

Jan. 16, 1940.

H. S. KOHLER

2,187,039

KNITTING NEEDLE

Filed Feb. 20, 1939

Fig. 1.

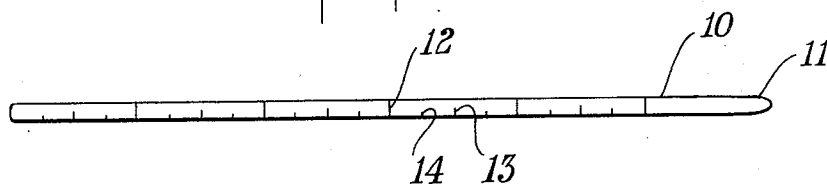


Fig. 2.

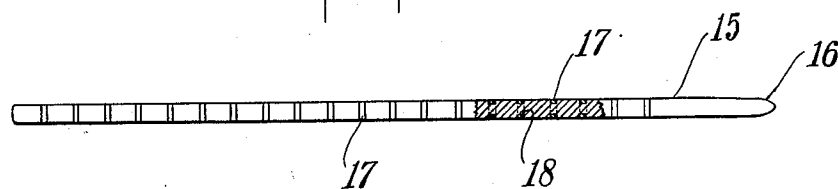
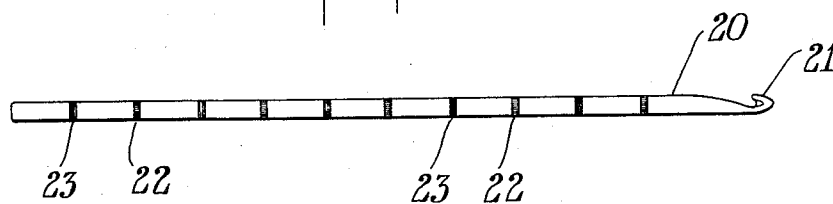


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.
HARRIET S. KOHLER
BY *John P. Chandler*
her ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,187,039

KNITTING NEEDLE

Harriet S. Kohler, Westport, Conn.

Application February 20, 1939, Serial No. 257,466

1 Claim. (Cl. 66—117)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in knitting needles and relates more particularly to an improved knitting or crocheting needle having means for measuring the work as the same progresses.

The art of hand knitting has been practiced by young and old, and rich and poor alike, for countless centuries. Over this long period the tools required for the art, namely the needles, and the method of using the same, have remained virtually unchanged. The knitter may work practically continuously without interruption of any kind except for the frequent necessity of measuring the length of the row of stitching in order to properly shape the garment to the body of the person for whom intended.

Virtually all knitted articles, with the exception of scarfs and similar things, are made to fit a predetermined shape and as the garment progresses portions must be decreased or enlarged in order to fit the contour of the body. This is accomplished by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches in a given row. Also, in order to provide for openings in the garment, as for arm holes, a number of inches of stitches are dropped in accordance with a predetermined plan. In many instances the knitter is guided solely by the number of stitches, and when an area is to be enlarged, for instance at the breast portion, the number of stitches is merely increased. This cannot be done accurately without constant measuring the combined length of the stitches in a given row, by the use of a ruler. This necessitates stopping the knitting, laying down the needles and applying the ruler to the row of stitches.

Inasmuch as all knitting, crocheting and the like is done to given dimensions, which, of course, requires suitable measuring means, the knitter frequently tries to avoid the use of a ruler by making her calculations from the number of stitches knitted. Any given knitter, with needles of certain proportions and yarn of a certain texture and thickness, will normally knit a given number of stitches per inch. Calculations made in this manner, however, are most uncertain since the yarn necessarily varies as well as the work of the knitter, and accordingly the stitches are not uniform in number per given running length. Also, the knitter becomes involved in conversation, knitting being a social pastime, and accordingly forgets to count.

It is accordingly one of the principal objects of the present invention to provide a knitting needle which will avoid all of the aforementioned difficulties in knitting, the needle being

provided with means to enable the user to make her linear calculations accurately and without ceasing the knitting operation.

To this end, the invention comprises a knitting needle having appropriate markings thereon to permit the user to measure the combined length of the stitches contained upon the needle without ceasing the knitting operation.

To this end, the invention comprises a knitting needle having appropriate markings thereon to permit the user to measure the combined length of the stitches contained upon the needle without removing the stitches from the needle. Thus the knitter may tell at a glance the length of the combined stitches and when stitches are to be dropped or added, there is no need to cease knitting to measure the stitches. The needle may also be used to measure vertically, but its principal advantage results from the fact that the user may measure horizontally while continuing the knitting, and this measuring is far more accurate than if it were accomplished solely by counting stitches.

Another object of the invention is to provide a needle of this character wherein the markings contained thereon will not interfere with the knitting operation.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation, partially in section, of a modified embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 3 shows a further modification therein.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 1, and includes a knitting needle 10 of more or less conventional shape, such needle being made of metal or other suitable material and having a knitting point 11 at one end thereof. Upon the external surface of the needle there are a plurality of linear markings which, in the case of metal, are desirably formed by burning or staining the metal so that the color of such markings will contrast in some measure at least with that of the metal itself. These markings may, of course, be made in any manner well known in the art, the principal thing being that such markings do not materially distort the surface in order that they will form no resistance to the longitudinal movement of the stitches thereover.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the needle is formed with markings 12 which are spaced one inch apart and desirably extend circumferentially of the needle. Between these markings 12 there are half-inch markings 13, 55

which may be somewhat shorter than the inch markings, and intermediate quarter-inch markings 14 which may if desired be merely dots formed in the metal. Inasmuch as the first inch or thereabouts of the needle is used in the knitting operation, this portion is free from marking, as will be noted.

5 The needle 15 shown in Fig. 2 is likewise provided with a knitting point 16 and with a plurality of spaced annular recesses 18, which recesses are filled with enamel, lacquer or other suitable material also of a color contrasting to that of the needle 15. It will be noted that the filling material 17 is of such thickness as to be substantially flush with the external surface of the needle.

10 The embodiments of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 show the preferred methods of carrying out the invention in connection with metallic needles. In Fig. 3 the needle 20 is shown with a crocheting hook 21, such needle desirably being made from any suitable plastic material, and in this instance the linear graduations are desirably formed by impregnating the surface of the needle with a suitable solvent, having a pigment incorporated therein, the solvent partially

dissolving the surface of the needle and when the solvent has evaporated, the pigment has impregnated the surface. In this instance, the one inch markings 22 are illustrated as being of a color contrasting with the half-inch markings 23 in order to permit the user to clearly distinguish between such markings.

It will be appreciated that the foregoing methods of carrying out the invention are illustrative only, and are not to be taken in any limiting sense, since the surface of the needle, whether made from metal, plastics or other material, may be suitably marked in any manner well known in the art.

What I claim is:

15 A knitting needle provided with means for permitting the user to measure the combined length of the stitches contained thereon during the knitting operation, comprising an elongated member made from plastic material and being provided with markings impregnated therein, the markings corresponding to known linear measurements and being of a color contrasting with the plastic material.

HARRIET S. KOHLER. 25