

A. E. McCLURE.
BUCKLE.

No. 519,546.

Patented May 8, 1894.

Fig. 1.

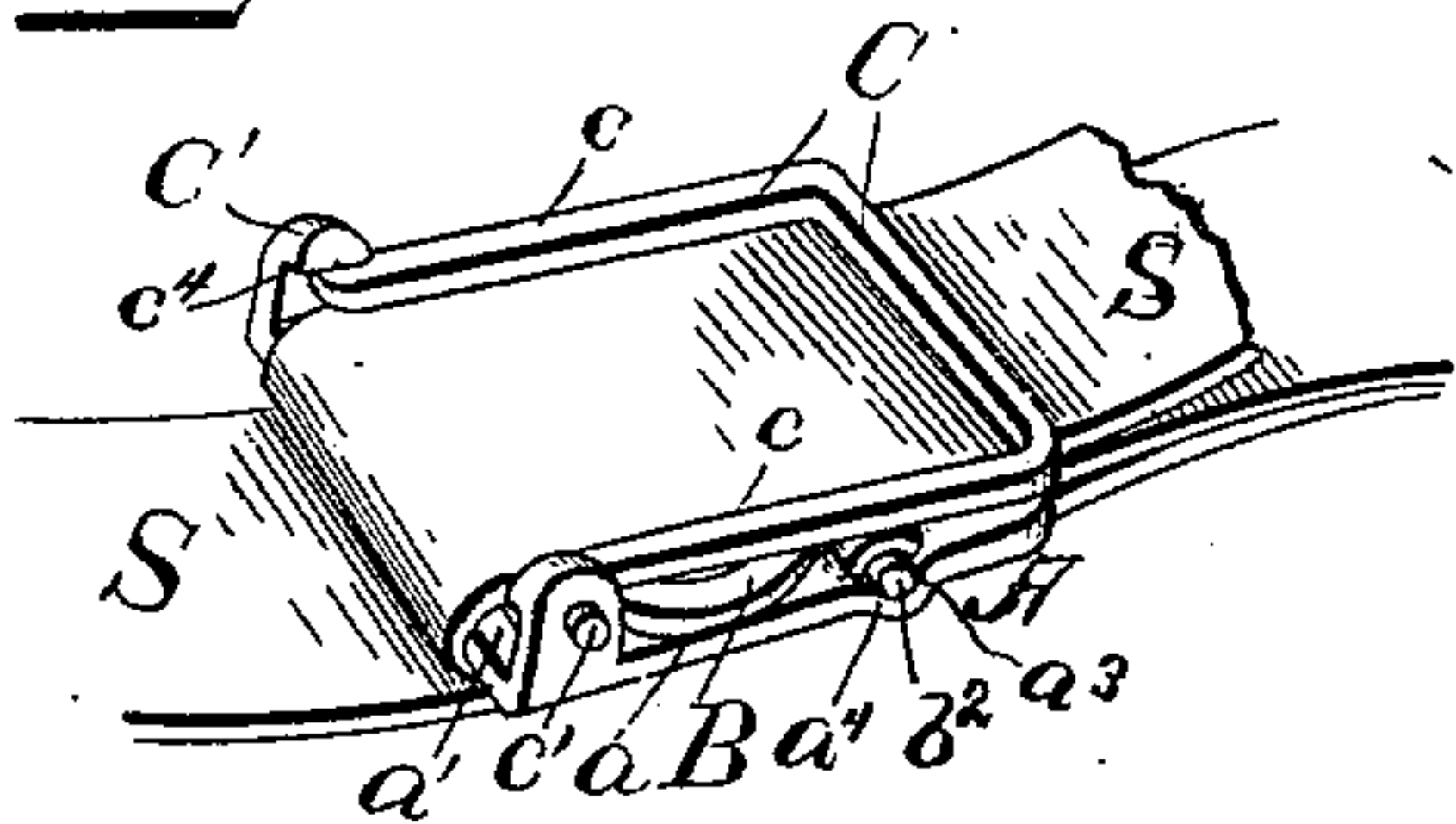


Fig. 2.

