

(No Model.)

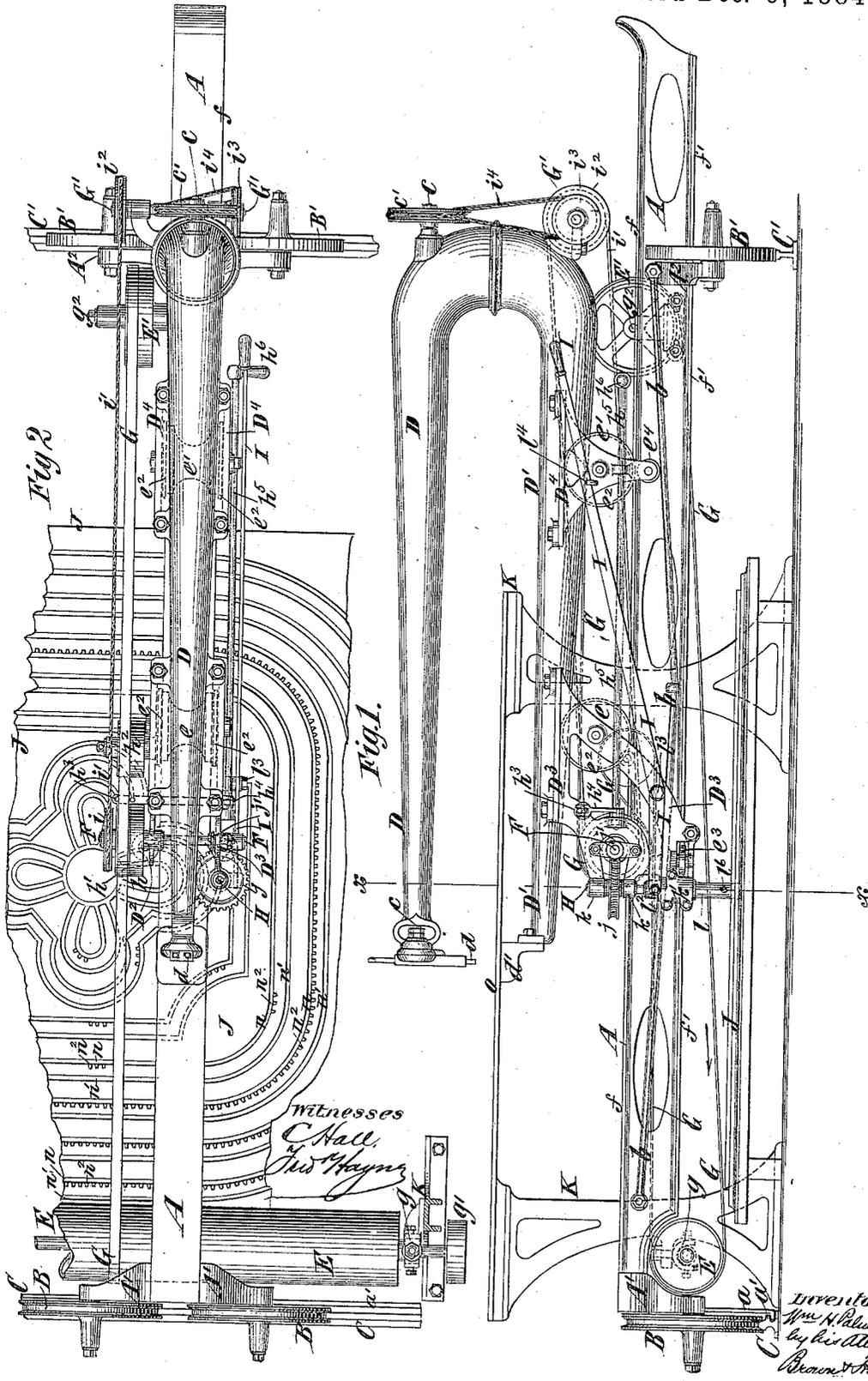
3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. H. PALMER, Jr.

MACHINE FOR SEWING OR QUILTING FABRICS.

No. 308,982.

Patented Dec. 9, 1884.



