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B. G. FORMAN

2,493,864

STEAMING AND PRESSING MACHINE

Filed July 23, 1947

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

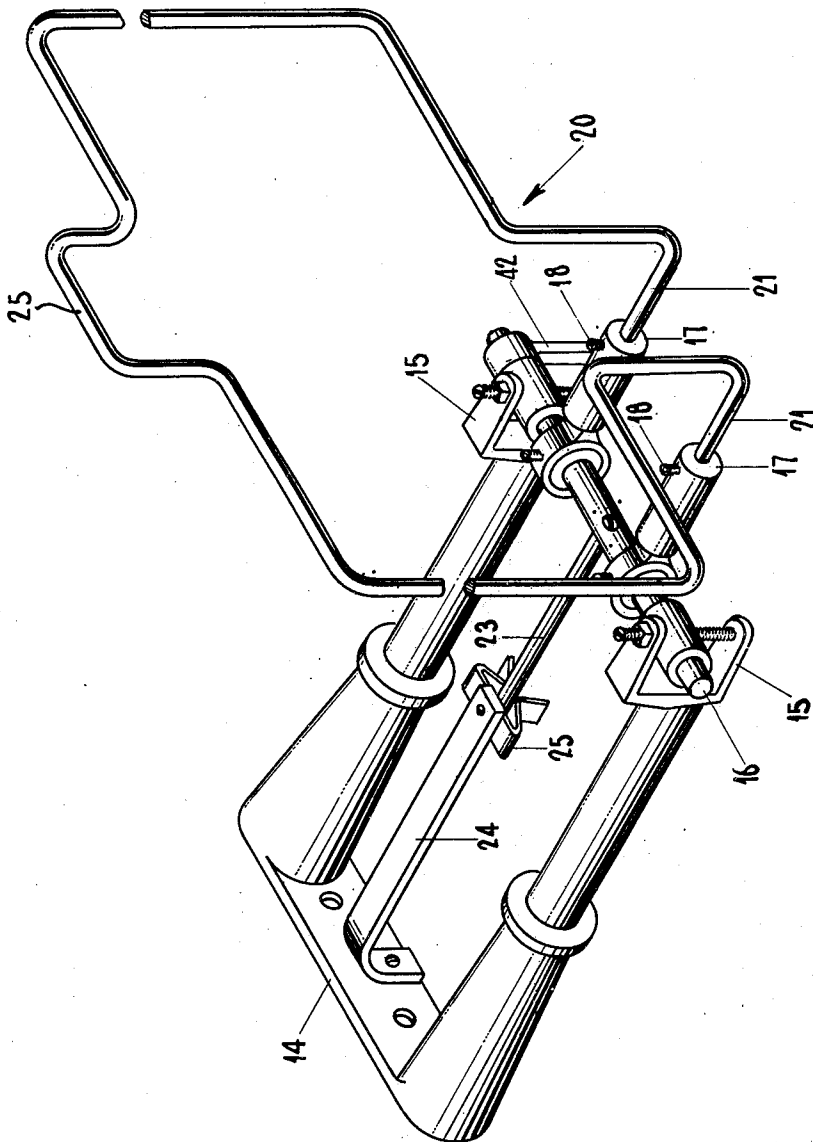


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2

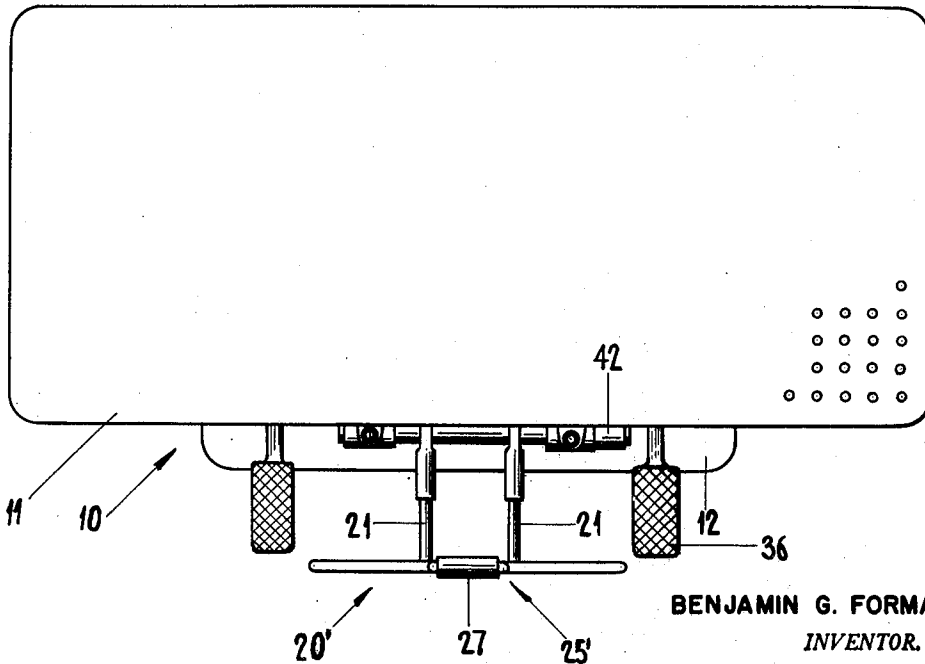
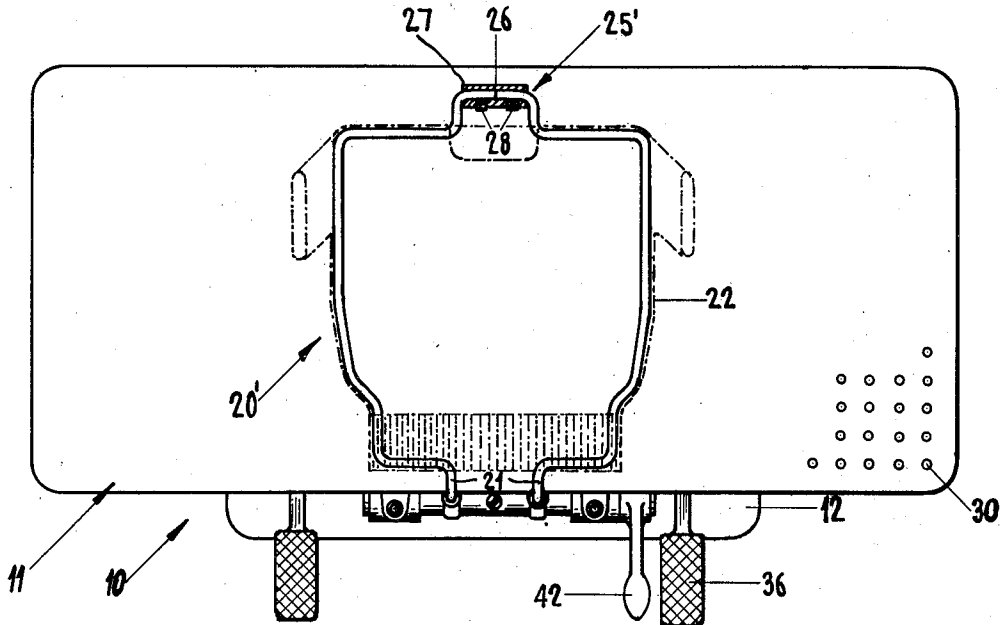


