March 27, 1951 W. I. JONES 2,546,755

COMBINED BRIDGE BLOCK AND FASTENER FOR SPECTACLE CASES

Filed March 27, 1948

FIG. 1.

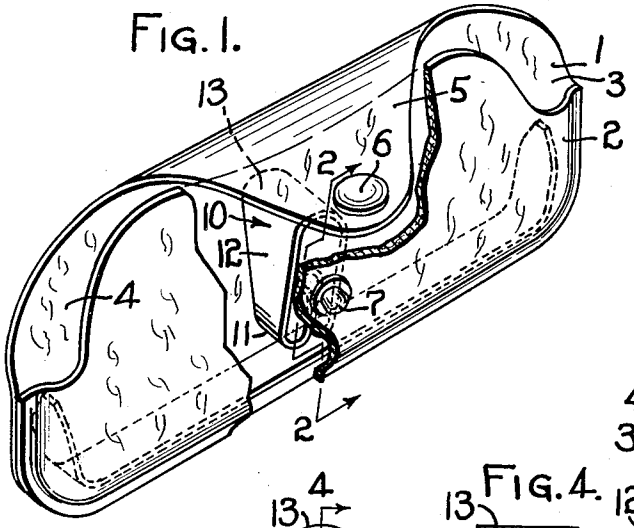


FIG. 2.

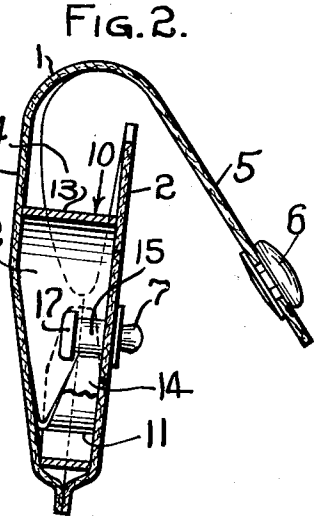


FIG. 3.

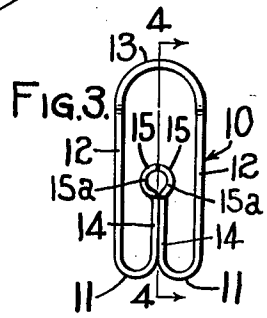


FIG. 4.

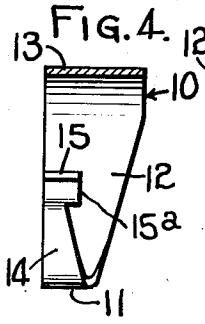


FIG. 5.

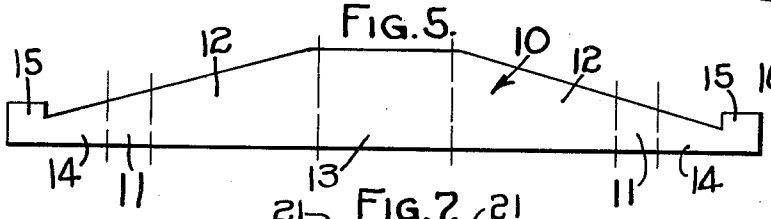


FIG. 6.

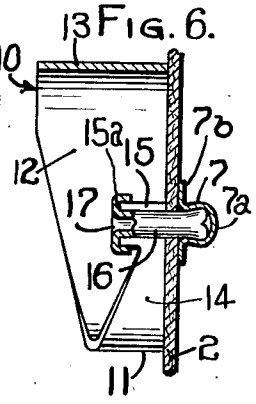


FIG. 7.

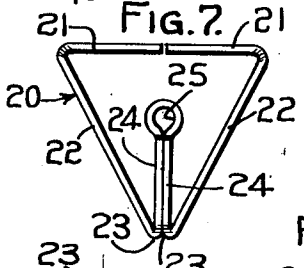
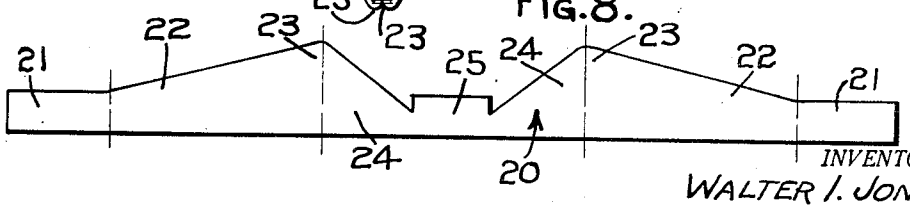


FIG. 8.



