

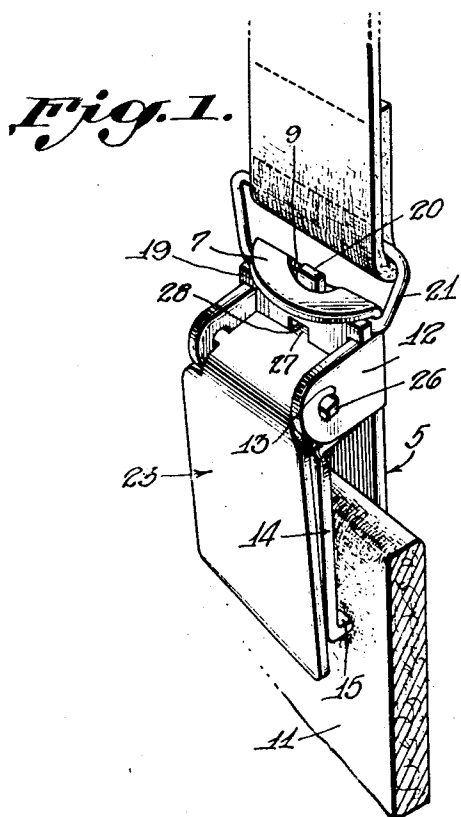
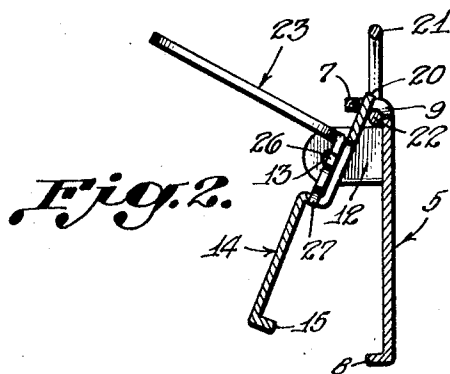
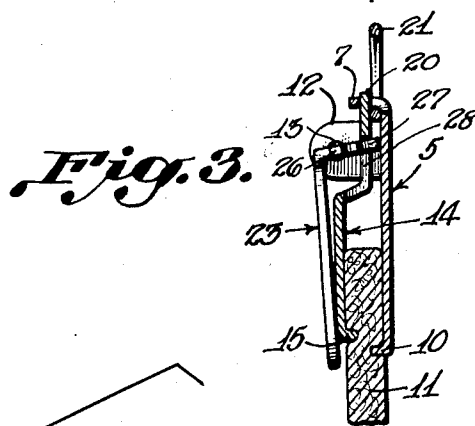
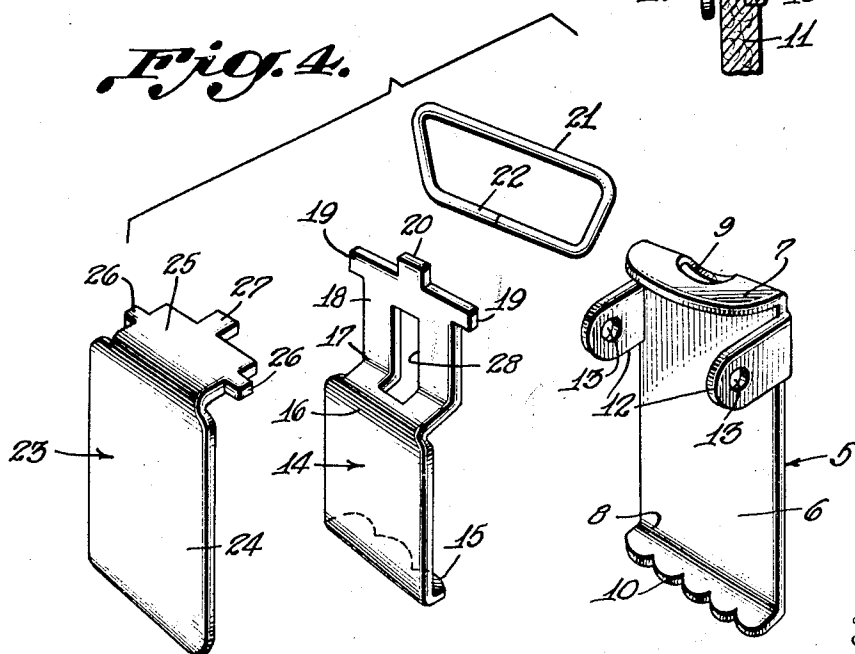
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CLASP

