April 15, 1969 L. A. LINSTEAD 3,438,223

STITCH HOLDER

Filed Aug. 22, 1967

FIG. 1

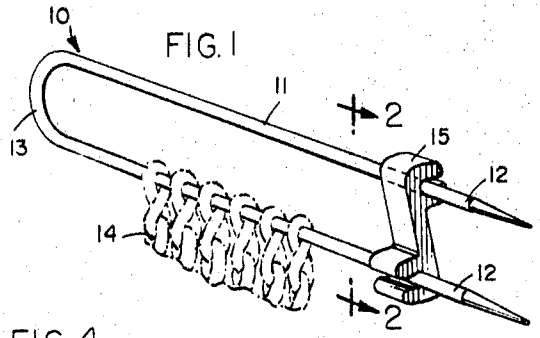


FIG. 2

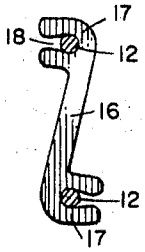


FIG. 3

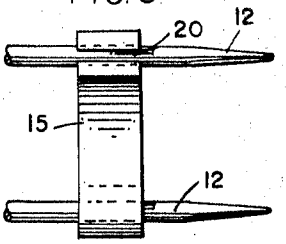


FIG. 4

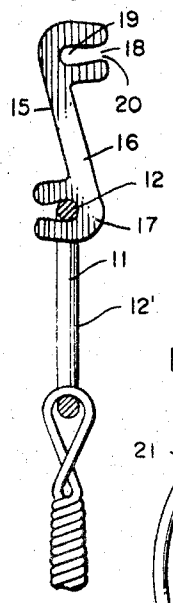


FIG. 5

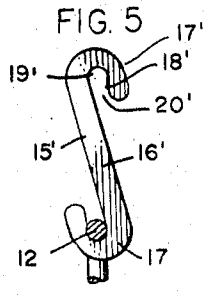


FIG. 6

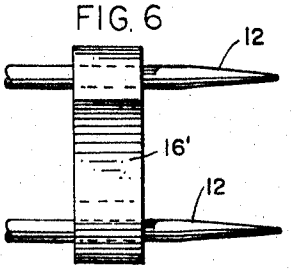


FIG. 7

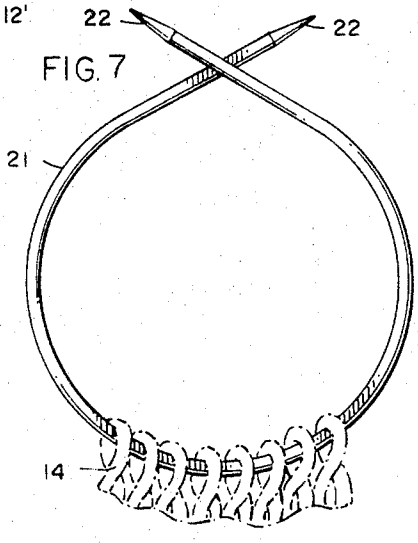


FIG. 10

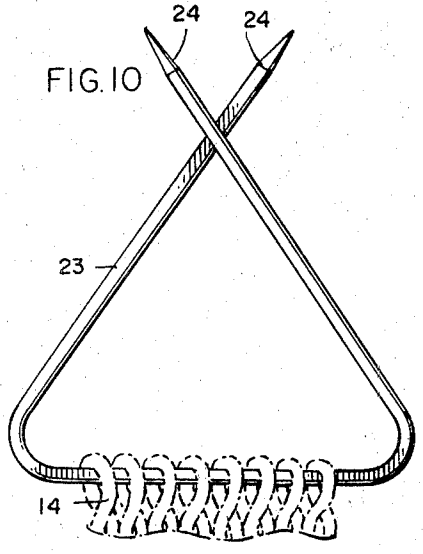


FIG. 8

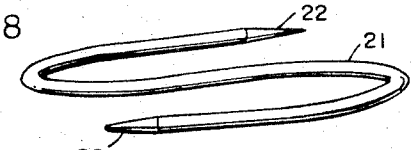


FIG. 9

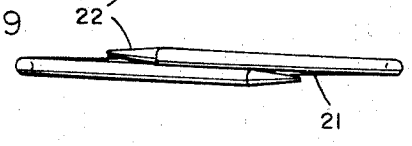


FIG. 11

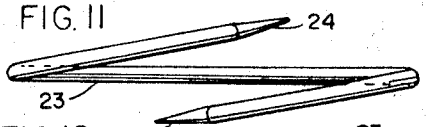
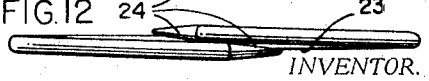


FIG. 12



INVENTOR.

