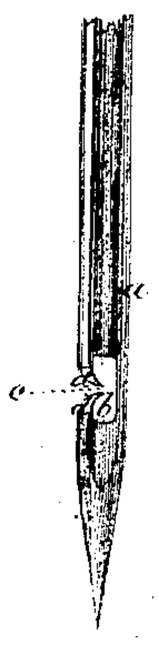
J. B. BLANCHARD.

NEEDLE FOR SEWING MACHINES.

No. 94,384. Patented Aug. 31, 1869.

Showing double eyed needle.

Fig. 1.



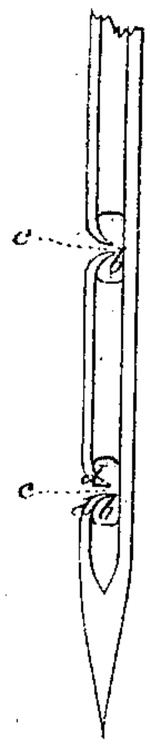
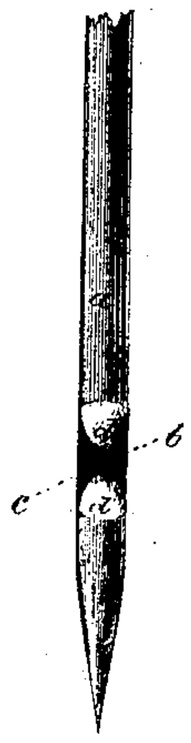


Fig. 2.



Witnesses,

Edward Griffith.

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United States Patent Office.

JOSEPH B. BLANCHARD, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 94,384, *dated August* 31, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN NEEDLE FOR SEWING-MACHINE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all to whom these presents shall come:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH B. BLANCHARD, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have made an invention of a new and useful Improvement in Sewing-Machine Needles; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, due reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are side elevations of a needle, formed in accordance with my invention.

The purpose, briefly, of the invention, comprising the subject-matter of this patent, is to facilitate the threading of a needle, when, as is often the case, by reason of imperfect light, failure of eyesight, or other reasons, such threading becomes a matter of time and difficulty.

As the merits of needles possessing the above advantages have been elaborated in several patents before issued in the United States, and as they are self-evident to intelligent persons, an extended reference to such merits is not considered necessary or pertinent to this specification.

The principal advantage resulting from the adoption of my invention is a mechanical one, insomuch that it may be produced at very little cost, and is not liable to catch the threads of the fabric through which it passes.

In the drawings, to which allusion has before been made, a sewing-machine needle is represented, whose shank is denoted by the letter *a*, and its eye at *b*, such drawings being made upon a greatly-enlarged scale.

In carrying out my invention, I cut a central slit or orifice, *c*, through the metal, composing one side of the eye of the needle, and at about the centre of the latter, and after reducing to a point or thereabout the ends of the two projections thus formed, I give them an inward and curved bend, as shown at *d d* in the drawings. the orifice *c* between them, which permits of the passage of the thread to the eye, being, by the resulting separation of the points, enlarged to such an extent as to permit of a forced passage of the thread through them, but sufficiently attenuated to prevent its escape therefrom.

This orifice should vary in size according to the size of the needle, and of the thread which the needle is destined to carry, the breadth of the orifice being, in all cases, slightly less that the diameter of such thread.

The presentation of the curved points, looking inward, allows the thread to pass easily between them into the eye, while it serves equally well to prevent its clandestine escape therefrom. Although I must, of course, admit that, mechanically speaking, cutting away the means of support from one side of the eye of a needle would weaken it, yet I think the advantage gained in point of ease of threading would permit of some sacrifice of strength of parts.

Repeated and extended experiments, however, have demonstrated that a needle made as above described, performs its duty perfectly in all varieties and thicknesses of fabrics, and under all conditions of service, from the finest and cheapest muslin, to the heaviest beaver-cloth or leather.

Claim.

I claim a sewing-machine needle, provided with a lateral opening, *c*, into the eye thereof, constructed with burr-like points *d d*, looking inward, or so as to admit the ready passage of the thread to the eye, but preventing the escape of the thread therefrom, and with the corners *b b* of said lateral opening *c* rounded, so as to prevent injury to the material in the passage of the needle.

Witnesses: JOSEPH B. BLANCHARD.

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