

April 19, 1932.

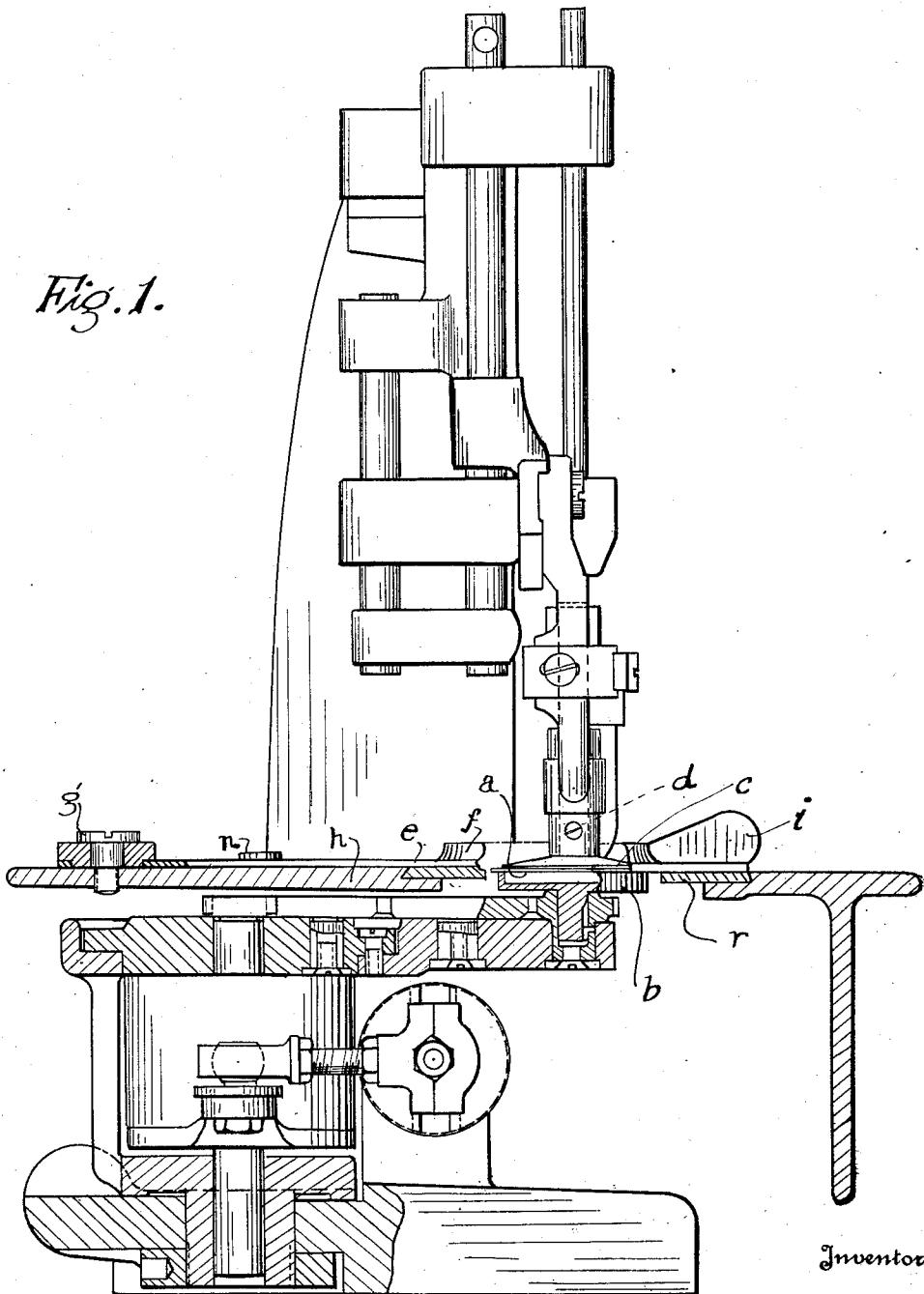
F. LUTZ

1,854,851

ARTICLE POSITIONING DEVICE FOR SEWING MACHINES

Filed July 1, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



FRIEDRICH LUTZ.

