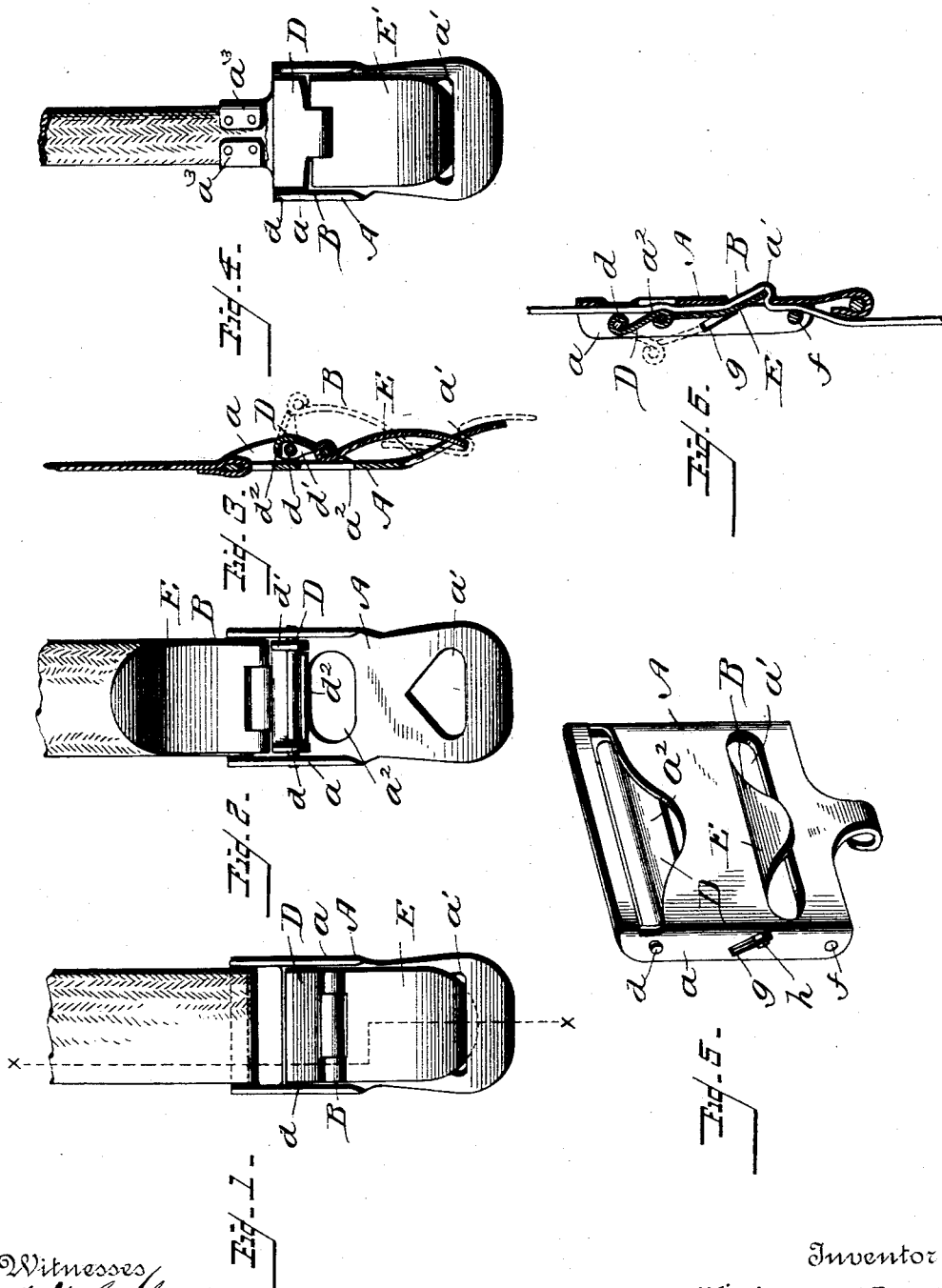


(No Model.)

H. W. HOEFT.  
BUCKLE.

No. 525,547.

Patented Sept. 4, 1894.



Witnesses  
*James A. Hildner*  
*Van Buren Willard*

Inventor  
*Hermann William Hoefft.*  
By Attorneys *Robt. H. Lacey*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMANN WILLIAM HOEFT, OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

## BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 525,547, dated September 4, 1894.

Application filed April 5, 1893. Serial No. 469,134. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERMANN WILLIAM HOEFT, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Crosse, in the county of La Crosse, State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles; 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.

This invention relates to buckles which are especially designed to be used in connection with hose and garment supporters.

The object of the invention is to provide a buckle which will grip or clinch the fabric without puncturing and otherwise injuring the same.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a buckle that can be readily applied to the fabric or garment and quickly detached therefrom for purposes of adjustment and releasing the said fabric.

The improvement consists, essentially, of a frame having an aperture at one end, and plates hinged together and pivoted at one end to the said frame and having the free end constructed to enter the said aperture for the purpose of crowding the fabric therein in the application of the buckle.

