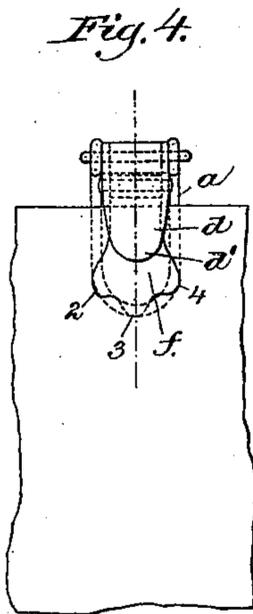
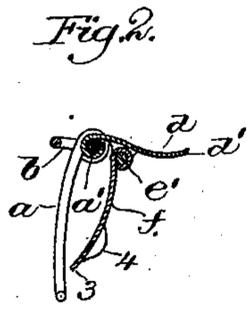
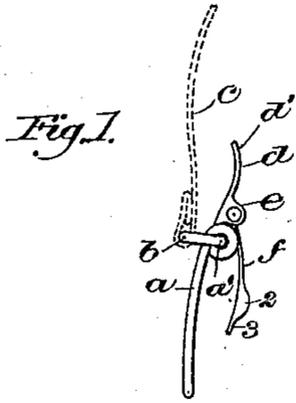


(No Model.)

C. A. PRESTON.
GARMENT SUPPORTER.

No. 352,888.

Patented Nov. 16, 1886.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. PRESTON, OF CAMBRIDGEPORT, ASSIGNOR TO GEORGE FROST,
GEORGE H. PHELPS, AND GEORGE A. FROST, ALL OF WEST NEWTON,
MASSACHUSETTS.

GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 352,888, dated November 16, 1886.

Application filed September 8, 1886. Serial No. 212,923. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. PRESTON, of Cambridgeport, county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Clasps, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object to construct a simple clasp which will very firmly engage and hold a piece of fabric or other material placed between the engaging-jaws thereof.

The invention consists of an open frame connected with a cross-bar, and a finger-piece hinged to the cross-bar between the sides of the frame, combined with a tongue hinged to the under side of said finger-piece, said tongue having three engaging-points, two of which project from the opposite sides of the tongue, near its end, and are turned slightly upward to lie upon the open frame, near its end, and the third point projects from the end of the tongue between the two upwardly-turned points, and is turned slightly downward to lie against the under side of the end of the open frame when the said tongue is pushed forward by the finger-piece to engage any desired material—as, for instance, part of a stocking.

The open frame, in this instance, consists of a piece of wire bent into substantially rectangular shape, the ends of the said wire being turned over a cross-bar, which latter also consists of a piece of wire bent to form a loop, to which a piece of tape or elastic band may be secured, such form of frame and loop being especially applicable as a stocking-supporter, in which instance the piece of tape connected with the loop may be attached to the garment of the wearer or passed around the leg.

Figure 1 shows in side elevation a clasp embodying this invention, the finger-piece being turned upward, so that the material to be engaged may be inserted between the tongue and the frame; Fig. 2, a vertical section of Fig. 1, the finger-piece being partially turned downward; Fig. 3, a side view of the clasp, the finger-piece being completely depressed and the tongue pushed forward to engage any desired material; and Fig. 4, a front elevation of the

clasp containing a piece of fabric or other material properly inserted and engaged.

The open frame *a* consists of a piece of wire bent into substantially rectangular shape and having its ends turned over upon a cross-bar, *a'*, herein shown as one side of a loop, *b*, which latter is also made of wire, and to which any suitable piece of tape or band, *c*, (see dotted lines, Fig. 1,) may be secured. The open frame *a* is slightly curved in the direction of its length. A finger-piece, *d*, having an upwardly-turned end, *d'*, is hinged to the cross-bar *a'* between the overturned ends of the open frame *a*. The finger-piece *d* is provided at each side with a lug or ear, *e*, which ears are joined by a cross-bar, *e'*, a tongue, *f*, consisting of a slightly-curved piece of metal, being hinged to said cross-bar *e'*. The end of the tongue *f* is provided with three engaging-points, 2 3 4, the central point, 3, being turned downward, and the two points 2 4 turned upward, so that as said tongue is moved downward from the position shown in Fig. 1 to the position shown in Fig. 3 the said tongue will follow upon the open frame until the engaging-point 3 lies against the under side of the end of said frame, and the two engaging-points 2 4 lie upon the said frame at or near its end.

The material to be engaged is inserted between the frame *a* and the tongue *f* while the finger-piece is lifted, these two elements constituting the jaws of the clasp, and the said finger-piece is then depressed, moving the tongue *f* downward or forward until the three engaging-points 2 3 4 crowd the material against the end of the open frame, thereby firmly engaging it. When the tongue *f* is moved forward to thus engage the material, it is locked in position by moving the finger-piece so that the hinge of the tongue passes beyond the center of the hinge of the said finger-piece.

By the employment of the three engaging-points, as described, the material is held firmly down upon and into the end of the frame *a* by the points 2 and 4 and pushed beneath the frame and held by the point 3, which feature forms the essential part of this invention.

By the construction herein described the frame *a* presents a smooth surface to prevent

chafing, &c., and when the finger-piece is depressed against the tongue the material enters the curved frame and also presents a very smooth surface.

5 It is obvious that the frame *a* may be made of a piece of metal properly stamped out and having a central slot, and also that the loop may be made in any usual manner; or, if desired, the two parts may be made in one piece
10 suitably curved, and provided with a cross-bar, to which the finger-piece is hinged.

I claim—

1. In a clasp, a frame, *a*, cross-bar *a'*, and finger-piece hinged to said cross-bar, combined
15 with a tongue hinged to the under side of said finger-piece and having three engaging-points, 2 3 4, two of which, as 2 4, are turned in one direction to lie against one side of the frame,

and the third turned in the opposite direction to lie against the opposite side of the frame 20 when the finger-piece is depressed and the tongue moved forward to engage the material, substantially as described.

2. In a clasp, a loop or frame, and a tongue having points 2 3 4 to engage the fabric at each
25 side of the end of the said frame, combined with means, substantially as described, to move the said tongue, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two
30 subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES A. PRESTON.

Witnesses:

G. W. GREGORY,
B. DEWAR.