By

Sturzvant & Mason
attorneys

April 19, 1932.

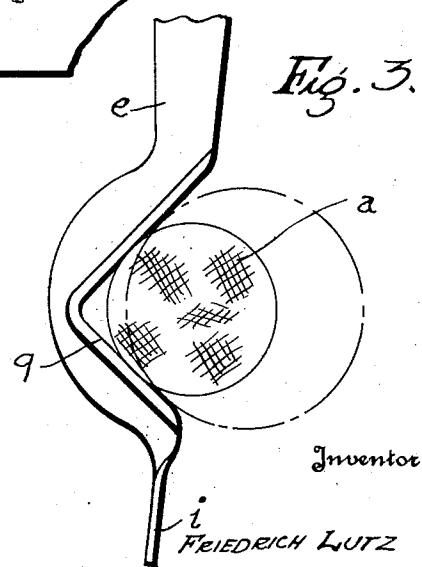
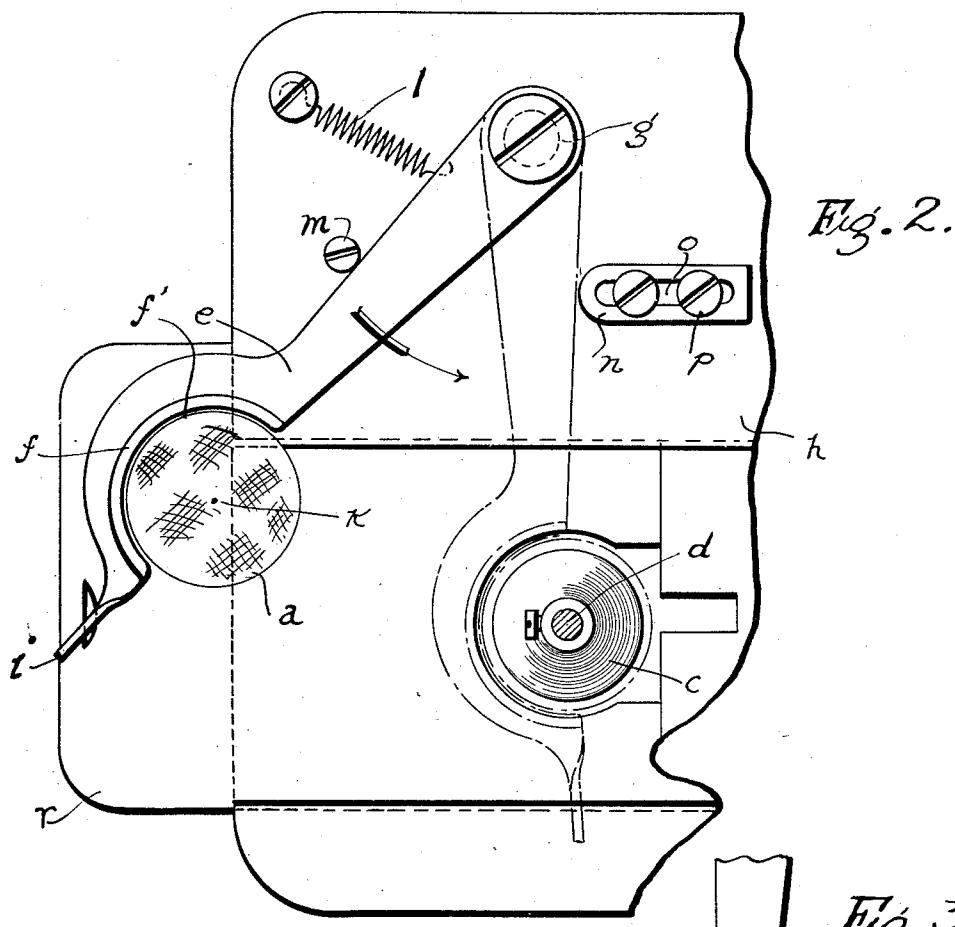
F. LUTZ