(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig 3

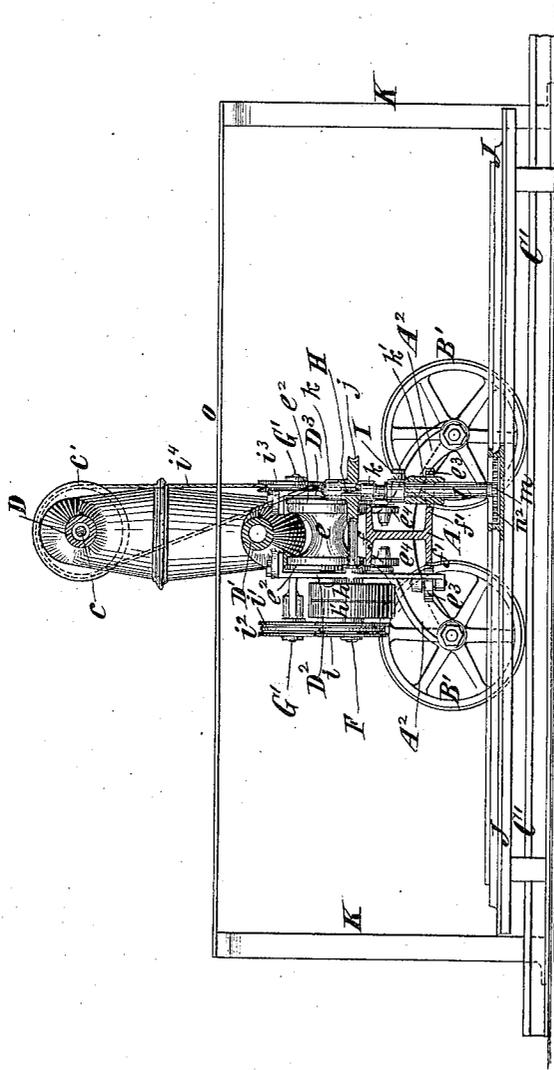
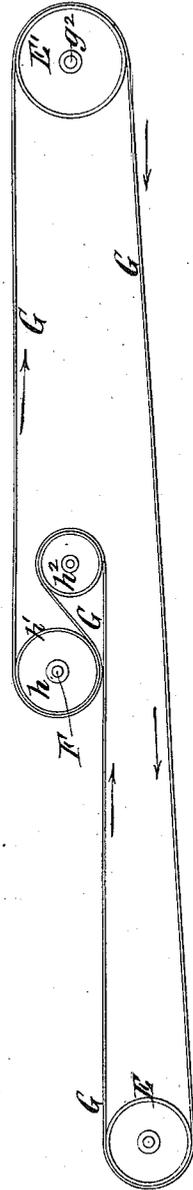


Fig. A.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MACHINE FOR SEWING OR QUILTING FABRICS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 308,982, dated December 9, 1884.

Application filed February 9, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. PALMER, Jr., of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Sewing or Quilting Fabrics, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is applicable more particularly to machines for quilting bed-comfortables and other articles composed of several thicknesses of material; but such machines may be employed in sewing upon various fabrics in one or several thicknesses.

The invention relates to a machine or apparatus which comprises a sewing-machine having a long arm to carry the needle and the needle-operating mechanism, and a frame or supports in which the bed-comfortable or other fabric to be sewed or quilted is supported, preferably in a stretched or extended condition.

An important object of my invention is to provide a machine comprising a fabric holder or support, a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric held in or by said holder or support, movable supports for the sewing-machine constructed and arranged to permit a universal movement of the sewing-machine, and mechanism for producing and controlling the bodily movement of the sewing-machine and for rotating the operating-shaft of the machine during its bodily movement, which machine, as a whole, shall be better adapted than the machines heretofore in use for quilting bed-comfortables and other large pieces of work in designs which are appropriate to their shape.

The invention consists in various novel combinations of parts hereinafter described, and referred to in the claims.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, I will first give a brief description of the principal parts of a machine which I have chosen to illustrate the invention. As before stated, the fabric to be sewed or quilted is or may be extended on a fabric-frame, and the sewing-machine has an arm of sufficient length to enable the needle to operate on any part of the fabric which it is desired to sew or quilt. Two carriages are employed, which are movable in directions transverse to each other, and one of which is movable upon

