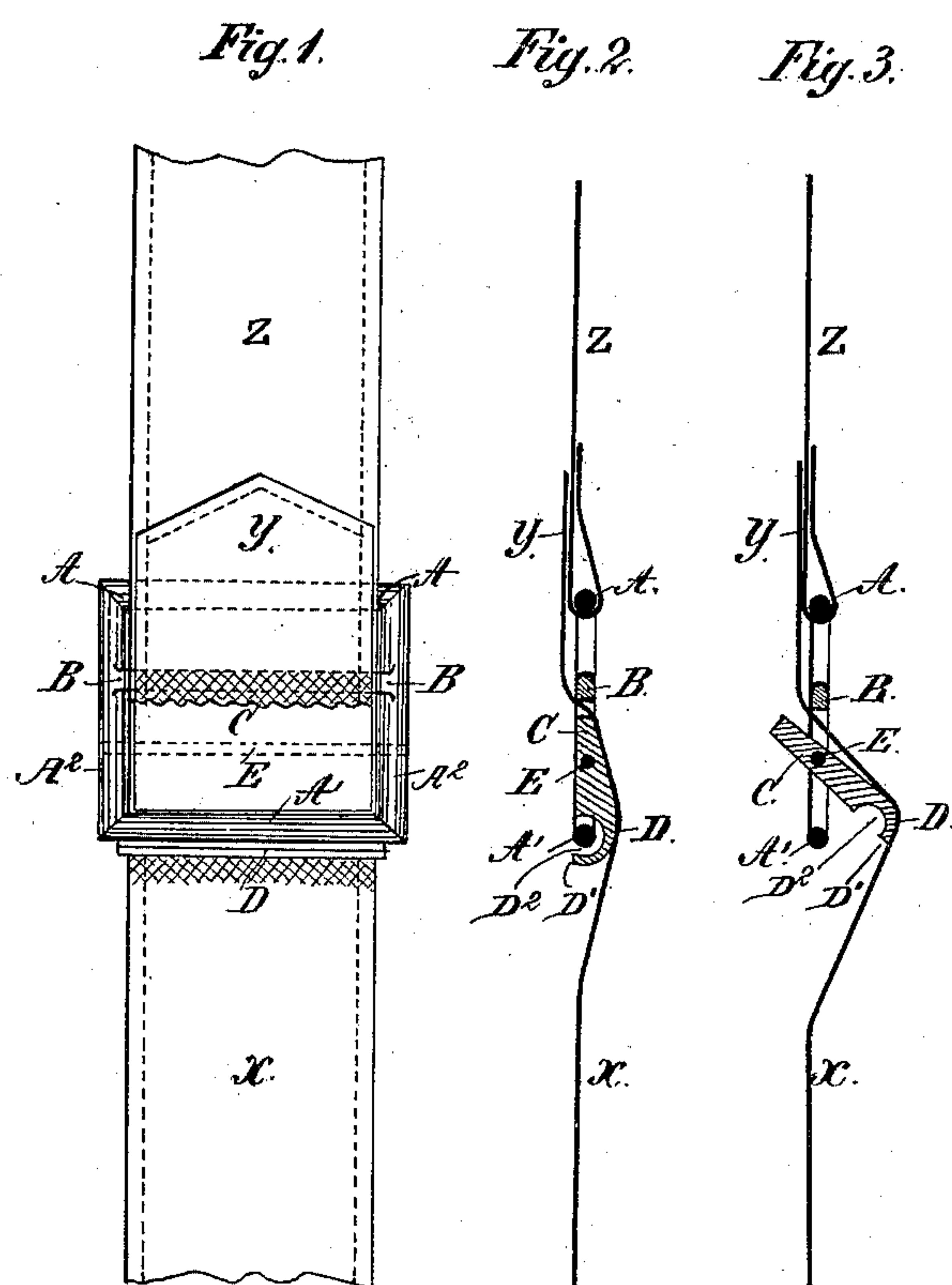


(No Model.)

W. GRIES.
BUCKLE OR CLASP.

No. 383,290.

Patented May 22, 1888.



Witnesses,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILHELM GRIES, OF GUMMERSBACH, PRUSSIA, GERMANY.

