Sept. 2, 1952 D. GOLDBERG 2,609,129

FABRIC EDGE-FOLDING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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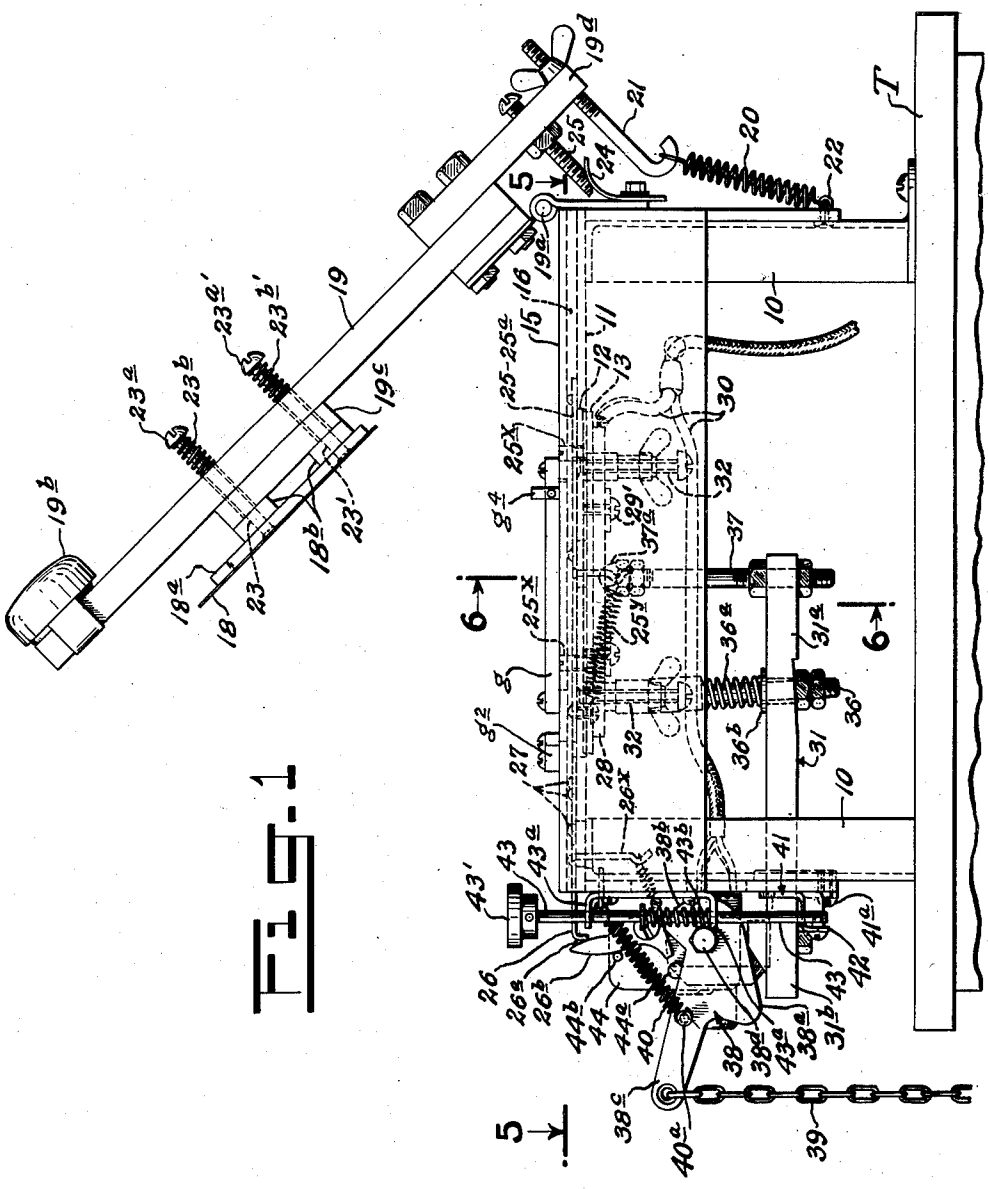