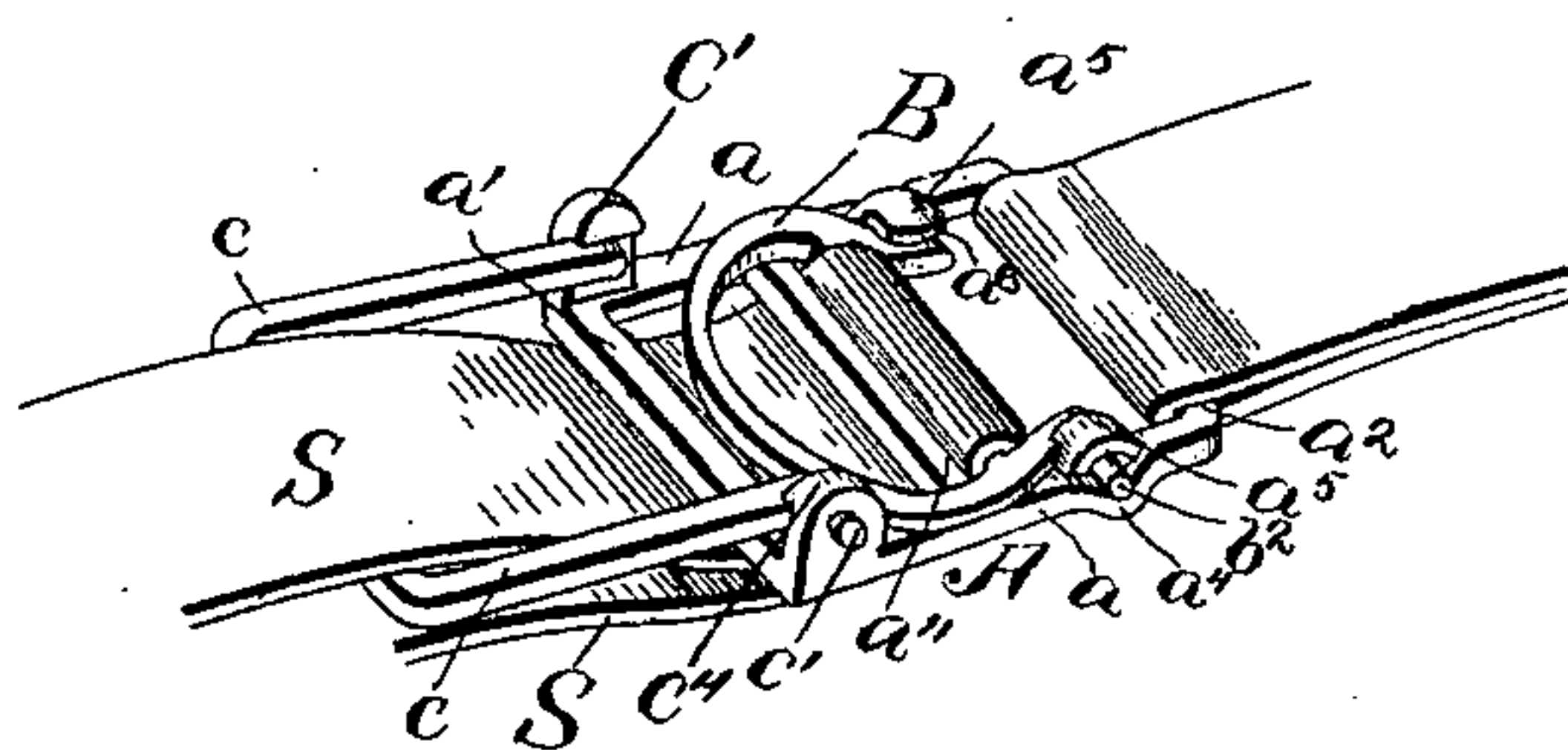


Fig. 3.

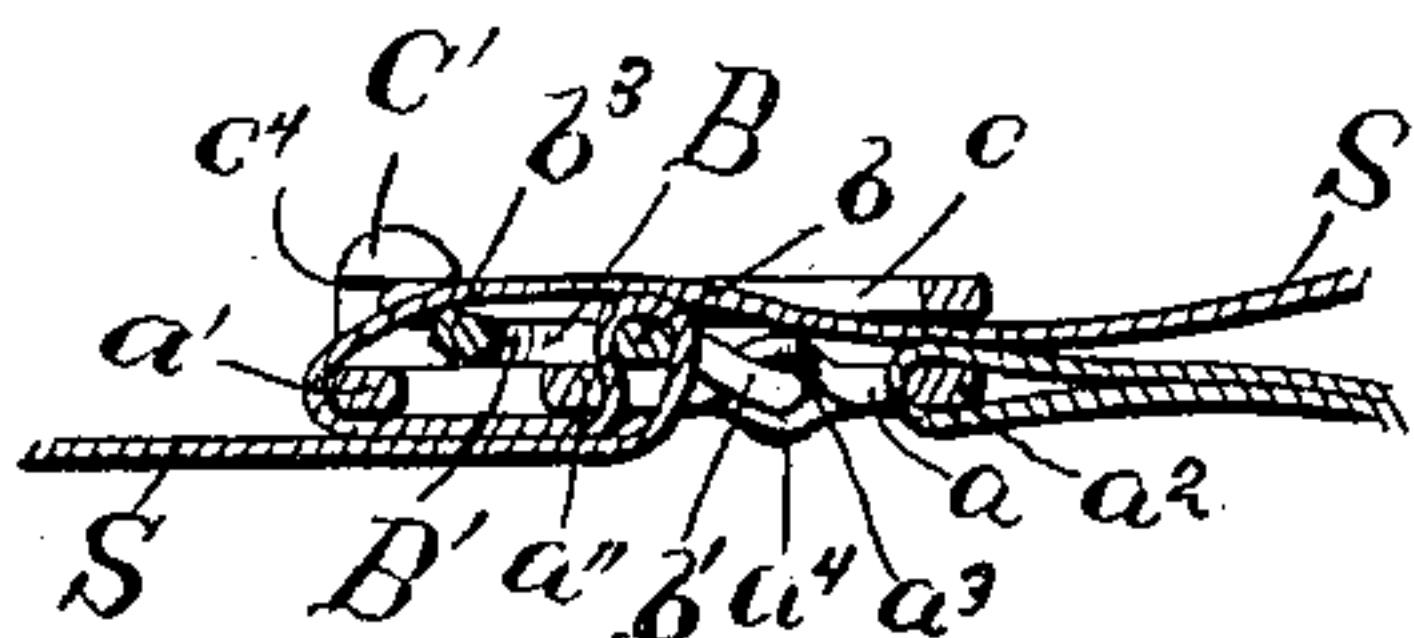


Fig. 4.

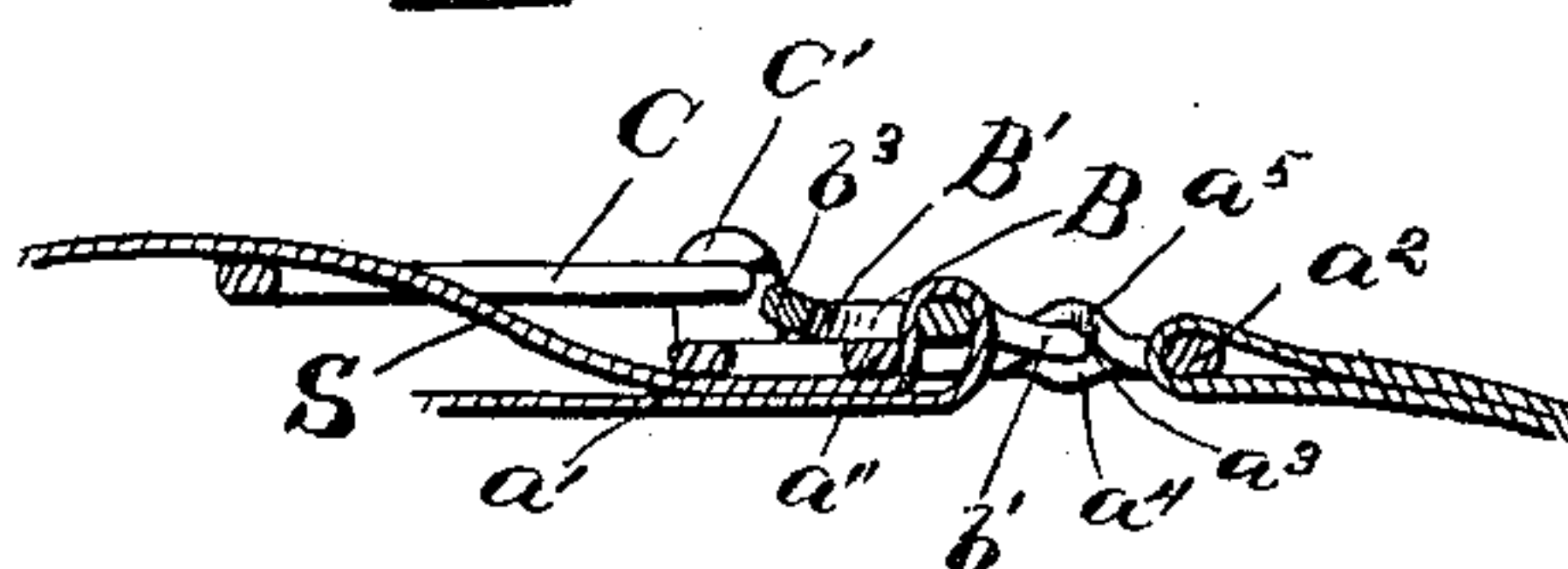


Fig. 5.