the other, and the sewing-machine is rigidly secured to the upper or second carriage, so that it is moved bodily therewith. The lower carriage consists, by preference, of a horizontal beam or stretcher, which is provided at opposite ends with wheels adapted to travel or move on parallel tracks extending in a direction at right angles to the length of said beam or stretcher, and the upper or second carriage consists of frames or supports, to which the sewing-machine is rigidly attached, and which are provided with wheels or rollers arranged to travel along the horizontal beam or stretcher of the first or lower carriage. The second or upper carriage is provided with bearings, wherein is fitted a vertical shaft, which extends downward and carries a pinion or wheel, which engages with a pattern consisting of a rack or track arranged below the first or lower carriage, and by a rotary movement imparted to said upright shaft and wheel the latter is caused to move along or follow the pattern, and the two carriages and the sewing-machine are moved and guided by the traveling movement of said vertical shaft along the pattern. The needle of the sewing-machine will also follow the movement of said vertical shaft, and the design of the pattern will be reproduced in lines of stitching or quilting upon the fabric. When the movement of said vertical shaft is in a direction parallel with the horizontal beam or stretcher of the first or lower carriage, then the second or upper carriage and superposed sewing-machine will move along the said beam or stretcher and the first carriage will remain stationary. When the movement of said shaft is in a direction at right angles to the length of said beam or stretcher, the second or upper carriage will remain stationary as regards the first carriage, and the first carriage will be moved, carrying with it the second carriage and its superposed machine. When the movement of said shaft is in a direction oblique to the said beam or stretcher of the first carriage, both carriages will receive movement therefrom, and the sewing-machine will receive the universal movement imparted to the second carriage. The second or upper carriage has its movements controlled by the pattern, and the lower carriage is capable of free movement in either

direction, to permit a universal movement of the second carriage and sewing-machine.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved machine. 5
Fig. 2 is a plan of the principal portion thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the dotted line $x x$, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating a part of the means employed for transmitting movement to the operating-shaft 10
of the sewing-machine during its bodily movements, and Fig. 5 is a detail view upon a larger scale of a part of the mechanism shown in Fig. 3.

Similar letters of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures.

The first or lower carriage, as here shown, consists of a horizontal beam or stretcher, A, furnished with brackets or lateral projections $A' A^2$, and provided with supporting-wheels 20 $B B'$. The two wheels, B, at one end of said beam or stretcher are flanged and are adapted to travel along a track-rail, C, and a designates an arm projecting downward from said carriage and engaging with a laterally-extending lip or flange, a' , on said rail. By these 25 means the wheels B are guided on the rail C, and are prevented from rising therefrom. Near the other end of said beam or stretcher A, and journaled on the brackets A^2 , are 30 wheels B' , which are adapted to run or travel along a track-rail, C' . The rails $C C'$ extend parallel with each other, and are at right angles to the length of the beam or stretcher A. The beam or stretcher A may advantageously consist of an I-beam of rolled iron, made as light 35 as is consistent with the necessary strength, and it may be strengthened by truss-rods b , as shown in Fig. 1, to prevent deflection.

The sewing-machine consists, essentially, of 40 a long arm, D, through which extends a shaft, c , for operating the needle-bar d , and another long arm, D' , to the outer end of which the work-plate d' is attached, as best shown in Fig. 1. The shaft c constitutes the operating-shaft of 45 the sewing-machine. In connection with the needle I employ a looper, hook, or other stitch-forming device, the shaft of which extends within the lower arm, D' , of the machine, and is operated by a cam and rod or 50 other ordinary connections from the operating-shaft c .

The connections for operating the shaft of the stitch-forming device from the operating-shaft c may be arranged in the hollow frame 55 of the machine, as is commonly done, and to operate both the needle and the stitch-forming device it is only necessary to impart a rotary motion to the operating-shaft c , which I do by means hereinafter described.

Near the outer or front end of the long arm, D' are bolted frames or supports $D^2 D^3$, which depend or project downward on opposite sides 60 of the beam or stretcher A, and in which is journaled a roller or wheel, e , bearing and adapted to travel on the top of the said beam or stretcher A.

Near the rear or inner end of the long arm D' are bolted frames or supports $D^4 D^4$, which depend or extend downward on opposite sides of the beam or stretcher A, and in which is journaled a roller or wheel, e' , which bears on the 70 top of the beam or stretcher A. The rollers or wheels $e e'$ bear on top of the beam or stretcher A near its opposite edges, and are provided with flanges e^2 , which project down on opposite 75 sides of the top flange, f , of the beam or stretcher A, and thus prevent lateral displacement. The frames or supports $D^2 D^3$ also carry guide-rollers e^3 , which bear on opposite 80 edges of the lower flange, f' , of the beam or stretcher A, and thus prevent canting or tilting of the sewing-machine from side to side. The frames or supports D^4 carry rollers e^4 , which bear on the under side of the top flange, 85 f , of the beam or stretcher A, and thus prevent the sewing-machine from rising.