FIG. 1

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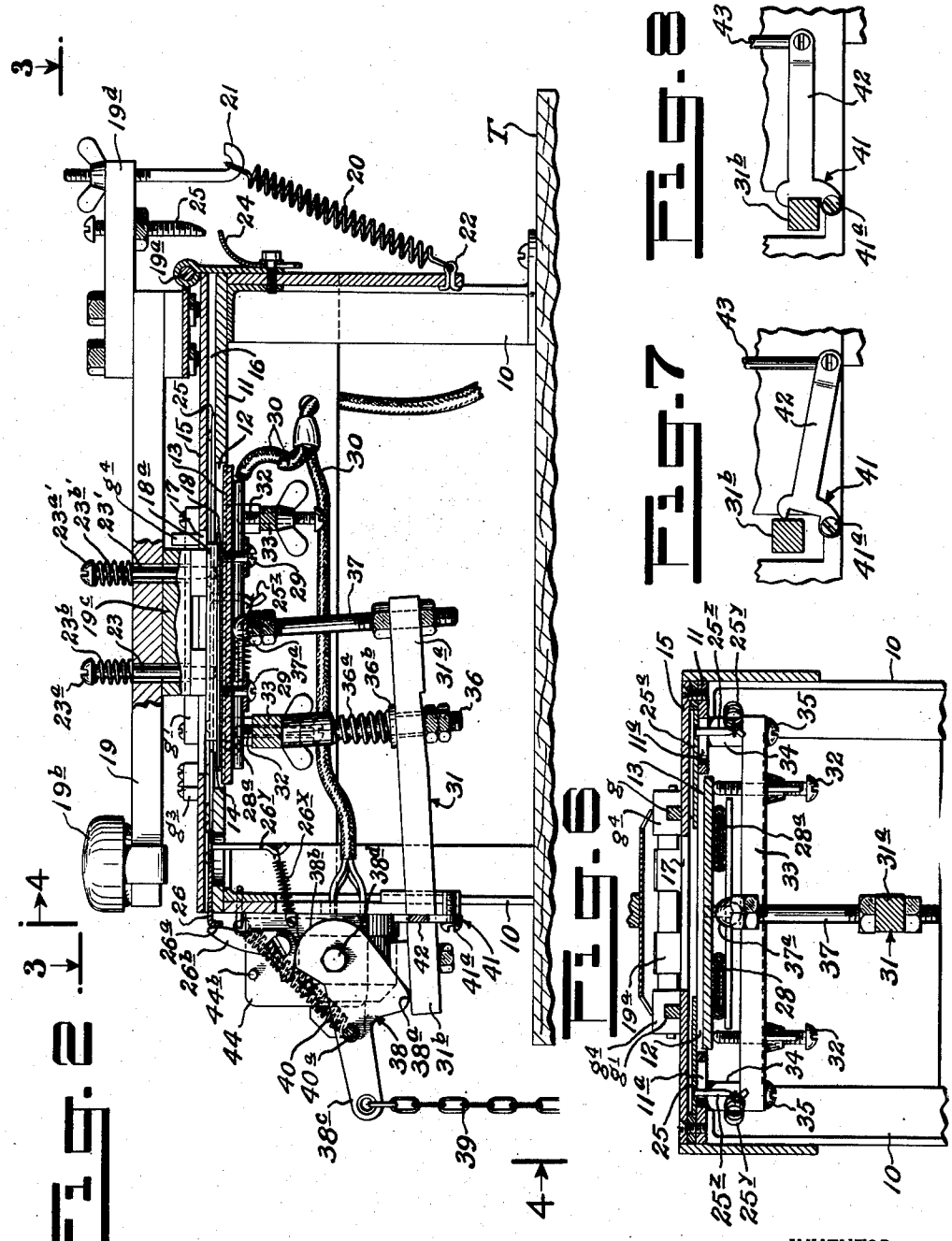


FIG. 2

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

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FABRIC EDGE-FOLDING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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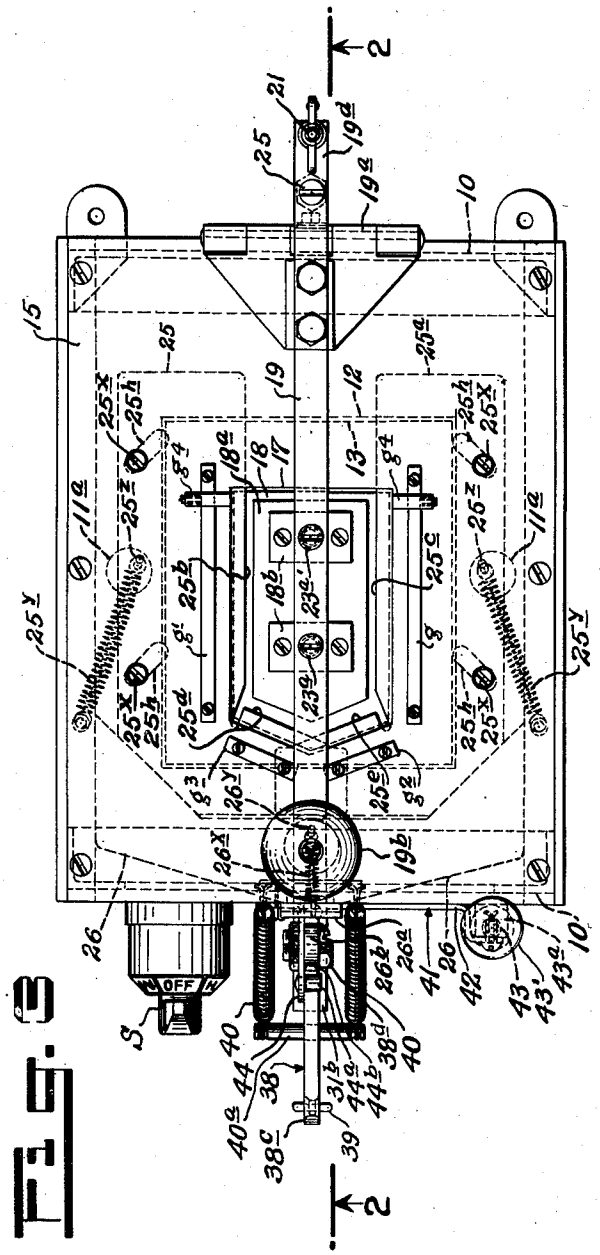


