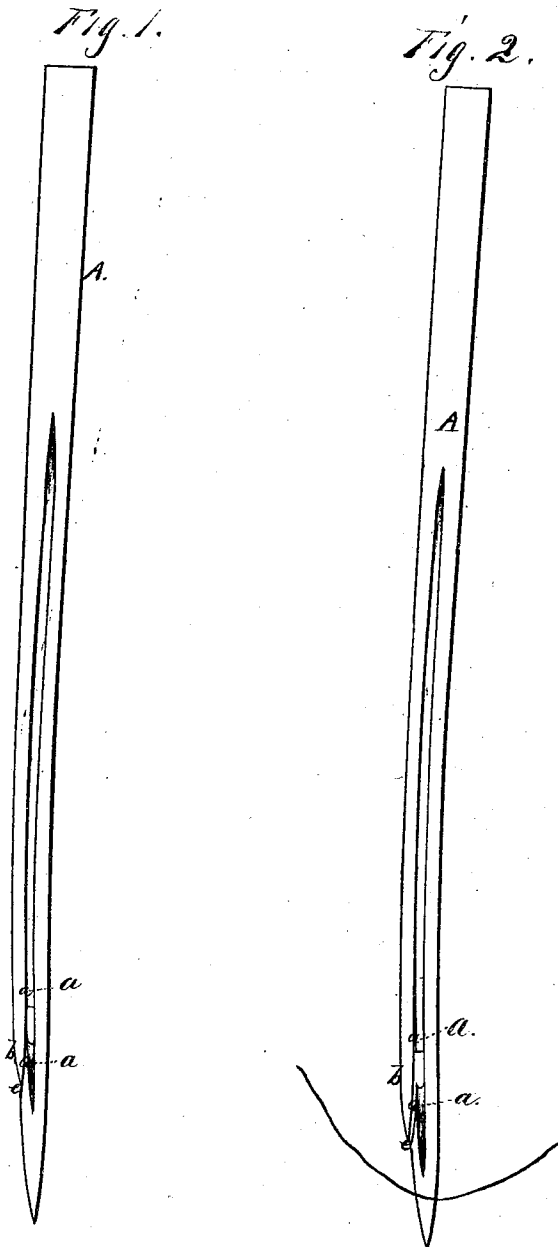


J. L. Boone,
Sewing Machine.
No. 100112.

Patented Feb 22 1870.



Witnesses.
Geo. H. Strong
August Folger

Inventor.
John L. Boone

United States Patent Office.

JOHN L. BOONE, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

Letters Patent No. 100,112, dated February 22, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN NEEDLE FOR SEWING-MACHINE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. BOONE, of the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented an Improved Sewing-Machine Needle; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvements without further invention or experiment.

My invention relates to an improvement in sewing-machine needles, or to that class of needles in which the eye is made near the point; and

It consists in an improved arrangement or construction, whereby the needle may be quickly and easily threaded, without the necessity of pointing the thread and poking it through the eye of the needle.

In order to explain my invention intelligently so that others can make and use the same, I append hereto a full, clear, and exact description, referring to the drawing accompanying this specification and forming a part of the same, in which—

A represents a sewing-machine needle.

These needles, in order to render them convenient and useful, have the eye made near the point, through which the thread is passed before operating the machine.

To thread the needle easily, I split it, beginning above the point, as shown at Figure 1, up into the eye at one side, either to the bottom corner or to the side of the eye, as shown.

I then continue the split *a* a short distance above the eye, thus forming a finger, *b*, which acts as a spring, and closes the split tightly.

In order to prevent the pointed end of the finger *b* from catching the fabric as it passes down through it in sewing, I reduce the outside of the point so as to

form a slight countersink, as shown at *e*, thus sinking the point, so that the bulge of the needle will cause it to pass through the fabric without catching.

To thread the needle, the thread is taken in the forefinger and thumb of each hand, a short distance apart, and pressed backward upon the point of the needle, until the split between the finger *b* and needle opens, when the thread is slipped upward into the eye, the split closing tightly after it so as to prevent its return.

The split might be made from above the point where the needle enters the fabric down into the eye, and the thread inserted by springing back the point; but I prefer the first-described method, as the needle is left stronger and can be threaded much more readily.

The cost of manufacture will be no more than that of the ordinary needle, as the split can be made when the needle is stamped out, and the eye formed afterward.

A needle made in this way possesses nearly all the strength of the ordinary needle, as the finger *b* serves to support it when split, as described, much the same as when it was solid with the needle.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A sewing-machine needle split above and below the eye, as described, when the point of the side finger *b* is rounded and reduced below the general outline of the needle, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

JOHN L. BOONE. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

WM. GERLACH,
EUGENE FOLGER.