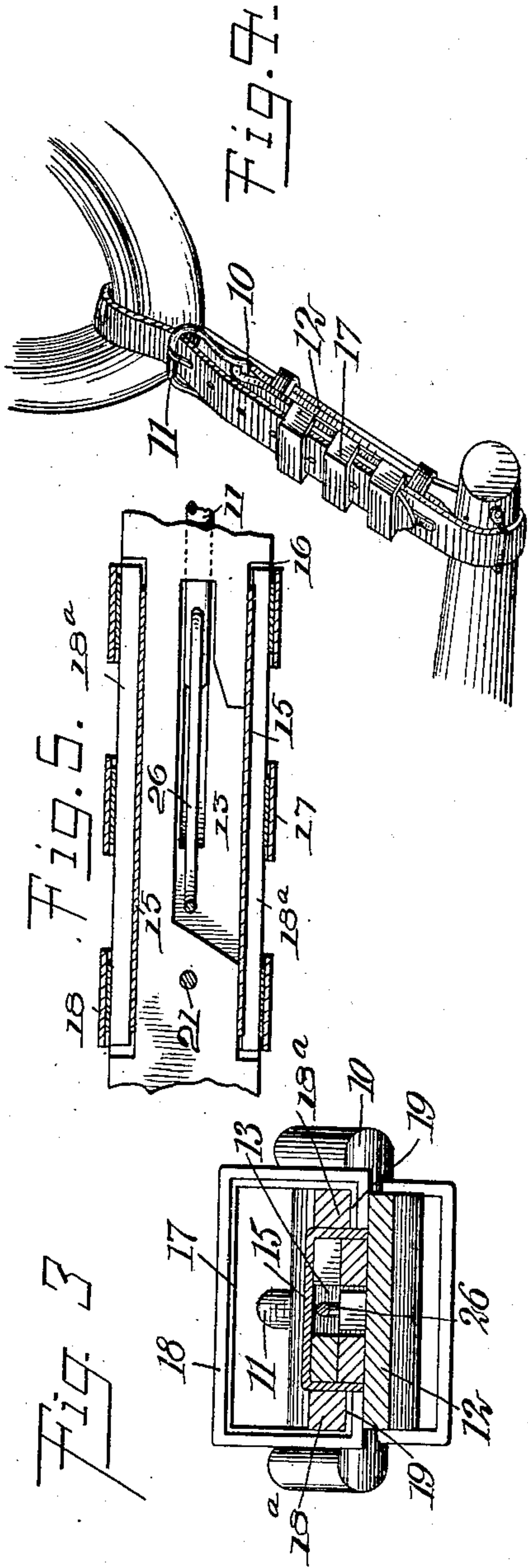
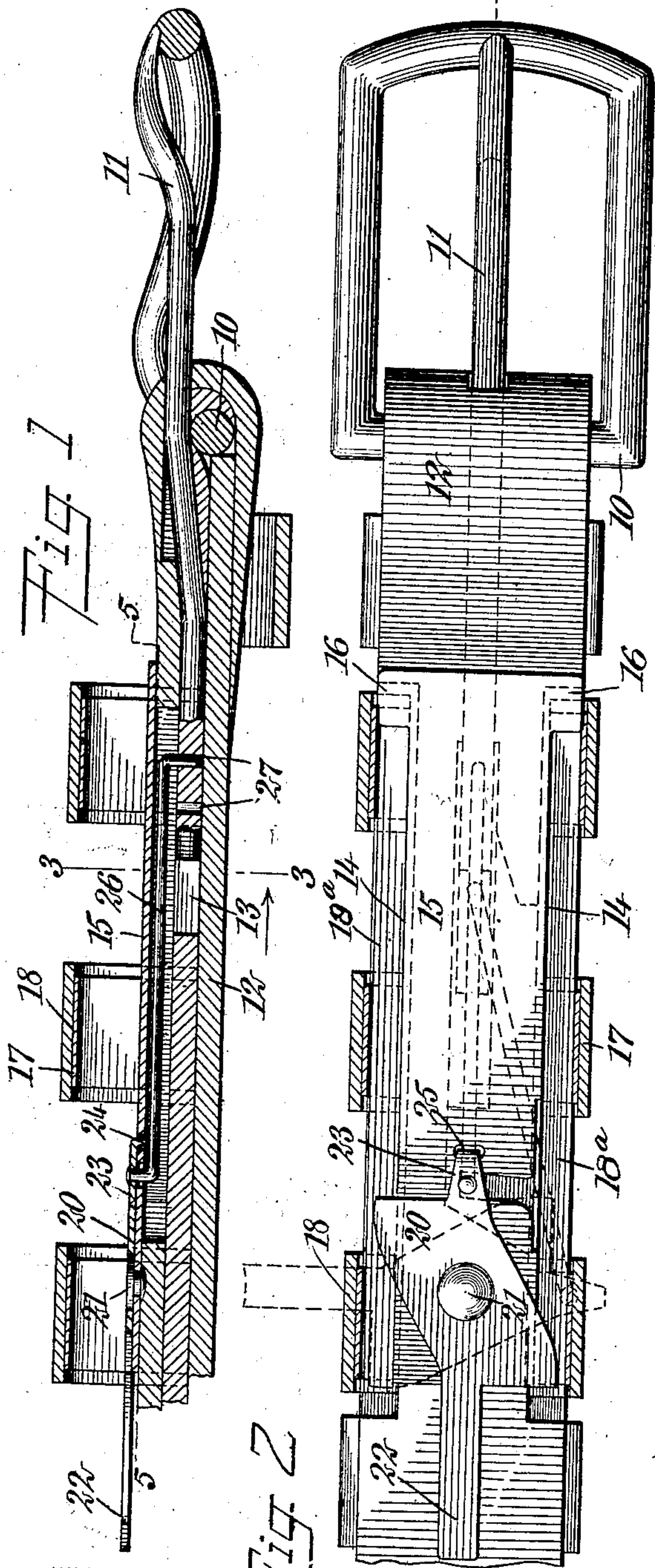


