C. E. PATTON.

BUCKLE.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 27, 1911.

1,037,045. Patented Aug. 27, 1912.

Fig. 1.

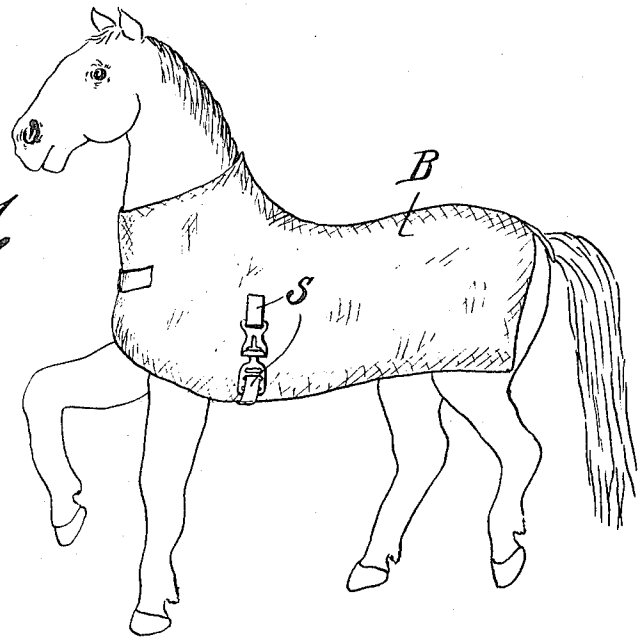

Fig. 2.

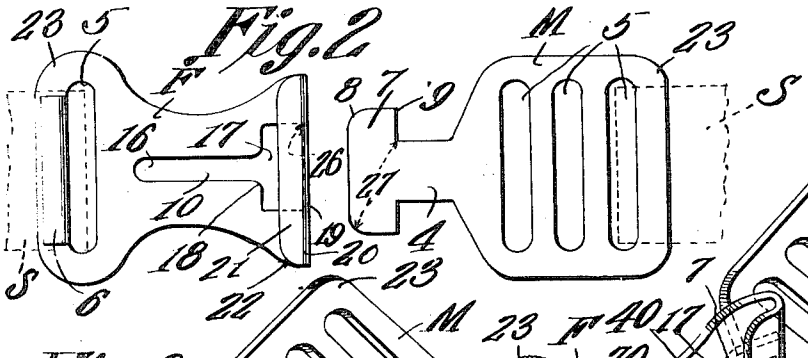

Fig. 3.

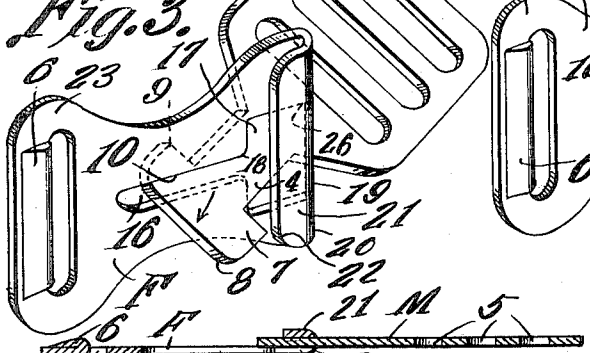

Fig. 4.

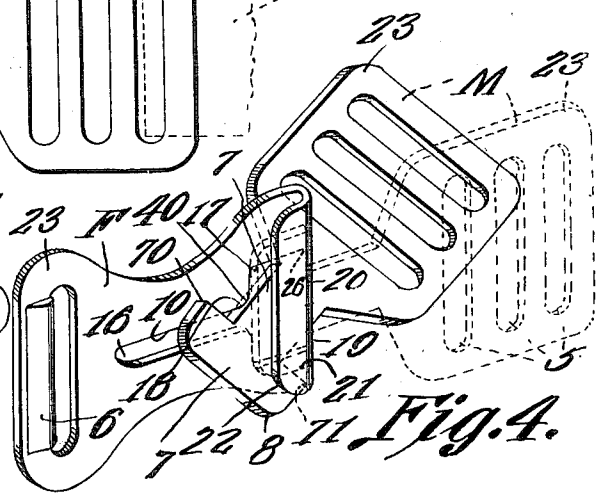

Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. PATTON, OF FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN.

BUCKLE.

1,037,045. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 27, 1912.

