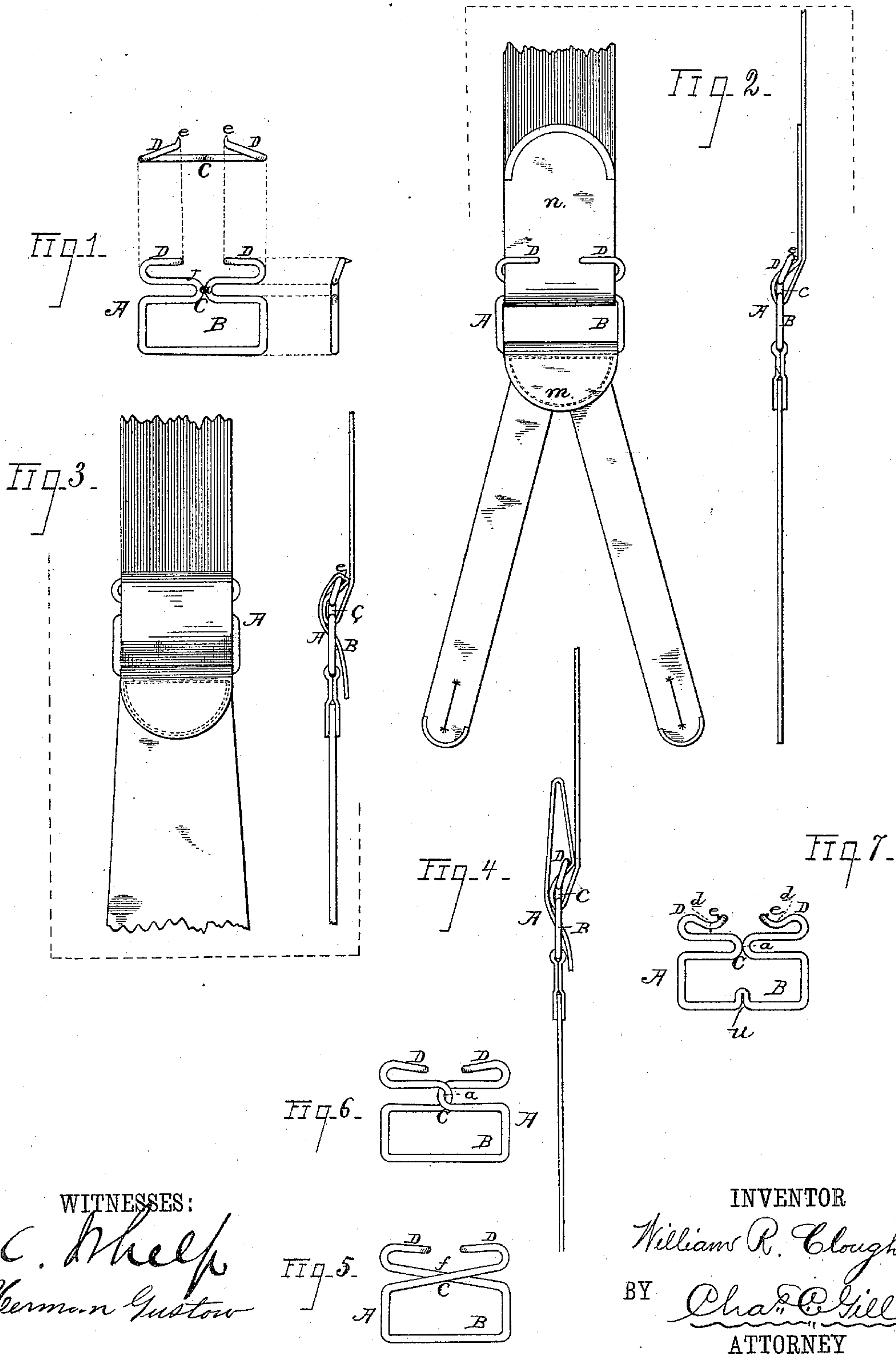


(No Model.)

W. R. CLOUGH.
BUCKLE.

No. 286,264.

Patented Oct. 9, 1883.



WITNESSES:

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WILLIAM R. CLOUGH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 286,264, dated October 9, 1883.

Application filed July 11, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM R. CLOUGH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles or Fastening Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in buckles or fastening devices; and it consists in a novel construction of both the attaching and adjusting side thereof. Its nature and advantages will appear in full hereinafter, and are indicated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top edge, a front plan, and an end edge view, of a buckle embodying the elements of the invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are front plan and edge views, illustrating the method of applying the strap or webbing to the buckle. Fig. 4 is an edge view, showing the webbing drawn up from the upper edge of the buckle, as in the act of loosening or tightening the same. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are plan views of certain modifications of the buckle shown in Fig. 1.

In the drawings, A denotes the buckle, which, in the present instance, is made of a single piece or rod of wire bent to form the loop B, the dividing-bar C, and the inwardly-extending arms D D, having rearwardly-projecting extremities *e e*, which, by preference, will be sharpened or pointed, so as to more positively engage the webbing.