FIG. 9

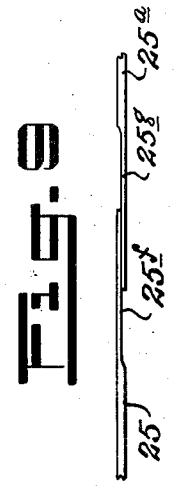


FIG. 10

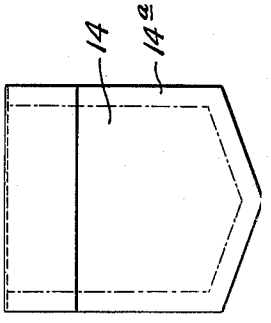
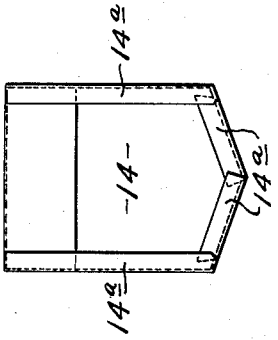


FIG. 11



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FABRIC EDGE-FOLDING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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Fig. 4

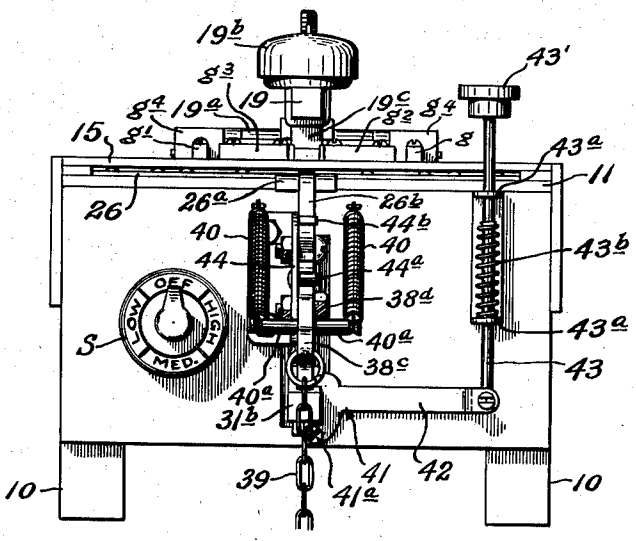
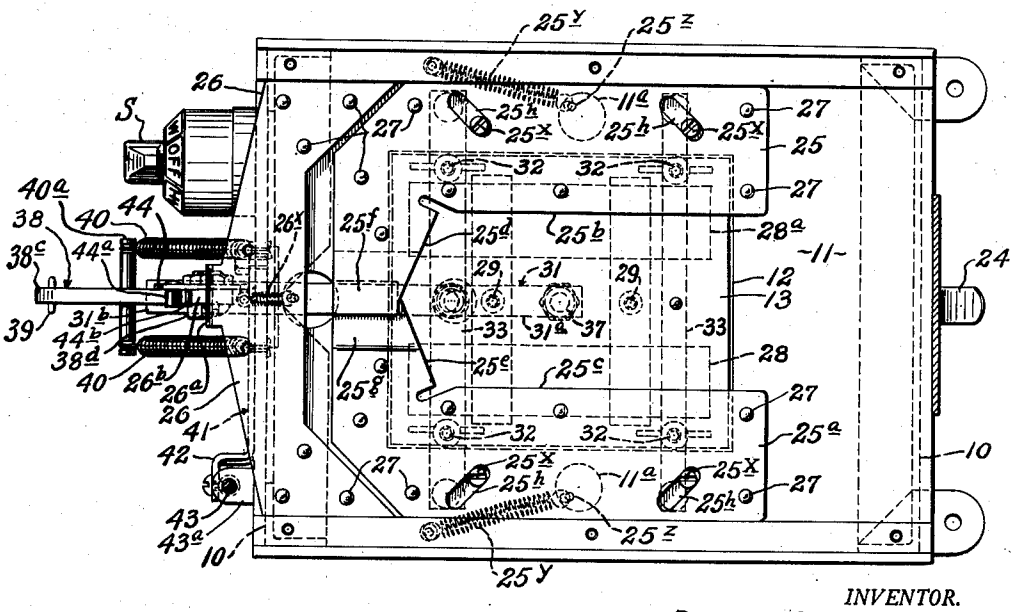


Fig. 5



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Patented Sept. 2, 1952

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,609,129

FABRIC EDGE-FOLDING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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Application October 29, 1949, Serial No. 124,299

9 Claims. (Cl. 223—38)

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This invention relates to fabric edge-folding and pressing machines adapted to form and press patch pockets.

