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(54) IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO ZIG-ZAG SEWING
 MACHINES

(71) We, HUSQVARNA AB a Swedish company of Facks-561 01 Huskvarna, Sweden, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to control means in sewing machines for sewing fancy seams.

When sewing fancy seams and cyclic seams, such as button-holes for example, it is often necessary to sew a sample seam on a spare piece of cloth before commencing to sew the actual seam, the tension of the upper thread of the sewing machine, the length of stitch etc. being adjusted during the sample-sewing operation to values corresponding to a seam of the desired quality. To facilitate these adjustments, the sewing machine is normally provided with controls having symbols thereon which indicate a suitable setting of the control for the pattern of seam in question. With the majority of sewing machines, some of the controls must be re-set, which is both time consuming and troublesome, when desiring to switch between different seam patterns.

An object of the present invention is to provide for automatic adjustment to correct values, with respect to stitch-length and the tension of the upper thread, for fancy patterns or button-holes when the setting knob for these seams is rotated to the symbols intended for said seams. The adjustment is made in complete independence upon the existing setting of the control for stitch-length and thread-tension. A sewing machine having these properties shall, in accordance with the invention, be constructed in accordance with the characterising clause of claim 1.

An embodiment of a sewing machine

according to the invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a vertical projection of the front side of the machine;

Figure 2 is a vertical projection of the rear side of the machine with a wall removed;

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken through the line A-A in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken through the line B-B in Figure 2; and

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view taken through the line C-C in Figure 2.

As will be evident from the following description, the illustrated machine comprises elements which are known in sewing machines of conventional constructions; thus the machine comprises press-rod guides and needle-bar guides, thread-tension mechanisms, an upper spindle unit, a stitch-length guide, a guide for zig-zag seams, under-arm spindles and a shuttle mechanism. Of these main elements, the thread-tension and stitch-length mechanisms are of particular interest with respect to the control means according to the invention.

The thread-tension mechanism has a holder 1 for a thread brake comprising two plates 2 arranged on a shaft 3. The tension is produced by a pressbar 4 and a coil spring 5 which urges the plates together in the holder, via an angled plate 6. The pressbar 4 has an elongate hole 7 through which a fixing guide pin 8 extends, and a curve-follower 9. A setting knob 10 is mounted on the front side 11 of the body of the sewing machine. The inner end of the setting knob 10 has the form of a curve-spiral 12 in which the curve-follower extends. When the knob is rotated the follower slides on the curve and displaces the rod in its longitudinal direction. The spring force is influenced by the position of the rod, and the thread tension, which is determined by

the pressure between the plates 2, can thus be adjusted smoothly by means of the knob 10, the position of which can be read off from a scale 13.

- 5 Arranged in the under-arm 14 is a shuttle mechanism, a feeder 15 and a stitch plate, these elements being arranged as in a conventional sewing machine. The elements are generally known and need no describing.
- 10 The feeder, which executes a substantially rectangular pattern of movement, has two drive members, one for horizontal movement and one for vertical movement. The horizontal movement, which shall be
- 15 variable, is effected by means of a linkage system 16, 17, a regulatable cullis 18 and an eccentric drive means 19 on the over-arm spindle 20 of the machine, said drive means 19 causing the feed movement. The
- 20 vertical movement is constant and is effected by means of a further link system 21, 22 and a further eccentric member 23 on the over-arm spindle. The drive means 19, 23 are single-acting, and the reciprocating
- 25 movements are effected by means of springs 24, 25. A feeder drive mechanism of this description is known from other sewing machine constructions.

- The length of stitch is set by rotating a
- 30 knob 26 on the front side of the machine. The knob is provided with an internal screw thread in which a screw-peg 27 is displaced axially when the knob is turned. The outwardly projecting end of the peg presses
- 35 against a lever arm 28 having a hooked portion which engages around a shaft 29, said shaft forming the pivot axis of the cullis 18. The cullis and the lever arm are joined by means of a pin 30, whereby
- 40 setting movements are transmitted from the knob to the cullis via the pin and the lever arm.

