

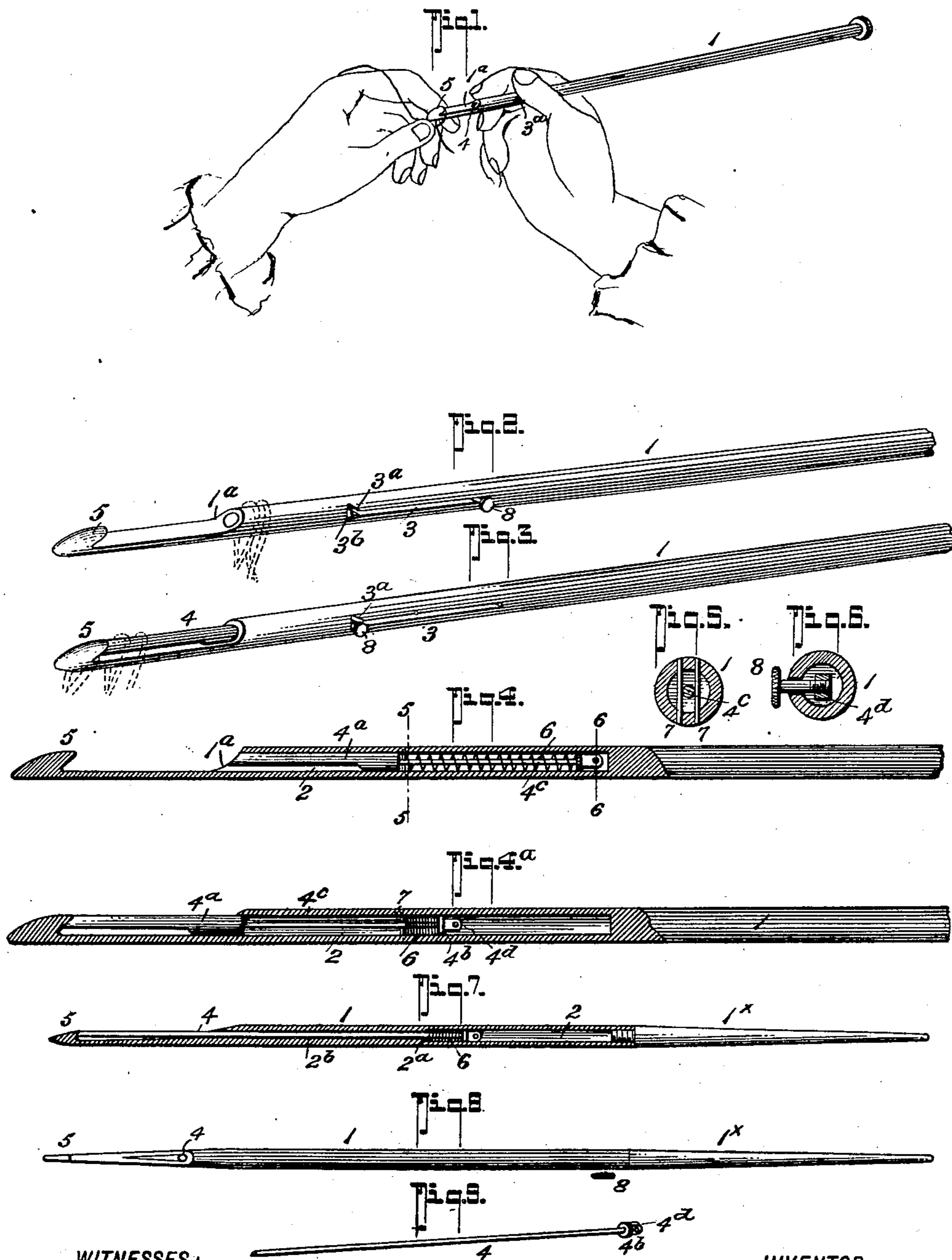
No. 677,832.

Patented July 2, 1901.

