July 6, 1926. 1,591,702

W. P. GISSKE

BELT BUCKLE

Filed April 4, 1923

Fig. 1.

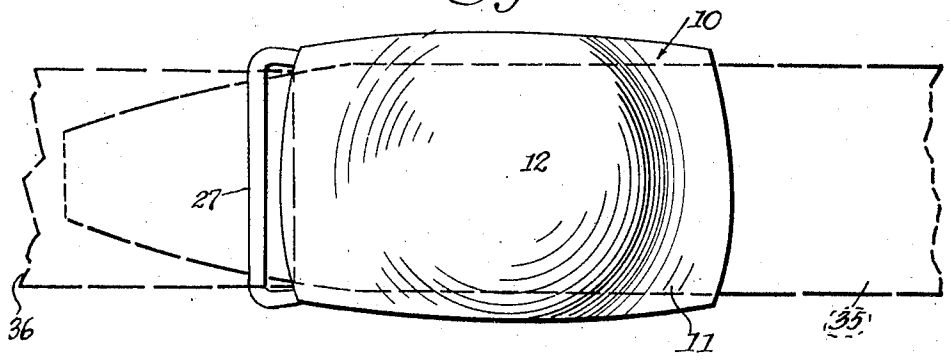
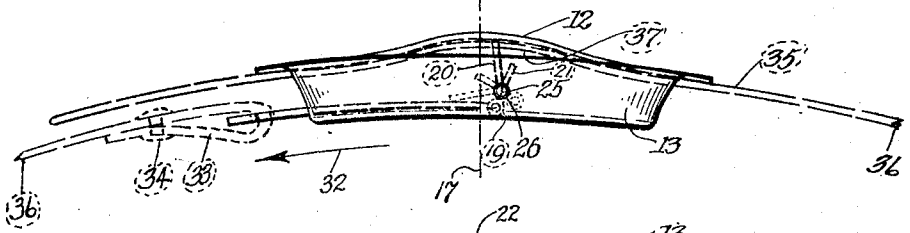


Fig. 2.



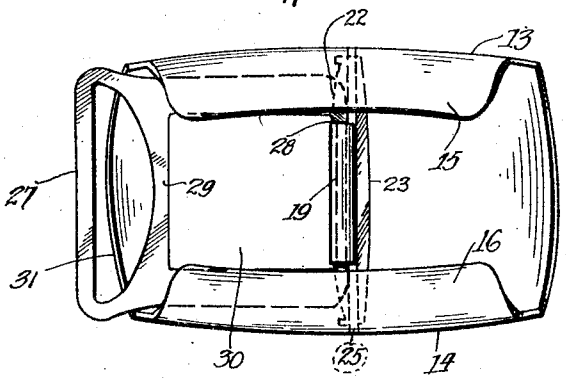


Fig. 3.

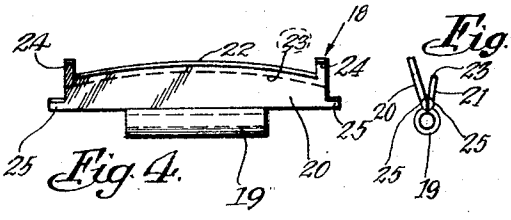


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BELT BUCKLE.

Application filed April 4, 1923. Serial No. 629,942.

The invention relates to buckles and more particularly to belt buckles.

It is an object of the invention to provide a self locking buckle which comprises a body portion having a face plate and a pair of side flanges between which one end of the belt is received and in which a gripping member is pivotally secured, there being a releasing member pivotally secured to said gripper member for releasing the latter.

A further object aims at the provision of a buckle of the character described which is of extremely simple construction but nevertheless characterized by a high degree of efficiency.

Another object aims at mounting the releasing member for reciprocation so that back and forth movements thereof respectively place the gripping member in and out of functional position.

A still further object constitutes the construction and arrangement of the gripping and releasing members so that a slight movement of the releasing member will entail a comparatively large movement of the gripper member and therewith a quick release or gripping of the belt end received between the flanges.

It is a further object to arrange the gripping member to one side of the transverse center of the buckle so that the active end of the gripper cooperates with a downward slope of the face plate and thus the gripping of the belt end is heightened.

Another object constitutes the provision of a gripping member which is of integral construction and adapted to function equally well with belts of varying thicknesses.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a buckle in which no parts protrude beyond the outer edges of the side flanges, so that the buckle which is of arcuate form is compact and conforms to the body of the wearer and is in nested relation thereto.

The invention also includes as a further object certain features of construction and arrangement tending to enhance the usefulness and reliability of a device of this character.

