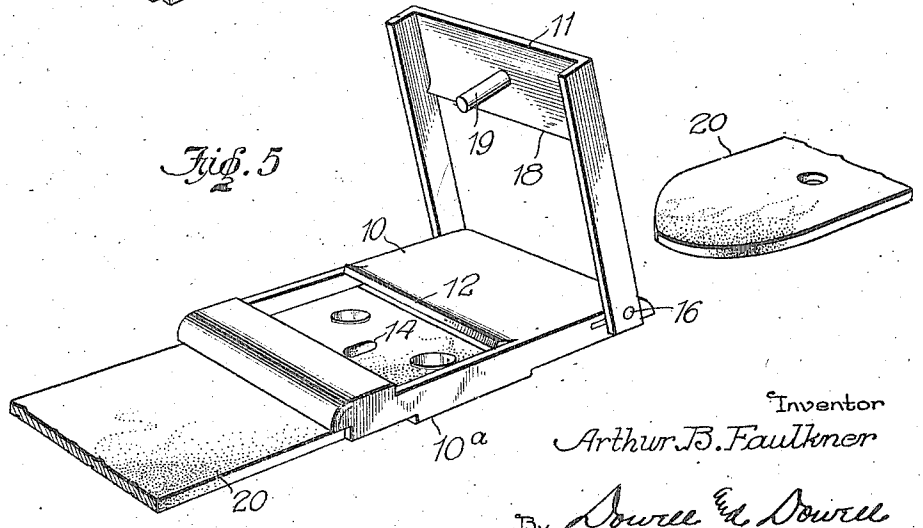


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

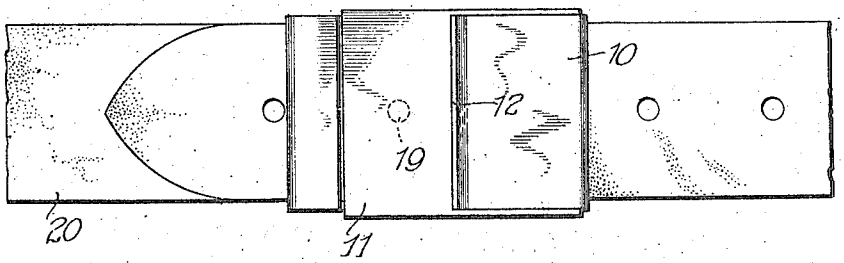


Fig. 7

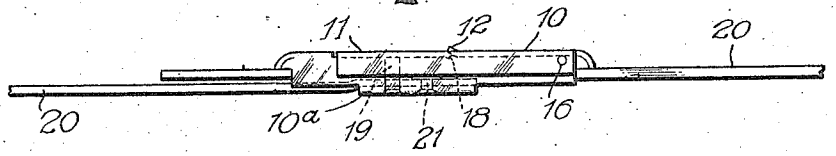


Fig. 9

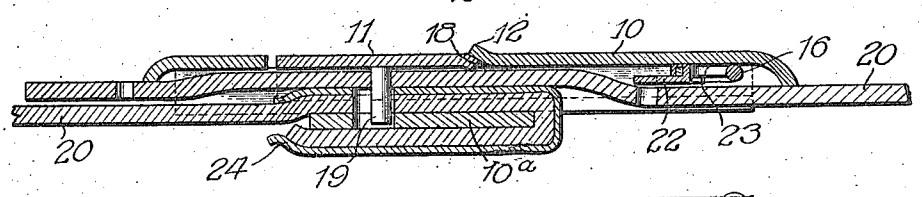
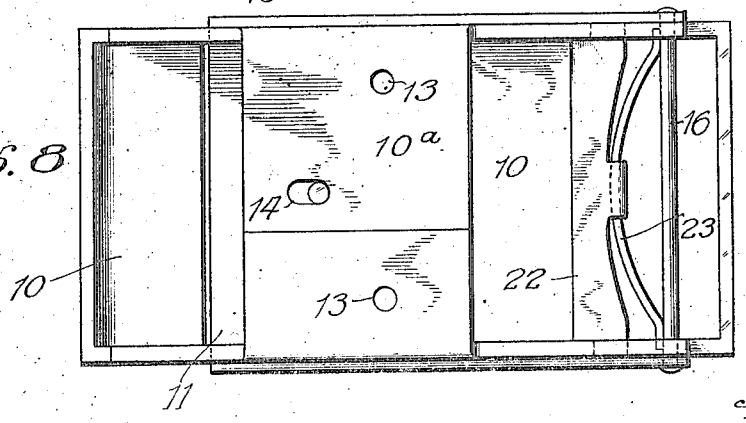


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR B. FAULKNER, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

BUCKLE.

Application filed December 19, 1923. Serial No. 681,619.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR B. FAULKNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to buckles and more particularly to snap buckles, and the principal object is to provide an improved device for quickly and securely fastening together, the ends of straps, belts and the like.

Other objects are to provide a strong and durable device of the character described, which will not break under heavy strains incident to use on harness or trunk straps, and which will reduce the tendency of the attached strap or belt, to slip or stretch.