Application filed February 27, 1911. Serial No. 610,994.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. PATTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fond du Lac, in the county of Fond du Lac and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to buckles, and has for its object to provide a two-membered buckle wherein the members are detachable and attachable by a predetermined operation but otherwise prevented from detachment or attachment.

This invention although applicable for various purposes is particularly adapted for use in connecting the straps of a horse blanket to prevent the accidental disconnection of the said straps.

To the above end this invention is embodied in the novel construction of parts as hereinafter described and claimed, and as shown in the drawings wherein,—

Figure 1 is an illustration of the buckle as applied to the straps of a horse blanket. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the two members in separated or detached position. Figs. 3 and 4 are perspective views showing the different steps or stages of the attachment of the two members with each other, the final step being shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4. Fig. 5 is a central longitudinal section through the buckle with the members thereof attached to each other.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the two members of the buckle are designated at F and M, the same being stamped from sheet metal of desired thickness and resiliency. The member F is provided in its outer end with a slot 5 and a lip 6 adjacent the said slot for the attachment of one of the straps S of the horse blanket or other article, and the member M is provided in its outer end with a plurality of slots 5 for the attachment of the other strap. The member F is provided with a T-slot 10 having the head thereof disposed inwardly, and the inner end of the member F adjacent the head of the T-slot is bent back over the head of the said opening to form a guard 21 projecting only partially over the head of the opening. The head of the T-slot is designated at 17, which extends into the bend of the guard 21, and the tail thereof is designated at 16. The other member M is provided with a T portion on the inner end thereof, the head 7 of which is wider than the head 17 of the T-slot of the other member and the shank 4 of which is wider than the tail of the said slot but narrower than the head of the said slot. The oblique dimensions from the outer corners 8 of the head 7 to the opposite inner corners thereof, one of which is designated by the dotted line 27 in Fig. 2, are greater than the oblique dimensions of the head of the slot of the member F for the reason to to be described hereinafter. The guard 21 is arranged in a close relation to the body of the member F and is adapted to snugly receive the head 7 of the member M.

In use, the guard 21 prevents the T-head of the member M from being inserted into the T-slot and then readily shifted into the head thereof to attach the two members together, and due to the fact that the oblique dimensions from the outer corners of the said head to the opposite inner corners thereof are greater than the oblique dimensions of the head of said slot, it is impossible to engage one end of the said head in the head of the said slot and swing the other end thereof through the said slot to attach the said members together. Therefore, to attach the two members a novel predetermined operation is necessary. This operation consists in canting or twisting the member M with respect to the member F and projecting the head 7 through the tail 10 of the T-slot in the member F as shown in Fig. 3; then sliding the member M toward the head of the said slot and twisting the member M to twist the shank 4 into the head of the T-slot as designated in Fig. 4; and then by swinging the member M in alinement with the member F as designated in dotted lines, the attachment of the members is completed. When the members are attached, the head 7 of the member M is snugly received under the guard 21 of the member F so that the members are retained in the same plane. Inasmuch as the shank 4 of the T-head of the member M is wider than the tail 10 of the T-slot of the member F it is impossible to insert the T-head through the said slot and swing the member M therein to attach the two members and the head 7 being wider than the head of the slot prevents the two members from being pulled apart after being attached, and to detach the members it is absolutely necessary to reverse the operation above de-

scribed. It will therefore be seen that the accidental detachment or disconnection of the members of the buckle is practically impossible. It will be also difficult, if not impossible, for any one unfamiliar with the operation necessary to tamper with the said members or to maliciously detach the members, although the operation is comparatively simple to those familiar with the buckle.

Although I am aware of the fact that it is old in the art to connect two members of a buckle by means of a T-head and a T-slot in the respective members, particular stress is applied to the fact that the dimensions of the parts as heretofore described and the guard 21 as provided makes it absolutely necessary that the two members be attached and detached according to the operation above described. I, therefore, do not broadly claim a buckle comprising two members wherein the respective members are provided with a T-head and a T-slot, but

What I do specifically claim and desire to protect by patent is:

A two-membered buckle, one member having a T portion, and the other member having a T-slot with the head disposed inwardly and the inner end of the said member being imperforate and bent back partially over the head of the slot and in a close relation to the body of the said member to snugly receive the head of the T portion the width of the shank and head of the T portion and the oblique dimensions from the outer corners of the head to the opposite inner corners of which are greater respectively than the widths of the tail and head of the slot and the oblique dimensions of the head thereof.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES E. PATTON.

Witnesses:

ELIZABETH RICHTER,

H. E. SWETT.