B. RUHMANN.

CLASP OR HOLDING DEVICE.

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1,111,184.

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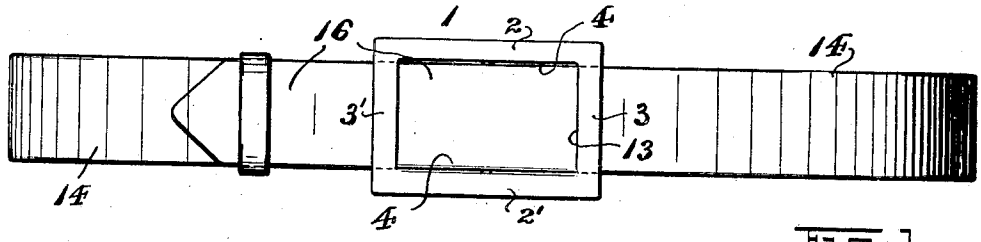


Fig. 1

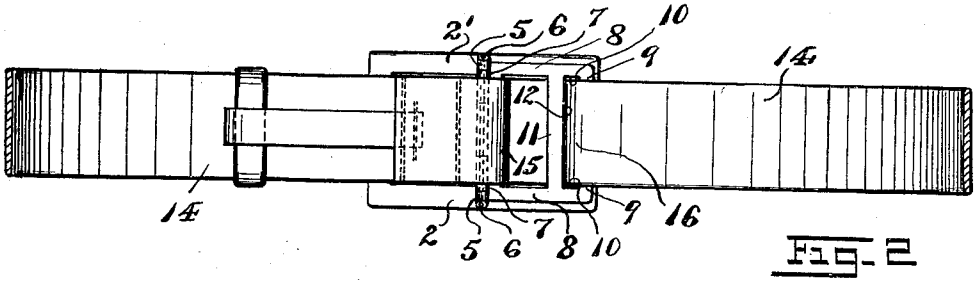


Fig. 2

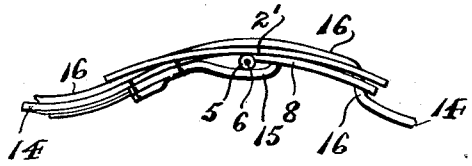


Fig. 3

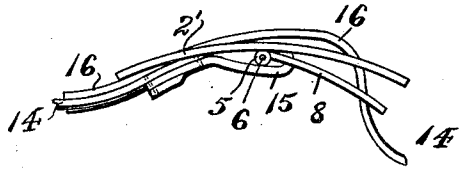


Fig. 4

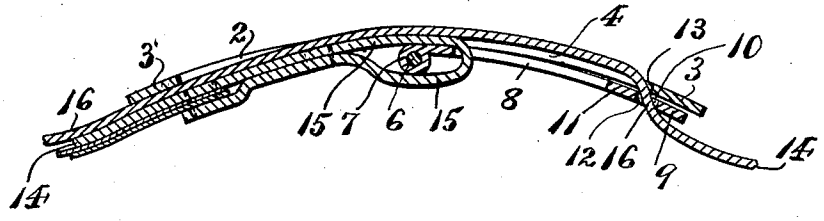


Fig. 5

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CLASP OR HOLDING DEVICE.

1,111,184. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 22, 1914.

Application filed July 11, 1912. Serial No. 708,810.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN RUHMANN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps or Holding Devices; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The present invention has reference, generally, to improvements in clasps or holding devices; and, the present invention relates, more particularly, to a novel clasp or holding device which is especially adapted for use in connection with belts, such as are worn with and form a part of wearing apparel, although the said clasp or holding device may be used as a fastening means in many other ways and for other purposes.

The present invention has for its principal object to provide a neat, simple and effective clasp or holding device for straps, belts, and the like, adapted to firmly grip and hold the body of the strap, belt or the like wherever it engages the same. And said invention takes the place of old fashioned buckles, but unlike the said buckles is not dependent upon perforations in the strap or belt body, but will engage in firm holding relation with any part of the strap-body, thus providing for a much better adjustment to any desired degree.

