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PORTABLE QUILTING APPARATUS

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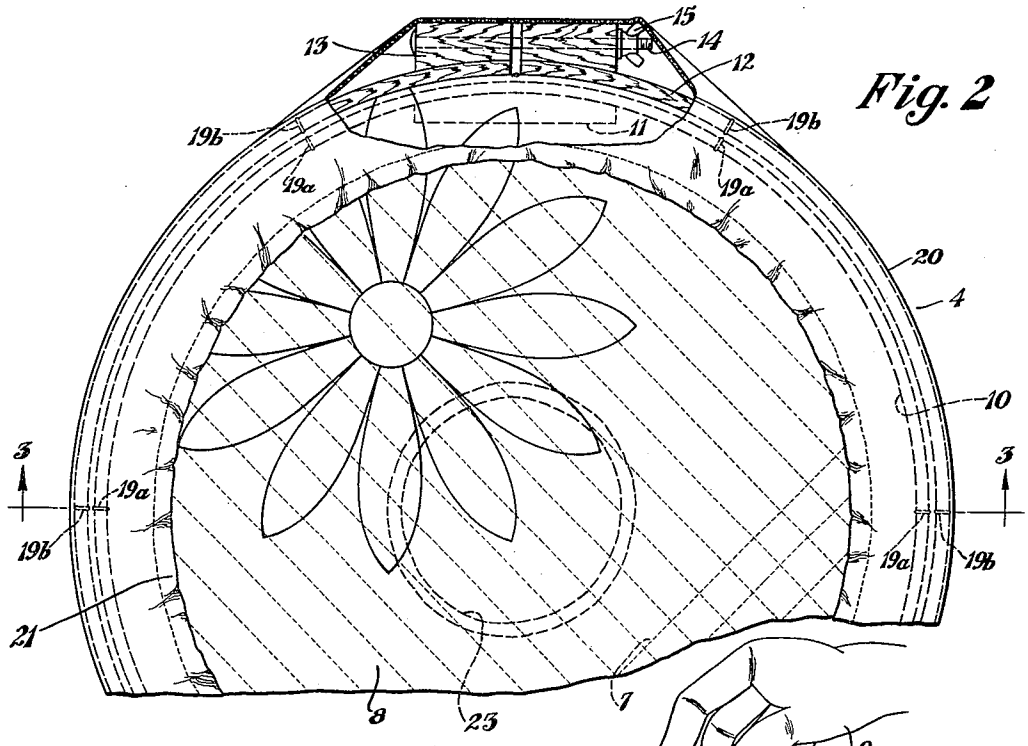


Fig. 2

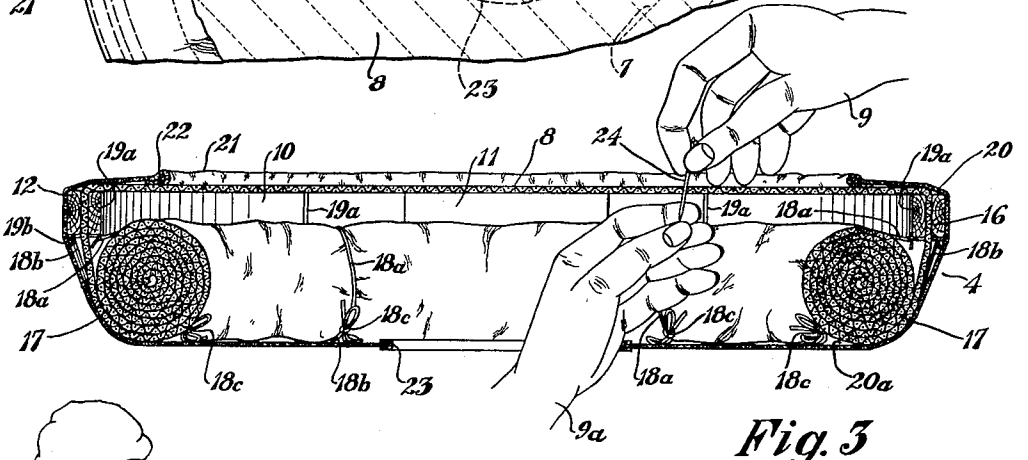


Fig. 3

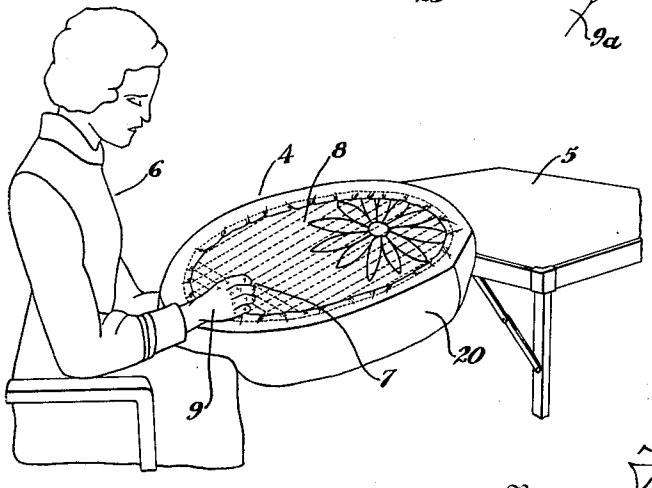


Fig. 1

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PORTABLE QUILTING APPARATUS

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6 Claims. (Cl. 45—24)

