

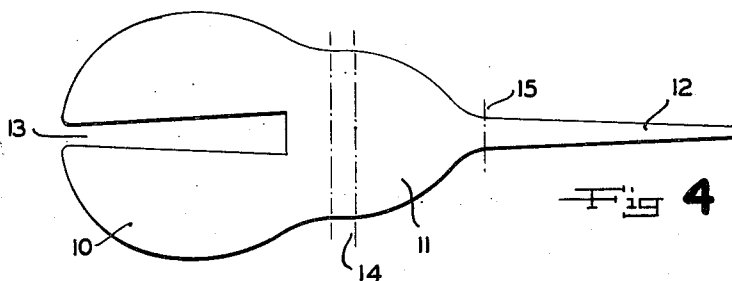
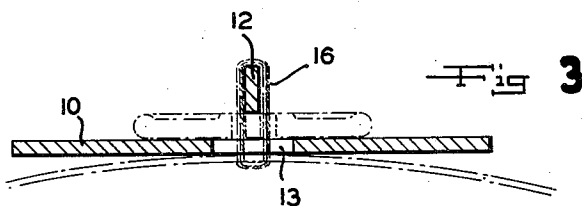
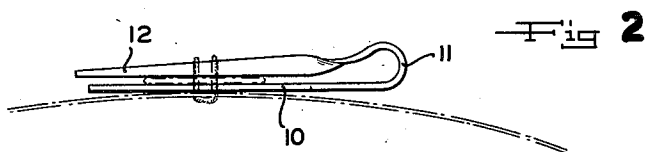
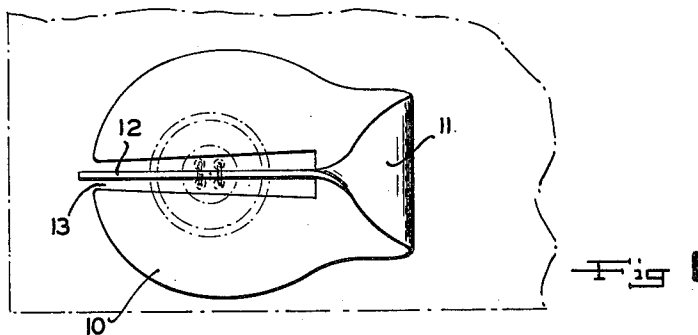
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BUTTON SEWING IMPLEMENT

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BUTTON SEWING IMPLEMENT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 223-110)

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This invention relates to the art of sewing buttons onto cloth and more particularly to an implement useful in the performance of such task. In many garments it is desirable that the buttons, when finally secured on the cloth, be spaced outwardly from the face of the cloth and this spacing is difficult to achieve in hand sewing operations. Particularly is it difficult to achieve uniformity in the spacing of a plurality of buttons from the face of the cloth in a single garment which is desirable for the sake of appearance. The present invention provides an exceedingly simple implement for temporarily holding a button while the same is being sewed onto a piece of cloth and for temporarily maintaining the sewing loops of thread in a variable but uniform elongation, if desired, whereby the final spacing of the buttons from the cloth may be readily and accurately predetermined.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an implement for the purposes indicated above which may be readily withdrawn from the assembled cloth and button by a simple sliding movement upon completion of the button sewing operation or upon completion of the principal sewing operation but prior to winding or coiling of the thread loop shank, depending on the particular manner in which the button is attached to the cloth.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an improved device for retaining a button while the same is being sewed onto a piece of cloth by hand, and of a device of this character which is operative to control the lengths of the thread loops which are employed to secure the button to the cloth whereby the spacing of the button from the face of the cloth may be accurately predetermined and controlled.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of an improved implement useful in the hand sewing of buttons which is operative to facilitate the retaining of the cloth and button in flat overlying relation whereby the sewing operation is materially aided.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent upon consideration of the following detailed specification and the accompanying drawing wherein there is disclosed a preferred practical embodiment of the invention.

In the drawing:

Figures 1, 2 and 3 are plan, side and end views, respectively, of a button holding implement constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention, the views showing a but-

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ton and cloth piece in dotted outline in assembled relation with respect to the implement, and

Figure 4 is a plan view of a blank from which the embodiment of Figures 1, 2 and 3 is formed.

