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CROCHET NEEDLE WITH THREAD-RETAINING CLIP

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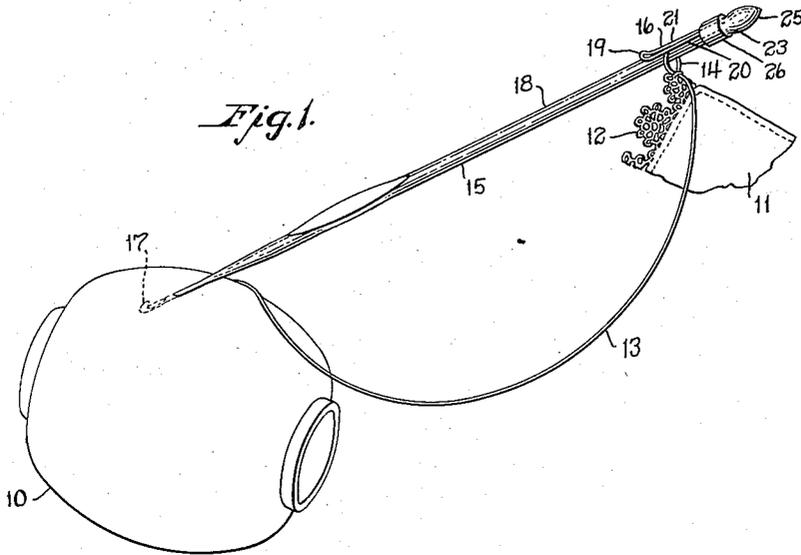


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

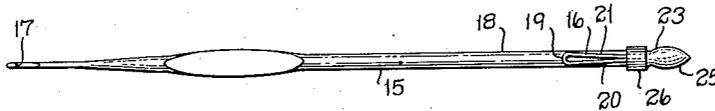


Fig. 3.

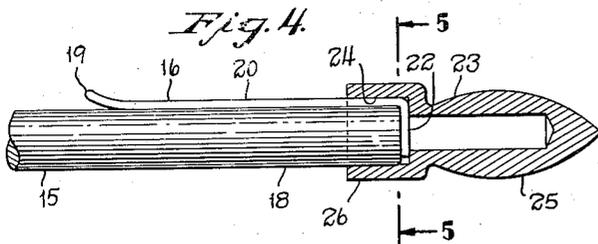
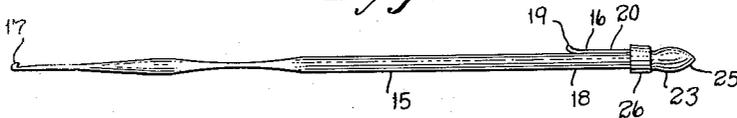


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

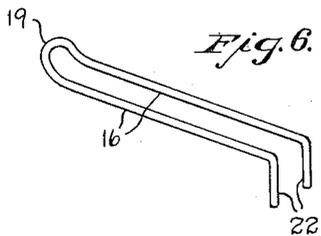
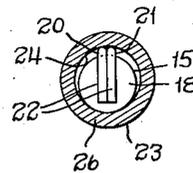


Fig. 6.

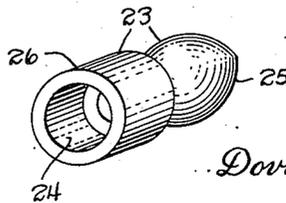


Fig. 7.

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CROCHET NEEDLE WITH THREAD-RETAINING CLIP

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This invention relates in general to the art of crocheting and relates more particularly to a crochet needle having novel thread-retaining means.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a crochet needle with means to retain a thread on the shank of the crochet needle during any temporary cessation of the crocheting, but conveniently available for resumption of use whenever desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a crochet needle that will facilitate crocheting work by providing a convenient thread-retaining device that will temporarily anchor one of the crochet-loops or the thread, whenever the crocheting is interrupted.

Another object of the invention is to provide a combination crochet needle and clip particularly designed and adapted to form a complete unit or ensemble effective to retain the thread of a ball of yarn ready for immediate subsequent use.

A further object is to provide a conventional type crochet needle with a spring-clip in a convenient disposition for securing the thread, or a loop of same, against displacement, and while the needle itself is anchored in the ball of yarn; so that the latter, the material, and the needle are all ready for instant use, when desired.

Other objects and advantages will appear to those skilled in the art from the following, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

The invention particularly contemplates the provision of means especially designed and adapted to facilitate crocheting work by the addition of comparatively simple means applied to the shank of the crochet needle where, whenever the crocheting is interrupted, the thread, or a loop of same, may be securely retained under the spring-clip of this invention, while the needle itself is conveniently embedded in the ball of yarn.