1,854,851

ARTICLE POSITIONING DEVICE FOR SEWING MACHINES

Filed July 1, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventor

FRIEDRICH LUTZ

By *Sturtevant & Mason*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FRIEDRICH LUTZ, OF STUTTGART, GERMANY, ASSIGNOR TO UNION SPECIAL MASCHINENFABRIK, G. M. B. H., OF STUTTGART, GERMANY

ARTICLE POSITIONING DEVICE FOR SEWING MACHINES

Application filed July 1, 1929, Serial No. 374,980, and in Germany January 12, 1929.

The invention relates to new and useful improvements in an article positioning device for sewing machines, and more particularly to a device for positioning an article which is circular or arcuate in configuration.

An object of the invention is to provide an article positioning device of the above character for centering a circular article relative to a feeding and directing means so that the peripheral edge of the article may be properly presented step by step to the stitching point for the covering of the edge portion thereof with stitches.

A further object of the invention is to provide a positioning device of the above character with an adjustable stop for limiting its movement toward the stitching point so that articles of different sizes may be properly centered relative to the feeding and directing means therefor.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a positioning device of the above character which is automatically held retracted away from the article while it is being stitched.

In the drawings:—

Fig. 1 is a view partly in section and partly in end elevation showing a feeding and directing mechanism for feeding and directing a circular article while it is being stitched with the improved article positioning means applied thereto.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a portion of the work support showing the clamping plates and the article positioning device in plan.

Fig. 3 is a view of a portion of the end of the article positioning device showing a slightly modified form of structure.

In my co-pending application, Serial No. 375,038, filed of even date herewith, I have shown and described a feeding mechanism for feeding and directing a circular article to a stitching mechanism so that the edge portion of the article is covered with stitches. This feeding mechanism includes cooperating clamping plates rotating about a vertical axis at one side of the stitching point. The lower clamping plate is carried by a sleeve provided with a gear and the sleeve is mounted in a bracket. Also mounted on

the bracket is a clutch which is intermittently rotated by suitable devices operated by the shaft beneath the work support. Associated with the clutch is a gear and this gear through an intermediate gear rotates the gear formed as a part of the sleeve which supports the lower clamping member. Thus it is that the article to be stitched is positively rotated about a center at one side of the stitching point.

The present invention has to do particularly with a device for positioning the article to be stitched so that it will be properly centered between these clamping plates so that when the article is turned by the clamping plates the stitches will be passed through the edge of the article at a uniform distance back from the periphery thereof. This positioning device includes an arm which is pivoted to the work support. The arm is moved by a spring away from the stitching point into contact with a stop. The arm is provided with a face which is shaped so as to place the article with the center thereof in a predetermined position on the arm relative to its pivotal support. The arm is swung manually to position the article between the clamping plates and this predetermined positioning of the article on the arm insures that the center of the article will be properly positioned between the clamping plates. An adjustable stop is provided for limiting the movement of the arm so as to center the article in the axis of rotation of the clamping plates.

Referring more in detail to the drawings, the article to be stitched is indicated at *a* and the center of the article at *b*. This article is clamped between the feed plates *c* and *b*. The upper feed plate *c* is mounted on a bracket arm *d* for free rotation and this bracket arm is carried by the presser bar so that the upper clamping plate *c* is yieldingly pressed toward the lower clamping plate and will clamp the article between said plates. The lower clamping plate *b* is carried by a sleeve mounted in a bracket and this sleeve is positively rotated by a train of gears and a clutch, all of which is fully shown, described and claimed in my co-pending application.

