

BUCKLE

5 The present invention relates to buckles for belts or other straps, and more particularly to ornamental buckles which carry a badge or motif.

 Such buckles can be used for purely decorative or ornamental purposes, or, alternatively, for
10 advertising or identity purposes, in the latter case the buckle having a badge or insignia, for example of a particular association, team, company etc. It may be desirable to change the ornament, or insignia (hereinafter referred to as "badge") selectively.
15 For example, a company badge might also be personalized to the user to enable him or her to select between say the company emblem or name and his own personal initials say.

 In accordance with the present invention a
20 buckle has a badge-holder therein, the badge-holder having opposite display faces and being rotatable about an axis lying substantially in the plane of the buckle to enable either of the faces of the badge-holder to be displayed substantially parallel
25 to the plane of the buckle.

 The axis around which the badge-holder may be rotatable can be substantially aligned with what is in use the longitudinal axis of the belt, or can be inclined to it or even perpendicular to that
30 longitudinal axis.

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Preferably, the buckle itself is of a rotatable type such as may be used on reversible belts. A rotatable buckle may, for example, comprise an attachment part for fixing to the belt and a connecting part for attaching to the other end of the belt in use, the connecting part being rotatable 180° between two operative positions so that the belt can be reversed to show either of its sides.

10. Preferably, the buckle is formed with a display opening in its face, the badge holder being located and rotatable within the opening.

One example of a buckle constructed in accordance with the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

15. Figure 1 is a front elevation, partly in section on the line I-I in Figure 3;

Figure 2 is a vertical cross section on the line II-II in Figure 1 and

- Figure 3 is a top plan view of the buckle.

20. The buckle comprises an attachment part 1 for attaching to a belt by means of grub-screws through threaded apertures 2, the attachment part being hollow to receive the end of the belt to which it is permanently attached in use. Attached to the attachment part 1 is
25. a connecting, buckle part 3 which has, on one face, a conventional bar 4 and pin 5, in use the free end of the belt which is provided with apertures passing between the body of the connecting part 3 and the bar 4, the pin 5 engaging in one of the holes in the belt.

30. The connecting part 3 has a central aperture 6 across which is rotatably mounted a badge holder 7 about an axis 8 extending in line with the longitudinal axis of the belt in use, and centrally of the aperture.

- The badge holder 7 has opposite display faces 9 and 10
35. and is mounted on a hollow shaft 11 extending through the badge holder and into either end of the connecting part 3. Different badges, i.e. motifs etc. may be incorporated

in the opposite faces 9 and 10 of the badge holder 7 as desired.

- To enable the buckle to be used on reversible belts, that is to say belts which have two display sides, the connecting part 3 is rotatable about the central longitudinal axis 8 of the buckle between two positions 180° apart. This in effect enables the belt to be rotated relative to the connecting part 3 when it is desired to display a different side of the belt.
5. To enable this rotation between the connecting part 3 and the attachment part 1 a screw-threaded bolt 12 extends through one side of the attachment part 1 into the adjacent side of the connecting part 3 and a helical coil spring 13 is interposed underneath the head 15. of the bolt 12 to bias the two parts towards one another. In order to define the opposite relative positions of the connecting part and attachment part the connecting part is provided with an elongate rib 14 and the attachment part with a complementary groove 15 into which the rib 20. locates in use.

Although the buckle shown has plain faces on the connecting part, opposite sides of the connecting part can have different patterns or ornamentation, so that the buckle can display four different combinations of 25. badge and surrounding face if desired. It will be appreciated that the type of buckle to which the invention is applied is not limited to that shown in the drawings, but can be of any suitable type.

CLAIMS

1. A buckle having a badge-holder therein, the badge-holder having opposite display faces and being rotatable about an axis lying substantially in the plane of the buckle to enable either of the faces of the badge-holder to be displayed substantially parallel to the plane of the buckle.
2. A buckle according to claim 1, wherein the axis of the badge holder is aligned with the longitudinal axis of the associated belt in use.
3. A buckle according to claim 1, wherein the axis of the badge holder lies transverse to the longitudinal axis of the associated belt in use.
4. A buckle according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the buckle has an opening within which the badge-holder is located.
5. A buckle according to any of the preceding claims, including a badge set into each of the faces of the badge-holder.
6. A buckle according to any of the preceding claims, including means for rotating part of the buckle relative to the belt to which it is to be attached in use.
7. A buckle according to claim 6, wherein the rotatable part of the buckle can be located in one of two positions spaced 180° apart about the axis of rotation of the rotatable part.
8. A buckle according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein a connecting part of the buckle is rotatable



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about a longitudinal axis relative to a belt-attachment part of the buckle between two positions spaced 180° apart.

- 5 9. A buckle according to claim 1, substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.



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