- The needle bar 31 of a zig-zag sewing machine of the type intended here is
- 45 journaled in a swing arm 32 having a pivot axis 33. The needle bar is operated in a conventional manner by a crank 34 at the end of the over-arm spindle 20. The swing-arm of the needle-bar is biased on one side
- 50 by a spring which sets the bar in its left starting position shown in Figure 2. The needle bar is guided from this starting position in zig-zag movements in a varying pattern by means of the zig-zag guide 35
- 55 of the machine, in which guide a cam-plate set, cam followers and transmission links are incorporated in the normal manner.

- A zig-zag seam is set by rotating a knob 36 on the front side of the machine, this
- 60 rotary movement being transmitted by means of gears 37, 38 to an axial cam plate 39 which sets the cam-set link 40 to different positions. In the particular position corresponding to the set seam
- 65 pattern, a cam follower 41 will be on the

same level as the corresponding cam plate in the set of cam plates 42, which cam plate guides the needle bar laterally via a link 43.

To enable fancy seams to be selected automatically, in accordance with the

70 present invention, the aforescribed machine comprises a series of elements and functions, which elements and functions will now be described. By way of examples of symbols used for sewing a fancy seam by

75 means of the elements incorporated by the invention, the scale around the knob 36 has been given three patterns 44, 45, 46 of button holes. Setting of the knob to these symbols represents different phases of a

80 button hole seam, the tension of the thread and the length of stitch being unchanged during the sewing operation. As mentioned in the introduction, the thread tension and

85 stitch length are set independently of the existing position of the knobs 10 and 26. This means that the pressure exerted by the spring 5 on the plate 2 and the setting force exerted by the lever arm 28 on the

90 cullis 18 at the beginning of said sewing operation must be eliminated, and the values of thread tensioning force and setting force on the cullis must be set for the seam to be sewn. For this purpose the

95 angle plate 6 and lever arm 28 constitute coupling and uncoupling means.

The pressure exerted on the plates 2 by the springs 5 is removed by moving the angled plate 6, Figure 3, to the left against the pressure of spring 5, whereupon an

100 angle-plate spring 47 mounted on the angled plate 6 is released from its position clamped between the angled plate and the plates 2 and causes a thread-tensioning force to be exerted on the plates. This left-

105 ward movement of the angled plate takes place when a cam plate 48 (Figures 2 and 3) on the axial cam plate 49, during rotation thereof, urges two links 49, 50, of which the first has an attachment 51 for the

110 angle plate, to the left. The links are mounted on guide pins 52, 53 and have elongate holes which permit the links to be displaced in the longitudinal direction. Normally the links are free vis-a-vis each

115 other, although when the right hand region 54 of the cam plate 48 acts on the end of link 50, this passes to the end of the link 49, whereupon said link is also moved to the left.

120 If the manual setting of the knob 10 has been such that the spring 5 exerts a smaller force on the plate than the spring 47 will exert, an additional spring force must be included, this force being obtained from a

125 leaf spring 55 having a free end 56 which is extended over the ends of the links and rests against a cam 57, which cam also rotates together with the axial cam plate 39. As will be seen from Figure 3, the end of

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spring 55 lies in a lower region of the cam plate 57, at the same time as the ends of the links are lifted out of the cam plate 48. The links are therewith held in a stable 5 position, which provides the spring 47 with a fixed starting point from which it can exert its spring force against the plate 2. When the knob 36 is rotated beyond the symbols 44-46, the region 54 has passed the 10 link ends, so that the links are free. Further, the spring 47 has a limited active length, owing to the fact that a hook 58 thereon engages around the angle plate and a certain extension of the spring will cause the same 15 to abut said angle plate. In this way there is obtained a still smaller thread-tensioning force against the plates 2 than that exerted by the spring 47, whilst the spring 5 can be set by means of the knob 10.

20 The manual setting of the cullis 18 is cancelled and the shortest stitch length of which the machine is capable is set when the knob 36 is set to the symbols 44-46. The cullis is acted upon by a spring 59 which 25 attempts to set the cullis to the largest possible stitch length; although not longer than that permitted by the lever arm 28 and the knob 26. The cullis can also be set to a shorter stitch length than that set on the 30 knob by rotating the cullis against the action of spring 59. This possibility is utilized when automatically setting the stitch length, as mentioned in the introduction.

