(No Model.)

W. E. T. MERRILL.

SUSPENDER BUCKLE.

No. 295,035. Patented Mar. 11, 1884.

Fig. 1

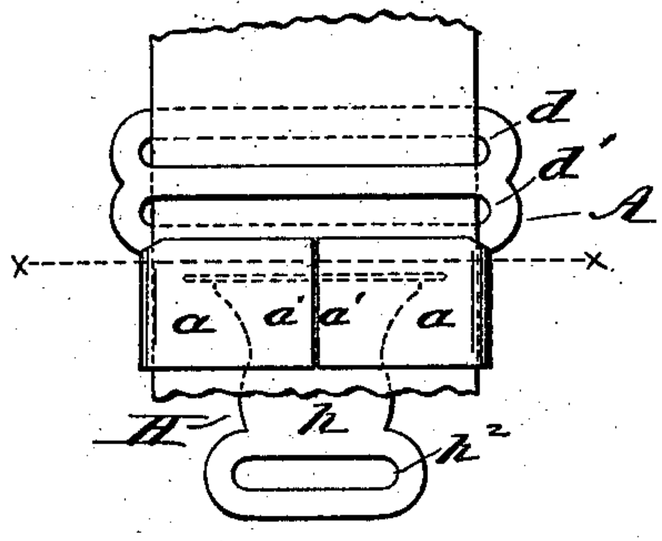


Fig. 3

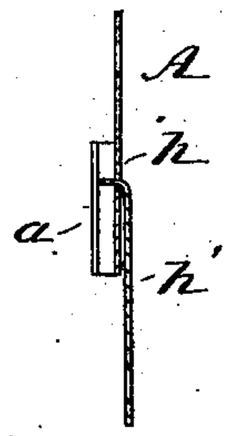


Fig. 4

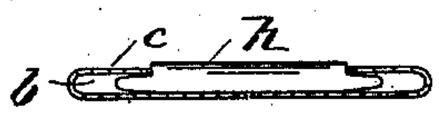


Fig. 2

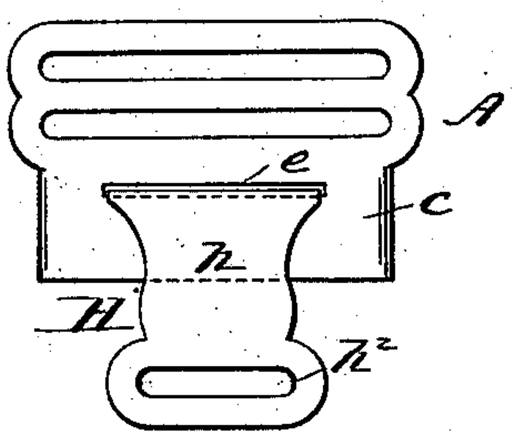


Fig. 5

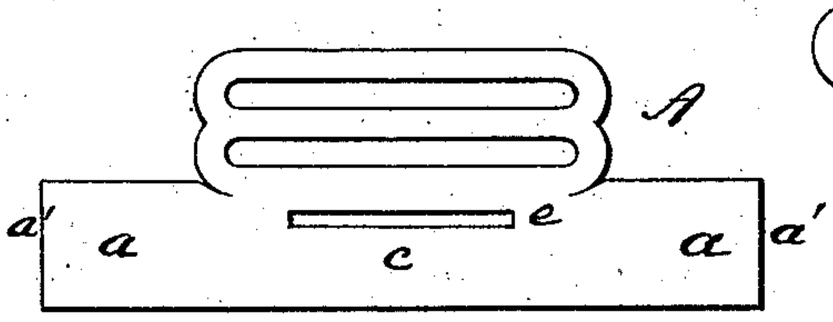
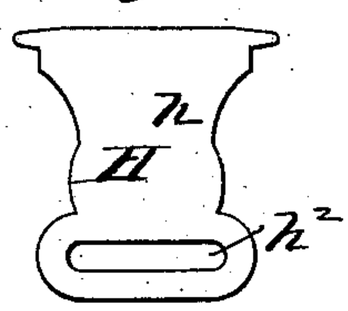


Fig. 6



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. T. MERRILL, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN W. BRUFF, OF SAME PLACE.

SUSPENDER-BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 295,035, dated March 11, 1884.

Application filed January 22, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. T. MERRILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Suspender-Buckles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of my improved buckle. Fig. 2 is a back view of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank for the buckle-frame, and Fig. 6 is a similar view of the blank for the tongue.

