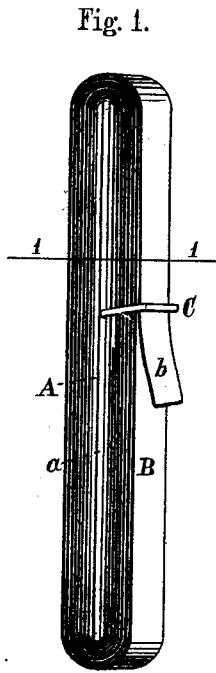


W. E. BARROWS.
 Stays and Clasps for Narrow Fabrics.
 No. 204,523. Patented June 4, 1878.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN STAYS AND CLASPS FOR NARROW FABRICS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **204,523**, dated June 4, 1878; application filed
April 1, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. BARROWS, of Hartford, in the county of Hartford, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Stays and Clasps for Sticks of Narrow Fabrics, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to that form or style of preparing narrow fabrics, such as ribbon, tape, and braid, for the trade, whereby a bundle of folds is made, which is commonly named a "stick;" and it consists in a central piece or stay and a clasp for the folds of the fabric, the stay serving as a support for the said folds and a guide for the clasp which slides thereon, and the clasp retaining the loose end of the fabric in place and assisting in the regular unwinding or rewinding of the same.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a stick of braid illustrating my invention. Fig. 2 is a section taken on line 1 1 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view of the edge of the stay, and Fig. 4 a view of the face of the same. In the last two figures the clasp is shown as just removed from the central piece or stay.

A is the central piece, being the stay, made of any suitable material to give the required stiffness. I prefer a thin strip of wood of the desired length, and I cut therein grooves *a* lengthwise along the edges of the strip. If

the stay A be made of card-board, two thicknesses may be used, and the space between them will correspond to and serve the purpose of the grooves *a*. On this stay is wound the braid B, as shown. The slide or clasp C, made of suitable material having the required rigidity, as wire, is formed or bent in the proper shape to embrace and conform to the folds of the fabric, and has the two ends bent inward toward each other to enter the grooves of the stay A, as shown.

When the parts are arranged and constructed as described, the clasp C will hold the loose end of the fabric in place, and prevent the loosening or accidental unwinding of the folds of the same. When the fabric is unwound from the central piece or stay, by pulling the loose end *b* the clasp will be slid along the stick, passing about the ends thereof, the ends of the clasp moving and being retained in the grooves *a*. The clasp will also assist in rewinding a portion of the fabric unwound, as will readily be seen.

I claim as my invention—

The strip or stay A, having grooves or channels along its edges, in combination with the slide or clasp C, the whole adapted as a holder for braid and other narrow fabrics, substantially as set forth.

WILLIAM E. BARROWS.

Witnesses:

EDW. DUMMER,
GEO. A. TARBELL.