From the above description it will be clear that the frames or supports $D^2 D^3 D^4$, with their wheels and rollers $e e' e^3 e^4$, constitute a second carriage, to which the sewing-machine 90 $D D'$ is secured, and which is capable of movement in a direction lengthwise of the beam or stretcher A, while the first carriage, with the second carriage and superposed sewing-machine mounted upon it, is capable of move- 95 ment in the direction of the rails $C C'$.

The construction of the two carriages hereinabove described is very advantageous, both because of its strength and simplicity and because of the very firm support afforded the 100 second carriage against canting or tilting from side to side and against rising up.

I will now describe how motion is imparted to the operating-shaft c of the sewing-machine.

Near the rail C is a long drum or cylinder, 105 E, which is supported in stationary bearings g , only one of which is shown, and to which rotary motion is imparted by a belt driving onto a pulley, g' , at one end of the drum, as shown in Fig. 2. Only a portion of the length 110 of this drum is shown; but it has a continuous rotary motion, and the first carriage moves above it in the direction of its length.

E' designates a pulley journaled on a stud, g^2 , projecting from the side of the beam or 115 stretcher A, and adapted to rotate freely thereon. The pulley E' moves with the first carriage, while the driving-drum E does not; but the distance between the centers of said pulley and drum is fixed and always remains the 120 same.

F designates a shaft, which is journaled in the frames $D^2 D^3$ of the second carriage, and on which are fast and loose pulleys $h h'$, and ranging vertically with said pulleys is an idler- 125 pulley, h^2 , which is adapted to turn freely on a stud projecting from the frame D^3 .

G designates a belt which passes around the drum E and the pulley E' , and which in its 130 course partly encircles the pulleys $h h^2$, as best shown in Fig. 4. This belt receives a continuous motion from the driving-drum E. Its

tension is preserved at all times, because the distance between the drum and the pulley E' is invariable, and as it passes around the pulley *h* it imparts rotary motion to the cross-shaft F. When the first carriage moves on the rails C C', the belt G and the pulleys E' *h* *h'* *h''* all move with the first and second carriages and the sewing-machine, the belt sliding along the drum E lengthwise thereof, and as the second carriage travels along the beam or stretcher A the pulleys *h* *h'* *h''* move along the upper portion of the belt G, which encircles them. Consequently it will be seen that the belt G imparts motion to the shaft F in whatsoever position the second carriage and sewing-machine may be on the beam or stretcher A. The belt G is controlled by a shipper-rod, *h''*, which extends transversely through the frames D² D³, and is attached to an arm, *h'*, projecting from a rock-shaft, *h⁵*. The said shaft has a handle, *h⁶*, whereby it may be turned, and by turning it the belt G will be shifted from the fast pulley *h* onto the loose pulley *h'*, and the shaft F will be stopped. Upon the shaft F is a pulley, *i*, from which a belt, *i'*, passes to a pulley, *i''*, on a shaft, G', which is supported in bearings at the rear end of the sewing-machine.

Upon the shaft G' is a pulley, *i''*, from which a quarter-twist belt, *i'*, drives onto a pulley, *c'*, on the needle-operating shaft *c*. By this mechanism the needle-bar *d* is operated from the shaft F during the bodily movement of the sewing-machine, and when the shaft F is stopped by shifting the belt G, as described, the bodily movement of the sewing-machine will cease, and motion will no longer be transmitted to the needle-bar *d*.

H designates a vertical shaft, which carries at its upper end a worm-wheel, *j*, and on the cross-shaft F is a worm or screw, *j'*, which gears into said wheel and imparts rotary motion to said wheel and shaft H.

The manner of supporting the vertical shaft H is best shown in Fig. 5, but also in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The frame D³ is constructed with three bearings, *k* *k'* *k''*, and the worm-wheel *j* is held between the bearings *k* *k'*. The upper portion of the shaft H is grooved at *3*, as shown in Fig. 5, and the wheel *j* has a feather or key in its bore, which enters such groove. By such means the said shaft and wheel are locked together, so that the wheel in turning turns the shaft, and yet provision is afforded for the shaft to move upward and downward through the wheel. The portion of the shaft H which passes through the bearing *k'* is surrounded by a sleeve, *l*, which is arranged between a shoulder, *l'*, near the lower end of the shaft and a collar, *l''*, fast on said shaft above the bearing *k'*.