The loop B may be rectangular in outline, or of other configuration, as may be preferred or convenience dictate, and the bar C is formed, as represented, by bending the two portions of the wire to a point about the center of the buckle, and then from said point outward again, after which they are folded toward each other over said bar, forming the arms D D, and providing a space, *f*, between said arms and the bar C. The inner ends of the arms D D are properly separated to admit of the webbing being inserted into the space *f* between them, unless it is otherwise preferred, and their extremities *e e* may be bent rearwardly in any manner which will insure their contact with the webbing. The two parts of the wire forming the bar C may be soldered at their meeting-point *a*; or the said parts may be twisted or

tied, as indicated in Fig. 6, or merely pass each other, as shown in Fig. 5, the main consideration being only that the separating-bar of the buckle be formed by bending the two opposite portions of the metal toward each other, and, having formed the bar, continue on or back to form the remaining portion of the buckle or frame.

The buckle illustrated in Fig. 7 is essentially the same as that shown in Fig. 1, being different from it only in having the central portion of the arms D D depressed toward the bar C, as indicated at *d d* in Fig. 7. The depressions *d d* operate to preserve the webbing in a flat condition, and to retard its working from the buckle when the webbing is slack. Upon the lower bar of the buckle is provided a projection, *u*, extending, in the present instance, toward the bar C, and the purpose of which is to preserve the strap in a regular position on the said lower bar by pressing into or protruding through the same, or by being embedded into the stitching. Without the projection *u* the strap, especially when it is of linen or thin material, is likely to gather in either one or the other lower corner of the buckle; and to effectually remedy this defect is the purpose of the projection *u*. This result may be accomplished whether the projection *u* extends inwardly or outwardly; but I prefer that it be arranged as shown in Fig. 7.

When the buckle hereinbefore described is in use as a suspender-buckle, the button-hole ends *m* will be secured in the loop B, and the main strap or webbing *n*, after passing over the shoulder, is first inserted through the loop B from the rear side, then passed upward and through the space *f* from the front and there left, being secured by the points *e e*, as shown in Fig. 2; or the end of the webbing may be finally folded downward over the arms D D and passed through the loop B from the front, as indicated in Fig. 3, this latter method being preferred for neatness and other advantages, although the webbing will be effectually held in either arrangement.

The simplicity of the construction of the buckle and of the method of applying the webbing thereto is apparent.

In the manufacture of the buckle the best results are secured by extending the points *e e* in rear of the line of strain on the buckle, as

in such arrangement the tension of the strap or web acts to press the lower portion of same very firmly against the arms D D.

I deem the separation of the points *e e* of great advantage, since they permit the insertion of the webbing into the space *f* edgewise between them; but their separation is not essential to the successful employment of the buckle, as the webbing could be passed into the space *f* endwise, in the same manner as it is inserted through the loop B. The separation of the points *e e* also forms a convenient space for permitting the webbing to be pinched between the finger and thumb and drawn upward, as indicated in Fig. 4, for the purpose of tightening or loosening the suspender, according as the tension is then exerted on the part thereof which passes over the shoulder or upon the free end.

It is an incident to the construction of the buckle that the direct strain on the same draws the opposite parts thereof toward each other, and the proper relation of same is thereby preserved and the fastening made thoroughly effectual.

It is to be noted that in order to employ the buckle in the manner hereinbefore described, the teeth *e e* must project rearward at a proper angle to engage the strap or web when its tension is toward the center of the buckle. It will be seen, also, that there are two thicknesses of the web in rear of the binding-bar of the buckle. One of the thicknesses is caught by the teeth *e e*, while the other serves as a guard. In the employment of thin webbing it is possible, were only one thickness behind the binding-bar of the buckle, that the teeth would project through the same and injure the flesh or clothing. When two thicknesses are employed, however, this is impossible.

I do not confine myself, of course, to the manufacture of the buckle from a single piece of wire, since a similar construction may be produced from two or more pieces of wire; or the buckle may be stamped from a piece of sheet metal, and the points or teeth *e*, or a biting-edge, fashioned thereon or applied thereto; neither do I confine myself to the employment of a single separating-bar, C, nor to the use of the buckle in connection with a suspender, as it may be employed in like manner with vest and pants straps, or for other purposes.

I broadly disclaim buckles constructed with teeth or points (on the outer bar or arms) extending inwardly, substantially in the same perpendicular plane to said bar or arms; but

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A buckle or fastening device, consisting of the loop B, the separating-bar C, and the arms D D, whose extremities are pointed and project rearwardly at substantially a right angle and in the same horizontal plane with the arms D D, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. A buckle or fastening device, consisting of the loop B, the separating-bar C, the arms D D, whose extremities are pointed and project rearwardly at substantially a right angle and in the same horizontal plane with the arms D D, the lower bar of the buckle being provided with a projection, *u*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 7th day of July, A. D. 1883.

WILLIAM R. CLOUGH.

Witnesses:

CHAS. C. GILL,
HERMAN GUSTOW.