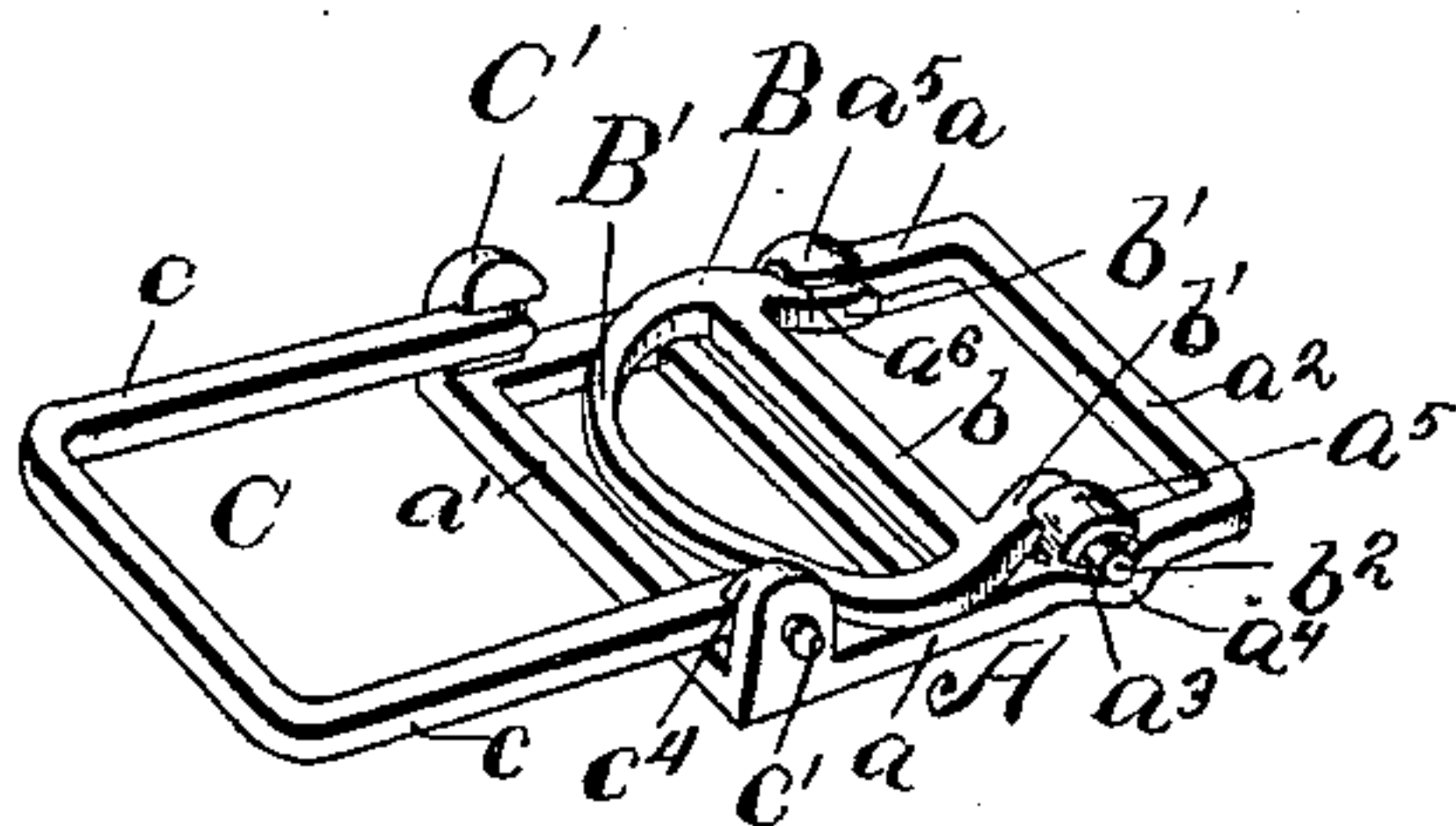


Fig. 6.

