(No Model.)

E. A. SMITH.

BUCKLE.

No. 384,936. Patented June 19, 1888.

Fig. 1

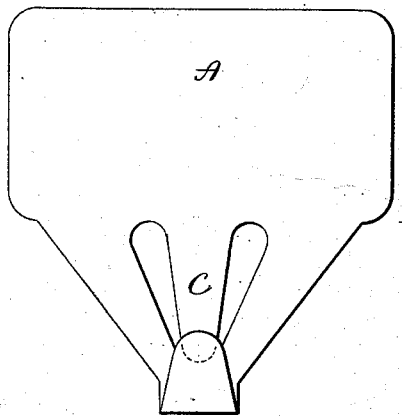


Fig. 2

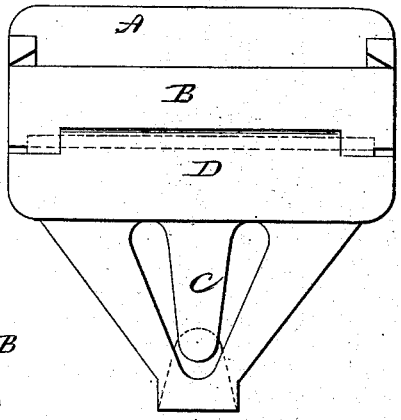


Fig. 3.

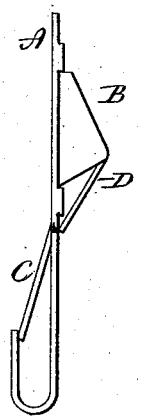


Fig. 4.

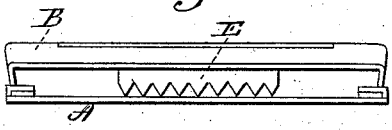


Fig. 5.

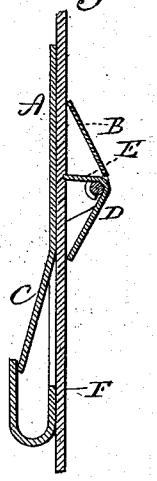


Fig. 6.

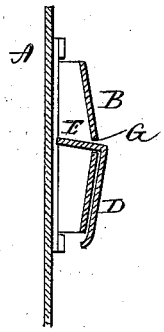
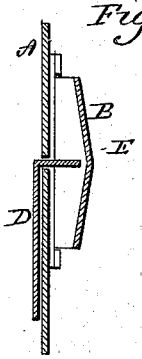


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARL A. SMITH, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO DWIGHT L. SMITH, OF SAME PLACE.

BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 384,936, dated June 19, 1888.

Application filed April 23, 1888. Serial No. 271,554. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EARL A. SMITH, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented new Improvements in Buckles; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a front view of the buckle complete; Fig. 2, a rear view of the same; Fig. 3, a side view of the same; Fig. 4, a top view of the same; Fig. 5, a vertical central section showing the strap or suspender in place and engaged; Figs. 6 and 7, modifications in the construction of the back.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of buckles adapted specially for suspenders, and in which the frame is made of tubular form, so that the suspender or strap passes through the frame, the frame being provided with a lever having a jaw within the tubular portion of the frame adapted to engage the strap.

In the usual construction the front and back of the tubular frame are made in planes parallel with each other and distant from each other considerably more than the thickness of the strap or suspender, in order to permit the jaw of the lever to work within the frame upon the suspender. The result of this is that the upper edge of the back portion of the frame, being a considerable distance inside of the inner surface of the suspender, offers a wearing edge to the garments, so as to create a serious objection to this otherwise desirable class of buckles. Again, the same difficulty occurs from the arm of the lever below. This being usually upon the inner surface of the frame and generally parallel with the plane of the back, its lower edge offers a like wearing-surface or obstruction to the easy movement of the buckle upon the garments.

The object of my invention is to overcome these difficulties; and it consists in inclining the back of the frame upward and toward the front of the frame, and also inclining the arm of the lever downward and toward the front of the frame, as more fully hereinafter described.

The front A of the frame is of the usual or any desirable form, and preferably at its lower edge terminates in a hook formed as a part of the front and with a spring-tongue, C; but any of the many known devices for the attachment of the braces may be applied to the lower edge of the buckle.

B represents the back of the frame, which is attached to the front by its two ends, and may be made as a part of the front brought into tubular shape, the back B being parallel with the front and so as to form a tubular frame, as seen in Fig. 4; but instead of making the back B in a plane parallel with the plane of the front, the plane of the back is oblique to the plane of the front—that is, it inclines upward and outward toward the front, as seen in Figs. 3 and 5, the upper edge being distant from the front only sufficient for the convenient introduction of the suspender or strap to the frame. In the back a lever, D, is hung in the usual manner, its jaw E being in the line where the back is most distant from the front. The lever D inclines downward and forward toward the front, so as to lie upon the suspender or strap and present an oblique surface, substantially like that of the back of the frame B above, and so that as the suspender or strap F is introduced through the frame, as represented in Fig. 5, there is sufficient room within the frame for the operation of the jaw, but yet the exposed edge of the back is brought into substantially close contact with that side of the suspender or strap and the lever in a like position, so that the usual wearing-points of the buckle are avoided. The central projecting line of the back forms a smooth rounded surface and serves as a guard for the buckle to prevent wear upon the garments. As represented, the lever is hung in the lower edge of the back B, the back being inclined upward and outward, while the lever is inclined downward and outward; but the frame may be made with a double-inclined back, as seen in Fig. 6, with a longitudinal slot, G, through which the lever is introduced, as in many buckles of this class; but under this construction there is the

same double-inclined surface upon the back of the buckle to form the guard and prevent wear upon the garments. In some cases the lever is arranged upon the front, so as to clamp the suspender against the back. In such cases the back is inclined both upward and downward, as represented in Fig. 7. In any case it will be observed that the upper portion of the back of the buckle presents an upward and outwardly inclined surface, while the lower portion presents a downward and outwardly inclined surface, which constitutes the essential feature of this invention. In some cases the lever is arranged in the upper part of the frame, so that the lever turns upward in grasping instead of downward. This being a common and well-known construction, it is to be understood therefore that I have used the terms "upward," "downward," "rearward," "front," "back," and similar terms only as a convenience in illustrating the invention, and not as indicating a necessary position of the parts.

I claim—

1. The herein described buckle, the frame composed of the front A and the back B, the front and back united at their ends to form a tubular frame through which the strap passes, combined with an L shaped lever hinged to one of the said parts, and so that its jaw will extend toward the opposite part and with the said opposite part form a clamp within the tubular frame to engage the strap, the plane of the said back being inclined upward and toward the front, so as to contract the opening through the tubular frame at its upper edge, substantially as described.

2. The herein-described buckle, the frame composed of a front, A, and back B, united at their ends to form a tubular frame through which the strap passes, the back inclined upward and toward the front of the frame, so as to contract the opening through the frame toward the top, combined with an L-shaped lever hinged to the back, and so that its jaw will extend toward the front and with the said front form a clamp within the tubular frame to engage the strap, the arm of said lever inclined downward and forward toward the front, substantially as described, and so that the rear of the buckle presents a double-inclined surface toward the front.

EARL A. SMITH.

Witnesses:
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