Heretofore, when interruptions to the crocheting occurred, the thread was frequently stripped from the ball of yarn to an appreciable extent and a number of the crochet-loops were unraveled. In accordance with this invention, such interruptions to the crocheting do not entail snarling of the thread or unnecessary stripping of the ball of yarn or unraveling of the crochet-loops.

In the accompanying drawings, in which certain modes of carrying out the present invention are shown for illustrative purposes:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention operatively applied to a crochet needle and showing the manner in which the device is put to practical use;

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Fig. 2 is a plan view of a crochet needle equipped with the thread-retaining means of this invention;

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the assembly or unit shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, longitudinal, elevational view of the clip-end of the needle partly in section, and with the thread-retaining clip secured in position by fastening-means;

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged, detail, perspective view of the thread-retaining spring-clip; and

Fig. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of the member for fastening the spring-clip to the crochet needle.

Referring now to the drawings wherein similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views of a preferred form of the invention, the numeral 10 designates a ball of yarn, 11 a piece of material, such as a handkerchief, to which a lace edge 12 is being crocheted, and 13 a thread extending from the ball of yarn 10 to the piece of material being worked upon.

As best shown in Fig. 1, it will be observed that a loop 14 of the lace edge 12 extends around the shank of a crochet needle 15 and with a portion of the said loop extended under the clip 16 of the present invention, hereinafter described more fully.

The crochet needle 15, which may be of standard design and construction, is equipped with the usual hook 17 and an extended cylindrical body-portion or shank 18.

In accordance with the present invention and as best shown in Fig. 6, the spring-clip 16 is formed of a length of instrument wire, such as piano wire, folded upon itself as at 19, to provide a U-shaped member having a pair of legs 20 and 21 extended in substantial parallelism, each of the legs being provided with a similar bent portion forming retaining-fingers 22, arranged in a plane normal to the longitudinal plane of each leg.

As best shown in Fig. 4, the retaining-fingers 22 are abutted against the outer or butt-end surface of the shank 18 at the right-hand side, as seen in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, in a side-by-side relation. In further conformity with the invention, a retainer-cap or member 23 is thrust, with a force fit, over the outer or butt-end of the shank of the needle in such wise as to clampingly embrace the legs of the clip 16 and confine them rigidly to the surface of the needle and with the retaining-fingers 22 in abutment against the outer extremity of the said butt-end of the shank.

It will be observed that the legs 20 and 21 of the clip 16, as one of the salient features of the invention, are extended in substantially continuous abutment or contact with the shank 18 of the needle, so that when the crochet thread 13 is placed between the clip and the needle at any point therebetween, it will be wedgingly or clampingly secured to the needle and held against lateral and lengthwise displacement thereon. It is preferred to arrange the clip 16 on the shank 18 in alignment with the hook 17 of the needle 15, although deviations from this position will not affect the functioning of the device.

The construction of the retainer-cap 23 is shown in Figs. 4 and 7. It is formed or composed of suitable material, such as metal, plastics, etc., and is interiorly recessed to provide an elongated pocket as at 24, for the reception of the butt-end of the shank of the needle and the outer portions of the legs 20 and 21 of the clip 16, together with the retaining-fingers 22.

With a view to a pleasing appearance, the cap 23 may be formed with an oval or arcuate portion, as at 25, merging with a smooth or drum-like portion, as at 26.

The function of the device and the conveniences provided by same will best be understood by inspection of Fig. 1. Herein it will be seen that the hook 17 of the crochet needle 15 has been embedded in the ball of yarn 10, while the thread 13 extending from the latter has been reached forward and formed into the loop 14 which, after passing over a portion of the shank of the needle, is clampingly held by the clip 16 to thereby guard against the unraveling of the already-formed lace or the like. If preferred, the thread itself may be directly clamped by the spring-clip to the shank of the needle. The thread and the piece of material 11 attached thereto are retained together, while the ball of yarn itself is anchored against turning and unraveling by the needle plunged therein. The ensemble of the crochet needle with clip, the ball of yarn, thread and piece of material may now be laid aside, if desired, for additional crocheting at another time, and with the assurance that the crocheting may be resumed without delay, since all the components are grouped and connected for immediate use.