FIG. 3

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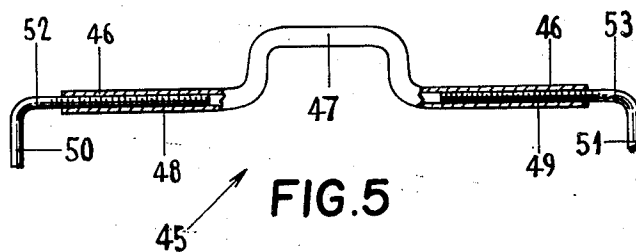
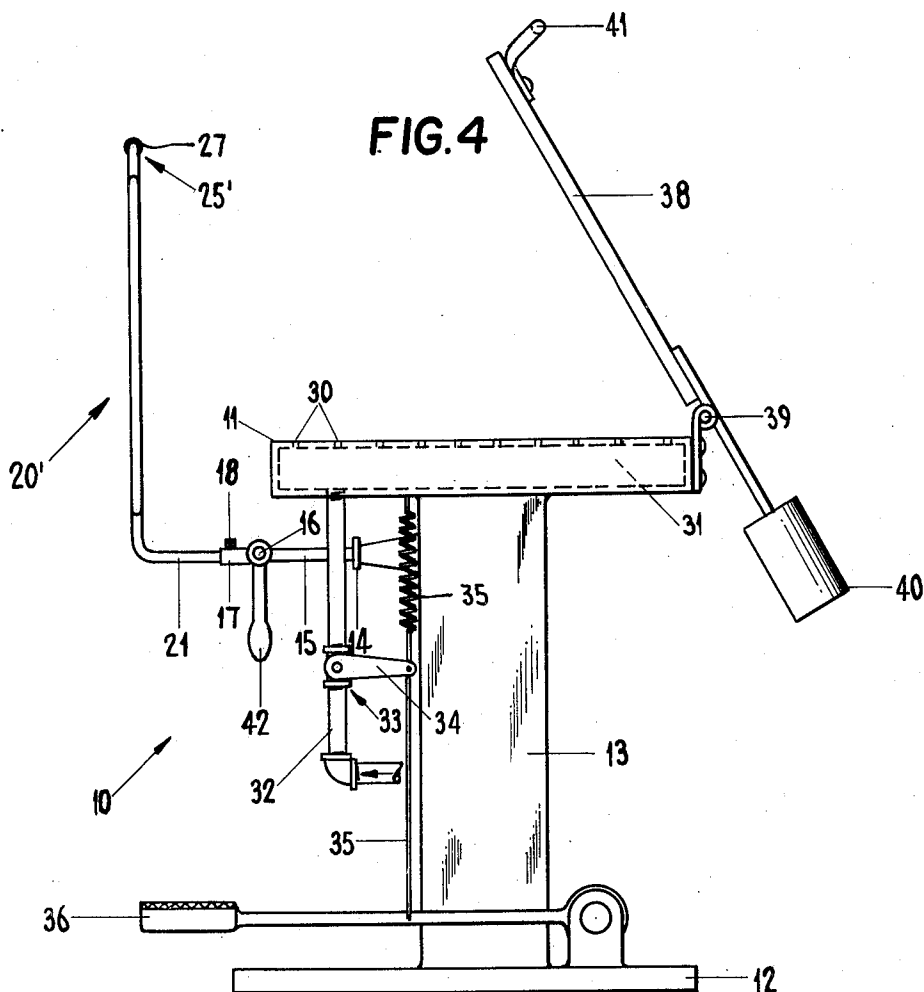
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STEAMING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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2,493,864

STEAMING AND PRESSING MACHINE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—70)

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This invention relates to a steaming and pressing machine for steaming and pressing completed sweaters and the like by applying steam from the exterior of the cloth.

An object of this invention is to provide an attachment which may be secured below the lower surface of a table on a steaming or pressing machine, the bracket having two arms extending forwardly therefrom and being designed for supporting a shaft parallel with the table and upon which a solid skeleton steaming and shaping frame may be mounted and swung forwardly towards the operator so as to take a position substantially in a right-angular relation with the table for mounting a garment thereon.

Another object of this invention is to secure a rearwardly extending control rod to the shaft and arranged so that when the frame is in vertical position, the control rod is gripped by a spring carried by the bracket and maintains the upright position of the frame.

Another object of this invention is to provide a steaming and shaping frame having a centrally divided collar portion and separate feet portions, the frame being made of two symmetrical frame members, and to provide clamping means whereby the frame members may be moved to and from each other so as to vary the size of the frame and make it suitable for mounting garments of various sizes thereon.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention will be hereinafter more particularly described, and the combination and arrangement of parts will be shown in the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the claims which form part of this specification.