In the prior art, various types of machines for the purpose of forming patch pockets have been employed. Each of such prior art machines, however, has required the constant attention of and manual pressure to be exerted by an operator during the operations of clamping of the work-blank, forming and pressing, some of these machines requiring the constant use, during such operations, of both hands of the operator while others require the use of one hand to hold down an operating handle till operation of a foot treadle which must then be subjected to continuous manual pressure by the operator in the pressing operation. In both cases, the actuating parts are arranged to automatically return to initial position upon release of such manual pressure by the operator and he is required to apply such contiguous manual pressure in order to retain the parts in such operating position during the complete operation of the machine, including clamping, forming and pressing. In such prior art machines, therefore, the operator is restricted to the operation of a single machine during each entire or complete operation thereof.

One of the objects of this invention is, in a machine of the type specified, to provide mechanism whereby the operator will be relieved from applying pressure continuously during the pressing operation and will consequently be freed from constant attendance on a single machine, thus enabling the operator to perform other work, such as operation of one or more additional machines successively, during the time required for the pressing operation.

Another object of my invention is, in a machine of the type specified, to provide edge-folding and clamping means, and mechanism (operable immediately upon completion of the clamping and edge-folding operations) for moving the pressing elements of the machine into pressing position and to combine therewith means, (operable upon movement of the pressing elements into pressing position) for automatically latching the machine in such pressing position, thus saving the time of the operator heretofore employed in applying constant manual pressure during such pressing operation.

Another object of my invention is to provide in a machine of the character specified, a double-acting cam operable during a single depressing movement of a treadle to move or operate in successive sequence (1) an edge-folding and work-blank clamping mechanism and (2) the pressing

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lever to apply pressure to the work-blank and to combine with said double-cam and mechanism a releasable latching device adapted to automatically engage and to retain said pressing lever in its pressing position until subsequently released, thus holding said lever in pressing position to free the operator from further manually pressing thereon and from attendance on the machine during the time period required for the pressing operation.

Still another object of this invention is, in a device of the type specified, to provide mechanism whereby the manual pressure, which in the operation of the machine is necessarily applied to the ironing or pressing plate, will be applied evenly and uniformly to said ironing plate so as to cause pressure to be likewise applied uniformly and evenly by said plate on the work-blank.

Still another object of this invention is, in a machine of the type specified, to provide improved means for guiding in a positive manner the edge-folding and return movements of the edge-folding plates and for reducing the friction usually encountered in such movement of these plates where cam slots and studs are employed, and also for avoiding the possibility of sticking or jamming of these plates in operation.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises the combination of members and arrangement of parts so combined as to co-act and cooperate with each other in the performance of the functions and the accomplishment of the results herein contemplated, and comprises in one of its adaptations the species or preferred form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation of my machine with the clamping plate and its operating lever in raised position;

Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a view in plan of the machine shown in Figs. 1 and 2 on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a front elevation on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 6 is a section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figs. 7 and 8 are fragmentary views of the latching and releasing mechanism for releasably engaging the operating lever of the pressing elements to releasably retain the said lever and said pressing elements in pressing position;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary view showing the overlapping portions of our edge-folding plates;

Fig. 10 is a plan view of a work-blank before folding; and

Fig. 11 is a similar view of the work-blank after folding.

Referring now to these drawings, which illustrate a preferred embodiment of my invention, the machine is suitably secured to the top of a table T and comprises a supporting frame 10 on which is mounted a base member 11 which, more particularly shown in Figs. 2 and 5, is provided with a relatively large opening 12 of suitable size and shape to receive and have loosely fitted thereinto an upwardly movable pressing or ironing plate 13 which is preferably of similar shape and is adapted to be suitably heated as hereinafter more particularly specified. Said opening 12 and plate 13 in the instant embodiment of this invention are rectangular in shape and are of sufficient size or area to enable the ironing or pressing of work-blanks such as shown in Figs. 10 and 11.

