

(No Model.)

H. A. CLOSSER, G. A. BILLINGS, G. THOMSON
& J. F. KNUTH.
SHOE BUCKLE.

No. 454,853.

Patented June 30, 1891.

Fig. 1.

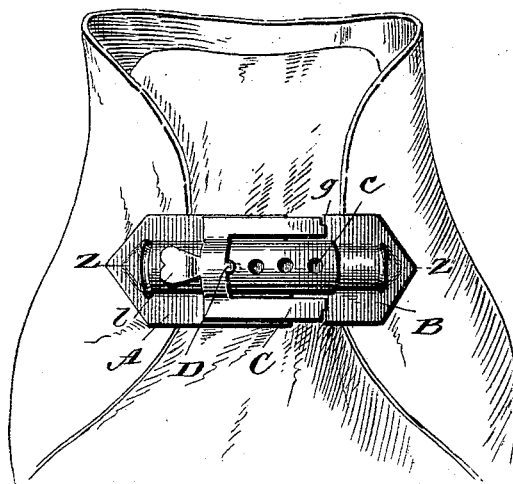


Fig. 2.

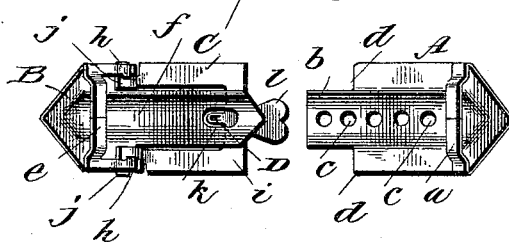


Fig. 3.

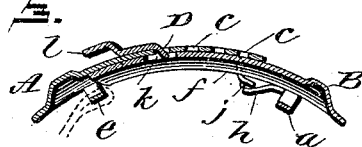
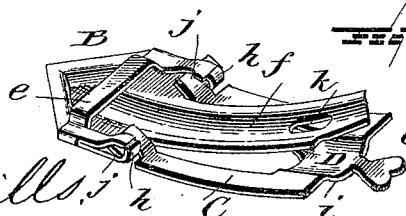


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

L. C. Mills,
E. C. Bond.

Inventors

Horace A. Closser,
George A. Billings,
George Thomson,
Julius F. Knuth.
per *Chas. V. Fowler* Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE A. CLOSSER, GEORGE A. BILLINGS, GEORGE THOMSON, AND
JULIUS F. KNUTH, OF FAIRCHILD, WISCONSIN.

SHOE-BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 454,853, dated June 30, 1891.

Application filed March 19, 1891. Serial No. 385,639. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HORACE A. CLOSSER, GEORGE A. BILLINGS, GEORGE THOMSON, and JULIUS F. KNUTH, citizens of the United States, residing at Fairchild, in the county of Eau Claire and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Buckles; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in buckles for buckling shoes and analogous articles, and it has for its objects among others to provide a simple and cheap buckle of this character which will not unlock until the strain is relaxed, thus avoiding the objections so often raised to the old forms of buckles, which unfasten so easily when anything comes in contact therewith. We form the buckle of two parts, one secured to the shoe at each side of the opening therein, the one part being a tongue with a hinged part carrying the locking-latch designed to engage any one of a plurality of holes in the other part. The buckle is self-locking—that is, when the two parts are placed together the latch automatically engages the hole in the other part. Strain placed thereon only the more firmly locks it in place. Yet when the strain is relaxed, the buckle can be easily unlocked.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the novel features thereof will be specifically defined by the appended claims.

The novelty in the present instance resides in the peculiarities of construction and the combinations, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and then particularly pointed out in the claim.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a front view showing our improved buckle applied to a shoe and locked. Fig. 2 is a reverse view of the parts of the

buckle detached. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section through the buckle locked. Fig. 4 is a reverse perspective view of one portion of the buckle.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates the tongue portion of the buckle, which is provided upon its under side at one end with a cross-bar or loop *a*, to which a tape or other means is designed to be affixed to secure it to the shoe. It may be otherwise attached, if desired. The tongue *b* is provided with a plurality of holes *c* and extends beyond the main portion and formed with shoulders *d*, as shown best in Fig. 2, which serve to limit the inward movement of the tongue. The tongue is convex in cross-section.

B is the latch portion. It is formed or provided at one end upon the under side with a cross bar or loop *e*, as seen in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, and to which is designed to be secured a loop or strap, by which it is secured to the shoe. This portion B has a tongue portion *f*, convex in cross-section and over which the tongue *b* is designed to move. This tongue portion *f* is narrower than the main body, and at the junction of the two are the shoulders *g*, at which points the metal is turned under and over to form the eyes *h*, in which the hinged portion is hinged. This hinged portion C is bifurcated, the forward portions of the bifurcations being connected by a cross-bar *i*, as seen best in Fig. 1, the other ends being formed with lugs *j*, which engage the eyes *h* and turn therein as on a hinge. The forward end of the tongue portion is formed with a hole *k* for the reception of the latch D, which is formed on or attached to the cross-bar *i* and is bent downward at an angle, as seen in Fig. 3. The said cross-bar is also preferably formed with a finger-piece *l*, by which it may be manipulated when desired. The cross-bar is convex, as seen at *m* in Fig. 4, to provide for the passage of the tongue, as seen in Fig. 1.

In practice the two parts are attached to the shoe in the manner indicated, and when it is desired to fasten the shoe the tongue *b* is inserted over the tongue portion *f* of the

portion B, as shown in Fig. 1, and as the parts are forced together the shoulders *d* of the tongue ride beneath the arms of the bifurcated portion C and slightly lift them, so that the parts can be easily moved one upon the other. When pressure is removed, the latch falls into the nearest hole in the tongue and holds the parts in this position. The convexity of the tongue portions permits the parts to be more readily guided, serving as guides therefor. There is a sort of a cam or eccentric action of the latch, which serves to aid in the locking as well as the unlocking of the parts. The buckle cannot be unlocked while strain is applied on the two parts. To unlock, all that it is necessary to do is to lift up on the finger-piece *l*, which will disengage the latch and tongue, when the two parts may be separated.

The exterior of the buckle may be made as ornamental in design as desired.

What we claim as new is—

The buckle described composed of the portion A, with cross-bar upon its under side near one end, perforated tongue and shoulders, and the portion B, having loop near one end upon its under side, a tongue portion with hole, cross-bar, and eyes, and the bifurcated portion having lugs engaging said eyes, and a cross-bar with a latch and finger-piece on the cross-bar of the bifurcated portion, substantially as specified.

In testimony that we claim the above we have hereunto subscribed our names in the presence of two witnesses.

HORACE A. CLOSSER.
GEO. A. BILLINGS.
GEORGE THOMSON.
JULIUS F. KNUTH.

Witnesses:

H. E. MORRILL,
WM. F. HOOD.