The assembling of the device may be effected, as indicated above, by placing the clip 16 against the outer portion of the shank of the needle with the retaining-fingers 22 extended over and against the extremity of the butt-end in parallelism (Fig. 5), after which the cap 23 will be forcibly thrust over the adjacent portion of the legs of the clip. The cylindrical recess 24 in the cap 23 is, as best shown in Fig. 5, of such cross-sectional dimension that the cap will hold the rear ends and continuing offset fingers 22 of the clip-legs 20 and 21 in engagement with each other within the confines of the cap-recess 24. Hence, unless the rear ends of the clip-legs 20 and 21 are held in engagement with each other, the cylindrical wall of the cap-recess 24 will force the adjacent rear ends of said clip-legs into engagement with each other, when the cap is forced onto the needle-shank. Accordingly, the exposed leg-portions of the clip 16 on the needle-shank diverge outwardly toward the return-bend 19 in the clip (Fig. 2), with the result that there is in the immediate vicinity of the return-bend 19 in the clip either a slight clearance or only an inconsiderable pressure between the clip-legs 20 and 21 and the adjacent periphery of the needle-

shank. This clearance between the clip-legs 20 and 21 and the adjacent periphery of the needle-shank diminishes, or the pressure therebetween increases, in the direction toward the cap 23 to a point where these clip-legs firmly engage the adjacent needle-shank somewhere in front of the cap 23. Accordingly, clamping pressure will be applied gradually on the thread as the same is being drawn underneath the clip 16 on the needle-shank, thereby protecting the thread from any undue chafing action of the clip. The invention, it is to be noted, may be applied to any standard form of crochet needle without alteration to the latter.

The invention may be carried out in other specific ways than those herein set forth without departing from the spirit and essential characteristics of the invention, and the present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, and all changes coming within the meaning and equivalency range of the appended claims are intended to be embraced therein.

I claim:

1. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle having a generally cylindrical shank, said provisions comprising a wire clip having opposite diverging legs disposed in a plane substantially tangential to said shank and being narrower spaced at one end than at the other end, and a cross-member joining said legs at said other end and being spaced from said shank, said clip extending longitudinally substantially parallel to the axis of said shank with said legs diverging on opposite sides, respectively, of said shank axis; and means securing said legs at said one end thereof to said shank.

2. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle as set forth in claim 1, in which said cross-member is continuous with, and is a return-bend in, the wire of said legs, and said return-bend is curved outwardly from said tangential plane and shank axis.

3. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle having a generally cylindrical shank, said provisions comprising a wire clip having parallel engaging wire terminal-ends and continuing diverging wire legs, respectively, disposed in a plane substantially tangential to said shank, said legs being opposite said terminal-ends joined by a continuing wire return-bend spaced from said shank and said clip extending with said terminal-ends on an end-length of said shank substantially parallel to the axis of the latter with said legs diverging on opposite sides, respectively, of said shank axis; and means securing said terminal-ends to said shank.

4. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle as set forth in claim 3, in which said securing-means comprises a cap force-fitted over said shank end-length and wire terminal-ends thereon.

5. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle having a cylindrical shank, said provisions comprising a wire clip having parallel engaging wire terminal-ends and continuing diverging wire legs, respectively, disposed in a plane substantially tangential to said shank, said legs being opposite said terminal-ends joined by a continuing wire return-bend spaced from said shank and said clip extending with said terminal-ends on an end-length of said shank substantially parallel to the axis of the latter with said legs diverging on opposite sides, respectively, of said shank axis; and a cap having a cylindrical recess force-fitted over

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said shank end-length and wire terminal-ends thereon.

6. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle as set forth in claim 5, in which said wire legs are resilient and resiliently flexed into their diverging relation, and said wire legs are held in said resiliently flexed diverging relation by the forced engagement of said wire terminal-ends with each other by said cylindrical recess of the force-fitted cap.

7. Thread-retaining provisions on a crochet needle having a cylindrical shank with a butt-end, said provisions comprising a wire clip having parallel engaging wire lengths terminating at one end in laterally-extending wire fingers, respectively, and having at the other end continuing diverging wire legs, respectively, said wire lengths and legs being disposed in a plane substantially tangential to said shank and said legs being opposite said wire lengths joined by a continuing wire return-bend spaced from said shank, said fingers bearing against the butt-end of said

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shank and said wire lengths extending on an end-length of said shank substantially parallel to the axis of the latter with said legs diverging on opposite sides, respectively, of said shank axis; and a cap having a recess with a cylindrical side wall and a bottom wall of which said side wall is force-fitted over said shank end-length and wire lengths thereon and said bottom wall holds said fingers against the butt-end of said shank.

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