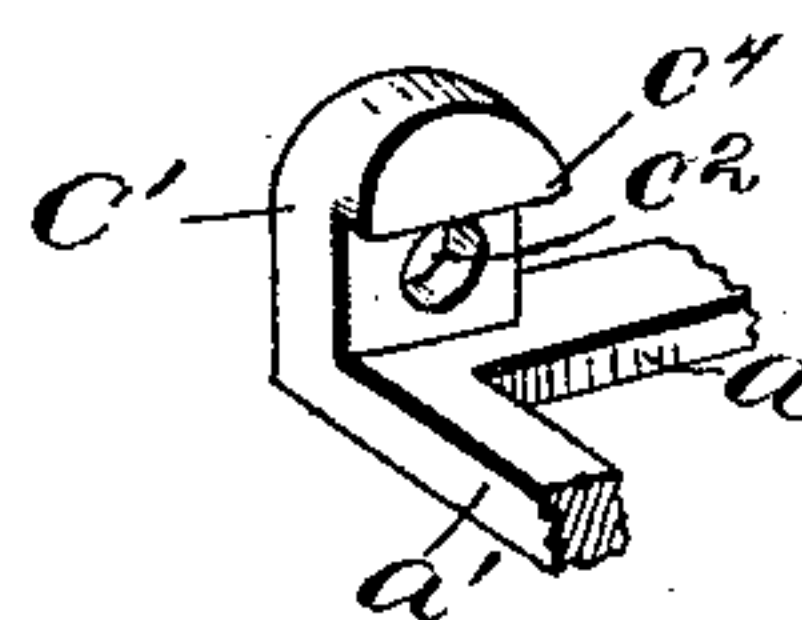
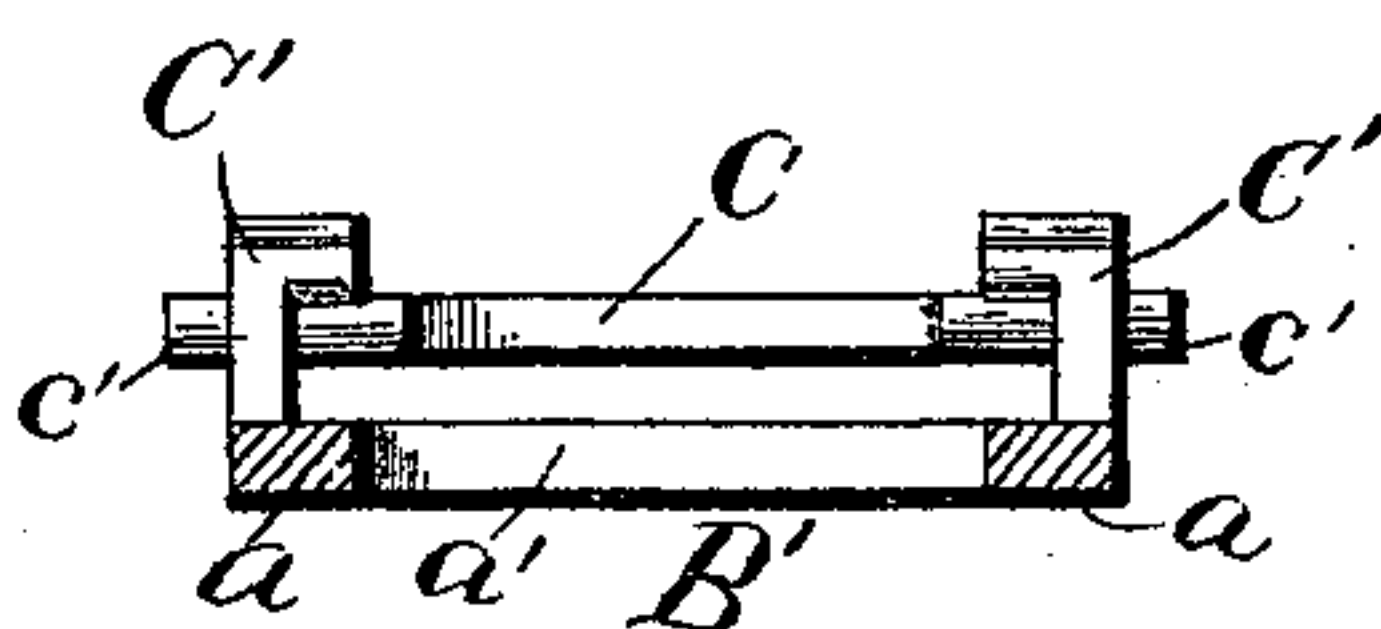


Fig. 7.



Witnesses

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his Attorney

(No Model.)

A. E. McCLURE.
BUCKLE.

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 519,546.

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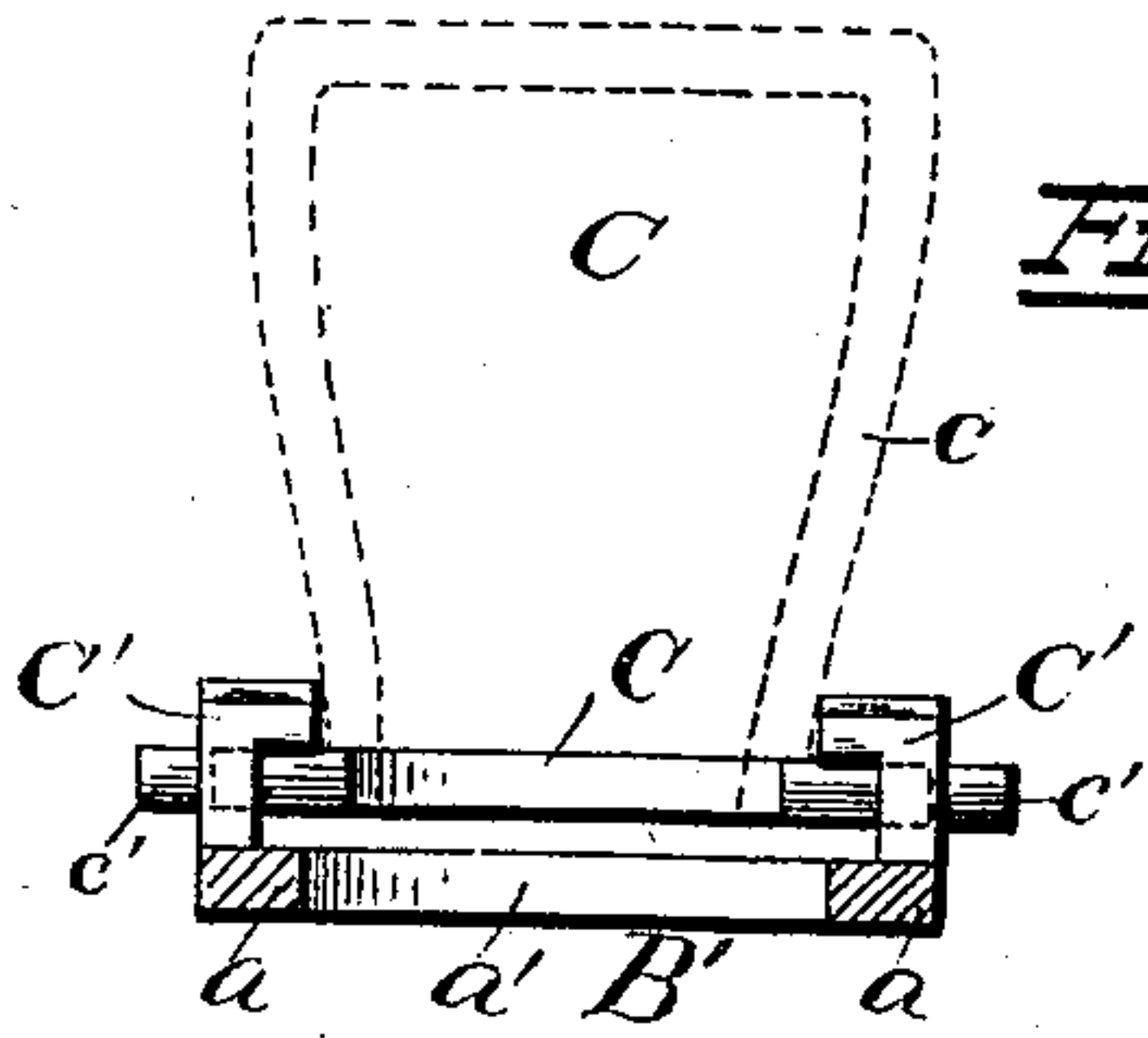


Fig. 8.