A further object of this invention is to provide a clasp or holding device for the purposes above indicated, which is so constructed that the greater the strain upon the strap or belt body or the greater the tendency of said strap or belt body to pull away from clasped relation with said clasp or holding device, the stronger and firmer the grip exercised by said clasp or holding device upon the strap or belt-body becomes, and yet the gripping relation of said clasp or holding device upon said strap or belt-body may be easily, quickly and simply released when it is so desired to do.

With the various objects of the present invention in view, the said invention consists, primarily, in the novel construction of clasps or holding devices for straps, belts and the like, hereinafter more particularly set forth in the following detailed description of the same, and then finally embodied in the clauses of the claims which are appended to and which form an essential part of this specification.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a belt provided with the novel construction of clasp or holding device made according to and embodying the principles of the present invention; Fig. 2 is a rear view of said clasp or holding device, shown in its connected relation with a belt. Fig. 3 is an edge view illustrating said clasp or holding device in its holding or gripping relation with the free end of said belt; Fig. 4 is a similar edge view illustrating said clasp or holding device in released relation to the free end of said belt; and Fig. 5 is a horizontal longitudinal section of said clasp or holding device in operative relation or connection with a belt, said view being drawn upon an enlarged scale.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring now to the said drawings the reference character 1 indicates the complete clasp or holding device made according to and embodying the principles of the present invention, the same comprising a frame-piece or face-plate formed by the longitudinally extending side-portions 2 and 2′ and the transversely extending end-portions 3 and 3′, the same bounding a rectangular opening 4. Secured upon the under side of each longitudinally extending side-portion, and preferably located midway between the ends of the same, are transversely perforated ears or lugs 5. Supported by said perforated ears or lugs 5, so as to extend transversely across the rear or under side of said frame-piece or face-plate is a pintle-member 6. Pivotally mounted upon said pintle-member 6, by means of its perforated hinge-knuckle 7 is a clamp-frame 8. Said clamp-frame extends forwardly and is provided at its free end with a transversely extending draw-bar 9. Extending transversely from side to side of said clamp-frame and spaced slightly back of said draw-bar 9 so as to provide a strap-opening 10, is a clamp-bar 11, the engaging edge 12 of which registers slightly back of the inner or holding edge 13 of said

transversely extending end-portion 3 of said frame-piece or face-plate.

Said clasp or holding device, constructed as above described, is connected with the belt or strap in the following manner:—One end of the belt or strap 14 is looped, as at 15, and is passed around the pivotal connection between the frame-piece or face-plate and said clamp-frame so as to be permanently secured by one end to said clasp or holding device. The other or free end 16 of said belt or strap 14 is passed through the strap opening 10 from the under side of said clamp-frame so as to lie between said draw-bar 9 and said clamp-bar 11, and is thence passed upwardly through the rectangular opening 4 of said frame-piece or face-plate so as to lie adjacent to the inner or holding edge 13 of said transversely extending end-portion 3 of said frame-piece or face-plate, being thence carried over the looped-portion 15 of the other end of said belt or strap, and thence being passed through the rectangular opening 4 at its opposite end and beneath said transversely extending end-portion 3′ of said frame-piece or face-plate. This threading of the free end 16 of said belt or strap 14 into operative relation with said clasp or holding member may be easily effected by holding said clamp-frame slightly spaced away from said frame-piece or face-plate, in the manner illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawings. When the belt or strap has been adjusted, around the person or article with which it is to be used, to the desired degree of tightness, the portion thereof which engages the under side of said draw-bar 9 tends, by reason of the pressure or pull thereon to which it is thus subjected, to press upwardly toward said frame-piece or face-plate said draw-bar 9, thus swinging upon its pivotal connection said clamp-frame. This upward movement of the draw-bar 9 and clamp-frame carries upwardly said clamp-bar 11 and causes the engaging edge 12 thereof to contact with the belt or strap and press the same firmly and tightly against the inner or holding edge 13 of said transversely extending end-portion 3 of said frame-piece or face-plate, thus it will be apparent that said strap or belt end 16 is firmly and securely held against movement in either direction by reason of its being thus clamped between said end-portion 3 and said clamp-bar 11, (as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawings), and the greater the strain or pull upon the belt or strap, the greater is the upward pressure upon the draw-bar 9, and consequently the greater is the clamping pressure of the clamp-bar 11 upon said belt or strap. The clamped engagement of the free end 16 of said belt or strap 14, as thus effected, may be easily and quickly released so that the belt or strap will move freely and easily in either direction through said threaded engagement with said clasp or holding device by simply holding slightly away from the frame-piece or face-plate said draw-bar 9, consequently swinging said clamp-frame outwardly, and thus holding said clamp-bar 11 away from said end-portion 3 so that the belt or strap will easily slip between the same, (as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawings).