Mounted in the machine in superposed and spaced relationship to the base member 11 is a top member 15, a horizontally disposed space 16 being thus provided between the members 11 and 15, and the top member 15 is provided with a blank-receiving opening 17 (see Figs. 2 and 3) registering vertically with the opening 12 and the pressing or ironing plate 13 but of smaller size. The opening 17 is preferably formed in the general shape of a work-blank 14 such as illustrated in Fig. 10 but is contracted and somewhat smaller than the blank 14 in order to enable the proper positioning within the said opening of the blank 14 with the edge 14^a thereof (see Fig. 11) in raised or upright positions, which edges are subsequently to be folded as hereinafter specified.

This opening 17 is adapted to receive and permit the downward and upward movement therethrough in substantially flat or horizontal position of a thin clamping plate 18 adapted in depressed position within the machine to clamp the work-piece or blank 14 against the pressing or ironing plate 13. The clamping plate 18 is also of a shape and size substantially corresponding with the outline of the folded work-piece as shown in Fig. 11 and with the outline of said opening 17 and is the member about which the edge-folds in the work-blank are made. Said plate 18 closely fits said opening 17, space preferably being left at its edges only for the thickness of the fabric of the work-blank.

As shown, the clamp plate 18 is suitably mounted on and movable with a pivoted or hinged manually depressible and spring-raised operating lever 19 hinged as shown at 19^a at the rear side of the machine and adapted to be elevated or raised and to be normally held in elevated position by a spiral spring 20 stretched between a fixed point 22 on the frame of the machine and an adjustable hook 21 to enable regulation of the tension of the spring 20. In Fig. 1, the operating lever is shown in elevated position and in Fig. 2 it is shown in depressed position, a handle or knob 19^b being provided at the end of the lever for manual engagement by an operator for movement of the lever from raised position of Fig. 1 to the lowered position of Fig. 2.

The clamping plate 18 per se has its central portion unitarily mounted on and fastened to a mounting or carrier member 18^a with its edges free. Said carrier plate has spacer blocks 18^b—18^b, and said plate 18 together with said

mounting base 18^a and its blocks 18^b are resiliently mounted on the lever 19 so as to resiliently hold the carrier in contact with the lever 19 and to permit a slight relative shifting movement of said plate in relation to its mounting lever. As shown, mounting screws or studs 23, 23' are at their lower ends secured to said plate 18 and to its mounting or carrier member 18^a and blocks 18^b, 18^b, and these studs are then passed through registering holes in a lever spacing block 19^c and in said lever 19, said slight shifting relative movement being obtained by making the holes in the lever and its spacing block slightly larger in diameter than the shanks of the studs 23, 23' and said resilient holding being accomplished by positioning spiral expansion spring 23^b—23^b' on said studs or screws 23—23' between heads 23^a—23^a' thereof and the upper surface of the lever 19. The raising movement of the lever 19 by the spring 20 is, as shown, cushioned by fastening an outwardly curved spring 24 on the frame of the machine and providing an adjustable stop member 25 on said lever 19 which is positioned on an extension 19^d of said lever and extends at the opposite side of the hinge pintle 19^a so as to engage said spring 24 at the end of the upward movement of the lever 19.

Edge-folding mechanism comprising flat plates 25, 25^a are slidably mounted in the space 16 between the members 11 and 15 and above the pressing or ironing plate 19 and these plates are adapted to slide above or over the edges of the clamping plate 18 to produce the edge-folds 14^a in the blank 14 and to engage and releasably lock said clamping plate in its depressed position. As illustrated, the sectional folder-plate members 25—25^a have overlapped sections adjacent to the front of the machine and a pusher-plate 26 is so positioned in the space 16 at the front of the machine as to cause its rear edge to engage the folder-plate members 25, 25^a and move them into contracted positions to fold the edges of a blank and to move, as more particularly illustrated in full lines in Fig. 5 and in dotted lines in Fig. 3, while its forward edge extends beyond the forward edge of the supporting frame 10 and is provided at said forward edge with a downwardly extending flange 26^a arranged in alignment and operative engagement with one end of an operating lever element 26^b pivoted between its ends and having on its power arm a cam surface engageable by treadle-actuated operating mechanism adapted to move this pusher-plate 26 inwardly to force the plates 25, 25^a into fold-making and clamping plate engaging position and this inward movement of the pusher-plate 26 by the lever 26^b is arranged in suitably timed relationship with the downward movement of a treadle-actuated operating lever for causing the upward movement of the presser plate as hereinafter more particularly specified.

In initial position of the plate members 25, 25^a, the edges 25^b, 25^c—25^d and 25^e will be positioned in substantial alignment with the edges of the opening 17 and the overlapped sections preferably comprise transversely overlapping neck portions of reduced thickness to provide thin slidably engaged neck flanges 25^f—25^g as shown in Fig. 9, which fit within the space 16 and are movable therein without binding.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention illustrated, the top surfaces of the plates 25—25^a and of the plate 26 are provided with anti-friction teats or protuberances 27 to facilitate the

movement thereof within the space 16 and also to maintain those surfaces in properly spaced relationship to the under surface of the top plate or member 15 and to reduce friction therebetween during operative movements of such plates.