The implement of Figures 1, 2 and 3 is formed of a single piece of flat sheet-like material such as stainless steel, for example. However, any suitable material may be employed, either metallic or non-metallic, provided that a predetermined spring characteristic results, the nature and purpose of which will more fully appear below. In Figure 4 the sheet blank is shown as having a principal body portion 10, a transition portion 11 and a projecting tine-like portion 12. In alignment with the tine 12 and projecting inwardly from the opposite end of the body portion 10 is a slot 13 which extends throughout substantially the whole of the length of the body portion 10. The slot 13 is preferably, although not necessarily, of a tapering nature having a somewhat greater width at its closed end than at its open or outer end.

The blank is bent or folded in its transition portion 11 about a transverse axis indicated at 14 in Figure 4 so as to cause the tine 12 to overlie the main body 10 of the implement in longitudinally and centrally disposed relation with respect to the slot 13. Further, the tine 12 is twisted ninety degrees with respect to the general plane of the blank at a location approximating the dotted line 15 of Figure 4 so that the plane of the tine is disposed normal to the plane of the body portion 10 upon the blank being bent or folded into the shape shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. It should also be observed that the tine 12 is tapered in plan as shown in Figure 4 so that after the forming process the tine is of progressively increasing height in a direction extending inwardly from the open or outer end of the slot 13. Also, the bending of the portion 11 of the blank is of such extent that the lower edge of the tine 12, when unrestrained, is positioned in the slot 13 but upon the outer free end of the tine 12 being raised upwardly the tine is entirely out of the slot with the lower edge thereof approximately parallel with the plane of the upper surface of the body portion 10. The inherent spring characteristic of the material out of which the article is formed provides an inherent spring action in the folded or bent portion 11 which is operative to yieldingly maintain the tine 12 in position within the slot 13. The tine 12 may be moved upwardly away from the plane of the body portion 10 against the action of the spring portion 11.

In using the implement above described the button to be applied is placed on the upper surface of the body portion 10 in spanning relation with the slot 13 and underneath the tine 12. The button is held in this position by the downward spring pressure asserted on the tine 12 by the spring portion 11 and for a purpose to be later described the button may be placed in any selected position longitudinally of the slot and tine. The assembled implement and button is then placed against the cloth to which the button is to be sewed and the entire assembly may then be easily clamped together by a single hand of the operator by placing the thumb of one hand on the body portion 10 outwardly of the slot 13, for example, while the fingers of this hand are used to clamp the cloth against the lower face of the body portion 10. With her other hand the needle and thread can be manipulated to make the loops by which the button will be attached to the cloth.

By referring to Figures 1 and 3, particularly, it will be noted that while the tine 12 is relatively thin the slot 13 is fairly wide so that the normal openings through a button may be positioned in the clear spaces between the tine 12 and the side edges of the slot 13. This allows for passage of the needle and thread through the button and the cloth, as will be understood. The loops, shown at 16, may be directed over and about the tine 12, thereby elongating the loops an extent determined by the longitudinal position of the button along the slot 13. If the button is positioned near the open end of the slot the loops will be quite short, while if the button is positioned back against the spring portion 11 the loops will be quite long, due to the increased height of the tine 12 at the latter position. After a sufficient number of loops have been formed the implement is withdrawn, the body portion 10 sliding out of the space between the button and cloth and the tine 12 sliding out of the formed loops. The button is now grasped and moved away from the cloth to tighten the loops interconnecting the button and cloth and in accordance with usual practice the interconnecting shank of the loops may be wrapped with thread to complete the button attaching operation.

If it is desired to sew the button quite closely onto the cloth when the button is held in the implement in the manner described above the thread is not looped over the tine 12 as shown in Figure 3 but, rather, in making the loops the thread is returned directly down one of the

holes in the button immediately upon its emergence from the other of the holes of the button on the same side of the tine 12. In this case the tine 12 serves simply as a means for resiliently holding the button on the body member 10.

It should now be apparent that I have provided an improved button-holding implement which is operative to accomplish the improved results initially discussed above. Through the use of an exceedingly simple mechanical device the positioning of a button in a proper location on a piece of cloth to which the button is to be sewed is materially facilitated and the device includes inherent means for gauging and controlling the length of loops made in the thread by which the button is attached, whereby the button is sewed on in a tight or in a loose manner, as desired.

The above specifically described embodiment of my invention should be considered as illustrative only as obviously many changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Reference should therefore be had to the appended claim in determining the scope of the invention.

I claim:

A button sewing implement comprised of a unitary member formed of a single piece of flat spring stock having a flat body portion with a slot extending inwardly from one end thereof, a folded portion on the opposite end of said body portion, and a tine extending forwardly from said folded portion in overlying relation with respect to said body portion, said tine being twisted ninety degrees with respect to the plane of the upper reach of said folded portion, said tine being disposed centrally and longitudinally of said slot.

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