J. J. WICKHAM.
CROCHET NEEDLE.

(Application filed Oct. 11, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

John E. Burch
Louis Dieterich

INVENTOR

John J. Wickham

BY

Frederick Dietrich & Co
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN J. WICKHAM, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CROCHET-NEEDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,832, dated July 2, 1901.

Application filed October 11, 1900. Serial No. 32,768. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. WICKHAM, residing in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented a new and Improved Crochet-Needle, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an improved crochet needle or hook, and it seeks to provide certain novel improvements upon the ordinary hook or crochet-needle which will render its use the more satisfactory, effective, and of such character that a more uniform arrangement of crochet-stitches can be maintained and the danger of slipping, tearing, or otherwise making the said stitches irregular reduced to the minimum.

As is well known, in the use of the ordinary crochet-needle and other implements of this character the user, after winding or looping the crochet thread, cord, yarn, or the like one or more times over the needle to produce the desired kind of stitch when knitting the said thread in fabric form, when pulling the hook end of the needle back to carry the thread through the said loops or windings must exercise considerable care as well as skill to pull the said thread back in such manner as to prevent the barbed end catching into the loops, and thereby disorganizing the proper relative arrangement of the stitches or loops or breaking the thread, the latter objectionable result being frequently encountered when the material being worked is a worsted or other fluffy body. My invention is especially designed to obviate such annoyances by providing a crochet-needle with a movable member adapted to be slipped into position and form, as it were, a "bridge" for extending over the hook or barbed end of the needle in such manner as to produce a needle the entire length of which has an uninterrupted external surface, especially at that end over which the stitches are dropped, so that no projections or barbs will interfere with the loops or stitches when it is desired to drop the same off the needle, providing, as it were, a smooth end adapted to pull freely through the stitches, the said bridge having a finger-manipulated member where- by the same may be conveniently shoved for-

ward to its barbed covering position. Spring devices for automatically pulling the said bridge back into its normal or inoperative position are also provided, all of which will hereinafter be fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 illustrates my improved crochet-needle as in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the needle, the bridge-piece being in the inner or normal position. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the bridge-piece forward to close over the barbed end. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of the needle, the bridge member being drawn back. Fig. 4^a is a longitudinal section of the needle, the bridge-piece being in its forward position. Fig. 5 is a cross-section on the line 5 5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a similar view of the finger-trip-detent device hereinafter referred to; and Fig. 7 is a longitudinal section of a modified form of my invention, the same being especially adapted for knitting silk or linen thread. Fig. 8 is a plan view of the same, and Fig. 9 is a detail view of the bridge member used in the said modified form.

In the drawings, 1 designates the crochet-needle, having the ordinary external shape, and the front end of the needle has a longitudinal bore 2, beginning at the tapered or reduced part 1^a thereof and extending into the handle portion of the needle to a predetermined point, and the inner end of the said bore merges with a horizontal elongated slot 3, the purpose of which will hereinafter appear.

4 designates what I term the "bridge" member, and the same comprises a bolt-like portion 4^a, having a diameter similar to the bore 2 and having its front end tapering on the plane of the taper or cut part 1^a of the needle, so that when the bridge is moved back into the needle-body and held at its normal position the said end will form practically a continuation of the part 1^a and provide a smooth surface to permit of as free use of the pick-up or hook end of the needle as if it had no bore or bridge-piece, the tapering of the front end of the bridge member also

serving to provide for a close interlocking of the said tapered end with the undercut hook or barb 5, as clearly shown in Fig. 4^a. The inner end of the bridge member terminates in a shank 4^c, of reduced diameter, to permit placing the coil-spring 6 about it, the rear end of which abuts against the shoulder 4^b, formed on the shank 4^c, and its front end engages a pair of stop-pins 7 7, that pass transversely through the needle-handle, as clearly shown in Fig. 5. When in its normal position, the bridge member is held drawn back by a spring 6.

