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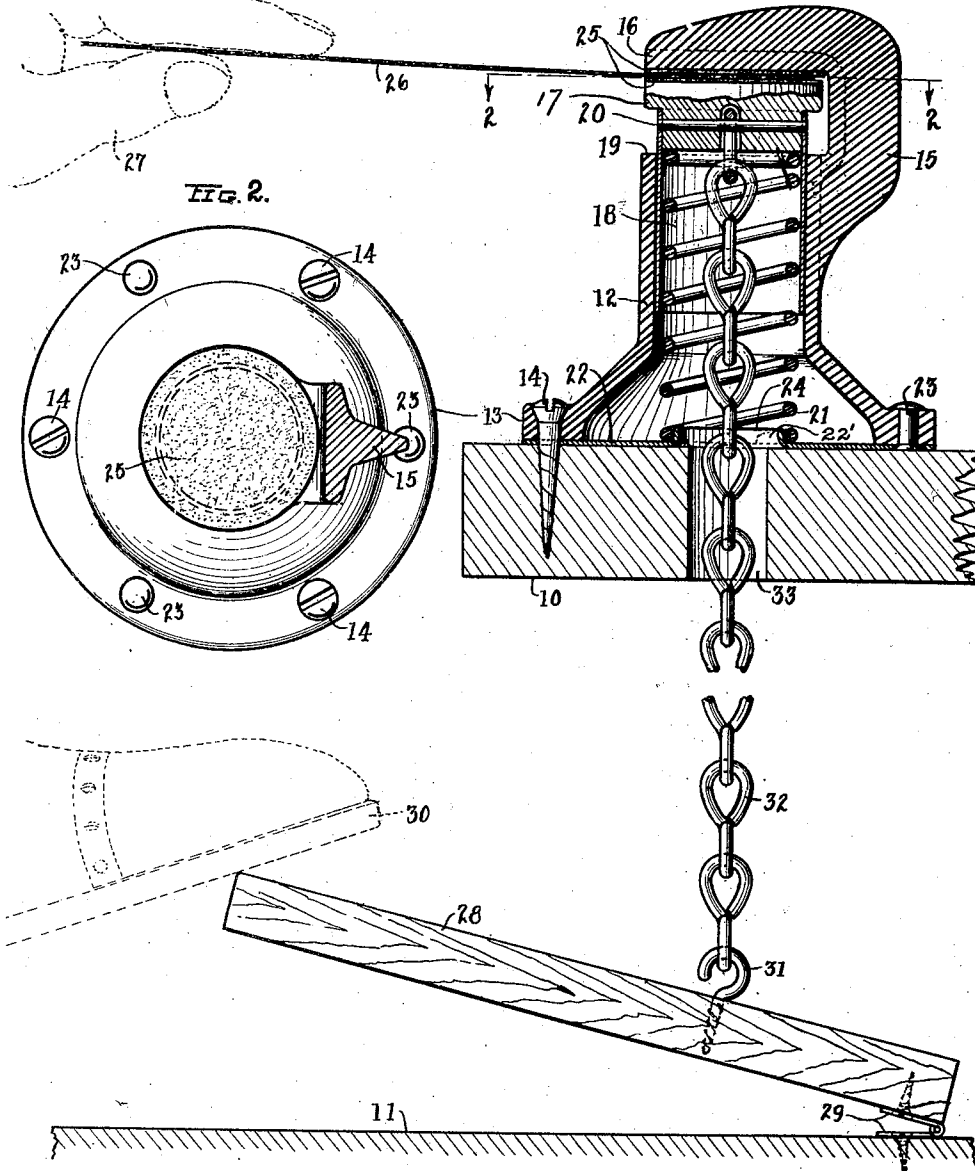
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MATERIAL HOLDER

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FIG. 1.



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MATERIAL HOLDER.

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This invention relates to devices for use by tailors and seamstresses for the purpose of holding one end of a piece of fabric so as to facilitate hand sewing thereon.

It is one of the objects of the invention to provide a device that may be conveniently operated and which may be fastened on a work bench, or other support, and which is adapted to hold various kinds of fabric without injury to them. A further object is to provide a device of very simple and inexpensive construction that will occupy only a very small amount of space and which may be readily adapted to different locations.

Other objects and the features of novelty will be apparent from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a vertical section through a material holder embodying our invention, the holder being shown in position on a work bench; and

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, 10 indicates a work bench or other support and 11 the floor of the room in which the bench is located. It will be understood that the bench 10 will be located at the customary height above the floor. Our improved material holder comprises a housing 12, preferably of tubular form having a base flange 13 which is adapted to be secured on the bench 10 by screws 14. Projecting upwardly from one side of the housing 12, and preferably formed integral therewith, is a bracket 15 having a portion 16 which overhangs the tubular part of the housing 12 and which is preferably of circular form. A plunger comprising a head 17 and a tubular extension 18, is slidably arranged in the tubular part 12 of the housing, the head 17 being preferably of circular form and cooperating with the overhanging portion 16 of the bracket to form a pair of jaws adapted to grip the material which is to be held.