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CLASP

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5 Claims. (Cl. 24—250)

This invention relates to improvements in clasps, and more particularly to a novel clasp for use with suspenders or the like.

The primary purpose of the invention is to provide a clasp that may be opened fully simply by lifting a lever forming part thereof, so that the clasp will accommodate materials of various thicknesses from the thinnest to the thickest ordinarily used in clothing or the like.

Another object is to furnish an improved clasp which can be attached to or detached from the garment much easier than the clasps heretofore known, due to the simple and positive operation of the lever.

A further object is to supply a clasp of simple, inexpensive construction, and one which will last indefinitely and not be liable to get out of order.

With the foregoing objects outlined and with other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel features hereinafter described in detail, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved clasp shown suspended from a portion of a suspender and grasping a piece of material.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the clasp, partly in elevation, and showing the same in open position.

Fig. 3 is a similar view with the clasp in closed position, and shown gripping a piece of material.

Fig. 4 is a perspective exploded view of the elements from which the clasp is made.

Referring to the drawing, 5 designates the base or back piece of the clasp which is preferably formed of sheet metal and comprises a rectangular plate 6 having a top flange 7 and a bottom flange 8. These flanges are preferably arranged parallel to one another and extend forwardly from the plate. At the junction of the flange 7 and the plate, a slot 9 is provided.

The flange 8 has a fluted edge 10 forming blunt teeth adapted to gently bite into a piece 11 of textile fabric which may form part of a garment to be supported.

A pair of ears 12 project forwardly from the upper portions of the side edges of the plate and are provided with aligned apertures 13.

The member 5 forms one jaw of the clasp and it cooperates with a second jaw 14 also preferably formed of sheet metal. The jaw 14 has a fluted flange 15 at its lower end to cooperate with the flange 8 in grasping the material 11, and said

jaw may consist of a substantially rectangular lower portion 16 which at its upper end merges into an intermediate portion 17 that in turn merges into an upper portion 18 that is arranged substantially parallel to the portion 16. The portion 17 is arranged on a slight incline relatively to the portions 16 and 18, and serves to place the upper portion 18 in a position rearwardly offset relatively to the portion 16.

Lugs 19 project from the upper end of the side edges of the portion 18 and slidably rest on the upper edges of the ears 12 when the parts are assembled.

A third lug 20 projects upwardly from the upper edge of the jaw 14 and extends into the slot 9 to assist in holding the parts in assembled relation.

For suspending purposes, a loop or eye 21 has a lower fulcrum bar 22 which is confined by the parts 6, 7, and 18, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

The clasp is completed by a lever 23, also preferably formed of a piece of sheet metal. This lever preferably consists of a substantially rectangular plate portion 24 having a flange 25 at its upper end arranged substantially at right angles to the plate portion 24, and projecting rearwardly therefrom. The flange also has oppositely extending lugs 26 fulcrumed in the openings 13 to form a hinge connection between the parts 23 and 24. A third lug 27 projects rearwardly from the flange and extends into a vertically disposed slot 28 in the jaw 14 for the purpose of assisting in holding the jaw 14 in connection with the jaw 5, and to enable the lever to fully open the jaw 14, as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

From the foregoing and from an inspection of Fig. 4, the manner of assembling the parts will be clear to those skilled in the art, and after the parts are assembled, it will be evident that the jaw 14 may be opened wide for the introduction or removal of the piece of material 11. Furthermore, when the lever is closed, as shown in Fig. 3, the jaws will act to effectively clamp a piece of material, regardless of its thickness, so long as the thickness is of the degree usually found in clothing.