Reference will now be had to the drawings, wherein like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the steaming and shaping frame and its pivotal mounting.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the steaming and shaping mechanism mounted on a steaming and pressing table, the frame lying flat upon the table.

Figure 3 is a view similar to that shown in Figure 2, the frame being in vertical garment mounting position.

Figure 4 is a side elevation of the steaming and shaping mechanism in operative garment mounting position.

Figure 5 is a plan view of a fragmentary portion of a modified adjustable frame.

In the illustrated embodiment of the invention, 55

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the numeral 10 indicates a steaming and pressing machine for steaming and pressing completed sweaters.

The machine 10 comprises a hollow steaming and pressing table 11, a base 12 and an upright pedestal 13. Secured to the pedestal 13 below the table 11 is a bracket 14 which terminates at its forward end in bifurcated arms 15 in which a shaft 16 is rotatably supported.

Secured to the shaft 16 are two socket arms 17, each having a set screw 18 threaded therein. As best shown in Figure 1, the steaming and pressing frame 20 is formed of a single piece of relatively heavy wire or solid rod bent to provide a solid skeleton support of the proper shape for a garment being steamed. It is to be noted that while metal wire is the preferred material, that wire made of thermosetting plastic or other resilient material may be used for the frames and these are broadly included in the term wire as called heretofore.

The lower end of the steaming and shaping frame 20 terminates in two foot portions 21 which extend in right-angular relation with the body of the frame. The foot portions 21 are adapted to be received and clamped in laterally extending socket arms 17 secured to the shaft 16. The wire is made of a material that will not rust, such as aluminum. I may however provide a rust resisting covering from the frame when material is employed therefor which is not rust resistant.

Secured to the shaft 16, rearwardly thereof is a control rod 23. Secured to the bracket 14 is a horizontally positioned arm 24 carrying a bifurcated spring 25.

When the frame 20 is in vertical position in front of the table 11, the control rod 23 is gripped by the spring 25 and this serves to maintain the frame in an upright position.

The socket arms 17 may be slidably moved on the shaft so as to be in varied spaced-apart relations. The sockets extend forwardly of the table and serve to receive the extension feet 21 of the frame 20. It is thus possible to move the two arms to and from each other so as to vary the width of the cuff of the garment.

Figure 1 shows a steaming and shaping frame 20 of square form and having a self centering collar portion 25.

Figures 2 to 4 inclusive show a modified solid skeleton frame 20' shaped to produce fashioned sweaters 22. The frame 20' has a self centering collar portion 25' at the middle of the upper or shoulder section. The portion 25' is split or di-

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vided at its mid portion 26. A collar 27 is slidably mounted on the collar portion 25' and has screws 28 for locking the collar to the end portions of the wire. The modified frame 20' is thus expandible in width at the collar portion 25' and at the foot portions 21 to take care of garments of various sizes.

The steam table 14 is hollow. The table has small apertures 30 throughout its upper surface. Steam is supplied to a steam chamber 31 in the table by a pipe 32 from any suitable supply.

A valve 33 in the pipe line 32 has a lever 34. A tension spring 35 suitably attached to the lever 34 maintains the valve 33 in closed position. A rod 35 is connected to the free end of the lever 34 at its upper end and to the free end of the treadle 36 at its lower end.

By depressing the treadle 36, the operator supplies steam to the table 14 and to a garment placed thereon.

A pressing member 38 is pivotally mounted at 39 to the table 14. A counterweight 40 maintains the pressing member in angular relation rearwards of the table and out of the way of the arcuate path of the steaming and shaping frame.

The operator grasps a handle 41 on the pressing member 38 when pressing a garment on the frame and lying flat on the table 14. A handle 42 fixed at one end of the shaft 16 serves for operating the steaming and shaping frame.

Figure 5 shows a fragmentary portion of a modified adjustable solid skeleton frame 45 comprising shoulder portions 46 and an integral collar portion 47. Each end of the shoulder portion 46 has an internal thread extending to the collar portion 47. The threads 48, 49 run in opposite directions.