To the sleeve *l* is connected a lever, I, fulcrumed at *l''*, and by manipulating this lever the shaft H and sleeve *l* may be raised, for a purpose soon to be described. When the lever I is in its upward position, as shown in Fig.

1, its rear end may be supported on a rest, *l'*, and its weight will thus be prevented from raising the shaft H accidentally.

At the lower end the shaft H is enlarged, so as to form a socket, *l''*, in which is fitted a stem, *m'*, which projects upward from a pinion, *m*, and is secured in said socket by a set-screw, *l''*, or other means, and just above the pinion *m*, and between it and the end of the shaft H, is a roller, *m''*, which is free to turn freely on the stem *m'*, and is slightly larger in diameter than the pinion *m*.

The pattern employed consists, essentially, of a pattern-board, J, fixed in a horizontal position below the carriages, and having fast on its upper side or face pairs of upwardly-projecting flanges *n* *n'*. (Shown in Fig. 5.) The distance between the flanges of each pair is slightly greater than the diameter of the roller *m''*, and to the flange *n* is secured a rack, *n''*, with which the pinion *m* is adapted to engage. When the shaft H and pinion *m* are lowered, as shown in the dotted portion of Fig. 5, the pinion engages with the rack *n''*, and by its rotary motion will move the shaft H bodily along the rack, the carriages permitting the universal movement of said shaft.

As before stated, the roller *m''* is somewhat larger in diameter than the pinion *m*, and yet somewhat less in diameter than the space between the flanges *n* *n'*. The roller will therefore turn in one direction or the other, as it bears against one or other of said flanges, and will at all times keep the pinion from binding on said flanges.

The pattern J, which is here shown, comprises several pairs of flanges, *n* *n'*, extending round the pattern-board, the flanges of each pair being separate and distinct from those of the other pairs, and still other pairs of flanges which are arranged to produce a foliated central figure, as seen in Fig. 2. In order to remove the pinion *m* from engagement with the rack *n''* of one pair of flanges, the shaft H and said pinion are raised, as shown in Fig. 5, and the carriages and sewing-machine may then be shifted by hand to bring the pinion into position to be dropped between the flanges of another pair. Before thus moving the shaft H the shaft F is stopped, and hence the pinion *m* is no longer rotated. K designates upright frames, to which the fabric *o* is secured in a stretched and extended condition, and in any suitable manner—as, for example, by tenter-pins on said frames—and as the second carriage and sewing-machine are moved universally by the engagement of the pinion *m* with the rack *n''* the first carriage moves freely to permit such movement, and the needle *d* of the sewing-machine D D' will reproduce on the fabric *o* the design delineated on the pattern J. The rack *n''* constitutes the pattern, and the flanges *n* *n'* constitute guides, whereby the pinion-wheel *m* is held in engagement with the pattern-rack *n''*. The long drum E enables the belt G to be moved along the drum

lengthwise thereof. A shaft having a pulley secured to it by a feather, so as to provide for the sliding of the pulley along the shaft, might be substituted for the drum, and would be the full mechanical equivalent thereof.

As I have before stated, the two parallel flanges *n n'* constitute a guide in pattern form on the pattern J, and, broadly considered, the shaft H is the device through which the said guide controls the movement of the second carriage and superposed sewing-machine. The anti-friction roller *m²* is the part which engages directly with said guide; but both said roller and the pinion *m* may to a certain extent be considered as a part of the shaft H.

I do not claim, broadly, as of my invention the combination, in a quilting-machine, with a fabric-holder and a sewing-machine, of movable supports for one of said parts, consisting of two carriages, one mounted upon the other, and movable in directions transverse to each other, the first or lower carriage being capable of free movement in order to permit a universal movement of the second or upper carriage, a guide in pattern form and a shaft or device connected with the second carriage and engaging with said guide, whereby the movements of said carriages are controlled. Neither do I claim, broadly, the combination, with a fabric-holder and a sewing-machine, of movable supports for one of said parts, consisting of two carriages, one mounted upon the other, and movable in directions transverse to each other, the first carriage being capable of free movement in order to permit a universal movement of the second carriage, and pattern mechanism connected with the second carriage for controlling the movements of said carriages, and consisting of a track in pattern form and a positively-rotated wheel or other positively-operating device engaging with the pattern-track, whereby the change in relative position between the pattern-track and engaging device will be produced by the operation of the engaging device upon the track.