LORRAINE A. LINSTEAD

BY

Dawson, Tilton, Fallon & Lungmus

ATT'YS

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STITCH HOLDER

Lorraine A. Linstead, Rockford, Ill., assignor to The Boye Needle Company, Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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Int. Cl. D04b 35/02
U.S. Cl. 66—1 7 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A two-way stitch holder which permits stitches to be knitted off both ends of the holder. The stitch holder includes a generally loop-shaped needle providing a pair of needle ends and means providing a releasable engagement between each of the needle ends. When the needle ends are released, the stitches may then be knitted off of either end as desired.

Background of the invention

This invention relates to stitch holders for use in knitting. Stitch holders are commonly used in knitting an article to hold stitches in one part of the piece while another part is being knitted. Stitch holders are also useful in saving stitches when the knitting is interrupted before the article can be finished. When it is desired to continue knitting the stitches which are on the stitch holder, these stitches may be knitted off the holder, and for this purpose the stitch holder is usually provided with a needle-like end.

The difficulty with prior stitch holders is that the stitches can usually be knitted off only one end of the stitch holder. It is frequently desirable to remove the stitches from a different end of the holder than the end on which the stitches were inserted. For this reason, it is desirable to provide a two-way stitch holder so that the stitches may be removed from either end of the holder.

Other two-way stitch holders have been provided, but these holders generally include rather cumbersome end protecting means which interfere with the facility with which the stitches may be removed from the holder. It is also desirable that the end protecting means may be removed from the desired holder end with one hand so that the other hand may be utilized to hold a similar holder or knitting needle.

Summary of the invention

The inventive stitch holder permits the stitches to be removed from either end of the holder. The needle ends can be disengaged from the end protecting means with one hand, and the protecting means will not interfere with the removal of the stitches.

Description of the drawing

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the inventive stitch holder;

FIG. 2 is an end view of the stitch holder of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary elevational view of the stitch holder of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 2 showing one end of the needle of the stitch holder disengaged from the end protecting means;

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view of another embodiment of the end protecting means;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary elevational view of the stitch holder with the end protecting means of FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is an elevational view of an alternative embodiment of a two-way stitch holder;

FIG. 8 is a top plan view of the stitch holder of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a view similar to FIG. 8 showing the stitch holder engaged;

FIG. 10 is an elevational view of still another embodiment of the stitch holder;

FIG. 11 is a top plan view of the stitch holder of FIG. 10; and

FIG. 12 is a view similar to FIG. 11 showing the stitch holder engaged.

Description of preferred embodiments

Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 2, the numeral **10** designates generally a two-way stitch holder. The stitch holder **10** includes a generally loop-shaped or U-shaped needle **11** having a pair of needle ends **12** and a curved intermediate portion **13**. Needle **11** is advantageously made of relatively resilient metal which may be permanently bent into the shape illustrated in FIG. 1. Needle ends **12** are preferably tapered to facilitate insertion of a row of stitches **14** on the needle holder and its removal therefrom.

The stitches **14** are retained on the stitch holder by end protecting means or end connector **15**. End connector **15** is seen to be generally S-shaped and includes a relatively straight body portion **16** and a pair of hooked portions **17** extending from each end of the body portion **16**, but in opposite directions. Each hooked portion is so shaped to provide a slot **18** with a generally round throat portion **19** and a restricted mouth portion **20** (FIG. 4). The slots **18** are relatively straight and extend generally parallel to each other but in opposite directions from the body portion **16**.

The hooked portion is relatively resilient and the mouth portion **20** is somewhat narrower than the diameter of the needle **11** so that as the needle is forced through the mouth portion into the throat portion of the slot, the hooked portion is resiliently deformed outwardly and then returns to clampingly retain the needle within the slot **18**. The diameter of the generally round throat portion **19** is slightly less than that of the needle **11** so that the throat portion frictionally engages the needle. This frictional engagement permits the end connector **15** to be selectively positioned radially outwardly of one of the needle ends **12** as illustrated in FIG. 4. With the end connector so positioned, the other needle end may readily be used for knitting without interference from the connector.

One of the needle ends **12** may be disengaged from the connector **15** by grasping both needle ends by the fingers of one hand with the slot engaging the desired needle end extending toward the thumb of the hand. By pressing the thumb downwardly against the body portion **16** of the connector, the desired end may be removed from the slot. Similarly, the end connector may be repositioned on the free needle end by one hand by pressing the needle end into the slot **18**.