The frame 45 comprises two upright portions 50, 51, having horizontal extensions 52, 53. The extensions are threaded to coact with the threads 48, 49.

The adjustable frame 45 may be adjusted widthwise to a desired size by turning the collar portion. Turning the collar portion 47 in one direction causes extension in the width of the frame 45, while turning in the opposite direction causes narrowing of the frame 45.

It is thus possible to adjust the frame 45 at the shoulder portion and at the foot portions so as to make one frame do the work which formerly required a large number of frames.

As shown in the drawings it is seen that by actuating the handle 42, the skeleton frame 20, 20' or 45 may be raised in considerably spaced-apart relation from and above the steam heated table or source of heat, to a point where the air is all around the tubular fabric. It is obvious that the removal of the fabric from the source of heat while retained in stretched condition on the skeleton frame will induce a quick cooling action on the stretched cloth.

In accordance with the patent statutes I have described and illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention, but it will be understood that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a steaming and pressing machine for knitted garments, said machine being adapted for applying steam from the exterior of the cloth, a table, a steaming and shaping frame pivotally mounted below the lower surface of said

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lower surface of said table, a shaft rotatably mounted in said bracket and parallel with said table, socket arms secured to said shaft, a substantially rectangular solid skeleton frame detachably secured to said shaft and extending above said table, the lower end of said frame having feet positioned in right angular relation thereto and being clamped in said socket arms, whereby said frame may be swung about said shaft forwardly into a position substantially in right-angular relation with said table for mounting a garment thereon, said frame being also movable to lie flat in garment steaming position upon said table.

2. In a steaming and pressing machine for knitted garments, said machine being adapted for applying steam from the exterior of the cloth, a table, a steaming and shaping frame pivotally mounted below the lower surface of said table, comprising a bracket secured below the lower surface of said table, a shaft rotatably mounted in said bracket and parallel with said table, socket arms secured to said shaft, a substantially rectangular solid skeleton frame detachably secured to said shaft and extending above said table, the lower end of said frame having feet positioned in right angular relation thereto and being clamped in said socket arms, whereby said frame may be swung about said shaft forwardly into a position substantially in right-angular relation with said table for mounting a garment thereon, said frame being also movable to lie flat in garment steaming position upon said table, said frame having a collar extension intermediate the shoulder section for quickly aligning a garment on said frame.

3. In a steaming and pressing machine for knitted garments, said machine being adapted for applying steam from the exterior of the cloth, a table, a steaming and shaping frame pivotally mounted below the lower surface of said table, comprising a bracket secured below the lower surface of said table, a shaft rotatably mounted in said bracket and parallel with said table, socket arms secured to said shaft, a substantially rectangular solid skeleton frame detachably secured to said shaft and extending above said table, the lower end of said frame having feet positioned in right angular relation thereto and being clamped in said socket arms, said feet being adjustable to and from each other, whereby said frame may be swung about said shaft forwardly into a position substantially in right-angular relation with said table for mounting a garment thereon, said frame being also movable to lie flat in garment steaming position upon said table, said frame having a centrally divided collar extension intermediate the shoulder section and clamping means on said collar extension for adjusting said collar extension for mounting garments of various sizes on said frame.

4. In a steaming and pressing machine for knitted garments, said machine being adapted for applying steam from the exterior of the cloth, a table, a steaming and shaping frame pivotally mounted below the lower surface of said table, comprising a bracket secured below the lower surface of said table, a shaft rotatably mounted in said bracket and parallel with said table, socket arms secured to said shaft, a substantially rectangular solid skeleton frame detachably secured to said shaft and extending above said table, the lower end of said frame having feet positioned in right angular relation thereto and being clamped in said socket arms, said feet being adjustable to

and from each other, whereby said frame may be swung about said shaft forwardly into a position substantially in right-angular relation with said table for mounting a garment thereon, said frame being also movable to lie flat in garment steaming position upon said table, said frame having a collar extension intermediate the shoulder section, and means on said collar extension for adjusting the shoulder or upper portion of said frame jointly with the adjustment of said feet or lower portion of said frame for mounting garments of various sizes on said frame.

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