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

1. In a quilting-machine, the combination of supports for a fabric, two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, and one mounted upon the other, a sewing-machine supported by the second carriage, a pattern, and means, as track *n²*, shaft H, and wheel *m*, for controlling the movements of the sewing-machine carriage, the first carriage being capable of free movement in order to permit a universal movement of the second carriage and its superposed sewing-machine, a driving-shaft in fixed bearings, and mechanism, substantially such as herein described, for transmitting rotary motion from said driving-shaft to the operating-shaft of the sewing-machine, substantially as herein set forth.

2. In a quilting-machine, the combination of a fabric-holder and a sewing-machine, movable supports for one of said parts, a pattern

comprising guide-flanges *n n'* in pattern form, a shaft, H, connected with said movable supports, and a friction-roller, *m²*, on said shaft engaging with the guide-flanges, whereby the movement of said supports may be controlled, substantially as herein described.

3. The combination, with fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric held by said fabric-supports, of movable supports for the sewing-machine, pattern mechanism for controlling the movement of the sewing-machine supports, consisting of a track in pattern form, a shaft carried by the sewing-machine supports, a wheel upon said shaft gearing with said track, and an endless belt and gearing for imparting rotary motion to the wheel upon said shaft, and for rotating the operating shaft of said sewing-machine, substantially as herein described.

4. The combination of supports for a fabric, a sewing machine for operating upon a fabric held by said supports, movable supports for said sewing-machine, a pattern, as J, on which is delineated or formed a design, arranged below the sewing-machine, and its support, and means, as shaft H, through which the pattern controls the movements of said sewing-machine, substantially as herein described.

5. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with supports for holding a fabric extended, of a carriage and rails whereon it is movable, a rotary driving-drum arranged in fixed bearings parallel with the line of movement of said carriage near one end thereof, a pulley attached to the carriage near the other end thereof, a second carriage movable upon the first carriage in directions transverse to the line of movement of said first carriage, a sewing-machine carried by said second carriage for operating on the extended fabric, pulleys attached to said second carriage, an endless belt passing around the driving-drum and the pulley of the first carriage and partly encircling the pulleys on the second carriage, and mechanism for imparting motion from the pulleys on said second carriage to the operating shaft of the sewing-machine, substantially as herein described.

6. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, and a sewing-machine mounted on the second or upper carriage, of the driving-drum E, the pulley E' on the first carriage, the pulleys *h h²* on the second carriage, the driving-belt G, passing around the drum E and the pulley E' and partly encircling the pulleys *h h²*, the horizontal cross-shaft F, on which is the pulley *h*, and mechanism for imparting motion to the operating-shaft of the sewing-machine from said shaft F, substantially as herein described.

7. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with supports for a fabric, of two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, a sewing-machine mounted upon the second or upper carriage, the driving-drum E, the pul-

ley E' on the first carriage, the cross-shaft F, the pulleys h h^2 i , movable with the second carriage, the driving-belt G, the shaft G' on the sewing-machine carriage, the pulleys i^2 i^3 , the needle-operating shaft c and its pulley c' , and the belts i' i'' , substantially as herein described.

8. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with supports for a fabric, of two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, a sewing-machine on the second or upper carriage, the cross-shaft F on the second carriage, the driving-drum E, the pulley E' on the first carriage, the pulley h upon the shaft F, and the pulley h^2 on the said second carriage, the endless driving-belt G, a pattern, as rack n^2 , arranged parallel with the plane of movement of said carriages, devices, as shaft H and wheel m , engaging with said pattern, and operated by the cross-shaft F, for effecting the movement of said sewing-machine and carriage, and mechanism whereby the operating-shaft of the sewing-machine is rotated from said shaft F, substantially as herein described.

9. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports, two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, and a sewing-machine mounted on the second carriage, of the rotary driving-drum E, the pulley E' on the first carriage, the cross-shaft F and pulleys h h^2 on said second carriage, the endless driving-belt or band G, the vertical shaft H, supported in bearings on said second carriage, the worm-wheel j and worm j' , connecting the shafts F H, a pattern arranged parallel with the plane of the movement of said carriages, and a wheel on the shaft H, engaging with the pattern, substantially as herein described.

10. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports, two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other and one mounted upon the other, and a sewing-machine on the second carriage, of the driving-drum E and the pulley E', the shafts F H, carried by the second carriage and geared together, the pulley h on the shaft F, the pulley h^2 on the second carriage, the endless belt G, the pattern J, the wheel m on the shaft H, and means for moving said shaft H axially to disengage the wheel m from the pattern J, substantially as herein described.

11. In a quilting-machine, the combination of fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric, two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other and one mounted upon the other, the shaft H, supported by the second carriage, gearing for rotating said shaft H, the worm-wheel j , arranged between the bearings k k , and locked to the shaft, the sleeve l , surrounding the shaft in the bearing k' , the lever I, connected with said sleeve for moving said sleeve and shaft axially, the wheel m on said shaft H, and a pattern-track with which said wheel may engage, substantially as herein described.

12. In a quilting-machine, the combination,

with fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric held by said supports, of pattern mechanism for controlling the relative position of the fabric and needle, consisting of the rack n^2 and the flange n' , extending parallel therewith, an axially-movable rotary shaft H, and a pinion, m , carried by said shaft, and engaging with said rack, substantially as herein described.

13. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric held by said supports, of a pattern mechanism for controlling the relative position of the fabric and needle, consisting of a rack, n^2 , and parallel flanges n n' , which project beyond said rack, an axially-movable rotary shaft, H, a pinion, m , thereon, and a friction-roller, m^2 , for operating on said flanges, substantially as herein described.

14. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric, of a pattern mechanism for controlling the relative position of the fabric and needle, consisting of a pattern-rack, an axially-movable rotary shaft H, having a socket, l^2 , in its end, and a pinion, m , having a stem, m' , detachably secured in said socket, and a friction-roller, m^2 , on said stem between the end of the shaft H and said pinion, substantially as herein described.

15. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports and a sewing-machine for operating on a fabric held by said supports, of a pattern mechanism for controlling the relative position of the fabric and needle, consisting of a pattern-rack, a shaft, H, having a pinion, m , at its end, a sleeve, l , surrounding said shaft between the shoulder l' and the collar l^2 , the bearing k' , wherein said sleeve is axially movable, the bearings k k for the said shaft, the wheel j , through which said shaft may slide, and the lever I, connected with said sleeve for moving said shaft, and the pinion carried by it axially, substantially as herein described.

16. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with fabric-supports, of a lower carriage consisting of an I-beam or stretcher A, mounted on wheels B B', the sewing-machine D D', and side frames, D² D³ D⁴ D⁴, depending on opposite sides of the beam or stretcher, and provided with rollers or wheels adapted to travel on said beam or stretcher, and constituting a second carriage, substantially as herein described.

17. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with a lower carriage consisting of the beam or stretcher A, mounted on wheels B B', of the sewing-machine D D', and the side frames, D² D³ D⁴ D⁴, and wheels or rollers e e' e^3 e^4 , adapted to said beam or stretcher, and constituting a second carriage, substantially as herein described.

18. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with two carriages movable in directions trans-

verse to each other and one mounted upon the other, of a sewing-machine on said second carriage, supports whereon a fabric may be held, a pattern, as J, arranged below said carriages, and means, as shaft H, through which said pattern controls the movements of the sewing-machine to produce a design on the fabric, substantially as herein described.

19. In a quilting-machine, the combination, with supports for a fabric, of a sewing-machine for operating on said fabric, two carriages movable in directions transverse to each other, and on one of which said sewing-machine is supported, the other carriage being capable of free movement to permit a universal movement of the sewing-machine, a pattern consisting of a track, a wheel engaging with and moving along said track by its rotation, a shaft, F, upon the sewing-machine carriage, an endless belt, G, for rotating said shaft, and

mechanism, substantially such as described, through which motion is transmitted from said shaft to the said wheel and to the operating-shaft of the sewing-machine, substantially as herein described.

20. In a quilting-machine, the combination of fabric-supports for holding a fabric extended, a sewing-machine for operating on the fabric, movable supports for the sewing-machine, a pattern, as J, having a design to be produced on the extended fabric, and arranged below the sewing-machine and directly below the extended fabric, and means, as shaft H, through which the said pattern controls the movements of the sewing-machine, substantially as herein described.

W. H. PALMER, JR.

Witnesses:

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