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COMBINED BRIDGE BLOCK AND FASTENER FOR SPECTACLE CASES

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10 Claims. (Cl. 206—5)

1

The present invention relates to a combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases, and aims generally to improve existing devices of that type.

Flexible spectacle cases commonly are formed of one or more pieces of flexible sheet material, for example leather, folded to provide a pocket and an overlapping flap, the latter adapted to be secured in closed position on the pocket by means of a separable stud and socket snap fastener member.

The pocket of the case is usually provided with a stiffening bar and a bridge block, the latter serving to provide a positioning means for the bridge of the spectacle as well as a mounting for the fastener member secured to the pocket.

Heretofore, such bridge blocks have generally been made of wood, but have the disadvantage in that they can easily be split, are relatively expensive of manufacture, and require the use of an expensive stud attaching means.

One of the primary objects of the present invention, therefore, is to provide a combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases which will be simple in construction, economical in cost of manufacture and durable in use.

The above and other objects of the invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates from a consideration of the accompanying drawings and annexed specification illustrating and describing two preferred forms of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a spectacle case, part of the case being broken away to show the bridge block and fastener support of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view as taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a bridge block and fastener mounting according to one embodiment of the invention as is illustrated in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view as taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank from which the bridge block and fastener mounting of Figs. 3 and 4 is made;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional view similar to Fig. 2 and illustrating the manner of securing the fastener member to the case and bridge block;

Fig. 7 is a plan view of a modified form of bridge block embodying the invention; and

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the blank from which the block shown in Fig. 7 is made.

Referring to the drawings, the spectacle case 1, to which the invention is to be applied, may be formed of flexible sheet material, for example leather or the like, and conveniently may consist of two pieces of material 2 and 3 secured together, as by stitching, along a portion of their peripheral

2

edges to provide a pocket portion 4 and a flap 5. The flap 5 may be provided with a snap fastener socket member 6 adapted to engage a cooperating snap fastener stud member 7 on the front piece 2 of the pocket 4 as is usual.

The bridge block and fastener mounting of the present invention preferably is formed of a strip of sheet material, for example sheet aluminum, comprising a loop 10 providing a base portion 11, side arm portions 12, and a connecting nose portion 13. Extending inwardly from one end of the loop 10, for example from the base portion 11, are comating arms or extensions 14, the terminal ends of which provide a fastener mounting portion 15 herein illustrated as being grooved so that the comating sections will provide a tubular mounting for a part of the fastener stud 7.

The bridge block shown in Figs. 3 and 4 advantageously may be formed from an elongated blank of sheet metal as shown in Fig. 5, preferably wider at the central nose portion and tapering in width toward the opposite ends or fastener mounting portions 15. This insures sufficient width of the bridge block at the nose portion 13 to protect the spectacle from damage while providing a fastener mounting disposed inwardly of the opposite marginal edges of the bridge block.

The fastener stud 7 is advantageously secured to the case part 2 as well as to the mounting 15, by means of a tubular rivet or eyelet 16 having a flanged head 17. The fastener stud 7 preferably is of a conventional type having a hollow bulbous head 7a and a base flange 7b (see Fig. 6). The tubular rivet 16 is passed through the tubular post or mounting provided by the comating grooves of the mounting portions 15 with the flanged head 17 engaging a shouldered edge 15a of the mounting portion 15. The shank of the rivet will be of sufficient length, so that when pressure is applied to the stud 7 and rivet head 17, the end of the rivet shank will be upset within the hollow stud head 7a and the rivet head 17 will be crimped over and around the shouldered edge of the mounting portion, as shown in Fig. 2. Thus the stud 7 may be securely assembled with the bridge block and to the case part 2 in reinforcing relation therebetween. This means of attachment also holds the arms 14—14 together and prevents spreading of the loop, thus permitting the manufacture of a bridge block from a simple blank. The height of the arms 14—14 where the rivet passes through the tubular portion is preferably less than the body portion so as to permit the use of a shorter rivet.