A further object is to provide a light, serviceable and readily releasable buckle of novel design, which may be conveniently applied to belts or straps used for various purposes.

A still further object is to provide a buckle of the character described, which will be simple in construction, attractive in appearance and inexpensive of manufacture.

The invention will first be hereinafter more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings, which are to be taken as a part of this specification and then pointed out in the claims at the end of the description.

In said drawings, Fig. 1 is a plan view of a piece of stamped metal, ready to be formed into the main part of the buckle.

Fig. 2 is a similar piece of stamped metal, ready to be formed into the cooperative part of the buckle.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the stamped piece of metal shown in Fig. 1, bent where indicated by the dotted lines therein, to form the main part of the buckle.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the stamped piece of metal shown in Fig. 2, bent where indicated by the dotted lines therein, to form the cooperative part of the buckle.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the assembled buckle in open position, the strap to which it is secured being also shown.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the same in closed position.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the buckle shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged plan view of the assembled buckle in inverted position, the strap being omitted, and

Fig. 9 is a sectional side elevation of the assembled buckle, illustrating a slight modification in the manner of securing the buckle to one end of a strap or belt.

Referring to the drawings in which like reference numerals are used to denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate the blank or stamped pieces of flattened metal which are turned or bent where indicated by the dotted lines, to form the main part 10 and the cooperative or secondary part 11 of the buckle, said parts being shown respectively in Figs. 3 and 4.

The side portions of the metal blank shown in Fig. 1 are turned or bent substantially at right angles at two points, in order to form a bottom 10^a for the main part 10, underlying the rectangular open space in the top surface thereof, so that an open-ended shell or casing is thus provided. The side extremities of the part 10 are curved or beveled, as shown, so that the marginal edge of its respective top surfaces may be pressed down over these beveled ends when the latter are bent into place, thus effecting a finished and attractive appearance for the ends of the buckle, while the sides of the metal blank shown in Fig. 2 are bent at one point only.

The inner marginal edge of the larger top surface on the part 10, is slightly turned or bent upwardly to provide a lip 12, while the bottom 10^a underlying the rectangular open space, is formed with rivet holes 13 and an elongated opening or slot 14, for a purpose to be hereinafter explained.

Alined elongated slots 15, are also formed in the inner opposing sides of the main part 10 at one end thereof, through which the extremities of a uniting rod or pin 16 are extended for the purpose of effecting a swiveled and yielding attachment of the cooperative part 11 of the buckle, to the main part 10.

For such purpose, axially alined holes 17 are provided in the free ends of the side portions of the part 11, which are spaced sufficiently apart to transversely straddle the part 10, the holes 17 in the part 11 thus corresponding with the slots 15 in the part 10,

so that the extremities of the rod or pin 16 may be extended through the sides of the first mentioned part, the ends of the rod or pin being thereafter blunted or headed to securely swivel the two parts together.

The marginal edge of the surface on the part 11, confronting the lip 12 formed at the edge of the top surface of the part 10, is slightly depressed to form an opposing lip 18, adapted to underlie the former, the confronting and opposed lips in the respective surfaces thus providing an effective "snap-catch" means between the two parts of the assembled buckle.

A depending tongue or pin 19 is provided on the under surface of the part 11, said pin being adapted to pass through one of a series of adjusting holes provided in the free end of a strap or belt 20 and hold the two ends of the latter fastened securely together when the part 11 is depressed and snapped cooperatively into place over the main part 10 of the buckle. The extremity of the pin 19 will be inserted and extend partially into the slot 14 in the bottom 10^a when the two parts of the buckle are snapped together, and may move freely therein (longitudinally of the buckle) so that the yieldable and swiveled part 11 may be drawn forward sufficiently to disengage the opposed surfaces 10 and 11 and quickly unfasten the buckle.

One end of the strap or belt 20 is inserted within the main part 10 of the buckle and permanently secured to the bottom thereof, preferably by means of rivets 21 passing through the strap and through the rivet holes 13 provided in the bottom 10^a, (see Figs. 5 and 7).

Referring to Fig. 8 in which the assembled buckle is shown inverted, a cross-piece 22 is provided, said piece having an extremital shoulder or protuberance formed on either end adapted to fit and extend through the narrow slots 15 formed in the inner opposing sides of the main part 10 to hold the same rigidly lodged or supported in place, preferably adjacent the rod or pin 16, and substantially parallel thereto. Said cross-piece carries an eliptical or segmental spring 23, the ends of the latter being adapted to press against the ends of the rod or pin 16, tending to push said pin laterally toward the extreme end of the buckle with a tension sufficient to draw and hold the part 11 with its depressed marginal lip underlying the elevated marginal lip of the part 10, thus holding the two parts normally in closed or locked position.

Referring now to Fig. 9 in which a slight modification in the manner of attaching an end of a strap or belt to the main part of the buckle is shown, the end of the strap 20 is softened and inserted in the part 10 over the bottom surface 10^a, and is then bent sharply over and under said bottom, as shown, in the form of a loop, after which a spring-clip 24 is slipped into place over the bent strap to hold the same securely in place, said clip being formed with an elongated slot corresponding with the slot 14 in the bottom 10^a through which the pin 19 may extend and freely move, for a purpose hereinbefore mentioned.