The invention relates to portable quilting apparatus, and more particularly to quilting apparatus which may be readily and conveniently used in the home or other desired place in connection with the hand making of large, quilted bedspreads, covers, or other similar articles, which quilting apparatus at all times protects the article being quilted from being soiled or becoming dirty during the long and time consuming hand quilting thereof; and which quilting apparatus at all times holds those portions of the article not being worked from interfering with the hands of the quilter, thus enabling free and convenient access by the quilter's hands to both surfaces of that portion of the article that is being worked.

When a large, plain or patterned, quilted bedspread, cover or similar article is made by hand, the pattern or fancy work usually is executed in the home, after which the article is taken to a professional quilter who quilts the article.

The professional quilter, usually if not always, stretches the article in a large quilting frame, similar to a curtain stretcher; and the quilting is therefore not only expensive, but requires considerable room or working space.

Quite recently, large hoops, preferably some two and one-half feet in diameter, have been used by those who wish to finish their own quilts at home without the expense of employing a professional quilter. The working space in the home is usually limited, thus prohibiting the use of the usual large quilting frame, but on the contrary permitting the use of such hoops.

Moreover, such quilting hoops may be moved around and used at any place or time, thus making quilting at home pleasant "pick up" work.

However, I have discovered, in using such quilting hoops, that although they are quite satisfactory from the standpoint of portability and compactness; the article being quilted may become very soiled and dirty during the long and time consuming hand quilting thereof, because the marginal or loose portions of the quilt hanging from the hoop may drag on the floor. Likewise, even if the loose marginal portions are pinned up, they may continually rub or contact with objects that will soil the article, particularly when the work is laid away.

Of course if the quilt becomes soiled or dirty, the same could be cleaned or washed; but it is very undesirable to wash or clean quilts immediately after the quilting has been completed because the batting may become matted or lumpy and the colors in colored material used in making the quilt may run.

Moreover, the loose heavy marginal portions of the article which hang from the hoop, at all times interfere with the under hand or arm of the worker, as the quilting stitches are being made; and prevent free and convenient access by the quilter's under hand to the under surface of that portion of the article that is stretched in the hoop.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide portable quilting apparatus, which at all times protects the article being quilted from becoming dirty or being soiled, and which at all times holds the heavy loose or even gathered or tied up marginal portions of the article from interfering with the hands of the quilter, thus enabling free and convenient access by the quilter's hands to the surfaces of the article being worked.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide portable quilting apparatus which has a clean and attractive appearance and which is not unsightly when laid aside.

And finally, it is an object of the present invention to provide portable quilting apparatus which is very inexpensive to make and which is pleasant and convenient to use in the home where working space is limited, for quilting large bedspreads, covers and the like.

I have discovered that these and other objects may be readily obtained by portable quilting apparatus, a preferred embodiment of which is shown in the accompanying drawing, and hereinafter described in detail, and claimed, which may be stated in general terms as including, a quilting hoop having inner and outer hoop members and means for tensioning the hoop members against each other to clamp a portion of the article being worked for stretching a portion of the same within the hoop, preferably means secured to the hoop members for gathering up the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, and a removable cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop and the heavy loose marginal portions of the article are located, said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

In the drawing,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved portable quilting apparatus showing the same in use;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view, parts being broken away and in section, of the improved portable quilting apparatus; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the improved port-

able quilting apparatus taken on the line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the various figures of the drawing.

The improved portable quilting apparatus is generally indicated at 4, and a portion of the same is shown in Fig. 1 as resting on a folding card table 5, while a woman 6 is making quilting stitches at 7 while supporting another portion of the apparatus 4 on her knees.

The improved quilting apparatus 4 preferably includes an inner ring hoop member 10, which may be formed preferably from a strip of wood and may have a reinforcing block 11 secured at the place where the ends of the wooden strip are abutted.

The hoop also includes a preferably split-ring outer hoop member 12 also preferably formed from a wooden strip, to the ends of which, wooden blocks 13, may be secured; and a bolt 14 is preferably passed through the blocks 13, whereby a thumb nut 15 may be screwed onto the bolt 14 for drawing the blocks 13 toward each other to tension the split-ring hoop member 12 and tightly clamp the portion 16 of a quilt or similar article between the inner and outer hoop members 10 and 12 whereby the portion 8 of the quilt is stretched on the hoop.