In Figs. 7 and 8 I have illustrated a modified form of bridge block and fastener mounting, as well as a sheet metal blank therefor. In this embodiment of the invention the block 20 may be substantially triangular in form, having base end portions 21, converging side portions 22 and a nose

portion 23. Arms 24 extend inwardly from the nose 23 and are provided with a tubular stud mounting portion 25, which, as in the case of the portion 15 of Figs. 2 to 6, is preferably shouldered relative to the adjacent portion of the arms 24, so that a stud rivet head may be crimped thereover. According to this form of the invention the stud mounting portion 25 is formed from the central portion of the strip, as shown in Fig. 8. The portion 25 is of less width than the adjacent nose portions 23, so that the strip preferably widens from the portion 25 to the nose portions 23 and then tapers toward opposite ends.

Advantages of the invention reside in the simplicity of construction whereby the sheet metal bridge block may also provide a stable and secure mounting for the stud fastener member. The bridge block may be economically manufactured and readily assembled in a spectacle case with the fastener. There is no breakage of the bridge block during assembly of the fastener stud as is frequently the case when using wooden blocks.

Although I have illustrated and described two constructions embodying my invention, I do not intend to be restricted to the details thereof as the scope of the invention is best defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like, comprising an elongated strip of sheet material tapering in width from its center toward opposite ends, said center portion being reversely bent to provide a nose and adjoining side portions, base portions connected to said side portions and being of less depth than said nose, comating arms connected to said base portions and extending inwardly between said side portions, and arcuate fastener mounting portions on the ends of said arms, said arcuate mounting portions providing a tubular mounting for a fastener attaching rivet.

2. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like, comprising an elongated strip of sheet material, shaped to generally triangular form to provide opposed base, side and nose portions, the central portion of said strip extending inwardly from said nose portion and provided with a tubular post-receiving bore, said strip tapering in width from said nose portion in opposite directions toward said tubular bore and strip ends, the latter forming the base portion of said block.

3. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like comprising a strip of ribbon-like sheet material shaped to provide a loop-like main portion adapted to receive the bridge of a pair of spectacles, a pair of opposed arms connected to said loop-like main portion and extending into the space surrounded thereby, said arms being provided with means shaped to receive attaching means for securing said bridge block to a support.

4. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases comprising material shaped to provide a bridge block having opposed side portions and opposed base and nose portions, an arm extending inwardly from one of said portions between said opposed side portions and provided with means shaped to receive attaching means for securing said bridge block to a support.

5. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases comprising an elongated strip of sheet material shaped to provide a bridge block having opposed side portions and opposed base and nose portions, portions of said strip extending inwardly between said opposed side portions in opposed relationship and provided with means shaped to receive a fastener-receiving supporting post whereby a supporting post may be secured to said block and to a fastener member to hold them in assembled relationship on said casing.

6. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases comprising an elongated strip of sheet material shaped to provide a bridge block having opposed side portions connected to opposed base and nose portions, portions of said strip extending inwardly into the space surrounded by said opposed side, base and nose portions in opposed relationship and provided with means shaped to receive a fastener-receiving supporting post whereby said supporting post may be secured to said block and to a fastener member to hold them in assembled relationship on said casing.

7. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like comprising an elongated strip of sheet material bent to loop form to provide a bridge block having opposed side, base and nose portions, an arm extending inwardly from one of said portions and being of less depth than said nose portion, and a tubular fastener stud mounting adjacent the inner end of said arm.

8. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like comprising a block member formed of a sheet metal strip of varying width and tapering toward its opposite ends, said strip being bent to loop form providing opposed base, side and nose portions, an arm extending inwardly from one of said portions and lying within said loop, and a stud fastener mounting portion on said arm adjacent the inner end thereof.

9. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases comprising an elongated strip of sheet material shaped to provide a bridge block having opposed side portions connected at the ends thereof to opposed base and nose portions, the end portions of said strip extending inwardly between said opposed side portions in opposed relationship and provided with means shaped to receive attaching means for securing said bridge block to a support.

10. A combined bridge block and fastener mounting for spectacle cases and the like comprising a strip of sheet material shaped to provide a base portion, opposed converging sides connected to said base portion and an intermediate nose portion of greater depth than said base portion, and comating extensions integral with one of said portions and extending inwardly between said sides, said extensions being provided with arcuate portions adjacent their ends forming a tubular fastener-receiving support.

WALTER I. JONES.

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