35 As will be seen from Figure 4, a lever arm 60 is journaled beneath a cam plate 61, which rotates together with the axial cam plate 39 and acts upon the lever arm against the action of a spring 63 by means 40 of a cam follower 62. When the follower enters the lowest region of the cam plates, which occurs when the knob 36 is set to the symbols 44-46, the spring 63 pulls the arm 60 clockwise in Figure 4. 45 This movement is transmitted to the cullis via a finger 64 against which the arm 60 lies, whereupon the cullis (Figure 3) is rotated against the action of the spring 59.

The pivot axis 29 of the cullis is extended 50 to the right in Figure 3 and carries a stirrup 65 which is axially displaceable on the shaft against the action of the spring 66, which spring biases the stirrup to the right in the Figure. A guide pin 67 passes 55 through the shaft and an elongate hole in the stirrup, and prevents the stirrup from swinging on the shaft. The aforementioned link 50 has a screw pin 68 in the proximity of the stirrup and when the link is moved 60 to the left, the stirrup is moved by said pin towards the cullis. During this movement, which takes place simultaneously with the 65 aforementioned rotation of the cullis, the stirrup and the cullis are coupled together by means of hooks 29 on said cullis and

setting screws 70 on the stirrup. The position of the cullis is thereby fixed and set to a value which provides the length of stitch intended for the seam pattern in question. The object of the spring 66 is to re-set 70 the stirrup to the starting position, i.e. to uncouple the same from the cullis subsequent to the knob 36 having been rotated beyond the symbols 44-46. The stitch length is then again set to the value 75 shown by the knob 26.

The aforescribed embodiment of the sewing machine is an example of how the invention can be put into effect. It will be readily understood that several of the 80 functions or positions can be carried out or set with different devices, for example one of the setting screws 70 may have a position which permits back-feeding and the other a position for forward-feeding of 85 the cloth. The features associated with the invention are defined in the claims.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A zig-zag sewing machine having a plurality of rotary selectively connectable 90 cam plates with a cam follower for guiding a laterally moveable needle bar to produce fancy seams, seam pattern selecting means for selecting one of the cam plates, setting means for regulating the forward feed 95 and feed direction of the cloth, and means for regulating the over-thread tension, characterised in that the seam pattern selecting means includes a setting region in which, in addition to the selection of a 100 pattern, the controls for the cloth feed and over-thread tension are arranged to be activated and set to predetermined values by means for transmitting movement from the pattern selecting means directly to an 105 adjustable cullis and thread brake respectively, irrespective of the setting positions of respective setting means for said cullis and brake.

2. A sewing machine according to Claim 110 1, characterised in that the pattern selecting means are arranged such that movement of said selecting means beyond said setting region allows the cullis and the thread brake to reset to values determined by their 115 respective setting means.

3. A sewing machine according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterised in that said setting region relates to button hole seams, and the movement transmission means are 120 arranged to co-act so that the left starting position and right starting position for a zig-zag seam corresponds to a feed of the same magnitude but in opposite directions when the stitch breadth is approximately 125 half the maximum.

4. A sewing machine according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that said movement transmission means comprises cam plates and cam followers with 130

associated links, and coupling and uncoupling means which are manoeuvrable by said links to cancel the settings set by the setting means for the cullis and thread brake respectively.

5 5. A sewing machine according to Claim 4, characterised in that said transmission means comprises at least one extra cam plate and cam follower and associated link which
10 is arranged to be activated in said setting region to transfer setting movements to the cullis.

6. A sewing machine according to Claim 5, characterised in that predetermined

values of the cullis setting are adjustable 15 by means of screws.