BUCKLE OR CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 383,290, dated May 22, 1888.

Application filed February 4, 1888. Serial No. 263,007. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILHELM GRIES, residing in Gummersbach, Rhenish Prussia, Germany, have invented new and useful Improvements in Buckles or Clasps, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a buckle or clasp for clamping girths, cloth straps, bands, and the like.

The characteristic features of the improved buckle or clasp are its simplicity of construction and the security with which the strap to be held is clamped. The said buckle or clasp comprises substantially a square frame consisting in most cases of metal, which possesses a cross piece or bridge in the middle. Against this cross piece or bridge bears a flap which is pivoted upon a pin fitted to turn in the lateral parts of the frame. When the strap is tightly stretched, the said flap bears against the cross piece or bridge and clamps the strap, imparting thereto a twofold rectangular or approximately rectangular bend. This clamping of the strap is effected by the strap itself, which in stretching bears against the half of the flap on the other side of the pin or pivot. When the strap becomes loose, the flap turns upon the pin or pivot and the clamping of the strap discontinues.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view of the buckle or clasp in its closed position with a strap inserted. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the strap and buckle or clasp, Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a transverse section through the strap and buckle or clasp in its open position.

A A' indicate, respectively, the front and rear pins connected by narrow side bars, A² A², and these constitute the frame of the buckle or clasp, which is preferably made of iron, steel, or other metal, but which may be made of wood, horn, ebonite, or any other suitable material. The two narrow side bars of the buckle or clasp are connected by a cross piece or bridge, B, which is preferably made integral with the frame. Between this cross piece or bridge B and the front pin, A', of the frame is inserted the flap C D, which is provided with a hole, laterally through which a pin, E, extends and is supported in the side bars of the frame, so

that the flap can easily turn upon or with the pin. The pivot-pin E is placed nearer the clamping end C of the flap than the end D, whereby the latter being the heaviest end will gravitate, or it can be pressed downward when the stretching of the strap X Y is discontinued. To prevent the flap from making a complete revolution in the buckle-frame the front end, D, of the flap is extended or prolonged, as at D', beyond the front pin, A', and such prolongation D' is transversely recessed, as at D², to fit upon the front pin when the flap is in its clamping position, as shown in Fig. 2. It will be observed that the pin E pivots the flap between the bridge B and the front pin, A', and that the flap clamps the strap against the bridge. This provides a space between the bridge and the rear pin, A, for the attachment of a strap or band, Z, as shown.

The strap X Y to be clamped is introduced between the cross piece or bridge B and the part C of the flap. It is then passed below the front part, D, of the flap. The intermediate space between B and C is about the same, or only a little less than the thickness of the strap shown in Fig. 3. The said strap X Y is drawn tight. The latter raises the part D of the flap, whereby the other part is lowered and caused to approach the cross piece or bridge B. The strap is then clamped between C and B, and is then caused to assume a twofold bend, as shown in Fig. 2.

I am aware that a rectangular buckle-frame composed of top, bottom, and side bars has been provided with a transverse center pin on which is hung a rectangular tongue, so that one edge of the tongue will bind a strap against the top bar of the buckle-frame; but I am not aware that a buckle-frame composed of front and rear pins and side bars has ever heretofore been provided with a cross piece or bridge joined to the side bars approximately central between the front and rear pins, and a rectangular flap pivoted in the space between such cross piece or bridge and the front pin, A', of the buckle to bind a strap against such bridge, and thus leave a space between the rear pin, A, and the bridge B for the attachment of a strap to the rear-end pin.

What I claim as my invention is—

A buckle consisting of the front and rear

pins, A' A, connected by side bars, a trans-
verse bridge-piece, B, secured to the side bars
between the front and rear pins, and the flap C
D, pivoted by a pin, E, in the space between the
5 bridge-piece and the front pin to bind a strap
when stretched against the bridge-piece, sub-
stantially as and for the purpose described.

In witness whereof I have signed the fore-
going specification this 20th day of December,
1887.

WILHELM GRIES.

Witnesses:

EMIL SONDERMANN,
GUSTAVE ALBERT OELRICHS.