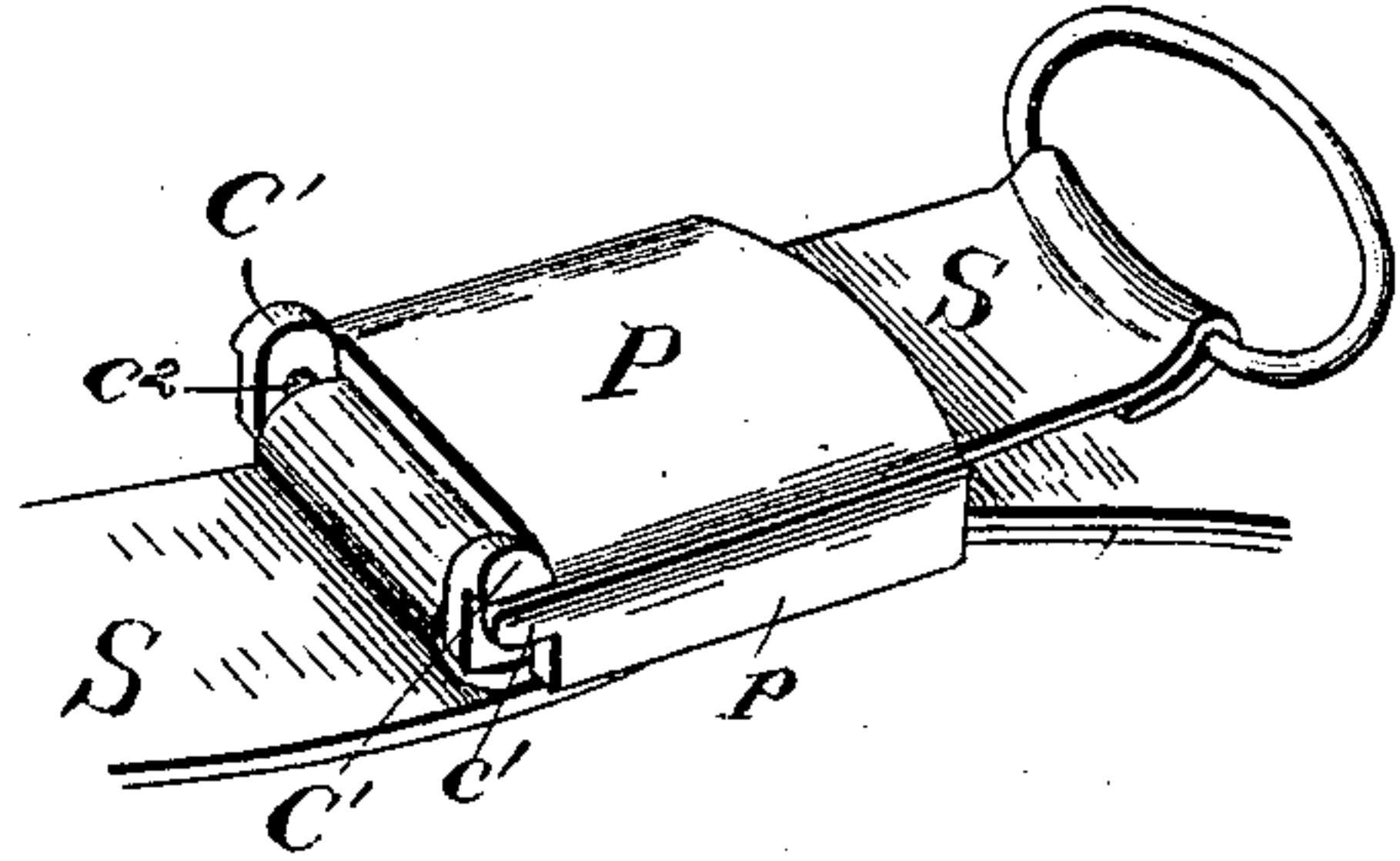


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

