

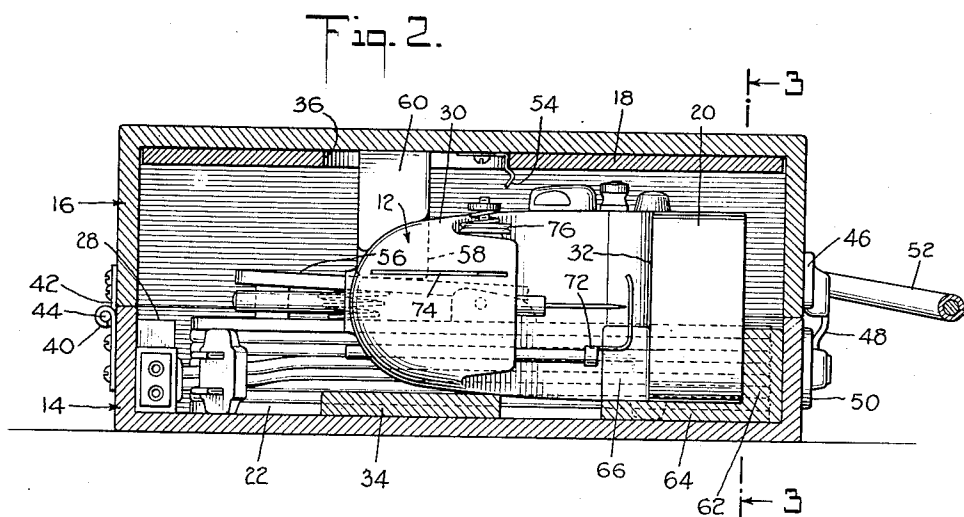
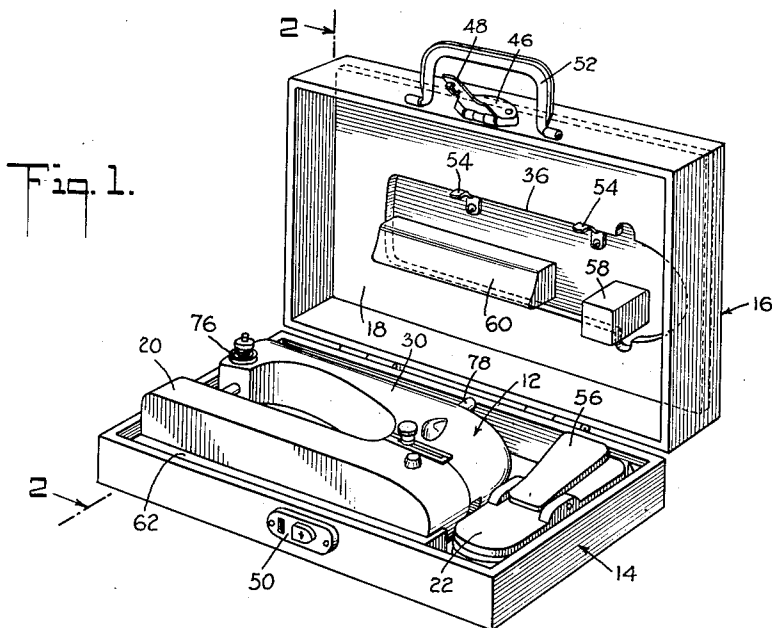
May 4, 1954

S. R. BELL
COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND WORK SUPPORT
FOR PORTABLE SEWING MACHINES

2,677,341

Filed July 27, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 3.

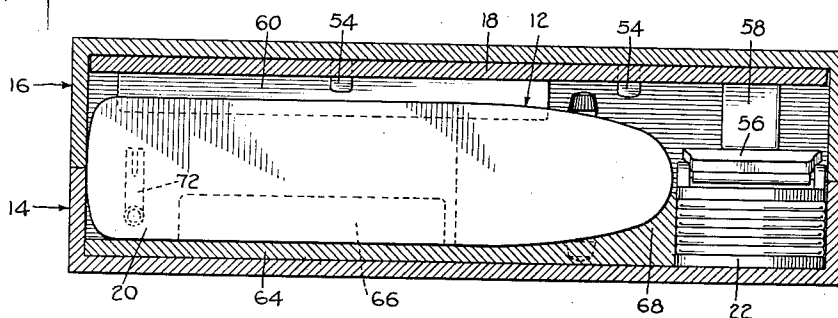


Fig. 4.