The improvement also consists of the novel features and the peculiar construction and combination of the parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed and which are shown in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a buckle of my invention. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the locking tongue thrown up. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on the line X—X of Fig. 1 showing the operation of the locking tongue by dotted lines. Fig. 4 is a front view of a buckle showing the frame provided with a modified form of fastening means for attachment to a cord. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of a further modified form of buckle especially designed for suspenders. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of the buckle shown in Fig. 5, the operation of the locking tongue being shown by dotted lines.

The buckle is composed essentially of two parts, a frame A and a locking tongue B, the latter is composed of two plates or parts D

and E which are hinged together, and is pivotally connected to the frame A at the outer end of the plate D, preferably by means of a cross bar  $d$  which passes through flanges or bent ends  $d'$  of the plate D and through flanges  $a$  at the sides of the frame A. The flange  $d^2$  at the upper edge of the plate D extends over the cross bar  $d$  and protects the same and obviates a sharp corner at the upper end of the locking tongue D. The plate or part E is about three times the length of the plate D and its free end is made rounding for the purpose of better engaging with the fabric of the hose or garment to be engaged by the buckle. This plate E curves outward in its length away from the frame A to make room for the fabric comprised between the same and the frame, and also to give a proper position to the free end of the locking tongue.

The frame A curves at its lower end in an opposite direction to the plate E and is provided at its lower end with an aperture  $a'$  to receive the end of the locking tongue or plate E. The opening  $a^2$  in the frame opposite the hinged joint between the plates D and E is provided to permit an outward pressure on the said hinged joint to disengage the locking tongue when it is desired to release the fabric. By pressing on the locking tongue from the rear to the opening  $a^2$  the hinged joint is broken and the locking tongue can be readily detached from the fabric. The flanges  $a$  are adapted to receive the end of the cross bar  $d$  and hold the same in place. The opening  $a^2$  is of less width than the width of the hinged joint between the plates D and E so that when the locking tongue is in position to clamp the fabric the said hinged joint will not pass beyond the rear side of the frame, but will be limited in its inner movement by the ends of the hinged joint engaging with portions of the frame or opening  $a^2$ . Where it is desired to apply the buckle to a tape the upper end of the frame will be provided with a slot as shown most clearly in Fig. 1 for the purpose of receiving said tape. Should the buckle be designed to be attached to the cord the upper end of the frame will be provided with lateral wings  $a^3$  which are adapted to be bent to bind upon the said cord. This form of construction is shown in Fig. 4. And where

the buckle is designed for suspenders the upper end of the frame will be straight, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

In adapting the invention to suspender buckles it has been found advantageous to provide the frame with a flange on each side extending the full length of the frame, and provided with a lower cross bar *f* to hold the strap close against the lower end of the frame. Diagonal slots *g* provided in the side flanges receive projections at the edges of the plate E and guide the latter in its movements to and from the opening or aperture *a'*. These lateral extensions *h* are located near the free ends of the plate E and hold the latter in position to engage with the suspender strap when pressing upon the locking tongue to secure the strap to the buckle frame in the desired position.

It will be observed that a straight line passing through the pivotal center of the locking tongue and the lower end of the aperture *a'* will be to one side of the center of the hinged joint between the plates D and E comprising the locking tongue B, that is the center of the hinged joint will be located between the plane of the frame A and the said straight line. By this disposition of parts a lock joint is formed when the locking tongue is engaged with the fabric.

The frame for suspender buckles will be provided at its lower end with the usual hook to receive the link or ring by means of which the diverging straps are connected with the shoulder strap.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A buckle composed of a frame having aperture *a'* and opening *a*<sup>2</sup>, and a locking tongue pivoted at one end to the said frame and having the other end constructed to enter the aperture *a'*, said locking tongue having a hinged joint opposite the opening *a*<sup>2</sup>, substantially as described for the purpose specified.

2. A buckle composed of a frame having its

lower end apertured and curved, and a locking tongue pivoted to the frame at one end and constructed to have the opposite end enter the said aperture, said locking tongue being composed of plates, hinged at their inner ends the lower plate being curved in an opposite direction and away from the curved portion of the buckle frame, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A buckle composed of a frame having side flanges and having its lower end apertured and curved, and a locking tongue pivoted at one end between the said flanges and composed of plates which are hinged at their inner ends, and having the free end of the lower plate constructed to enter the said aperture and curved in an opposite direction to the curved portion of the said frame, substantially as set forth.

4. A buckle composed of a frame having flanged sides, an opening *a*<sup>2</sup> and an aperture *a'*, a cross bar supported at its ends in the said flanges, and a locking tongue composed of two plates which are hinged together, the hinged joint coming opposite opening *a*<sup>2</sup>, the upper plate being mounted on the said cross bar, and the lower plate having its ends constructed to enter the aperture *a'*, substantially as set forth.

5. A buckle composed of a frame having flanged sides and having diagonal slots in the said flanges, and having an opening and an aperture at opposite ends, and a locking tongue pivoted at one end between the said flanges, and having lateral extensions to enter the said diagonal slots and composed of two plates which are hinged together, the hinged joint coming opposite the opening *a*<sup>2</sup>, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HERMANN WILLIAM HOEFT.

Witnesses:

JOHN JACOB ESCH,

WALTER CLARENCE WINTER.