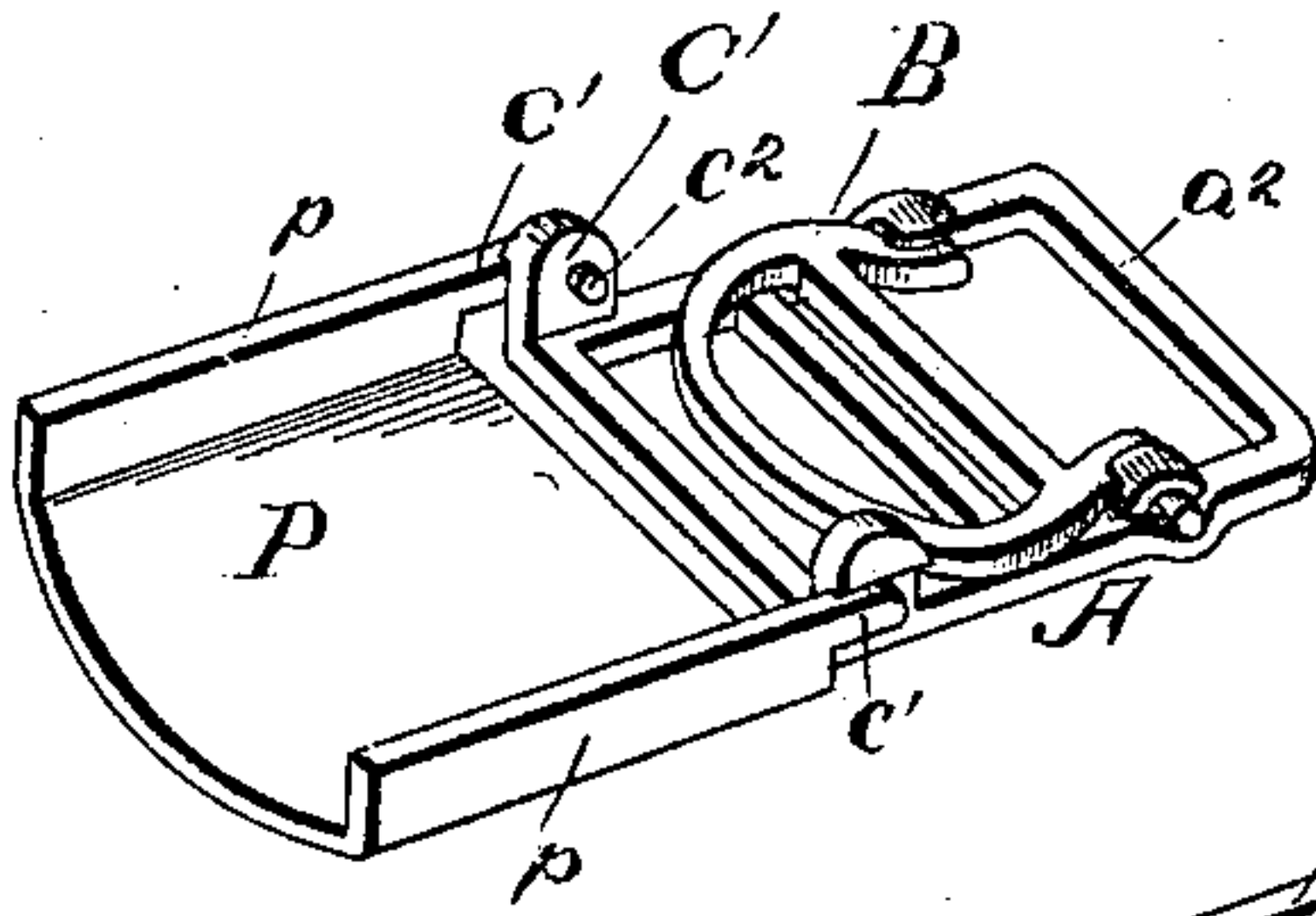


Fig. 11.

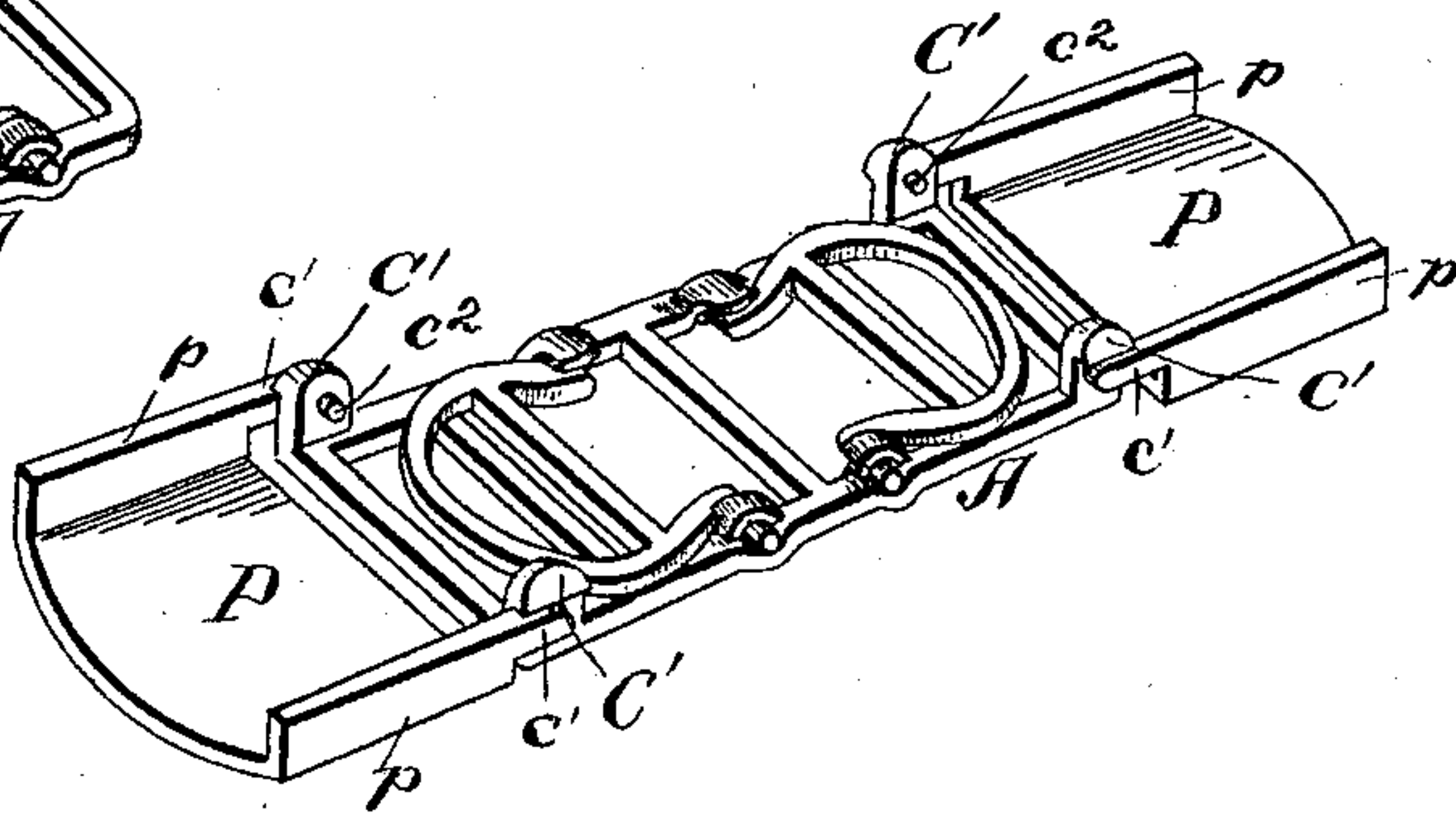


Fig. 12.