Mounted on the work support *h* is the article positioning device which consists of an arm *e* mounted to swing about a pivot stud *g*. A spring *l* attached to said arm and to a lug 5 on the work support *h* holds said arm in engagement with stop *m*. This arm *e* has a finger piece *i* by means of which the arm may be readily swung about its supporting pivot stud *g*. The arm *e* is formed with an offset 10 portion, the inner face of which, as shown in Fig. 2, is curved at *f'*. Along this curved edge is a raised flange *f*. The curvature of the plate is substantially the same as the curvature of the article to be stitched so that 15 the article *a* may be placed in this positioning recess in the arm *e*. The curved recess extends through an arc of approximately 180 degrees, and thus it is that the disc when positioned in the recess will be set at a fixed distance from the center of the pivot stud *g*.

The work support is provided with an extension *r* and this arm *e* moves close to the upper face of the work support, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. The article is really supported on the work support and the arm *e* is merely for the purpose of positioning the article along the work support between the feed plates *c* and *b*. The lower feed plate *b* has its upper face substantially on a level with 25 the upper face of the cloth plate *h*. When an article is to be positioned it is placed in the locating recess of the arm *e*. The upper clamping plate is raised by lifting the presser foot and then the arm *e* is swung until it is 30 brought into engagement with the adjustable stop *n* which is attached to the work support *h* and held in adjusted positions thereon by screws *p* passing through a slot *o* in this adjustable stop. This adjustable stop is 35 placed so that when the arm *e* makes contact therewith the center *k* of the disc will be in alignment with the axis of rotation of the plates *c* and *b*. The positioning recess in the arm *e* is so formed and shaped that the center 40 *k* of the article when in engagement with the recess will be the same distance from the axis of the pivot stud *g* as the rotating axis of the plates *c* and *b* from said axis of the pivot stud. Thus it is that the article will be 45 placed between the clamping plates so that the center of the article will be in the axis of rotation of the plates, and when the plates clamp the article and feed and direct the same to the stitching mechanism the needle will always enter the article a uniform distance 50 from the peripheral edge thereof.

In Fig. 3 of the drawings the arm *e* is shown as formed with a positioning recess wherein the sides of the recess are substantially 55 at right angles to each other as indicated at *q* in the drawings. It will readily be seen by the diagrammatic illustration in this figure that articles of different diameters may be gauged by these faces so that the center of 60 the article will always be substantially or

approximately a fixed distance from the axis of the pivot stud *g* and thus it is that articles of different diameters may be positioned by the same shaping of the recess in the positioning arm.

It is obvious that minor changes in the details of construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A sewing machine including in combination a work support, clamping plates for feeding and directing a circular article to the stitching mechanism, said clamping plates being mounted so as to rotate about a set axis at one side of the stitching point, a positioning arm, means for pivoting said arm to the work support, an adjustable stop for limiting the movement of said arm in a direction toward the stitching point, said arm having a positioning recess formed therein for receiving the article to be stitched, said recess being so shaped as to place a circular article in a predetermined position relative to the arm, said positioning recess being so located relative to the pivotal support for said arm that when said arm is moved into engagement with the stop the center of the article to be stitched will be positioned at the axis of rotation of the clamping plates, a spring for moving said arm away from the stitching point, and a stop for limiting the movement of said arm.

2. A sewing machine including in combination a work support, clamping plates for feeding and directing a circular article to the stitching mechanism, said clamping plates being mounted so as to rotate about a set axis at one side of the stitching point, a positioning arm, means for pivoting said arm to the work support, an adjustable stop for limiting the movement of said arm in a direction toward the stitching point, said arm having a positioning recess formed therein for receiving the article to be stitched, said recess being so shaped as to place a circular article in a predetermined position relative to the arm, said positioning recess being so located relative to the pivotal support for said arm that when said arm is moved into engagement with the stop the center of the article to be stitched will be positioned at the axis of rotation of the clamping plates, said arm being disposed adjacent the upper face of the work support whereby the article may be positioned on the work support and moved along the same by said arm, said lower clamping plate having its upper face substantially flush with the upper face of the work support.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

FRIEDRICH LUTZ.