(No Model.)

L. LAFON.

MACHINE FOR MAKING THE BODIES OF ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

No. 290,436. Patented Dec. 18, 1883.

Fig. 5

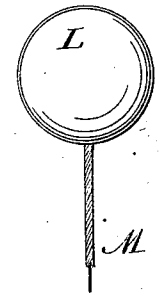


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

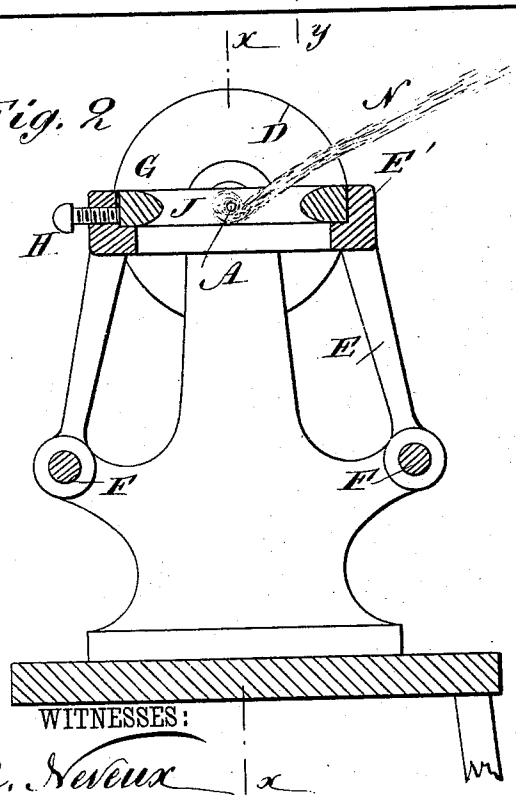


Fig. 3

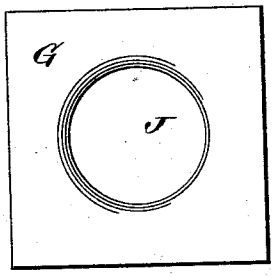
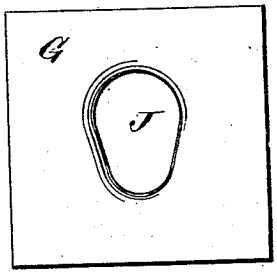


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS LAFON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MACHINE FOR MAKING THE BODIES OF ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,436, dated December 18, 1883.

Application filed October 2, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS LAFON, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Making the Bodies of Artificial Flowers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of my invention is to provide certain new and useful improvements in the machines used for making the cotton balls or bodies used in making artificial flowers, &c.

The invention consists in the combination, with a revolving needle or spindle on which the ball is formed out of fiber, of a pattern-plate provided with an aperture of the shape that the ball is to have, in which aperture the ball is revolved while being made, whereby it obtains the shape of the said aperture.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal elevation of my improved machine, parts being shown in section on the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional elevation of the same on the line *y y*, Fig. 1. Figs. 3 and 4 are plan views of the pattern-plates used in the machine. Fig. 5 is a side view of one of the balls.

A needle or spindle, A, is fastened on one end of a shaft, B, journaled in a frame, C, and provided with a belt-pulley, D, or other suitable means for revolving it. A frame, E, is held on rods or bars F in such a manner that it can slide to and from the needle A. The frame E is provided on two opposite sides with raised rim E′, forming a recess for receiving a pattern-plate, G, which can be held in place in the frame by a binding-screw, H. The pattern-plate G has an aperture, J, of the shape of the ball or body to be formed, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the edges of which aperture are rounded from the top and bottom surface of the plate. The pattern-plate is provided with an aperture, K, extending from one edge of the plate to the edge of the aperture J, through which aperture K the needle A can pass.

The operation is as follows: The frame E is moved in the direction of the arrow *a′* until the needle A passes through the aperture K and into the opening or aperture J. The needle, which is roughened at its end, is revolved rapidly, and some cotton fiber, N, or wadding is brought in contact with the roughened end of the needle, and is wound on the same very rapidly, whereby a ball will be formed. The surface of the ball or other body is shaped by coming in contact with the edges of the opening J in the pattern-plate, and thus the ball or body L will have the same configuration as the opening in the pattern-plate G. When the ball is shaped, it is provided with a mucilaginous coating while revolving, which coating hardens and keeps the ball in shape and protects its surface. The frame E is then moved in the inverse direction of the arrow, thereby withdrawing or removing the ball from the needle. A wire and a piece of rubber tubing, M, are then secured to the ball in the usual manner.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a machine for making the bodies of artificial flowers, a pattern-plate having a central aperture for shaping the balls or bodies, in combination with a revolving needle or spindle projecting into the aperture in a plane parallel with the pattern-plate, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a machine for making the bodies of artificial flowers, a pattern-plate provided with a central aperture having rounded edges, and of a form of the shape of the body to be formed, in combination with a revolving needle or spindle projecting into said aperture in a plane parallel with the pattern-plate, substantially as herein shown and described.

3. The combination, with a revolving needle or spindle on which fibrous balls or flower-bodies are formed, of a pattern-plate provided with an aperture the edges of which give the ball or body the desired shape, and with an aperture extending from one edge of the plate to the edge of the aperture in the plate, substantially as herein shown and described.

4. The combination, with the revolving needle or spindle A, of the sliding frame E, and of the plate G, adapted to be held in the frame

E, and provided with an aperture, J, and an aperture, K, extending from the edge of the plate E to the edge of the aperture J, substantially as herein shown and described.

5. The combination, with the revolving needle or spindle A, of the sliding frame E, the binding-screw H, and the pattern-plate G, having an aperture, J, and an aperture, K, extending from the edge of the plate G to the edge of the aperture J, substantially as herein shown and described.

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Witnesses:
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