In use, the part 11 yieldingly swiveled to the part 10 is upraised as shown in Fig. 5 so that the free end of a strap or belt 20 may be inserted in the buckle between its top surface and the bottom, until the desired hole therein lies in the trajectory of the pin 19, whereupon the part 11 is depressed until the lips 12 and 18 engage and snap into locked position under the tension of spring 23, while the pin 19 passes through the underlying hole in the strap, thus engaging the same and securely holding the two ends of the strap together.

It will be observed that the exterior surfaces of the buckle when in locked position lie snugly together in the same plane, thus giving to the buckle a very neat and attractive appearance.

When it is desired to release the strap, the parts 10 and 11 are grasped by the fingers and the part 11 is drawn slightly forward against the tension of spring 23 until the lip 18 is disengaged from the lip 12, whereupon the part 11 may be swung upwardly, disengaging the pin 19 from the free end of the strap 20, after which the latter may be easily withdrawn from the buckle.

It will be understood of course that various changes may be made in the details of construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention, and I do not desire to be limited by the appended claims, to the specific structure hereinbefore illustrated and described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent of the United States is:

1. A buckle comprising an oblong body portion having side plates connected by upper and lower plates; there being an open space between the upper plates and one of them having one edge adjacent said space slightly raised or upturned; and a swinging locking plate secured to said body portion by yieldable means to permit a slight movement thereof in the direction of the length of said body portion; said locking plate having one edge depressed or downwardly turned and adapted to slip over and snap under the upturned edge of said upper plate and carrying a pin adapted to enter registering apertures in the overlapping ends of a belt passed between said upper and lower plates and lock the several parts together.

2. A buckle comprising an oblong body portion having spaced top surfaces, a bottom and side plates forming an open-ended belt-receiving casing, one of said surfaces having a raised edge or lip provided on its exposed margin, and a swinging locking plate secured to said body portion by yieldable means permitting slight movement thereof in the direction of the length of said body portion; said locking plate having a depending edge or lip adapted to slip over and snap under the raised edge or lip on said surface and carrying a pin adapted to enter registering apertures in the overlapping ends of a belt inserted between the top surfaces and bottom of the body portion and lock the several parts together.

3. A buckle comprising an oblong body portion having spaced top surfaces, a bottom and side plates forming an open-ended strap-receiving casing, one of said surfaces having a raised edge or lip provided on its exposed margin, and a swinging locking plate having extended sides secured to said body portion by yieldable means permitting slight movement thereof longitudinally of said body portion; said locking plate being adapted to fit between the spaced surfaces of the body portion and having a depending edge or lip adapted to slip over and snap under the raised edge or lip on the adjacent top surface of the body portion and carrying a depending pin adapted to enter registering apertures in the overlapping ends of a strap inserted between said top surfaces and bottom and lock the several parts securely together.

4. A buckle comprising a main body portion having spaced top surfaces, a bottom and sides forming an open-ended belt-receiving casing, the marginal edge of one surface being slightly upturned to provide a raised lip, a swinging locking portion yieldingly secured to the sides of the body portion and adapted to fit between the spaced surfaces of said body portion; the marginal edge of said locking portion being turned slightly downward to provide a depending lip opposed to and confronting the lip on said first named surface and adapted to snap over and underlie the latter so as to lock the two parts together, a pin depending from the under surface of said locking portion, and a spring adapted to resist a yielding movement of the two parts with respect to each other and hold the two parts in locked position.

5. A belt buckle comprising in combination, an oblong body portion having spaced top surfaces, a bottom and side plates forming an open-ended belt-receiving casing, a belt secured at one end to the bottom of the casing between it and said top surfaces, one of said surfaces having a raised edge or lip provided on its exposed margin, and a swinging locking plate having extended sides secured to the side plates of said body portion by yieldable means permitting slight movement thereof longitudinally of the buckle; said locking plate being adapted to close the space between said top surfaces and having a marginal depending edge or lip adapted to slip over and snap under the raised edge or lip on said top surface and carrying a pin adapted to enter registering apertures in the overlapping free end of the belt when inserted between said top surfaces and bottom, and lock the several parts securely together.

6. A belt buckle comprising in combination, an oblong body portion having spaced top surfaces, a bottom and side plates forming an open-ended belt-receiving casing, a belt passing over and under said bottom, a spring-clip by which said belt is secured thereto between it and said top surfaces, one of said surfaces having a raised edge or lip provided on its exposed margin, and a swinging locking plate having extended sides secured to the side plates of said body portion by yieldable means permitting slight movement thereof longitudinally of the buckle; said locking plate being adapted to close the space between said top surfaces and having a marginal depending edge or lip adapted to slip over and snap under the raised edge or lip on said top surface and carrying a pin adapted to enter registering apertures in the overlapping free end of the belt when inserted between said top surfaces and bottom, and lock the several parts securely together.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ARTHUR B. FAULKNER.