To the accomplishment of the objects stated and others that will become apparent upon perusal of the following description of the invention, the latter comprises the means described in the specification particularly pointed out in the claims forming a part thereof and illustrated in the drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the buckle constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the buckle.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Figs. 4 and 5 are respectively front and end views of the gripping member.

The buckle generally designated by 10 comprises a face plate 11 which at the center is formed with a raised portion 12. The face plate is curved in longitudinal direction to conform to the waist-line of a person and the raised portion gradually merges into the general contour of the face plate. From the sides of the face plate and at right angles thereto extend flanges 13 and 14 which are bent inwardly at right angles to provide guide ledges 15 and 16 for a purpose hereinafter referred to. The flanges and their guide ledges define with the inner side of the face a chamber in which all operative parts of the buckle and the belt end are received so that the belt buckle presents a compact appearance and as no parts protrude the buckle closely adheres to the waist line without any discomfort to the wearer.

To one side of the transverse center 17 a gripping member generally designated by 18 is pivotally secured in the flanges 13 and 14. As shown in Figs. 4 and 5 the gripping member 18 is made of a single piece of metal which is formed to provide a sleeve portion 19. The latter forms an integral part of a pair of wings 20 and 21 longer than the sleeve and terminating in convexly curved edges 22 and 23. The wing 20 is slightly higher than the companion wing so that the edges 22 and 23 are in different planes.

The wing 20 is formed at the ends of edge 22 with lugs 24 and both wings 20 and 21 have at the lower end and parallel with the sleeve 19 lugs 25. Each pair of lugs 25 constitutes a pivot pin and outer apertures 26 provided in transverse registry in the flanges 13 and 14 and to one side of center 17. As appears in Fig. 2 the gripping member 18 is so arranged that the wings 20 and 21 are opposed to the face plate while the sleeve 19 is proximate to the guide ledges 15 and 16. A releasing member 27 of approximately rectangular form is pivotally secured to the gripping member by extending with a transverse web 28 through the sleeve 19. The re-

leasing member is formed with an intermediate web 29 defining a rectangular opening 30 and a narrow slot 31. Upon a pull being exerted upon the releasing member in the direction of the arrow 32 the wings of the gripping member are turned clockwise and conversely upon pushing the releasing member, the gripping member is arranged horizontally as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, in which position the gripper member releases.

In use one end 33 of a belt 36 is looped through the slot 31 and secured to the body portion of the belt by a fastener 34 of any desired construction. The other end 35 of the belt is introduced at the other side of the buckle between the flanges 13 and 14. Upon the belt end 33 being pulled the gripping member engages the belt end 35 and forces the same against the face plate in tight engagement therewith. Attention is called to the fact that the edges of the gripping member cooperate with a downwardly sloping portion 37 of the face plate so that great functional engagement is ensured between the face plate, belt and gripping member. Furthermore, the construction of the gripping member as a double lever with the fulcrum farther removed from the edges than from the sleeve entails quick release and speedy arrangement in functional position.

In view of the fact that the gripping member has its edges 22 and 23 in different planes belts of varying thicknesses may be employed with the same buckle. In case of a thick belt the shorter wing 21 will engage the belt while the edge 22 will engage a thin belt.

In order to prevent excessive rotary movement of the gripping member the lugs 24 are provided, which engaging the face plate arrest further movement of said member.

To release the belt end 35 the member 27 is pushed whereupon the gripping member is arranged in horizontal position and releases the belt for withdrawal from the buckle. The guide ledges 15 and 16 ensure the reciprocating movements of the releasing member 27. They form together with the face plate and side flanges a casing in which the operative parts of the buckle and the belt are received, there being no parts protruding from the casing.

While the drawing discloses a preferred embodiment of the invention it is nevertheless but one of the various ways in which the principle of the invention may be utilized. Numerous changes and modifications may be resorted to within the purview of the invention, and I include all such alterations constituting departures within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A gripping member for buckles comprising a pair of contacting plates having lugs in the plate planes at the lower end constituting pivot pins, said plates terminating in convex upper edges provided at the ends with upstanding lugs, and a sleeve uniting said plates and having its axis in the plane of contact of said plates, said plates, said lugs, and said sleeve being formed integral.

2. A belt buckle comprising a main body portion having a face plate portion provided with a concavo convex central part, a pair of side flanges, a gripping member journaled in said side flanges, reciprocating means pivotally secured to said gripping member for actuating the latter, and means integral with said gripping member and cooperating with an incline of the raised part of said face plate for limiting the rotary movement of said gripping member.

In witness whereof I affix my signature.

WALTER P. GISSKE.