June 27, 1944. DE HART G. SCRANTOM 2,352,347

KNITTING NEEDLE

Filed Aug. 25, 1943

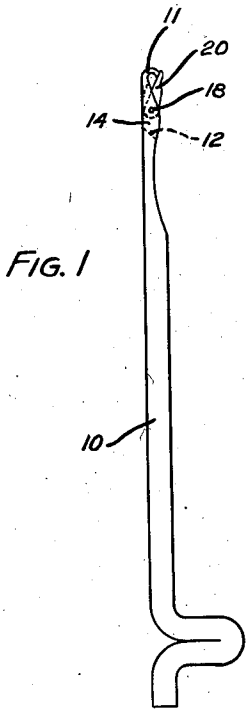

FIG. 1

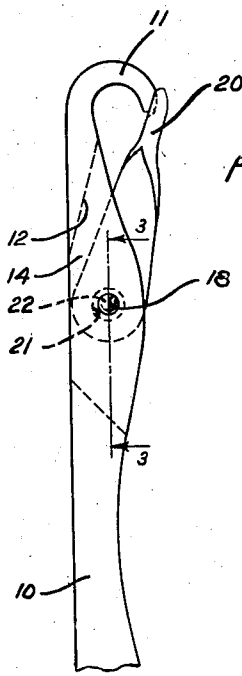

FIG. 2

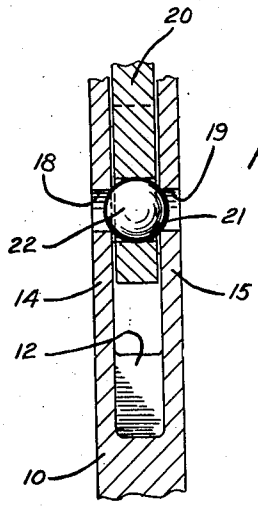

FIG. 3

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KNITTING NEEDLE

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Application August 25, 1943, Serial No. 499,877

3 Claims. (Cl. 66—122)

This invention relates to knitting needles and has for its object the provision of new and improved knitting needles.

In applying knitted insulation to wires, knitting needles having hooks on the ends thereof and latches pivotally mounted to the needles adjacent to the hooks are often used. Heretofore, the latches have been secured in a slot in the needles by pins passing through the needles and one end of each of the latches. This construction of the needles has not been entirely satisfactory because the pins tend to work out of the needles slightly so that they often catch the threads during the operation of the knitting machine and thereby cause false stitches to be produced in the knitted product.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, a knitting needle of the type employed in applying knitted insulation to wires includes a needle having a hook at one end thereof, a pivoted latch adjacent thereto, and a retainer for the latch comprising a ball seated in openings in the latch and in the body of the needle.

Other features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a side view of a knitting needle embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary side view of the needle shown in Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view of the needle taken along the line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

In accordance with the preferred construction, a knitting needle embodying the invention comprises a shank 10 which has a hook 11 formed on one end thereof and a slot 12 formed therein at the base of the hook. Sides 14 and 15 having identical bores 18 and 19, respectively, formed therein bound the slot 12. A latch 20 having a bore 21 formed in the lower portion thereof is pivotally secured to the hook 11 by a ball bearing 22 whose diameter is slightly smaller than the diameter of the bore 21 through which it passes, but is considerably larger than the diameters of the bores 18 and 19 which are equal.

The latch 20, the bearing 22 and the hook 11 are assembled by inserting the bearing 22 into the bore 21, springing the sides 14 and 15 sufficiently apart to permit the lower end of the latch 20 and the bearing 22 retained therein to be inserted in the slot 12 with the bearing aligned with the bores 18 and 19. The sides 14 and 15 may then be released and pressed back to secure the bearing 22 in the bores 18 and 19. If it is desirable to remove the latch 22 from the slot 12, this may be accomplished by reversing the procedure just described.

The above mentioned construction provides a simple and sturdy knitting needle which is inexpensive to construct and assemble, and eliminates any parts which might catch the thread when such parts become worn.

What is claimed is:

1. A knitting needle comprising a shank having a hook at one end thereof and provided with openings at the base of the hook, a latch having an opening therein, and a retainer for pivotally securing the latch to the needle comprising a ball secured within the openings formed in the latch and the needle.

2. A knitting needle comprising a shank having a slot formed therein and a hook at one end thereof, and also being provided with bores in the sides of the slot; a latch having a bore therein and positioned within the slot with the bore therein aligned with the bores in the shank, and means to pivotally secure the latch to the shank comprising a ball seated in the bores formed in the shank and positioned in the bore formed in the latch.

3. A knitting needle comprising a shank having a hook at one end thereof and also having a slot formed therein adjacent to the hook and aligned bores connecting with the slot, a latch having one end positioned in the slot in the shank, said end having a bore therethrough in alignment with the bores in the shank and a ball positioned in the bores in the latch and the shank to pivotally secure the latch to the shank.

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