7. A sewing machine according to Claim 6, characterised in that said predetermined values can be set for both forward feed and back feed. 20

8. A sewing machine constructed, arranged and adapted to operate substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

SOMMERVILLE & RUSHTON

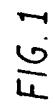
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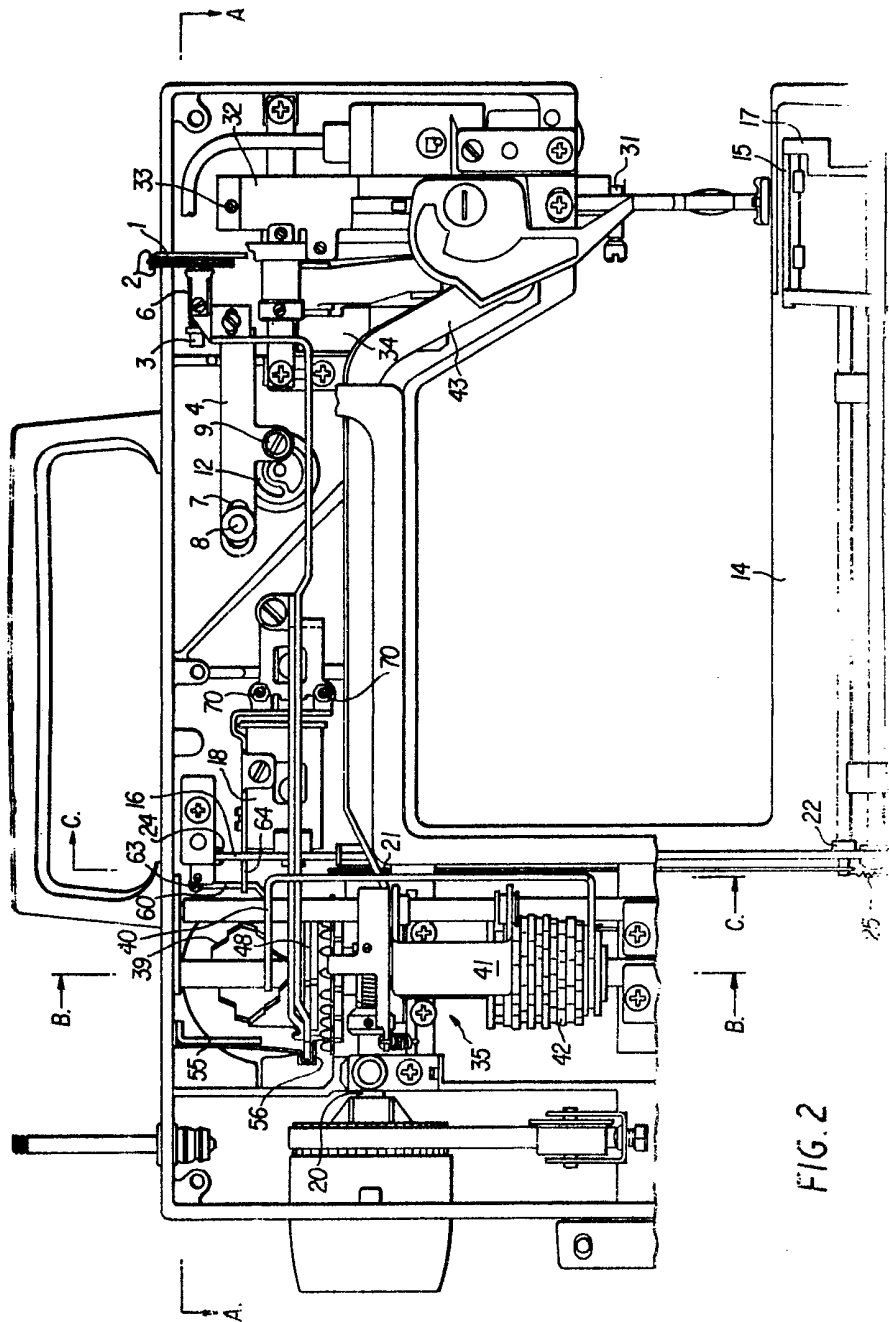
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale
Sheet 1





