E. A. Smith,

Buckle,

No. 61,477, Patented Jan. 22, 1867.

Fig. 1.

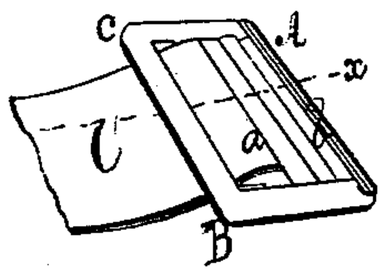


Fig. 3.

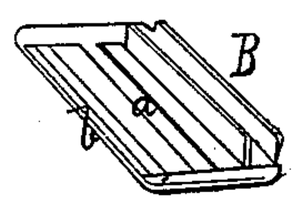


Fig. 5.

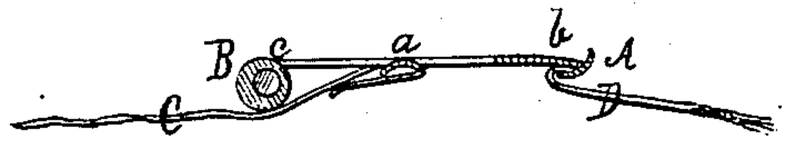


Fig. 4.

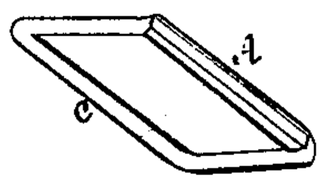
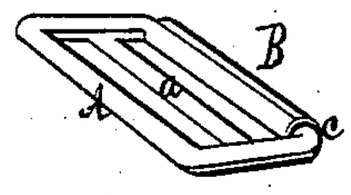


Fig. 2.



Witnesses,

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EARL A. SMITH, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 61,477, *dated January* 22, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUCKLES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, EARL A. SMITH, of the city of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Buckles for Ladies' Skirts, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction, character, and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which make part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the obverse side of the buckle, when complete, with the standing part of the strap or webbing attached.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the reverse side of the same, showing the form of the hinge.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the reverse side of the lever or tongue part, with the long lips of the female or socket part of the hinge open.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the bow or frame part, showing the curved or concave part or space into which the vibrating edge of the lever part presses the running part of the webbing when closed.

Figure 5 is a section of the buckle cut across in the direction of the line *x*, fig. 1, showing the position of the two parts of the webbing when buckled, as when in use for any purpose.

My improvement consists in making the buckle of two parts, the bow or frame part of wire, with its front bar made longitudinally concave or bevelled, to form a recess or slope, and the lever or tongue part of sheet metal cut and swaged, or struck up to its proper shape, so that the rear bar may form the socket or female part of the joint or hinge, the centre bar to receive the standing part of the webbing, and the front bar suited to press the running part of the webbing into the longitudinal concave surface, or against the bevelled surface of the front bar of the bow or frame part. I make the bow or frame part of one piece of wire, bent and swaged to, substantially, the shape shown in fig. 4, especially swaging the front bar to a bevelled form, or the concave form represented at A, fig. 4, in cross-section in fig. 5, and indicated in fig. 1, so that the front bar or vibrating edge of the lever part may press the running part of the webbing D, fig. 5, into it or against it, so as to hold it firmly without slipping. I make the lever or tongue part of one piece of sheet metal by cutting and swaging, or striking up, substantially in the shape shown in fig. 3, and indicated in figs. 1 and 5, so that the rear bar, B, may, by its lips, serve to form the female portion or socket of the hinge, as shown at B, figs. 1, 2, and 5, the centre bar, *a*, to have the standing part, C, figs. 1 and 5, of the webbing attached to it, so that the strain on the part C will materially assist in pressing down the front edge, *b*, of the lever on the running part, D, of the webbing.

Having made the parts in the shape and condition before described, I place the rear bar, *c*, of the bow part, fig. 4, between the lips or edges, B, fig. 3, and close or set them down over it, as shown at B, figs. 1, 2, and 5, so as to form a complete hinge, when the buckle will be complete. Or this socket B may be formed of but one lip, by making the lip long enough to pass entirely round the rear bar *c* of the frame part, fig. 4.

To use this buckle I attach the standing part, C, of the webbing to the middle bar *a* of the lever part, as shown in figs. 1 and 5, and pass the running part, D, of the webbing up between the bars A and *b*, when the strain on the standing part C will draw down the edge *b* so as to press the running part D into the concave or against the bevelled surface of the bar A, as shown in section in fig. 5, and firmly hold it from slipping back, while it may be easily and readily drawn further through if desired.

I am aware that a patent has been issued to D. S. Thompson for a buckle having a bar across or to strengthen the tongue part, but in that case he uses points on the tongue to hold the strap from slipping; but I do not claim or use any device where points on the tongue are needed to hold the strap; but what I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the bow part, fig. 4, with the lever part, fig. 3, when they are constructed, connected, and fitted for use, substantially as herein described and set forth.

EARL A. SMITH.

Witnesses:

R. FITZGERALD,

A. L. TRAIN.