Once the desired needle end has been disengaged from the end connector, the stitches **14** may be knitted from that end. The stitches may be removed from either end regardless of the end on which they were inserted merely by pushing the stitches around the curved intermediate portion **13** toward the desired needle end.

The end connector **15'** illustrated in FIG. 5 is also seen to be generally S-shaped and includes a body portion **16'** and hooked portions **17'**. Each of the hooked portions **17'** is essentially a reverse bend and provides a slot **18'** having a generally round throat portion **19'** and a restricted mouth portion **20'**. The slots **18'** extend generally parallel with each other but in opposite directions. Again, both the mouth portion **20'** and the throat portion **19'** are preferably narrower than the diameter of the needle **11**.

One of the needle ends may be disengaged from the connector merely by grasping the other needle end in the fingers of one hand and pushing the first end downwardly

by the thumb past the mouth portion **20'** of the slot **18'**. As the needle end emerges from the slot **18'**, the end connector is automatically forced away from that needle end by virtue of the downward force exerted against the body portion **16** of the connection, which bisects a line between the two needle ends.

The stitch holder **15'** may also be closed by one hand after stitches have been inserted thereon by squeezing the needle ends together to bring the free end adjacent to the mouth portion of the slot and then allowing the resilience of the needle to force the needle end into the slot. For this purpose, the end of the hooked portion may advantageously be flared outwardly as at **21'** to facilitate insertion.

Both of the end connectors **15** and **15'** may advantageously be molded from plastic. Any plastic with suitable resilience to permit the needle to pass the mouth portion of the slot may be used. Alternatively, the end connectors may be formed from spring metal. When both ends of the needle are engaged by the connector, a closed stitch-holding loop is formed by the needle and the connector.

Other embodiments of the needle holder are illustrated in FIGS. 7–12. FIG. 7 illustratess a generally loop-shaped or circular stitch holder **21** having a pair of needle ends **22**. The stitch holder **21** is preferably made of a relatively resilient metal and is bent so that in the unflexed state the needle ends are separated as illustrated in FIG. 8, which is a top view of FIG. 7. In this position, stitches **14** may readily be inserted on either of the needle ends **22**, after which the needle ends **22** may be brought together and crossed over each other as in FIG. 9. The resilience of the stitch holder **21** causes the needle ends **22** to press against each other in an effort to return to the unflexed state, thereby maintaining the stitches on the holder and providing a releasable engagement between the ends.

Similarly, FIG. 10 illustrates stitch holder **23** having a generally looped shape in the form of a triangle and including a pair of needle ends **24**. In the unflexed position illustrated in FIG. 11, the needle ends **24** are separated, and after stitches **14** are inserted on the stitch holder, the needle ends may be crossed and brought into releasable engagement as in FIG. 12.

While in the foregoing specification, detailed descriptions of specific embodiments of my invention were set forth for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that many of the details herein given may be varied considerably by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A two-way stitch holder comprising a generally U-shaped needle having a curved intermediate portion and a pair of end portions terminating in tapered ends, and an end connector, said connector being releasably engaged with each of said end portions and including an elongated body portion extending generally transversely between said end portions and a pair of hook portions, each of said hook portions being provided with a slot extending generally transversely of said body portion, each slot opening in a direction generally opposite to that of the other slot and receiving one of said end portions between the associated tapered end and said needle curved portion.

2. The stitch holder of claim **1** in which said connector is generally S-shaped, said slots lying on opposite sides of said body portion.

3. The stitch holder of claim **2** in which said slots are provided by a reverse bend in said connector at each end of said body portion.

4. A two-way stitch holder comprising a generally U-shaped needle providing a pair of needle ends, and an end connector, said connector being releasably engaged with each of said needle ends, said connector including an elongated body portion and a pair of hooked portions extending from opposite ends of said body portion, each of said hooked portions being provided with a slot, each of said slots being provided with a mouth portion and a throat portion, said mouth portions being narrower than the diameter of said needle ends and being resiliently deformable to permit said needle ends to pass into and out of said throat portions, each of said throat portions being adapted to frictionally engage a needle end to position said connector radially outwardly of said needle end.

5. The stitch holder of claim **4** in which said slots extend generally parallel to each other but in opposite directions.

6. The stitch holder of claim **4** in which said connector is generally S-shaped, said slots lying on opposite sides of said body portion.

7. The stitch holder of claim **6** in which said slots extend generally parallel to each other but in opposite directions.

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RONALD FELDBAUM, *Primary Examiner.*

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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