From the foregoing description of the present invention it will be clearly evident that I have devised a simply constructed clasp or holding device for belts, straps and the like, which possess a very simple and highly efficient clamping action no matter how great the strain or pull upon said belt, strap or the like, but which may be easily and quickly released from its clamping relation to said belt, strap or the like.

I am aware that some changes may be made in the general arrangements and combinations of the several parts of the device without departing from the scope of the present invention as set forth in the foregoing specification and claimed. Hence, I do not limit my present invention to the exact arrangements and combinations of the several devices and parts as described in the said specification, nor do I confine myself to the exact details of the construction of the said parts as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

I claim:—

1. A belt-buckle comprising a main frame-piece having side-portions and end-portions and a laterally extending pintle-member having its end-portions connected with the side-portions of said frame-piece, and a clamp-frame pivotally connected with said pintle-member and arranged upon the under side of said main frame-piece, said clamp-frame comprising side portions, a laterally extending draw-bar and a laterally extending clamp-bar, said draw-bar and the clamp-bar being both connected with the side-portions of the clamp-frame and providing an opening for the reception of the free end-portion of the belt-strap, said draw-bar, when the clamp-frame is closed against the under face of the frame-piece, lying against the under face of one end-portion of said frame-piece with the inner marginal edge-portion of the draw-bar beyond the inner marginal edge-portion of the said last-mentioned end-portion of the frame-piece, all arranged so that a pull upon the inserted portion of the belt-strap in a direction away from said end-portion of the frame-piece will cause the belt-strap to be firmly clamped in frictional holding engagement by the inner marginal edge-portion of said end-portion of the frame-piece and the oppositely placed edge-portions of the draw-bar and the clamp-bar of the clamp-frame, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. A belt-buckle comprising a main frame-piece having side-portions and end-portions, perforated hinge-knuckles extending from the lower faces of said side-portions, a pintle-member mounted in said hinge-knuckles, and a clamp-frame pivotally connected with said pintle-member and arranged upon the under side of said main frame-piece, said clamp-frame comprising side portions, a laterally extending draw-bar and a laterally extending clamp-bar, said draw-bar and the clamp-bar being both connected with the side-portions of the clamp-frame and providing an opening for the reception of the free end-portion of the belt-strap, said draw-bar, when the clamp-frame is closed against the under face of the frame-piece, lying against the under face of one end-portion of said frame-piece with the inner marginal edge-portion of the draw-bar beyond the inner marginal edge-portion of the said last-mentioned end-portion of the frame-piece, all arranged so that a pull upon the inserted portion of the belt-strap in a direction away from said end-portion of the frame-piece will cause the belt-strap to be firmly clamped in frictional holding engagement by the inner marginal edge-portion of said end-portion of the frame-piece and the oppositely placed edge-portions of the draw-bar and the clamp-bar of the clamp-frame, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony, that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of June 1912.

BENJAMIN RUHMANN.

Witnesses:
GEORGE D. RICHARDS,
FREDK. H. W. FRAENTZEL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."