

United States Patent Office.

HENRY J. HANCOCK, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 67,535, dated August 6, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN SEWING MACHINES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, HENRY J. HANCOCK, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement on Sewing Machines, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a sewing machine constructed according to my improvement, and Figure 2 a horizontal section of the same through the line *z z* in fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

The nature of my invention consists in a novel means or mode of adjusting the cloth-bed or table relatively to and for operation in combination with a stationary foot or presser, to adapt the machine to various thicknesses of material, and to regulate with nicety and dispatch the hold of the work to the action of the needle in a cheap and simple but efficient manner. This my invention is shown as applied to a single-thread machine, making a chain or tambour stitch, by means of an ordinary tambour or hook-eyed needle that is made both to produce the stitch and effect the feed of the cloth, to admit of or facilitate which it is highly important that the retention of the cloth on the table, while comparatively firm, should be easy or free, and capable of nice and rapid adjustment to prevent injury to the needle and secure regularity in the feed. This my invention accomplishes in a manner that entails but a trifling expense, and is therefore applicable to cheap-built machines of the character described, and which may be used to advantage for quilting and other purposes.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, A B and C is the frame of the machine, which may be made of cast iron. Said machine may be held to or secured on a bench or table by means of a plate, *a*, projecting from the portion A of the frame and binding-screw *b*. D is the spool-spindle or support, on which the spool is allowed to freely turn. E is a rod or shaft, operated by a wheel, F, in the rear, for giving, by means of a crank or cranked formation, *e*, to said rod in front, the necessary up-and-down and lateral motions to the needle G, to work it in and out of the cloth, and effect the feed of the latter; said needle being freely connected at its top with the crank *e*, and working loosely or freely below, through a guide, *d*, and slot *e*, of a stationary foot or presser, H, attached to the portion C of the frame. This needle is of a tambour or hook-eyed construction at its point, and works through a slot in the table I, corresponding to the slot *e* of the foot H. The table I is carried by an arm, J, pivoted as at *f* to the portion A of the frame, and provided with a stem or projection *g*, the object of which will be hereinafter described.

The thread, represented by red lines in the drawing, is passed from the reel round a tension-stud or stem, *h*, and from thence passed through the eye of a spring, arranged on the under side of the cloth-table I, out to and in front of the latter. The general action is similar to that of certain other machines, the needle in its descent penetrating the cloth, and in its ascent catching the thread and forming a slack loop above the cloth, which in the next operation of the needle has the thread passed through it to produce the stitch, the needle also by its lateral movement feeding the cloth. To secure a sufficiently firm yet free and readily adjustable hold of the cloth on the table I, said table, which is carried by the lever or pivoted arm J, is raised or lowered with the greatest dispatch yet nicety, to suit different thicknesses of material or other requirements, by means of a milled or other disk, K, turning on a centre, as at *i*, on the plate *a* of the frame, and of a wedge-shaped or inclined construction on its upper face, the same being arranged below the stem *g* of the arm J, so that on turning the disk in a suitable direction the table I is raised, or, by turning it in an opposite direction, lowered by its weight, and that of the arm J, and in both positions of adjustments a firm basis or support given to the table.

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

The combination of the wedge-shaped adjustable disk K with the raising and lowering cloth-table I, and stationary foot or presser H, for operation together substantially as specified and for the purpose or purposes herein set forth.

Witnesses:

J. W. COOMBS,
G. W. REED.

HENRY J. HANCOCK.