This invention has relation to suspender-buckles, and has for its object the provision of a buckle of novel construction, wherein the suspender cloth or web will be held in place by the conjoint pressure of a spring-clamp and a flanged tongue, while remaining susceptible of ready adjustment, and the necessity of a toothed or serrated fastening, which has many disadvantages, entirely dispensed with.

In suspender-buckles as commonly used, it is customary to employ an unyielding metallic frame, with a toothed or serrated tongue pivoted thereto, while various expedients serve as the means of attachment of the suspender-straps, the buckle-frame constituting the part to which the straps are attached. Where a toothed or serrated tongue is used, it is more or less objectionable, because it is not only troublesome to adjust and fasten, but is a source of injury and disfigurement to fine goods. In the employment of a plain-edged tongue, as the same has been applied, it has heretofore been found difficult to render the tongue effective as a fastening. This difficulty has been owing to the peculiar relation of the tongue to the other parts of the buckle, and the absence of any expedient to re-enforce the delicate pressure which the tongue obtains on the web.

My improvement contemplates obviating these disadvantages, as well as many others; and hence it consists in the novel construction of the buckle frame and tongue, wherein the prominent features are, first, a buckle-frame made of sheet metal "struck up" or bent into shape, and formed with a yielding spring-clamp to embrace and, with the tongue, bind the web or suspender-cloth and hold it firmly in place; second, a flanged plain-edged buckle-tongue constructed and adapted for the attachment of the suspender-straps, and formed so as to rest in a slot in the back part of the buckle-frame, and impinge upon and bind the suspender cloth or web between its flange and the spring-clamp of the frame.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A designates the buckle-frame, made by stamping or cutting from a sheet of metal the blank shown in Fig. 5, and then "striking up" or bending inwardly the wings *a a* until their edges *a' a'* are brought close together, and an elongated narrow space, *b*, is left between the wings and the front part, *c*. Slots *d d'* are produced for the passage of the suspender-web, and a slot or opening, *e*, is formed in the front part, *c*, for the reception of the tongue. When the frame is made from suitable metal, the wings *a a* are elastic, and when bent as shown produce a spring-clamp which will yield from inside pressure, but which will exert a binding force or pressure inwardly against the web. The tongue H is also cut or stamped from sheet metal, producing the blank shown in Fig. 6, which is afterward bent so as to have the flange *h* at a right angle with the plate *h'*. A loop or eye is formed at h^2 for the attachment of the suspender-straps. The completed tongue and frame are fitted together so as to bring the flanged portion within the space *b*, while the loop or eye portion depends outside. The web or suspender-cloth is attached by passing it through the two slots *d d'*, and then down through the space *b*, the tongue being raised or turned so as to leave the space *b* open. Now, by turning the tongue down, the edge of the flange *h'* is brought to impinge against the web, the clamp yielding so as to allow the flange to occupy the full normal width of the space *b*. In this way the spring-pressure is brought into effect and the web tightly held between the clamp and the tongue. The tendency of any pull in the direction of the

length of the web is to render the fastening more secure; hence, when the suspender is on the wearer, the strain on the former has no tendency to loosen the fastening of the buckle, but, if anything, tends to increase it.

To adjust the suspender, all that is necessary is to lift the tongue, when the web, being released, can be drawn freely through the space *b*.

What I claim as my invention is as follows:

1. A suspender-buckle having a frame or bow formed with a spring-clamp, divided at its center and integral therewith, and adapted to embrace and bind the web or suspender-cloth, substantially as described.

2. In a suspender-buckle, the combination, with a frame or bow having a spring-clamp to embrace the web or suspender-cloth, and slotted to receive a tongue, of a buckle-tongue adapted for the attachment of the suspender-straps, and having a flanged edge or lip to impinge upon the web or cloth and hold it against the clamp, substantially as described.

3. The buckle frame or bow consisting of the metallic plate A, struck up or bent into shape, and having the inwardly-turned leaves or wings *a a*, forming a clamp spring or springs, and forming the elongated space *b*, substantially as described.

4. The combination of the buckle-frame, consisting of the plate A, provided with inwardly-bent elastic clamp-arms *a a*, and having the slot *c*, and the movable tongue H, fitting and working in said slot, and formed with the flange or lip *h*, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of January, 1884.

WILLIAM E. T. MERRILL.

Witnesses:
THOS. A. CONNOLLY,
ANDREW ZANE, JR.