No. 650,251. Patented May 22, 1900.

E. N. HUMPHREY.

CLASP.

(Application filed Feb. 27, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

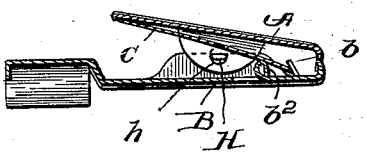
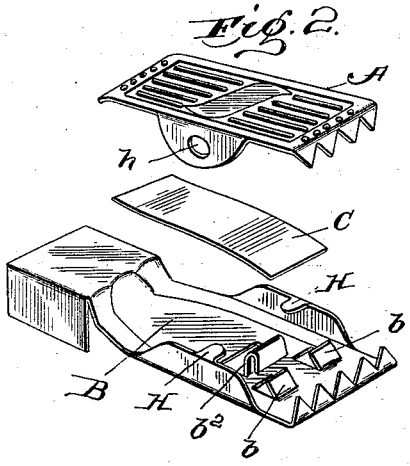


Fig. 2.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST N. HUMPHREY, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE TRAUT & HINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 650,251, dated May 22, 1900.

Application filed February 27, 1900. Serial No. 6,706. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST N. HUMPHREY, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Britain, county of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Clasps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to improvements in clasps for garment-supporters, and especially to that class having two members or jaws pivotally connected together, held closed by spring-pressure.

The invention has for its object to reduce the cost and simplify the manufacture of devices of this character as well as to provide a device which will have a firm grip on either thick or thin goods.

To this end the invention consists in certain novel details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, all as will be now described, and the particular features of novelty pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a clasp embodying the present improvements. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of the members of the clasp separated.

Similar letters of reference in both figures indicate the same parts.

The letter A indicates the upper and B the lower member or jaws of the clasp, formed of sheet metal, pivotally connected together and provided with the usual holding-teeth at their forward edges. The lower jaw is provided at the rear end with means for attachment to the garment-supporter or other article in connection with which the clasp may be used. Near the forward end of the lower jaw portions of the metal are struck up, forming lugs or projections *b*, there being, preferably, two, both inclined slightly backward, as shown clearly in Fig. 1. Back of the lugs *b* a third lug is formed, preferably by striking out a portion of the plate itself, such portion being turned back or rolled over to form a round bearing, as shown clearly at b^2, Fig. 1, for the spring, as will presently be explained. The spring C for holding the jaws closed is preferably flat and of suitable size to lie between the jaws. The forward end of the spring is held by backwardly-inclined lugs *b*, and at an intermediate point it bears upon the support or bearing b^2, its rear end pressing upwardly against the under side of the upper jaw A, which latter is preferably curved downward slightly at the edge to prevent the spring from slipping out.

With the parts arranged as described when the rear ends of the jaws are pressed toward each other to open the clasp the spring will be put under tension by being bent over the bearing or projection on the lower jaw. When the pressure is relieved, the spring will assert itself and close the front ends of the jaws. The pivotal connection between the jaws is preferably, though not necessarily, formed by pivot-lugs H on one jaw, bent inwardly through bearings or apertures *h* in the other jaw. Thus no pin bridges the central space and the action of the spring is not interfered with.

It will be seen that the clasp is exceedingly simple, consisting of but three parts, and at the same time it is strong and the spring firmly held in place when so desired without the employment of a pivot-pin.

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

1. A clasp embodying a pair of jaws pivotally connected at an intermediate point in their length, one of said jaws having a lug on its inner side near the forward end, a spring having its forward end confined beneath said lug and its opposite end engaging the opposite jaw in rear of the pivotal point and a support or bearing above the surface of the jaw upon which the spring rests at an intermediate point, whereby when the forward ends of the jaws are separated the spring will be put under tension; substantially as described.

2. A clasp embodying a pair of jaws pivotally connected at an intermediate point by lugs on one jaw engaging bearings on the opposite jaw, one of said jaws having a rear-

wardly-inclined lug near its forward end and a lug or bearing at an intermediate point and a spring having its forward end confined beneath the rearwardly-inclined lug, resting on the bearing at an intermediate point and engaging the opposite jaw in rear of the pivot; substantially as described.

3. A clasp embodying a pair of jaws pivotally connected at an intermediate point in their length, one of said jaws having a rearwardly-inclined lug on its inner side near the forward end and a lug or bearing at an intermediate point, said lugs being struck up from the metal of the jaw, and a spring having its forward end confined beneath the rearwardly-inclined lug, resting on the bearing at an intermediate point and engaging the opposite jaw in the rear of the pivot; substantially as described.

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