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BUCKLE.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH FREDERICK YOUNG AND FREDERICK AUGUSTUS LIBBY, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

## BUCKLE.

No. 910,258.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 19, 1909.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOSEPH F. YOUNG and FREDERICK A. LIBBY, citizens of the United States, and residents of Morristown, in the county of Morris and State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Buckles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention is an improvement in buckles, more especially designed for the traces of harness, heavy straps and other stiff materials in connection with which buckles are used. It is often difficult to withdraw the free end of a strap of this nature from the keeper and disengage it from the tongue of the buckle in view of its small flexibility. This difficulty is overcome by our invention by providing the strap with a bodily removable keeper, which is held when in operative position by a latch connected with the buckle tongue and operating to withdraw and project the tongue to and from the buckle frame, whereby the said tongue is easily disengaged and engaged with the strap.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a central longitudinal section through the preferred form of our improved buckle; Fig. 2 is a plan of the same partly in section, illustrating the connection between the latch for the keeper and the buckle tongue; Fig. 3 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrow; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a trace connection embodying our improvement; Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

In carrying out our invention we employ a buckle composed of the usual or other preferred form of buckle frame 10, having a tongue 11, the latter being extended and slidably mounted between the layers of a strap or trace 12 with which the inner crossbar of the buckle frame is connected; for this purpose is cut in the intermediate layer of the trace or strap, a slot 13. The top layer of the strap, near the buckle, is rabbeted at opposite edges as indicated at 14, and receives the flanged sides of a casing 15 which is secured in place by screws or other equivalent devices, and is provided with

projections 16 at one end, the said projections being preferably formed by turning the flanges of the casing into the plane of its top face.

Adapted to fit over the casing 15 is a keeper 17, composed of a plurality of loops of sheet metal provided with an outer covering of leather 18 which is riveted or otherwise affixed thereto, the said loops being rigidly connected together at their lower free ends by the inwardly turned flanges 19, which are also preferably covered with leather on their bottom faces by extending the covering 18, and are covered on their top faces by leather strips 18<sup>a</sup>. The distance between the opposed edges of the flanges 19 is such that the keeper snugly fits over the top of the casing 15, and may be slid slightly forwardly to engage the forward extremities of the flanges 19 underneath the projections 16 and thus securely lock this end of the keeper in place. The opposite end of the keeper is locked by the diagonally-projecting corners of an angular sheet metal latch 20, pivotally connected to the top of the casing 15 at its rear end on a stud or pivot 21.

The remaining diagonal corners of the latch 20 are extended to respectively provide an operating handle 22 and a catch 23, the latter being constructed with an inwardly turned extremity 24, as best shown in Fig. 1, which engages when the latch is in locked position with a slot 25 formed in the top of the casing 15. The top of this casing is also slotted and cut out at one side adjacent to the slot 25, as best shown in Fig. 2, to provide for the free movement of a link 26 which is provided with oppositely turned ends in pivotal engagement with the tongue 11 and latch 20; one or more openings 27 being formed in the inner end of the tongue for this purpose, which permits of an adjustable connection between these parts.

To disengage the tongue of the buckle from the free end of the strap or trace, and simultaneously therewith release it from the keeper, it is only necessary to withdraw the handle 22 to one side sufficiently to remove the diagonal projecting corners of the latch from over the flanges of the keeper, when the latter may be bodily removed; by then moving the handle of the latch in the same direction until it is approximately in the dotted position indicated in Fig. 2, the



buckle tongue will be wholly retracted from the free end of the strap which may be easily slid through the buckle frame. In connecting the free end of the strap or trace with the buckle, and passing it under the keeper, the same is accomplished by a reverse operation.

The invention as shown and described although being our preferred, practical form of the invention, may obviously nevertheless be materially modified within the scope of the claims annexed.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The combination of a buckle, having a sliding tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, a detachable keeper carried by the strap, and a unitary device operable to lock the keeper and slide the tongue.

2. The combination of a buckle, having a frame and a sliding tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, a detachable keeper carried by the strap, and a latch connected to the said sliding tongue and having means for locking the keeper in place.

3. The combination of a buckle, having a sliding tongue, and a bodily removable keeper, and means for sliding the tongue and locking the keeper.

4. The combination of a buckle, having a sliding tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, having a slot formed therein for the reception of the inner end of the tongue, a casing carried by the strap covering said slot, an operating device pivoted to the casing, and a link connecting said device with said tongue.

5. The combination of a buckle, having a sliding tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, a casing attached to the strap and covering the inner end of the tongue, a keeper having inwardly turned flanges adapted to be seated over said casing, an angular latch having diagonal corners adapted to be passed into the path of said flanges and lock the keeper in place, and means connecting said latch to said tongue.

6. The combination of a buckle, having a sliding tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, a casing carried by the strap, having projections at opposite sides, a keeper adapted to be seated over said casing and engaged at one end with said projections, and a latch connected with said tongue, adapted to lock the opposite end of the keeper in place.

7. The combination of a buckle, having a displaceable tongue, a strap connected to the buckle, a casing carried by the strap, having projections at opposite sides, a keeper having inwardly turned flanges adapted to be seated over said casing and engaged with said projections, a sheet metal latch adapted to overlie the flanges of the keeper and lock it in place, and a link connecting the latch with the tongue.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

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