The edge-folding plate members 25—25ª are guided and have their movements limited to cause the edges 25ᵇ—25ᶜ to move toward each other and the edges 25ᶜ—25ᵈ to simultaneously move inwardly to contract the space between the edges 25ᵇ and 25ᶜ and between the edges 25ᵈ—25ᵉ and the rear edge of the blank-receiving opening 17 and in such movement to fold the edges of the blanks and to engage over the edges of the clamping plate, and as illustrated said plate members 25, 25ª are provided with two pairs of oppositely inclined guide slots 25ʰ which cooperate with fixed screws or studs 25ˣ connected with the base member 12 and extend upwardly therefrom. These members 25, 25ª upon release of pressure of the pusher-plate, are preferably automatically retracted or moved into initial position by springs 25ʸ having ends connected to fixed points on the frame of the machine and at opposite ends connected with pins 25ᶻ fastened to said plates and extending downwardly through circular holes 11ª in the base plate 11. The pusher-plate 26 is also retracted and moved to initial position by a spring 26ˣ which is connected at one end to a fixed point on the machine frame and has its opposite end connected to a downwardly extending pin 26ʸ.

The machine is provided with suitable heater elements for applying heat to the pressing or ironing plate 13 for transmission to the work-blank and, as shown, a pair of electric heater elements 28, 28ª are mounted on and carried by the lower surface of said plate, being fastened by screws 29 and fed by electric current wires 30 connected to any suitable source of electricity not shown.

The pressing and ironing plate 13 is normally held and supported on the ends of adjustable studs or screws 32, 32 in a horizontal position and partially extending into the opening 12. A transverse beam member 33 suitably connected to the base member by spacers 34 and screws or studs 35 supports the screws 32, 32. Said pressing plate 13 is forcibly moved or pressed upwardly into ironing position by an operating lever 31. This lever 31 is preferably mounted at the middle of the machine in alignment with the flange 26ª of the pusher-plate and, as shown, is pivotally and adjustably mounted between its ends on a stud 36 having mounted thereon a spring 36ª and washer 36ᵇ adapted normally to maintain said lever 31 in horizontal position and to provide a relatively short rearwardly extending pressure applying arm 31ª and a forwardly extending depressible power arm 31ᵇ extending to and beyond the front supporting members of the machine. The rearwardly extending arm 31ª has adjustably mounted thereon a stud 37 having an adjustably mounted semi-spherical end 37ª, the spherical surface of which engages the plate 13 at its center and is adapted upon depression of the forwardly extending power arm 31ᵇ to apply equal pressure on all parts of the plate 13 and to force the same into pressing and ironing position while said forwardly extending power arm 31ᵇ extends to the front of the machine beyond the frame 10 and into adjacency with said flange 26ª of the pusher-plate 26 to enable conjoint and successive operation of said pusher-plate lever and said presser-plate power lever 31.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention shown, a pivoted lever and cam member 38 having a radially projecting treadle-connecting power lever 38ᵉ and cam surfaces 38ª, 38ᵇ disposed on opposite sides of the lever is pivoted on a pivot bolt 38ᵈ between and in vertical alignment with both the pusher-plate operating lever element 26ᵇ and the outer end of the forwardly extending power arm 31ᵇ of the pressing-plate operating lever 31. Said power lever and its cam surfaces are so positioned as to cause one of its cam surfaces 38ᵇ to engage the cam surface at the power end of said operating lever element 26ᵇ to move the pusher-plate inwardly and the other cam surface 38ᵇ in continuous sequence to successively engage said forwardly extending arm 31ᵇ to depress the same when the power arm of said member 38 is pivotally moved by a manually actuated treadle (not shown) which is connected by chain 39 to the outer end of the connecting lever arm 38ᵉ of said combined lever and double-acting cam member 38, said connecting arm also having connected thereto a pair of retracting springs 40, the members of which are stretched at opposite sides of said lever arm 38ᵉ between fixed points on the frame of the machine and oppositely disposed projections on said member 38 positioned between said outer end of the arm and the pivot-bolt 38ᵈ.

Means is provided for engaging, latching and retaining the lever 31 in its lowered position to latch or lock the pressing elements of the machine in pressing position immediately upon completion of the clamping and edge-folding operations and thus to free the operator from the necessity of constant manual pressure on the treadle, to save his time and energy and to enable him to attend to other duties or to operate additional machines, and we preferably employ automatically engaging latching means combined with a manually-releasable member extending to the upper end of the machine. With these ends in view, oscillating hook 41 is preferably pivoted on a pivot 41ª fixed in the frame 10 beneath the lowermost point of movement of the lever 31 and is spring-pressed to move into and out of engagement with the lever 31 upon depression thereof to its lowermost limit. This pivoted hook preferably has a slip-nose arranged in the path of movement of the lever to enable automatic engagement with the lever upon depression thereof and is preferably integrally connected with a horizontally disposed extension lever arm 42 to enable manipulation of said hook. A lever arm 42 is thus provided which is pivoted at one end on said pivot 41ª and has its opposite end connected with a vertical spring-raised operating rod 43 extending to the top of the frame of the machine and provided there with knob 43' depressible by the operator to release the hook and permit the lever 31 to be raised to release the pressing and clamping mechanism with a consequent elevation of the lever 19.