The herein described and illustrated embodiment of the invention has given satisfactory results, and it will be obvious to those skilled in the art, after an understanding of the invention, that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, and it is intended that all matters contained in the above description or shown in the drawing, shall

be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A clasp comprising a back member forming a first jaw, said member having upper and lower forwardly projecting flanges and side ears, the upper flange being slotted and the lower flange forming a gripping edge, a second jaw arranged forwardly of the first jaw and comprising upper, lower and intermediate portions, the intermediate portion being arranged at an angle to the upper and lower portion, and the upper and lower portion being arranged substantially parallel, the upper end portion of the second jaw having oppositely extending lugs resting on said ears and supporting the second jaw for swinging movement about a substantially fixed horizontal axis, and a projecting tongue extending into said slot, and a lever having its upper end portion projecting rearwardly and provided with oppositely extending lugs pivotally mounted in said ears, the second jaw being provided with a longitudinal slot, and the rearwardly extending portion of the lever having a tongue projecting into the last mentioned slot and engageable with the second jaw for opening the latter when the lever is swung in a certain direction relatively to the first jaw.
2. A clasp comprising a stationary jaw and a swingable jaw, means pivotally connecting the upper end portions of the jaws and constraining the movable jaw to swing about a fixed axis, flanges arranged at the lower ends of the jaws and projecting toward one another for clamping a garment to the clasp, a lever arranged substantially parallel to said jaws and having its upper end pivotally connected to the upper end portion of the stationary jaw, the movable jaw being slotted, and a tongue projecting from the upper end of the lever into the slot and engageable with the movable jaw for swinging the movable jaw into a widely opened position when the lever is swung outwardly and upwardly about its pivot.
3. A clasp comprising a stationary jaw and a swingable jaw, means pivotally connecting the upper end portions of the jaws and constraining the movable jaw to swing about a fixed axis, flanges arranged at the lower ends of the jaws and projecting toward one another for clamping a garment to the clasp, a lever arranged substantially parallel to said jaws and having its

upper end pivotally connected to the upper end portion of the stationary jaw, the movable jaw being slotted, and a tongue projecting from the upper end of the lever into the slot and engageable with the movable jaw for swinging the movable jaw into a widely opened position when the lever is swung outwardly and upwardly about its pivot, the stationary jaw having oppositely disposed projecting ears near the upper end thereof forming part of the pivot means of the lever.

4. A clasp comprising a stationary jaw and a swingable jaw, means pivotally connecting the upper end portions of the jaws and constraining the movable jaw to swing about a fixed axis, flanges arranged at the lower ends of the jaws and projecting toward one another for clamping a garment to the clasp, a lever arranged substantially parallel to said jaws and having its upper end pivotally connected to the upper end portion of the stationary jaw, the movable jaw being slotted, and a tongue projecting from the upper end of the lever into the slot and engageable with the movable jaw for swinging the movable jaw into a widely opened position when the lever is swung outwardly and upwardly about its pivot, the movable jaw consisting of upper and lower substantially parallel portions connected together by an intermediate portion arranged at an angle to both the upper and lower portions of the movable jaw.

5. A clasp comprising a stationary jaw provided with upper and lower forwardly projecting flanges and side forwardly projecting apertured ears, a movable jaw having oppositely projecting lugs resting on said ears and turnable about a substantially fixed axis, the upper flange of the stationary jaw being slotted and the movable jaw having a projecting tongue extending into said slot to constrain the movable jaw to swing about said substantially fixed axis, the movable jaw being provided with a longitudinal slot, and a lever arranged substantially parallel to said jaws and having its upper end pivotally connected to said ears and having a tongue at its upper end projecting into the last-mentioned slot and cooperating with the movable jaw to hold the latter in closed position or to open the movable jaw by a swinging movement of the latter when the lever is swung outwardly and upwardly relatively to the stationary jaw.

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