

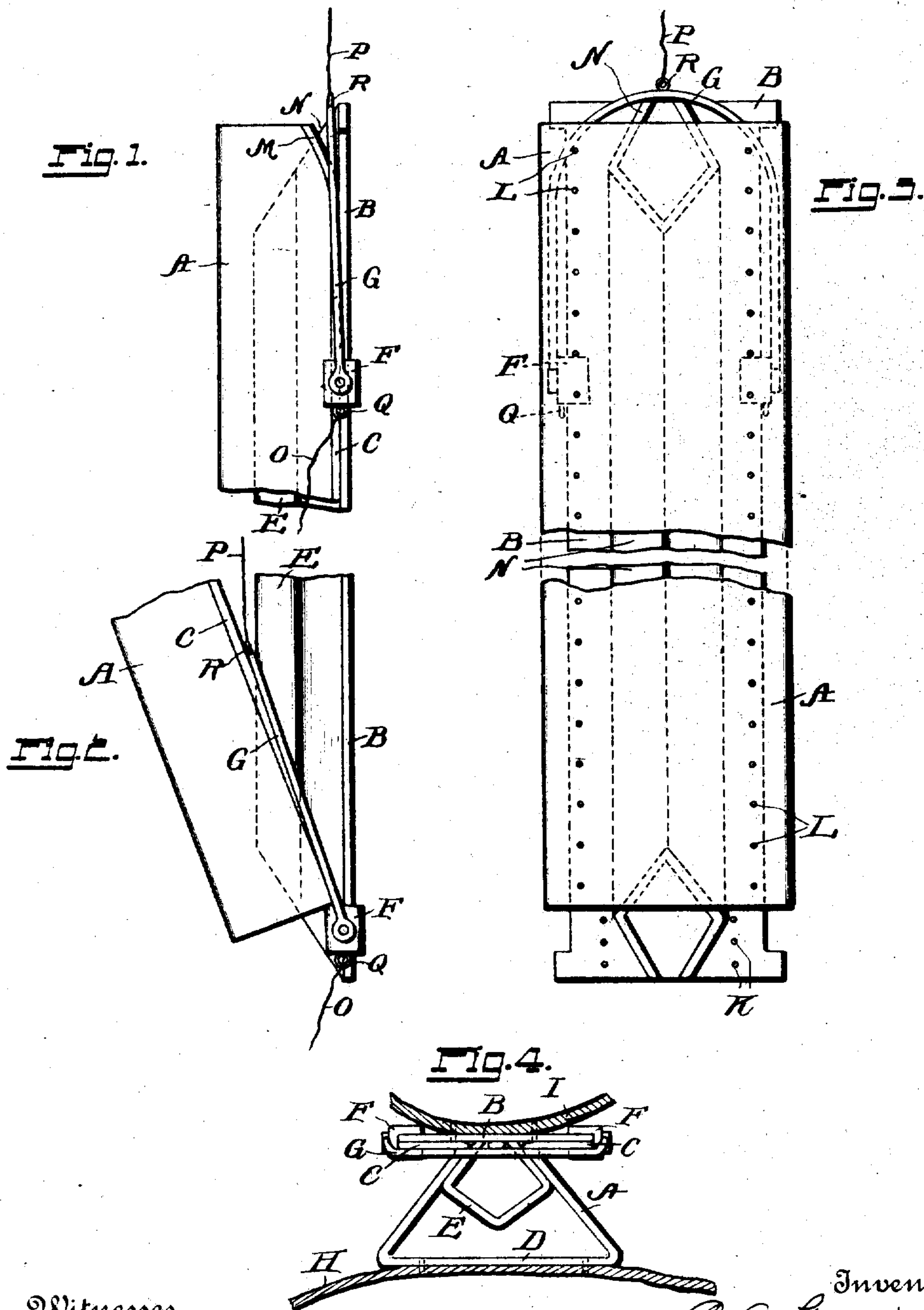
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DRESS FASTENER.

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Patented Oct. 13, 1908.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARLOS A. GARDINER, OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

## DRESS-FASTENER.

No. 901,164.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 13, 1908.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CARLOS A. GARDINER, lieutenant of the United States Navy, at present attached to the U. S. S. *St. Louis*, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dress-Fasteners; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to dress fastenings, and the object of my invention is to produce such a fastening which shall be easy to operate on those portions of the dress that are not readily accessible to the hands of the wearer, and which shall be cheap to construct, certain in action, and not liable to get out of order.

To these ends my invention consists in two main parts, one adapted to be snapped into the other, and a third or clamping part adapted to fasten and unfasten said main parts, all as will more fully hereinafter appear.

My invention further consists in the details of construction and novel arrangement of parts, more fully hereinafter disclosed and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification:—Figure 1, represents a side elevational view of a portion of my device with the two parts secured together. Fig. 2, a like elevational view showing the two parts separated, or unlocked from each other. Fig. 3, an elevation of my device when looked at in a direction at right angles to the view, shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and, Fig. 4, a plan view looking down upon the end of my device, showing the cloth in cross section.

Like letters indicate like parts in all the views, and the dimensions of the various parts, shown in each of the views, are given on a greatly exaggerated scale, in order that the construction of my device may be rendered clear.

A, is one of the main portions of my dress fastener, and is composed of thin sheet material, such as steel, rubber, celluloid, or other elastic substances, which is bent or otherwise suitably formed into a triangular shape, as shown, and having the back D; the two side jaws; an opening between the same; and the laterally extending flanges C. The other main portion of my dress fastener is

denoted by B, and consists of a flat piece of thin sheet material, from which is struck up, or otherwise secured thereto, the locking tongue E. This locking tongue may have any suitable shape, but it is preferably made of a diamond shape in cross section, as best shown in Fig. 4, and it is adapted to snap in between the spring side walls of the part A, as best shown in Fig. 4.