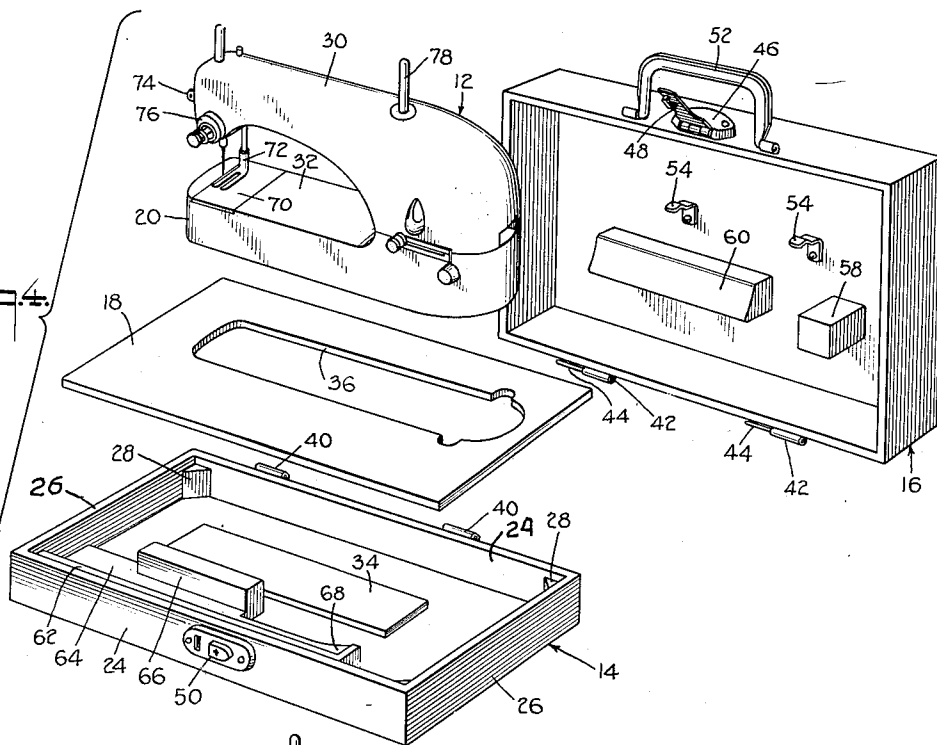
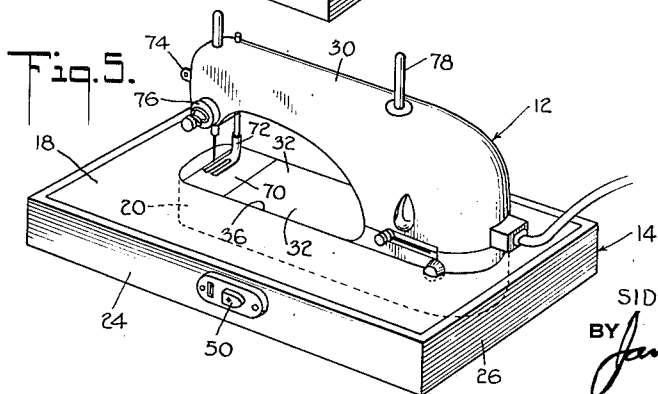


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND WORK
SUPPORT FOR PORTABLE SEWING
MACHINES

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mesne assignments, of four-fifths to Irving J.
Moritt and one-fifth to Harry Rebell, both of
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Application July 27, 1948, Serial No. 40,917

11 Claims. (Cl. 112-260)

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This invention relates to sewing machines, and more particularly to small, light-weight portable sewing machines.

The primary object of my invention is to generally improve small sewing machines of the character specified. A more particular object is to combine the sewing machine head with a small, compact carrying case simulating a lady's vanity box or other miniature piece of luggage.

Still another object is to provide a flat, smooth work table having an area which is extensive relative to the size of the machine, said table preferably being flush with a portion of the carrying case acting as a base, and said base being devoid of projecting hinges, clasps or the like which would in any way interfere with the feed of fabric over the work table.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a carrying case which houses a treadle operated rheostat and its flexible extension cords, along with the sewing machine head, and which stows the rheostat in such a way as to provide increased table area outside the needle of the machine when the machine is in use.

Still another object is to provide means to hold the head, the rheostat, and the work table securely in position within the case when the case is closed, and also to hold the head securely in working position when the machine is in use.