The vertical rod 43 is mounted in bearings 43ª, 43ª and a spring 43ᵇ encircles said rod, abuts at one end against a bearing and at the other end is connected with said rod 43. The rod 43 is thus held in the bearings and automatically raised by the spring 43ᵇ to keep the pivoted end of the lever arm 42 up and the nose of the oscillating hook in position to be engaged automatically upon depression of the lever 31.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention shown, the current to the electrical heating elements is capable of being turned on and off and

also suitably modified to regulate the heat by a conventional switch and regulating element S. Suitable stationary blank guiding strips g, g', g^2 and g^3 are positioned at the forward end and sides of the blank receiving opening **17** and in parallel alignment with the edges thereof and a movable end strip g^4 is slidably and adjustably mounted on the side strips g, g' to enable adjustment of the length of the work-blank.

In operation, the heating switch and regulating element are first operated to heat the pressing plate, and assuming the parts to be in the position illustrated in Fig. 1, the work-piece is properly positioned in the work receiving opening **17** and in relationship to the blank guiding strips g, g', g^2, g^3 and g^4, the lever **19** is depressed by the hand of the operator to move the clamping plate into an initial lowered position to engage the work-piece, and while holding this lever and plate by hand, foot pressure by the operator on a conventional treadle (not shown) will through the chain **39** swing the combined lever and double-acting cam **38**. Movement of this double-acting cam will in a single continuous movement but in proper successive sequence move the cam-lever to move the pusher-plate inwardly and also will depress the control lever **31** for the ironing plate. The movement of the pusher-plate, in turn, causes the folding plates to move over the clamping plate and to fold the work-piece. Depression of the lever **31** raises the ironing plate into tight ironing or pressing engagement with the work-piece. Movement of said lever **31** is preferably guided in a slot **10**^{c} in an apron plate **10**^{b} at the front of the machine. During depression said lever **31** will thus engage the inclined slip-nose of the spring-actuated oscillating hook to oscillate the same on its pivot **41**^{a}, and to move the integrally connected extension lever arm **42** against the action of the spring **43**^{b}. Upon movement of the lever **31** below the slip-nose of the pivoted hook, the said spring **43**^{b} will press the hook into engagement with said lever **31** to releasably hold the same in its lowermost depressed position, with the ironing plate forced upwardly into tight ironing engagement with a work-piece beneath the clamping plate. Upon such engagement of the oscillating hook **41**, the clamping and ironing parts of the machine will be held in ironing position; manual pressure will be removed from the treadle and the cam member **38** will be returned by springs **40** to the position shown in Fig. 1 to free the path of return movement of the lever **31**^{b} when engagement thereof by said oscillating hook **41** is released. Such ironing usually requires a period of time, and during this time period the operator is free to proceed with other operations or with work on another machine if desired. When the pressing or ironing operation is completed, the operator merely depresses the knob **43'** against the action of the spring **43**^{b} to release the oscillating hook from the control lever arm **31**^{b} of the ironing plate. Manual tension on the cable-acting cam **38** having been theretofore relieved, and said cam having been automatically moved upwardly by the springs **40** out of the path of the lever **31**, the inner power-applying arm of said lever **31** will be moved downwardly by the spring **36**^{a} to release the pressure through the stud **37** against the plate **13**, thus permitting the ironing plate to move downwardly away from the work-blank. The stress by the cam member **40** on the operating lever **26**^{b} of the pusher-plate having been relieved by the upward movement of the double-acting cam **38**, the spring **26**^{x} will move the pusher-plate **26** and its operating lever **26**^{b} to their outwardly extended positions. The upward movement of the lever **38**^{c} of the cam member **38** is limited by projection **44**^{a} on the fixed forwardly projecting plate **44**. The outward movement of the pusher-plate **26** having moved its operating lever **26**^{b} outwardly, the movement of these parts will be limited by a fixed pin **44**^{b} on said forwardly projecting plate **44**. The edge-folding plates will simultaneously be moved to their extended positions by their operating springs **25**^{g} thus releasing the clamping plate **18** and permitting the lever **19** carrying said clamping plate **18** to be automatically raised into the normally inoperative position shown in Fig. 1 by spring **20**.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine comprising a supporting frame member having a receiving opening for a work-blank, a work-clamping member movable into said receiving opening to engage a work-blank mounted therein, edge-folding plates slidably mounted in said supporting frame member and operable to fold the edges of said work-blank and to engage over the edges of said work-clamping member, a pusher member slidably mounted to engage at one edge with said edge-folding plates within said supporting frame member, a pressing and irnong plate mounted in said supporting frame member and movable into engagement with a work-blank mounted in said opening, a control lever movable to move the pressing and ironing plate into pressing position, operating means for successively moving said pusher-plate and said control lever into operative positions, and releasable engaging means for retaining said pusher-plate and control lever in their operative positions.

2. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine as claimed in claim 1 in which said operating means comprises a single pivoted cam member having operative connections with said control lever and said pusher member.

3. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine comprising a supporting frame member having a receiving opening for a work-blank, a work-clamping member movable into said receiving opening to engage a work-blank mounted therein, edge-folding plates slidably mounted in said supporting frame member and operable to fold the edges of said work-blank and to engage over the edges of said work-clamping member, a pusher member slidably mounted to engage at one edge with said edge-folding plates within said supporting frame member and having an extension portion projecting beyond an edge thereof, a pressing and ironing plate mounted in said supporting frame member and movable into engagement with a work-blank mounted in said opening, a control lever having an extension portion and movable to move the pressing and ironing plate into pressing position, said extension portion projecting beyond said supporting frame member into proximity with the extension portion of said pusher-plate, operating means for successively moving said pusher-plate and said control lever into operative positions, and releasable engaging means for retaining said pusher-plate and control lever in their operative positions.

4. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine as claimed in claim 3 in which said operating means comprises a single pivoted cam member

having operative connections with the extension portions of said control lever and said pusher member.

5. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine comprising a supporting frame member having a receiving opening for a work-blank, a work-clamping member movable into said receiving opening to engage a work-blank mounted therein, edge-folding plates slidably mounted in said supporting frame member and operable to fold the edges of said work-blank and to engage over the edges of said work-clamping member, a pusher member slidably mounted to engage at one edge with said edge-folding plates within said supporting frame member and having an extension portion projecting beyond an edge thereof, a pressing and ironing plate mounted in said supporting frame member and movable into engagement with a work-blank mounted in said opening, a control lever having an extension portion and movable to move the pressing and ironing plate into pressing position, said extension portion projecting beyond said supporting frame member into proximity with the extension portion of said pusher-plate, operating means for successively moving said pusher-plate and said control lever into operative positions, and releasable engaging means for retaining said pusher-plate and control lever in their operative positions, and means for manually releasing said releasable engaging means to permit automatic movement of said members to inoperative positions.

6. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine comprising a supporting frame member having a receiving opening for a work-blank, a work-clamping member movable into said receiving opening to engage a work-blank mounted therein, edge-folding plates slidably mounted in said supporting frame member and movable to fold the edges of said work-blank and to engage over the edges of said work-clamping member, a pusher member slidably mounted in said supporting frame member for moving said edge-folding plates and having an engageable extension portion projecting beyond an edge of said frame member, a pressing and ironing plate suitably mounted in said supporting frame member, a depressible control lever having an extension portion and movable to move the pressing and ironing plate into pressing position, mechanism operable upon the clamping and edge-folding of the work-blank for moving the pressing plate into pressing position against said clamping plate, and

means operable upon depression of said control lever for automatically latching the same in such depressed position.

7. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine, a supporting frame member having a receiving opening for a work-blank, a work-clamping member movable to engage a work-blank in said receiving opening, edge-folding mechanism movable to fold said work-blank, a member for controlling the movement of said edge-folding mechanism, a pressing mechanism, a control lever member adapted upon depression to move said pressing mechanism to apply ironing pressure to the work-blank, a combined treadle-actuated lever and cam member adapted in a single operative movement to move in successive sequence the edge-folding mechanism into folding position and to depress said control lever, means for automatically and releasably engaging one of said control members to retain both of the same in operative position, and means for manually releasing said automatic releasable member to permit movement of the parts to a normal inoperative position.

8. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine as claimed in claim 7 in which the operating lever for the pressing mechanism is automatically and releasably engaged to retain the parts in pressing position, and a manually actuated depressible rod extending to the upper surface of the machine and operable to release said lever and to permit automatic movement of the parts into normal inoperative position.

9. A fabric edge-folding and pressing machine including clamping means for a work-blank, edge-folding means for said blank, a pressing plate supported in horizontal position in said machine and means for moving said pressing plate into pressing position comprising an operating lever for said pressing element pivoted intermediate its ends to provide a power arm and a power-applying arm, said power-applying arm having an upright element engageable with the pressing plate at a single point comprising the axial center of said pressing plate.

DAVID GOLDBERG.

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