To the back D, of the main portion A, is secured cloth H, and to the back of the main portion B, is secured cloth I, as shown. This cloth may be in the form of narrow strips, which are adapted to be sewed, or otherwise secured to the respective flaps of any opening in a garment; for example, the opening in the back of a lady's shirt waist; and when the locking tongue E, is in the position shown in Fig. 4, the two flaps of said opening will be firmly secured together. Of course the two main portions A, and B, of my device may be directly secured to the flaps of any opening, and in all cases the said parts are made of thin material and are of sufficiently small dimensions as not to attract attention, or to cause any inconvenience to the wearer.

The main portion B, of my fastener is longer than the portion C, as best shown in Fig. 3, and the end portions of the tongue, are beveled off, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, for a purpose described below.

When the main parts A, and B, are in their locked positions, as best shown in Fig. 4, the flanges C, and the outer edge of the plate B, are embraced by clamps F. These clamps F, are adapted to slide up and down the flanges C, and the said clamps are connected by a bail, or yoke G. This yoke G, extends across the tongue E, and always occupies a position between the parts A, and B, as shown.

When the clamps F, are lowered from the position shown in Fig. 1, as by pulling upon the string O, the bail G, will slide down the inclined portion N, of the tongue E, and will strike the outwardly curved portions M, of the flanges C, and will thereby force the said part A, out of locking engagement with the tongue E. As the bail G, continues to descend, the same will continuously wedge the part A, from the part B, and will thereby force the flap of the dress open. After the flap has been completely opened, the parts will occupy the position shown in Fig. 2. When the cord P, is pulled on, the clamps F,



will ride up the flanges C, and plate B, and if the flap is open they will then force the said parts into locking engagement and thereby close the flap.

5 In order to secure the cloth of the parts A, and B, the same are provided with the holes L, and K, respectively, and in order that the fastening together of the two parts may be facilitated, the side walls of the part A, are  
10 made sufficiently thin and elastic, to readily admit the tongue E; and the tongue E, is also made sufficiently elastic in order to cause it to readily enter between the side walls of the part A, but of course all of the elasticity  
15 could be involved in the tongue E, if desired. In order to accomplish this purpose, it would only be necessary to make the said tongue of any easily compressible shape, or material.

The operation of my device will be clear  
20 from the above description, but may be briefly summarized as follows:—The main parts A, and B, of small, thin, light material, are suitably secured to the respective flaps of an opening in a garment, and cord O, and P,  
25 are suitably hooked into, or otherwise attached to the eyelets Q, and R; and when it is desired to close the flaps of said opening, the cord P, is pulled upon and the tongue E, is thereby forced in between the side walls of  
30 the part A. When it is desired to open the flaps, the cord O, is pulled upon, and the wedging action of the bail G, causes the part A to be forced from the part B, and the tongue E, thereby disengaged from the walls of said  
35 part A, which results in the flaps of the garment being separated.

Of course I do not wish to be understood as limiting my invention to the construction and arrangement of parts hereinbefore described except as is required by the appended  
40 claims, since it is evident that the structure may be widely varied by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of my invention.

45 Having thus described my invention what I claim is:—

1. In a dress fastener, the combination of two main parts adapted to be fastened to the flaps of an opening; and one of said parts  
50 provided with a locking tongue extending substantially throughout its length, and the other of said parts provided with an oblong opening which said tongue is adapted to enter; and means adapted to slide along said  
55 parts and thereby force the tongue into locking engagement with the opening, substantially as described.

2. In a dress fastener, the combination of

two main parts adapted to be fastened to the respective flaps of an opening, comprising, 60 an oblong tongue and slot extending substantially the entire length of said parts and provided with inclined inter-engaging means; and a means adapted to slide longitudinally  
65 of said tongue and slot to force the same into, and out of locking engagement, substantially as described.

3. In a dress fastener, the combination of a flat oblong main part provided with a locking tongue; a second oblong main part tri- 70 angular in cross section provided with an oblong opening adapted to receive said tongue, and with oblong flanges adapted to contact with the flat surface of said first main part; and slidable means adapted to  
75 force said main parts into and out of locking engagement, substantially as described.

4. In a dress fastener, the combination of two oblong main parts adapted to be fastened to the flaps of a dress, and provided 80 with inter-engaging parts; and a pair of sliding clamps adapted to force said parts into locking engagement, and provided with a bail adapted to force said parts out of locking engagement, substantially as described. 85

5. In a dress fastener, the combination of two oblong main parts adapted to be fastened to the flaps of an opening, one provided with an oblong locking tongue having a beveled end, and the other with a recess to 90 receive said tongue; a pair of sliding clamps to force said parts into locking engagement; and a bail spanning and connecting said clamps adapted to ride down said beveled end, and force the said parts out of locking 95 engagement, substantially as described.

6. In a dress fastener, the combination of two oblong main parts adapted to be fastened to the flaps of an opening, one provided with an oblong locking tongue having a 100 beveled end, and the other with a recess to receive said tongue; a pair of sliding clamps to force said parts into locking engagement; and a bail spanning and connecting said clamps and provided with eyes; and cords 105 in said eyes, and said bail adapted to ride down said beveled end, and force the said parts out of locking engagement, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, 110 in presence of two witnesses.

CARLOS A. GARDINER.

Witnesses:

H. GLIXMAN,  
WM. B. LATHAM.