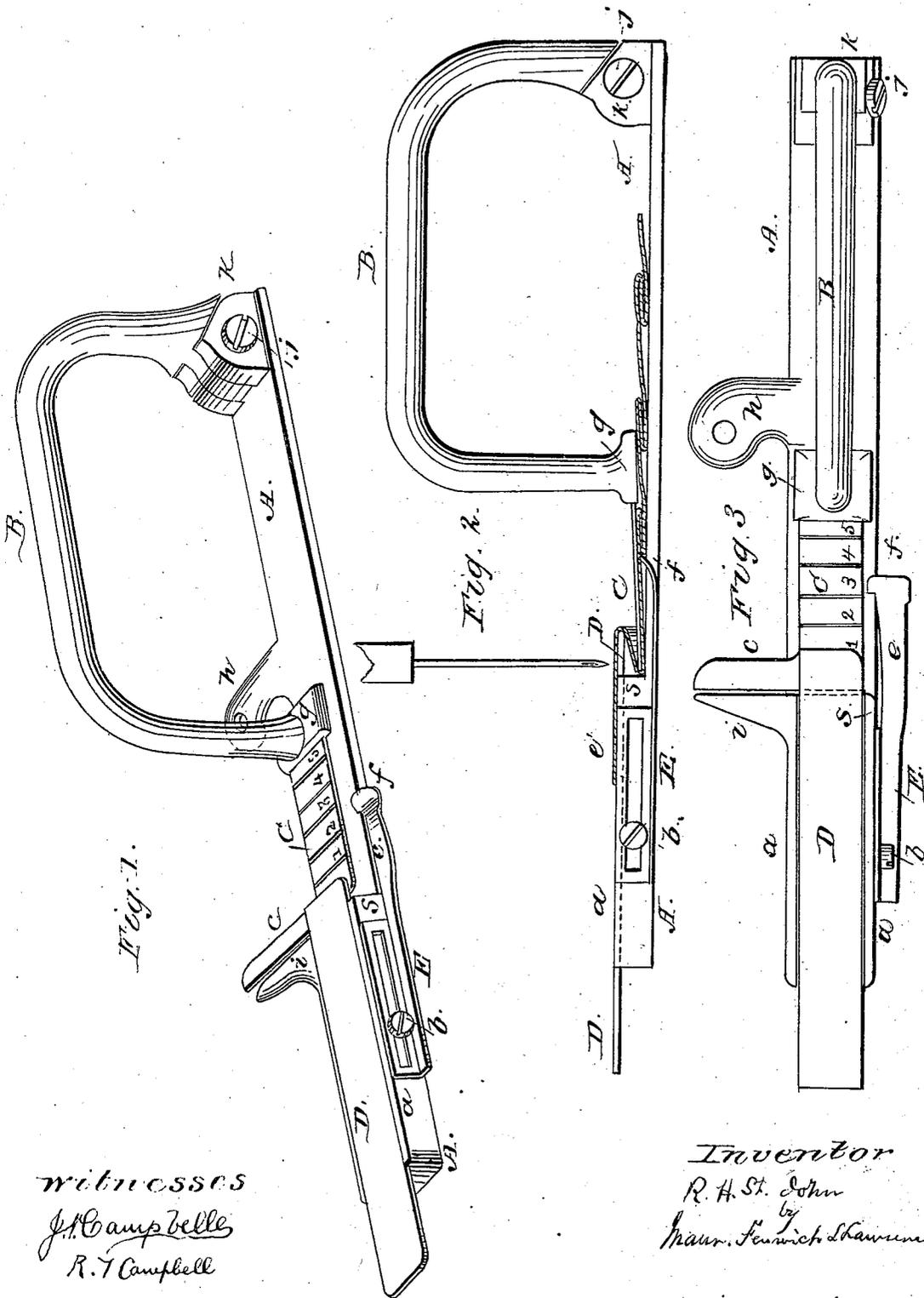


R. H. ST. JOHN.
Sewing Machine Tucker.

No. 83,219.

Patented Oct. 20, 1868.



witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

R. H. ST. JOHN, OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN TUCKING DEVICE FOR SEWING-MACHINE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 83,219, dated October 20, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, R. H. ST. JOHN, of Bellefontaine, in the county of Logan and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Tuck-Folder for Sewing Machinery; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the instrument complete. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the instrument, showing, by the aid of red lines, the arrangement of the cloth for being folded and stitched. Fig. 3 is a top view of the instrument.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to improvements on devices which are designed for use upon the cloth-plates of sewing machinery, for the purpose of folding cloth in tucks or plaits, in the act of feeding the cloth beneath the needle.