To accomplish the foregoing general objects, and other more particular objects which will hereinafter appear, my invention resides in the sewing machine and carrying case elements and their relation one to another as are hereinafter more particularly described in the following specification. The specification is accompanied by drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the parts in stowed relation but with the cover swung open;

Fig. 2 is a section taken approximately in the plane of the line 2-2 of Fig. 1 but with the cover closed;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken approximately in the plane of the line 3-3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view with the parts separated; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view with the machine in working condition.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Fig. 1, the sewing machine head 12 is disposed in horizontal position in a carrying case made up of a base 14, and a cover 16 which is readily detachably hinged to the base so that it

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may be completely removed, as is shown in Figs. 4 and 5. To make the case compact and to nevertheless provide a base of extensive area, the head 12 is stowed in horizontal position, that is, generally parallel to the base 14, as shown in Fig. 1, but is used vertically or generally perpendicular to the base, as shown in Fig. 5.

A detachable table 18 (Fig. 4) has an opening 36 dimensioned to fit closely around the bed 20 of the head when the head is in working position, this being best shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing. It will be noted that the table is flush with the peripheral edges of the base, and with the bed plate (by which I mean the top of the bed of the sewing machine head). The hinges, the lock and the carrying handle of the case are all so arranged that the few parts which remain with the base are disposed below the table surface in order not to interfere with the feed of fabric over the table during the sewing operation. When not in use the table 18 fits within the cover 16, preferably against the top wall thereof, as is shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

The carrying case is dimensioned to receive not only the head of the sewing machine but also a treadle operated rheostat 22 with flexible extension cords. This is preferably stowed at one end of the case, and the extra length of the case is usefully employed when the machine is in operation to provide added table area outside the needle, as is indicated at the left end of Fig. 5 of the drawing.

Considering the arrangement in greater detail, and referring first to Fig. 4 of the drawing, the table 18 is preferably dimensioned to fit within the peripheral walls 24 and 26 of base 14. Appropriate supports, in this case corner blocks 28, receive and support the table 18. The height of the blocks is such that the top of the table is flush with the edges of the base.

The sewing machine head comprises a bed 20 and a sewing machine arm 30. The bed 20 preferably has a flat top or bed plate surface 32, and this is also disposed in flush relation with the top of table 18. In the particular example of the invention here shown, the base is provided with a flat filler strip 34, the thickness of which is such as to establish the desired flush relation between all of the parts making up the complete table surface, as shown in Fig. 5. The opening 36 cut through table 18 is dimensioned to fit closely about the bed of the machine, and this alone is sufficient to hold the head securely in position during the sewing operation.

The hinge portion 40 (Fig. 2) secured to the

base 14 is lowered sufficiently to come flush with the top of the base. The mating hinge portion 42 on the cover 13 is correspondingly lowered, the hinge pins 44 coming below the cover, as shown in Fig. 4. The lock portion 46 having a projecting hinged clasp 48 is secured to the cover 16, while the lock portion 50 which is secured to the base 14 is disposed well below the top edge of the base.

The cover 16 is preferably wider than the base 14, and the carrying handle 52 is secured to the cover. With such a construction the handle may be located approximately in the median plane of the carrying case, or the median plane of the sewing machine head when in stowed position.

Because the table 18 is dimensioned to fit within the peripheral walls of the base 14, it also fits within the peripheral walls of the cover 16. Spring clips 54 or equivalent resilient means are provided to hold the table against the top wall of the cover. For this purpose the clips preferably pass through and bear against an edge of the opening 36.

The treadle operated rheostat 22 is preferably of a type disclosed and claimed in my co-pending application, Serial No. 25,879, filed May 8, 1948, since issued on July 24, 1951 as Patent No. 2,561,556. In that rheostat the periphery is deeply channeled or recessed to receive the extension cords which are wound thereabout. The rheostat with the cords wound therearound is simply dropped into one end of the case, as is best shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The treadle 56 of the rheostat is normally urged upwardly to "off" position by appropriate spring means forming a part of the rheostat. This fact is taken advantage of here to hold the rheostat snugly in position. For this purpose the cover 16 is provided with a block 58 which bears downwardly somewhat against the treadle 56, as is best shown in Fig. 3. The block is long enough to depress the treadle slightly, but is short enough not to depress the treadle fully. A slight depression of the treadle is adequate to hold the rheostat in position. A substantial depression of the treadle might fatigue the metal of the restoring spring.

In Fig. 1 it will be seen that the block 58 is so located that it passes through the opening 36 in the table 18. Another block 60 similarly passes through the opening 36. This block is shaped to bear against the top of the sewing machine head, as is best shown in Fig. 2, thereby steadying the head against movement when the carrying case is closed. The base 14 is also provided with suitable locating and support means for the head. There is a block (or an assemblage of smaller blocks) which provide a filler 62 fitting against the bottom of the head; a filler 64 supporting the side of the bed; and a short locating block 66 which bears against the top of the bed. The spacer 34 previously referred to also helps support the head. Thus the head is supported against sideward movement, as viewed in Fig. 2. Referring now to Fig. 3, the head is supported against longitudinal movement because one end bears against the end wall of the carrying case, while the other end is supported by a curved block 68 which mates with the end of the sewing machine head.