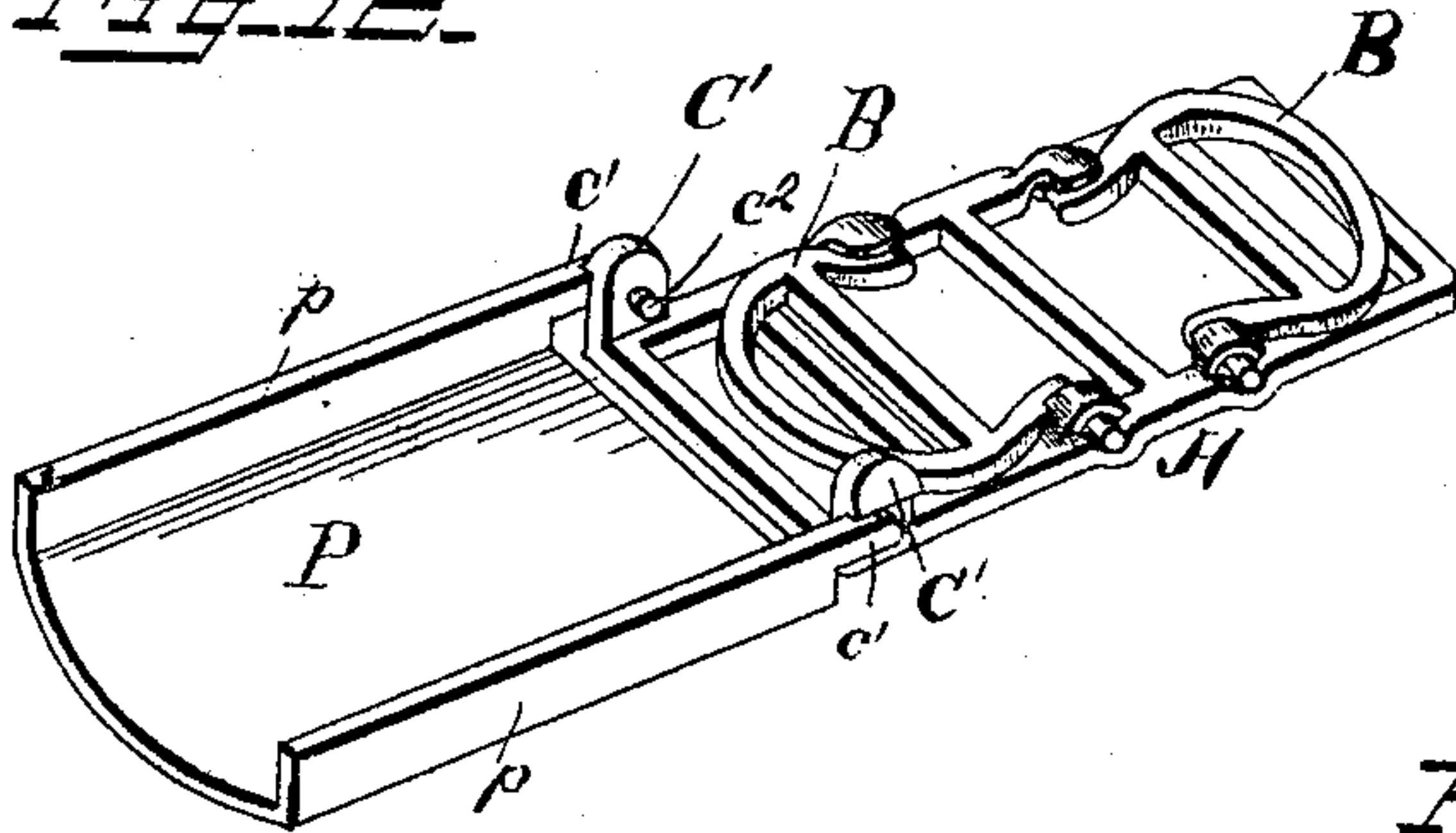
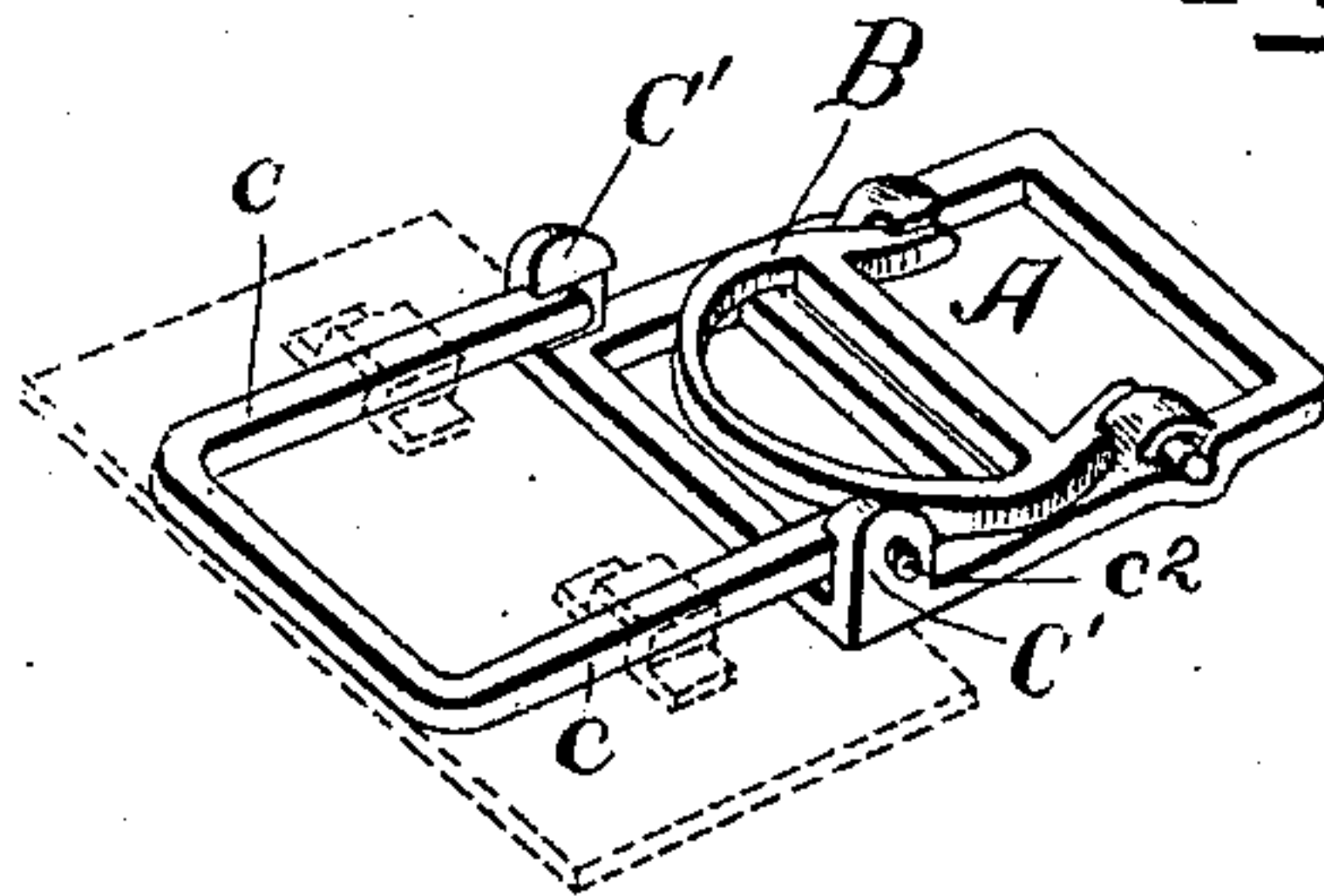


Fig. 13.