The heavy loose marginal portions of the article to be quilted, which hang from the hoop, may and preferably are folded on rolled up compactly as indicated at 17 in Fig. 3; and are preferably tied or held compactly to the hoop at several places around the periphery of the hoop as by tie strings 18*a* secured to the inner hoop member 10 at 19*a*, and tie strings 18*b* secured to the outer hoop member 12 at 19*b*, the ends of the tie strings 18*a* and 18*b* being tied together as at 18*c*.

The improved portable quilting apparatus 4 also includes a cover member 20 forming an annular pocket 20*a* in which the hoop members 10 and 12, the tensioning device 13—14—15, and the heavy loose marginal portions 17 of the article to be quilted, are located, as best shown in Fig. 3.

The upper annular edge portion of the cover 20 is preferably provided with a hem 21 forming an opening which provides access to the upper surface of the stretched portion 8 of the article to be quilted; and the hem 21 may have therein a rubber band 22 for gathering the same to removably secure the cover 20 to the hoop and article being quilted, as shown in the drawing. However, the means for securing the cover to the hoop and article is not necessarily a rubber band, for a draw string may be readily substituted for the rubber band in the hem 21.

A smaller opening 23 is preferably provided in the underside of the cover through which access may be had to the under surface of the stretched portion 8 of the article to be quilted, as best shown in Fig. 3, wherein the hand 9*a* of a worker is shown reaching within the cover to the under surface of the stretched portion 8 of the article being quilted, while the other hand 9 of the worker manipulates the needle 24 to make the quilting stitches 7.

In using the improved portable quilting apparatus, the operations are as follows:—

The quilt top, with the quilting marked thereon, is assembled to the cotton sheeting and the backing and the center portion of the assembled materials are then clamped between the hoop members 10 and 12 by the clamping device 13—14—15.

The loose marginal portions of the quilt are then folded or rolled up compactly as shown at 17 in Fig. 3, and are preferably tied or otherwise held to the hoop members 10 and 12 by any suitable means, as by the tie strings 18*a* and 18*b*.

The removable cover 20 is then slipped over the hoop and the loose marginal portions 17 of the article to be quilted so that the same are contained within the pocket 20*a* formed by the cover 20; and the portion 8 of the article to be quilted, which is stretched on the hoop, is presented for being worked upon, as best shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

As the work progresses, the cover 20 may be removed from time to time and the portion of the quilt to be worked, shifted in the hoop by removing the hoop member 12 and shifting the position of the hoop member 10.

Accordingly, the improved portable quilting apparatus at all times protects the article being quilted from becoming dirty or being soiled, because the cover member 20 entirely encloses the bulky and heavy marginal portions of the quilt.

Moreover, the marginal portions of the quilt 17 are held up out of the way, closely to the hoop within the pocket of the cover 20, thus preventing the same from interfering with the hands of the quilter.

Moreover, the large opening in the cover 20 at the upper surface of the stretched portion of the article being quilted, and the smaller opening 23 in the underside of the cover 20, enable free and convenient access at all times by the worker's hands to the surfaces of the article being quilted.

And finally, the improved portable quilting apparatus has a clean, attractive and not unsightly appearance, as shown in Fig. 1; and may be moved about and used at any height and in any position for executing plain or elaborate quilting patterns in a clean and convenient manner.

I claim:—

1. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop, means for stretching a portion of an article to be quilted on the hoop with the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, a removable cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop and the heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article are located, and said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

2. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop, means for stretching a portion of an article to be quilted on the hoop with the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, means for holding the heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article compactly to the hoop, a removable cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop and the heavy loose held marginal portions of the article are located, and said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

3. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop having inner and outer members and a tensioning device for stretching a portion of an article to be quilted on the hoop with the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, a removable cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop members and the heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article are located, and said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

4. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop having inner and outer members and a tensioning device for stretching a portion of an ar-

ticle to be quilted on the hoop with the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, means secured to both hoop members for holding the heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article compactly to the hoop, a removable cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop and the heavy loose held hanging marginal portions of the article are located, and said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

5. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop having an inner ring member, a split-ring outer member, and a tensioning device on the outer member for clamping a portion of an article to be quilted between the hoop members to stretch said portion on the hoop and leave the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop; a removable cover having an annular pocket enclosing and protecting said hoop members, tensioning device and heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article; and said covering having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

6. Portable quilting apparatus including a hoop, means for stretching a portion of an article to be quilted on the hoop with the heavy loose marginal portions of the article hanging from the hoop, a cover having an annular pocket in which the hoop and the heavy loose hanging marginal portions of the article are located, means removably securing the cover to the hoop and article, and said cover having openings providing access to both surfaces of the stretched portion of the article.

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