In general the blocks and spacers are so arranged as to hold the sewing machine head firmly against movement in any direction and also to hold the rheostat against movement. The blocks on the cover are so disposed as to pass through the opening in the table when the table is stowed

in the cover. The blocks in the base are so disposed as not to interfere with setting the sewing machine head in desired erect working position.

The details of the sewing machine head are not essential to the present invention, but briefly, the presser foot 72 is movable toward and away from the slide 70. The machine has a thread take-up 74 and a thread tension 76, as well as a spool holder 78. The motor is housed in the closed end of the head.

It is believed that the construction and method of use of my improved portable light-weight sewing machine, and particularly the combination of the sewing machine head and the carrying case therefor, as well as the advantages thereof, will be apparent from the foregoing detailed description. The case is carried in generally vertical position by means of its carrying handle, much as would be done with a vanity box or other miniature piece of luggage. When the machine is to be used it is laid with the base downward; the lock opened; the cover removed altogether; and the head and rheostat removed from the base. The table is then pulled out of the cover and set into the base. The sewing machine head is then set into the base through the opening in the table until it rests firmly on the bottom of the base, at which time the bed plate is flush with the table. The extension cords are then unwound from about the rheostat, one plug being connected to a wall outlet, and the other being connected to the sewing machine head, the latter connection being shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing. The rheostat is placed on the floor at a comfortable location, and the machine is then ready for operation.

It will be apparent that while I have shown and described my invention in a preferred form, changes may be made in the structure shown, without departing from the spirit of the invention as sought to be defined in the following claims:

I claim:

1. A combined portable sewing machine, work support, and carrying case comprising a sewing machine head having a bed, and a carrying case for said head, said case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case and said head being so relatively dimensioned that the head is disposed horizontally or generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case and is disposed vertically or generally perpendicular to the base when in use, and further comprising a separable fiat table having an opening shaped and dimensioned to fit entirely around the bed of the head when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, means on said base to support the table with the edges of the table received within the peripheral walls of the base and with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base, the bed of the sewing machine being so proportioned and so located relative to the base that the bed plate or top of the bed is flush with the table.

2. A combined portable sewing machine, work support, and carrying case comprising a sewing machine head having a bed, and a carrying case for said head, said case having a base and a cover with connecting but releasable hardware, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case and said head being so relatively dimensioned that the head is disposed horizontally or generally parallel to the

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base when enclosed in the case and is disposed vertically or generally perpendicular to the base when in use, and further comprising a separable flat table having an opening shaped and dimensioned to fit entirely around the bed of the head when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, means on said base to support the table with the edges of the table received within the peripheral walls of the base and with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base, the bed of the sewing machine being so proportioned and so located relative to the base that the bed plate or top of the bed is flush with the table, the portions of the connecting hardware of said case which remain with said base being disposed below said table surface in order not to interfere with the feed of fabric over the table during the sewing operation.

3. A combined portable sewing machine, work support, and carrying case comprising a sewing machine head having a bed, and a carrying case for said head, said case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case and said head being so relatively dimensioned that the head is disposed horizontally or generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case and is disposed vertically or generally perpendicular to the base when in use, and further comprising a separable flat table having an opening shaped and dimensioned to fit entirely around the bed of the head when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, means on said base to support the table with the edges of the table received within the peripheral walls of the base and with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base, the bed of the sewing machine being so proportioned and so located relative to the base that the bed plate or top of the bed is flush with the table, said table being removable from said base and fitting within the peripheral walls and against the top of the cover when the head is enclosed within the case.

4. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine having a sewing machine head, said case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, and said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, and means whereby said head may be disposed upright and perpendicular to the base when in use, said means including a wholly detachable flat work support table having a large opening therein shaped and dimensioned to fit around the bed of the head when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, the base being provided with means to support the table with the edges of the table received within the peripheral walls of the base and with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base, and the said means supporting the table at a height above the base equal to the height of the machine bed, whereby the top of the bed is flush with the table when the sewing machine is in use.

5. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine having a sewing machine head, said case having a base

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and a cover, and said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, and means whereby said head may be disposed upright and perpendicular to the base when in use, said means including a wholly detachable flat work support table having a large opening therein shaped and dimensioned to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, and said case having fully separable hardware connecting the cover and the base, the portions of the hardware which remain with said base being disposed below the edges of the base in order not to interfere with the feed of fabric over the base and table during use of the machine, and the table being removable from the base and dimensioned to fit within the peripheral walls of the cover against the top of the cover to make room for the head of the machine when the head is carried in the case.

6. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine assembly comprising a sewing machine head and a rheostat with flexible extension cords, said carrying case having a base and a cover, said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, said case being so dimensioned that there is additional space along one end of the head to receive the rheostat and cords, said case further comprising a detachable work support table having an opening to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, said opening being so located that the head is disposed with its needle end spaced a substantial distance from the nearer end of the case when the head is in erect or working condition thereby increasing the work table area around the needle.

7. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine assembly comprising a sewing machine head and a rheostat with flexible extension cords, said carrying case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, said case being so dimensioned that there is additional space along one end of the head to receive the rheostat and cords, said case further comprising a detachable work support table having an opening to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, said opening being so located that the head is then disposed with its needle end spaced a substantial distance from the nearer end of the case thereby increasing the work table area around the needle, means on said base to support the table with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base and also at such a height as to be flush with the top of the machine bed when the head is in use, said table being removable from the base and dimensioned to fit within the peripheral walls and against the top of the cover when the head is enclosed within the case.

8. A combined carrying case and work sup-

port for a portable sewing machine having a sewing machine head, said case having a base and a cover, and said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, and means whereby said head may be disposed upright and perpendicular to the base when in use, said means including a wholly detachable flat work support table having a large opening therein shaped and dimensioned to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, the cover being provided with a holding block dimensioned to bear against the head when stowed, and the base being provided with locating blocks for the head when stowed, said locating blocks being so located as not to interfere with desired positioning of the head in erect position in registration with the table.

9. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine assembly comprising a sewing machine head and a rheostat with flexible extension cords, said carrying case having a base and a cover, said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, said case being so dimensioned that there is additional space along one end of the head to receive the rheostat and cords, said case further comprising a detachable work support table having an opening to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, said opening being so located that the head is disposed with its needle end spaced a substantial distance from the nearer end of the case when the head is in erect or working condition thereby increasing the work table area around the needle, the cover being provided with holding means to hold the table therein when not in use, and the cover being provided with a holding block for bearing against and slightly depressing the treadle of the rheostat in order to yieldably hold the same in position, said holding block passing through said opening in said table.

10. A combined carrying case and work support for a portable sewing machine assembly comprising a sewing machine head and a rheostat with flexible extension cords, said carrying case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case being so dimensioned relative to the head as to receive the head generally parallel to the base when enclosed in the case, said case being so dimensioned that there is additional space along one end of the head to receive the rheostat and cords, said case further comprising a detachable work support table having an opening to fit around the machine bed when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the

machine bed, said opening being so located that the head is then disposed with its needle end spaced a substantial distance from the nearer end of the case thereby increasing the work

5 table area around the needle, means on said base to support the table with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base and also at such a height as to be flush with the top of the machine bed when the head is in use, said
10 table being removable from the base and dimensioned to fit within the peripheral walls and against the top of the cover when the head is enclosed within the case, the cover being provided with a holding block dimensioned to bear
15 against the head when stowed, the base being provided with locating blocks for the head when stowed, said locating blocks being so located as not to interfere with desired positioning of the head in erect position in registration with the
20 table, the cover being provided with holding means to hold the table therein when not in use, and the cover being provided with a holding block for bearing against and slightly depressing the treadle of the rheostat in order to hold the same yieldably in position said holding blocks passing through said opening in said table.

11. A combined portable sewing machine, work support, and carrying case comprising a sewing machine head having a bed, and a carrying case
30 for said head, said case having a base and a cover, said base having a depth substantially equal to the depth of the machine bed, said case and said head being so relatively dimensioned that the head is disposed horizontally or generally
35 parallel to the base when enclosed in the case and is disposed vertically or generally perpendicular to the base when in use, and further comprising a separable flat table having an opening shaped and dimensioned to fit entirely around
40 the bed of the head when the head is in erect or working position, said opening being defined by an edge corresponding to the horizontal edge profile of the machine bed, means on said base to support the table with the edges of the table
45 received within the peripheral walls of the base and with the top of the table flush with the edges of the base, the bed of the sewing machine being so proportioned and so located relative to the base that the bed plate or top of the bed is flush with the table, the peripheral walls of said cover being substantially wider than the peripheral walls of said base, said cover being readily detachably hinged to said base, and a carrying handle disposed on the peripheral wall of said
50 cover in such a position as to be approximately in the median plane of the case.

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