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J. R. Little
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT E. MCCLURE, OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO THE MCCLURE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 519,546, dated May 8, 1894.

Application filed July 11, 1893. Serial No. 480,179. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT E. MCCLURE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sedalia, in the county of Pettis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it ap-
10 pertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to buckles of that class which embody a base plate or link upon which is pivoted an upper link carrying a cross bar operating in conjunction with an
15 opening or cross bar of the under link.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and improved buckle of this class, which will possess advantages in point of simplicity, convenience, inexpensiveness, durability, ease of operation, effectiveness, and
20 general efficiency.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a buckle embodying my improvements, the strap being shown in position and the retaining link being closed. Fig. 2 is a
25 corresponding view with the retaining link open. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view, taken centrally through Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a corresponding view, taken centrally through Fig.
30 2. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the buckle, with the retaining link open. Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are detail views illustrating the construction and operation of the pivotal locking connection for the retaining link. Fig. 9
35 is a perspective view illustrating a modification in which the retaining link is formed by a plate. Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the construction illustrated in Fig. 9, the retaining plate being open. Fig. 11 is a perspective view illustrating a double form of my
40 improved buckle, the retaining plates being open. Fig. 12 is a perspective view illustrating a double form of my improved buckle with a single retaining plate, the latter being shown in open position. Fig. 13 is a perspective
45 view, illustrating (in dotted lines) a separate face plate secured to the retaining link.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

50 Referring to the drawings, A designates the base plate or main link, which is prefer-

ably of open or skeleton form and comprises side bars, a , a front cross bar a' , a rear cross bar a^2 , and an intermediate cross bar, a'' .

B designates the upper pivotal link, which
55 is preferably of open or skeleton form and comprises a cross bar b , a front projecting portion B' , extending to about the front of the under link, and rearwardly projecting
60 spring arms, b' b' , which have a pivotal bearing upon the under link at a point in rear of the intermediate cross bar a'' . This pivotal
65 connection between the upper link B and the main link or base plate A is preferably formed by means of gudgeons or projecting ends, b^2 , which are received in eyes or openings, a^3 ,
70 formed in the side bars a of the under link by downwardly bent portions, a^4 , at the outer side and inwardly projecting lug, a^5 , at the inner side, said lug having recesses or shoulders, a^6 , engaged by the spring arms of the
75 pivotal link. The bearing ends of these spring arms are sprung into the eyes or openings, and by engagement with the recessed or shouldered lugs the upper pivotal link is locked
80 in position. The front projecting portion B' of the upper pivotal link is preferably turned upwardly, as shown at b^3 , to facilitate engagement with the finger in the operation of lifting.

C designates a pivoted retaining link, which
is mounted at the front end of the main link or base plate A and is adapted to swing rearwardly over the buckle. The retaining link
85 C is preferably of approximately U-shape and comprises spring side arms, c c , having projecting gudgeons or ends, c' c' , which are
90 mounted in eyes or openings, c^2 c^2 , formed in upwardly projecting lugs, C' C' , formed upon the side bars a of the main link or base plate
of the front end of the latter and provided with recesses or shoulders, c^4 , which are engaged by the spring arms of the retaining
link to lock the same in position.

The operation and advantages of my invention
95 will be readily understood. The free end of the strap, S, is passed upwardly through the portion of the main link in rear of the cross bar a'' , then over the cross bar b of the upper link, and thence downwardly in rear
100 of the cross bar a'' . The free end of the strap is then carried forwardly under the main

link, upwardly in front of the front cross bar a' of the latter, and through the retaining link C, when the latter may be sprung over on its pivot to the position shown in Fig. 1, and the strap will be securely retained in position with only its front face exposed.

In lieu of having the retaining link of open or skeleton form, as shown in Fig. 2, it may be formed by a plate, P, as illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10, said plate being preferably provided with projecting sides, p , adapted to inclose the buckle, and embodying the spring arms, c' , and the gudgeons or bearings c^2 . In this construction, the spring arms of the retaining plate preferably embrace the lugs C' , as shown, and the plate is locked in position by the spring tension of said arms in engagement with the lugs.

In Figs. 11 and 12 I have illustrated a double form of my improved buckle, in which the main link or base plate A is suitably extended in double form and provided with two upper links, one at either end, the retaining links or plates being correspondingly provided at both ends, as shown in Fig. 11. In connection with this double form of my improved buckle, especially when the latter is adapted for use as a belt buckle, a single retaining link or plate may be provided at the front end of the buckle and extended sufficient length to cover the double buckle and both the upper links of the same, as illustrated in Fig. 12.

I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise construction and arrangement as herein shown and specified, as numerous variations or modifications may be made in the detail construction and arrangement, especially in the pivotal locking connection between the links, without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention. I therefore reserve the right to all such modifications or variations as properly fall within the terms and scope of the following claims.

In Fig. 13, I have shown in dotted lines a separate face plate secured to and carried by the retaining link, so that when the retaining link is in closed position the face plate forms

an ornamental front which may be arranged to cover and conceal the entire buckle.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. An improved buckle, comprising a main link or base plate having the intermediate cross bar a'' ; an upper link pivotally mounted upon the main link at a point in rear of the cross bar a'' and having the cross bar b and the front projecting portion; and a retaining link comprising spring arms having gudgeons or ends bearing in eyes in recessed or shouldered lugs projecting from the sides of the main link at its front end, said pivotal retaining link being adapted to swing rearwardly over the front of the buckle and carry the strap; substantially as set forth.

2. An improved buckle, comprising a main link or base plate having the intermediate cross bar a'' and provided with bearing eyes or openings and projecting locking devices; an upper link having the cross bar b and front projecting portions and provided with projecting spring arms bearing in the eyes or openings of the main plate and engaging the locking devices thereon; and a retaining link comprising spring arms pivotally mounted in eyes at the sides of the front end of the main link and engaging locking devices thereon, the retaining link being adapted to swing rearwardly over the front of the buckle and carry the strap; substantially as set forth.

3. In a buckle, the combination, with a main link or base plate having a cross bar, a'' , and with an upper link pivotally mounted upon the main link and provided with a cross bar, b , of a retaining link having its rear end pivotally mounted at the front of the main link and adapted to swing over rearwardly across the front of the buckle and carry the strap; substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT E. MCCLURE.

Witnesses:

R. H. MOSES,
R. F. HARRIS.