The head 17 of the plunger is slightly shorter than the distance between the overhanging part 16 of the bracket and the upper end 19 of the housing, so that the head may be slipped into this opening and then the tubular extension 18 inserted through the lower end of the housing and telescoped

with the head 17 and then secured to the latter by a pin 20.

A coil spring 21 has its upper end arranged within the tubular extension 18 of the plunger and bearing against the lower surface of the head 17, the lower end of this spring resting upon a cover plate 22 that is secured to the flange 13 by rivets 23 and has a central opening 22'. The cover 22 is preferably provided with an upturned central flange 24 which is adapted to receive the lower end of the spring 21 and hold the latter in its proper position in alignment with the plunger. If desired the plate 22 may be omitted and the spring 21 allowed to engage the upper surface of the bench 10.

The spring 21 presses the plunger head 17 against the overhanging part 16 of the bracket and, in order to be able to securely hold the fabric between these parts without injury to the fabric, we prefer to face the gripping surfaces with sandpaper disks 25. These sandpaper disks may be glued to the opposed faces of the plunger and the overhanging portion 16 of the bracket, and we have found that these disks serve to efficiently hold the fabric without damaging it, even when the device is used for holding delicate silks.

At 26 we have indicated a piece of fabric being clamped, at one end, by the jaws of the holding device and the other end being held by a hand which is indicated at 27. This leaves one hand of the operator free to use a needle so that the holding device, in effect, acts as a third hand and eliminates the objectionable practice of pinning the fabric to the operator's clothing, at the knee, which has heretofore been prevalent in garment working establishments.

For the purpose of conveniently opening the jaws of the holding device, we prefer to use a pedal 28 having one end secured to the floor 11 by an ordinary door hinge 29, or in any other suitable manner, the opposite end of the pedal being elevated and in position to be engaged by the foot of the operator which is indicated at 30. The pedal 28 is preferably made of a piece of wood and carries on its upper side a hook 31 to which the lower end of a chain 32 is attached, this chain passing through an opening 33, in the bench 10, and having its upper end connected with the plunger. In the embodiment of

our invention that is illustrated, we provide a connection between the chain and the plunger, by having the upper link of the chain engage the pin 20, as will be clearly understood from Fig. 1.

In the operation of the device, the jaws are first opened by the operator depressing the pedal 28, the fabric being then inserted between the jaws and, the pressure on the pedal being removed, the spring 21 will close the jaws and grip the material. To release the material it is only necessary for the operator to depress the pedal 28.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:

1. In a device of the class described, the combining of a housing adapted to be secured to a support and comprising a tubular portion and a bracket overhanging said tubular portion, a plunger slidable in said tubular portion and cooperating with said bracket to form jaws adapted to grip the material to be held, a spring arranged within said tubular portion and cooperating with said plunger to press the latter against said bracket, an operating lever, and means extending through said tubular portion and connecting said lever with said plunger and whereby the lever is adapted to withdraw the plunger from engagement with said bracket.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a housing adapted to be secured to a support and comprising a tubular portion and a bracket overhanging said tubular portion, a plunger slidable in said tubular portion and cooperating with said bracket to form jaws adapted to grip the material to be held, said jaws having their cooperating faces covered with abrasive material, a spring arranged within said tubular portion and cooperating with said plunger to close said jaws, an operating lever, and means extending through said tubular portion and connecting said lever with said plunger and whereby the lever is adapted to open said jaws.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a support having an opening therethrough, a housing mounted on said support and having a plunger opening in

substantial alignment with the opening in the support, said housing having a bracket overhanging said plunger opening, a plunger slidable in said plunger opening and cooperating with said bracket to form jaws adapted to grip the material to be held, a spring arranged within said plunger opening and cooperating with said plunger to close said jaws, an operating lever pivotally mounted below said support, and connecting means attached to said lever and said plunger and extending through the opening in said support and whereby said lever is adapted to open said jaws.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a housing having a tubular portion and a bracket integral therewith overhanging said tubular portion, a tubular plunger slidable in said housing and having one end arranged to cooperate with said bracket to form jaws adapted to grip the material to be held, said jaws having their cooperating faces covered with abrasive material, a coil spring having one end within said plunger and adapted to close said jaws, and operating means for opening said jaws comprising an element extending longitudinally through said spring and attached to the interior of said plunger.

5. In a device of the class described, the combination of a housing having a tubular portion and a bracket integral therewith overhanging said tubular portion, a tubular plunger slidable in said housing and having one end arranged to cooperate with said bracket to form jaws adapted to grip the material to be held, a plate secured on the end of said housing opposite said jaws and having an opening, a coil spring having one end within said plunger and its other end in engagement with said plate and whereby said jaws are closed, and operating means for opening said jaws comprising an element extending through the opening in said plate and longitudinally through said spring and attached to said plunger.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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