The nature of my invention consists in combining a pressure-gage plate, which is upon the end of a hinged handle, with an adjustable folder, a cloth-guide, and an adjustable plait-guide, in such manner that cloth can be readily and neatly folded in plaits, and also accurately guided in the act of moving it up and beneath the needle of a sewing-machine, said parts being so constructed that the folds or plaits can be made any desired width and any desired distance apart, as will be hereinafter explained.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the bed-piece of the instrument, which is a long narrow strip of metal, having lugs *k* formed on its upper face at one end, an extension, *h*, formed on its back edge, and an elevation, *a*, formed on the end opposite the lug *k*. This bed-piece is to be secured upon the cloth-plate of a sewing-machine by means of a clamp-screw passed through an eye which is made through the extension *h*, or in any other convenient manner. If desirable, a slotted extension might be formed on plate A, instead of the piece *h*, so as to adapt this plate for being secured to different sewing-machines. To the lugs *k* one end of an arched handle, B, is

pivoted, by means of a transverse pin *j*, to the opposite end of which handle a flat plate, C, is rigidly secured, as shown in the drawings. This plate C is properly marked on its top surface, so as to adapt it to serve, in conjunction with a sliding plate, D, as a gage-plate for indicating the width of the folds made, or to be made, and the distance which it may be desired to make these folds. This plate C also serves as a pressure-plate, by means of which the operator can, with the hand upon the handle B, apply any required pressure upon that portion of the cloth which is drawn beneath it, as indicated in Fig. 2 by the red lines. Plate C extends nearly to the perpendicular shoulder *s* of the elevation *a*, so as to fold and hold the cloth against this shoulder.

From the back edge of the gage and pressure-plate C is a right-angular extension, *c*, which increases the width of the folding-edge of this plate, and serves, in conjunction with the opposite straight edge of a tapering extension of the plate A, as a means for guiding the folded work up to the needle.

In the upper face of the elevated portion *a* a dovetail groove is made, and into this groove is fitted a plate, D, which may be made of any required length, and which should be allowed to slide in a direction with the length of the bed-plate, so that the edge nearest the handle B can be adjusted to any one of the marks upon the pressure-gage plate C. This slide D should be in a plane parallel, or nearly so, to the surface of the bed-plate A, and it should be fitted into its groove so that it will not be liable to slip out of place during the operation of folding the work.

On the front edge of the bed-plate is a rectangular plate, E, one portion of which is slotted to receive through it a binding-screw, *b*, for securing it to the bed-plate in any desired position. The lower portion of this plate E is extended along the edge of the bed-plate A beyond the shoulder *s*, and constructed with a guide, *f*, upon its end. This guide is made by reducing the end of said extension to a knife-edge, turning this end up, as shown, and forming upon one side a shoulder, which will sustain this end, upon the plate A, against downward pressure of the plate C in the act of guiding the folds or tucks to the needle.

To use this instrument, it is first secured in

proper position upon the cloth-plate of a sewing-machine. The folding-slide D is then moved aside, so as to allow the plate C, with its handle B, to be raised high enough to introduce a portion of the cloth to be plaited beneath it. The guide having been adjusted and set in proper position, according to the width of spaces required to be left between the plaits, the plate C is depressed and the slide D moved over this plate to a given mark. This will fold the cloth as indicated in red in Fig. 2, and as the cloth thus folded is guided up to the needle the plaits will be stitched. While folding and stitching one plait, the operator presses with the hand upon the handle B, and thus causes the guide *f* to hold the cloth in a line parallel to the plait which is being stitched, by which guide the next plait is formed parallel with last one stitched.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The pressure-gage plate C, applied to the free end of a hinged handle, B, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The pressure-gage plate C on the hinged handle B, in combination with the folding-plate D, substantially as described.

3. The pressure-gage plate C on the hinged handle B, in combination with an adjustable guide, *f*, and a folding-plate, substantially as described.

4. The vertically-adjustable gage-plate C, constructed with an extension guide, *e*, upon it, in combination with a shoulder, *s*, and extension-guide *i*, formed on base-plate A, and a horizontally-adjustable slide, D, substantially as described.

R. H. ST. JOHN.

Witnesses:

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