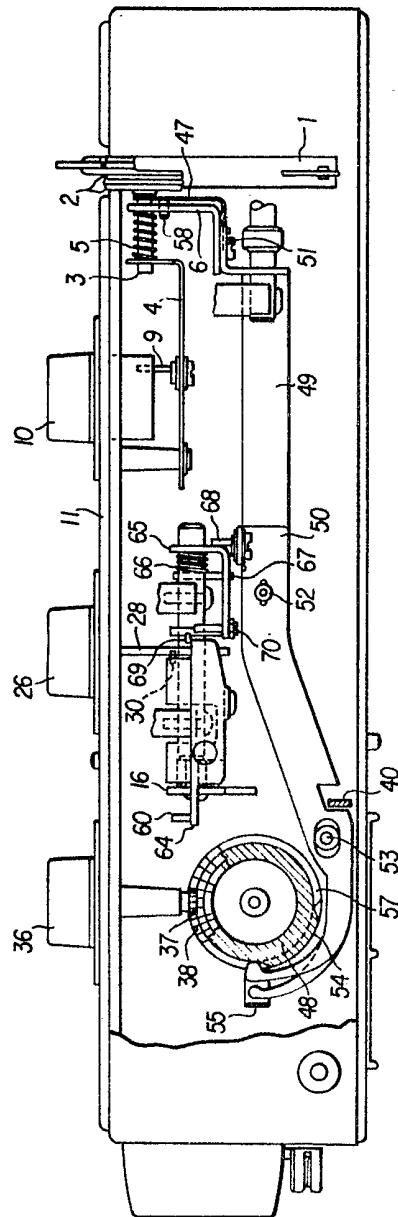


FIG. 3

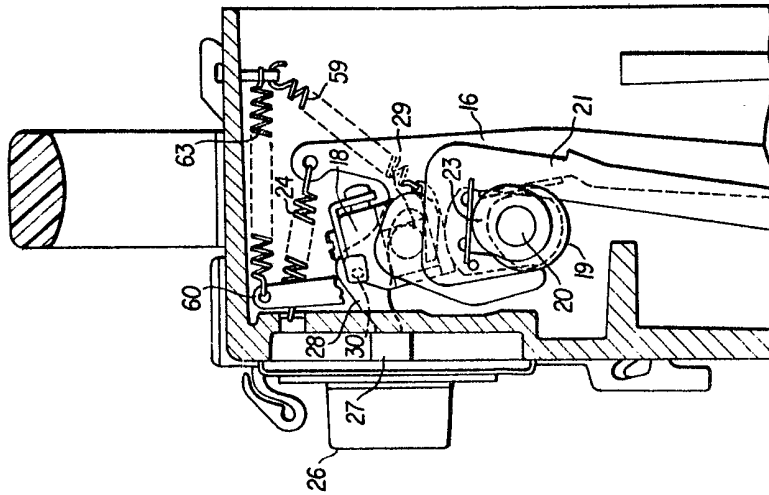


FIG. 5

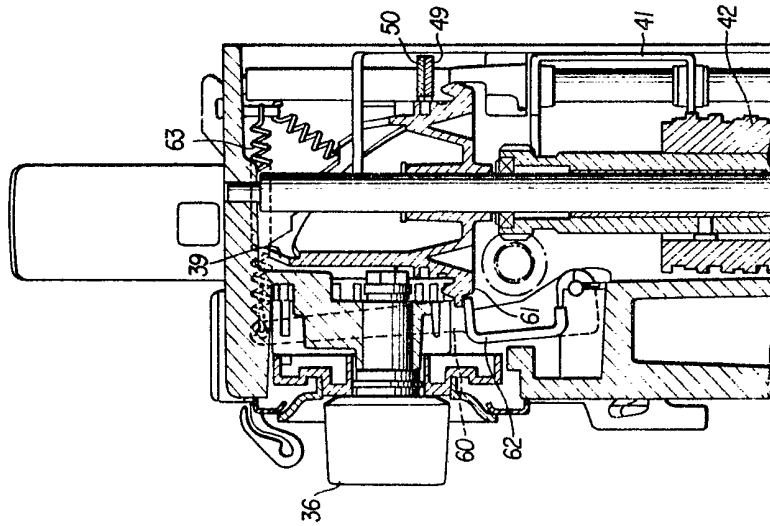


FIG. 4