8 indicates a finger-button having a shank that extends through the slots 3, said shank being threaded, whereby to readily engage with the threaded aperture in the end 4^d of the shank 4^c, as clearly shown in Fig. 5, and to provide a simple and practical means for holding the bridge member to its forward position. The extreme front end of the slot 3 is formed with an abrupt angle portion 3^a, which terminates in the lock-shoulder 3^b, such arrangement providing for slipping the finger-piece 8 into engagement with the shoulder 3^b, it being understood the shank of the member 4 is sufficiently resilient to allow the finger-piece 8 to pass up the angle slot 3^a and engage with the shoulder 3^b.

The details of construction shown in the drawings may be modified under the scope of the appended claims; but I prefer the structure shown, for the reason that no special provision need be provided for making an entirely new type of needle, as the present form of needle may be used by simply drilling into it a longitudinal bore and cutting the slot 3 through the side thereof. This being done, the bridge member, together with the spring, can be slid into the bore 2 and the forward end of the spring properly held by driving the two small pins 7 through the handle part to straddle the shank 4^c of the member 4, after which the finger-piece 8 can be fitted by inserting the shank thereof through the slot 3 to engage the threaded end of the shank 4^c, such arrangement of parts providing a very simple, inexpensive, and expedient way for constructing my improved needle.

From the foregoing, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it is thought the manner in which my invention is capable of being used and its advantages will be readily apparent.

In use the bridge is normally held back by the spring 6, the user, after throwing the required number of loops or stitches about the needle end and having picked the thread with the needle end that is to be pulled through the said loops, presses the finger-piece 8 forward until the bridge-piece covers the barbed end of the needle, at which time the finger member 8 will engage with the lock-shoulder of the slot 3 and hold the bridge-piece in po-

sition, thereby making the forward end of the needle with practically a smooth external surface and free from any projections that might interfere with pulling the barbed end of the needle, together with the thread-loop carried thereon, through the several loops or stitches held upon the front end of the needle, thereby reducing the danger of hooking the said loops or stitches or otherwise disorganizing the proper arrangement of the stitches to the minimum.

In Figs. 7, 8, and 9 is shown a modification of my invention. This form of needle is made of metal and the body part is of two pieces, the front 1 and the rear portion 1^x, which portion has a threaded shank to engage the threaded rear end of the bore 2 in the part 1. In this latter form the bore 2 is reduced at the forward end to receive the bridge-shank 4, which is of the same thickness throughout and has its rear end formed with the head 4^b and the apertured member 4^d, which receives the finger-piece 8. The spring 6 in this form of needle is held between the shoulder 2^a and the head 4^b.

By constructing the needle as shown in Figs. 7 and 8 the bridge-piece and the spring can be inserted into the rear end of the bore 2 and the finger-piece 8 by inserting same through the slot 3 to engage member 4^d, after which the detachable end 1^x is screwed onto the part 1.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A crochet-needle, having a bridge-piece slidable within the handle part thereof, automatically movable to its inner or normal position, and a finger member for forcing it forward to close over the barbed end of the needle, and a detent with which the said finger engages for holding the bridge-piece to its closed position, as specified.

2. As a new article, a crochet-needle, having a bridge-piece slidable within the handle part thereof, means for normally holding it to its inner or inoperative position, said bridge-piece having a finger-engaging portion projected through the side of the needle, whereby it can be shoved out to close over the barbed end of the needle, substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination with the needle 1, having a central bore, a bridge member slidable in the said bore, having its outer end tapered in a plane with the tapered end of the needle, a spring held within the bore for normally holding the bridge member to its inner position, said bridge member having a finger-tripped detent for holding it to its outer or closed position, as specified.

4. The combination with the needle having a longitudinal bore, opening through the taper end thereof, and a horizontal slot merging with the rear end of the bore, said slot

having an interlocking portion 3^b; of the
bridge member, said bridge member compris-
ing a bolt-like end 4^a, and a reduced shank
4^c, said shank having a shoulder member 4^d,
5 the tension-spring 6, the stop-pin 7, and the
finger-piece 8, secured to the end of the said
shank, said finger-piece sliding in a horizon-
tal slot, and adapted to engage the interlock-

ing portion 3^b, thereof, all being arranged sub-
stantially as shown and for the purposes de- 10
scribed.

JOHN J. WICKHAM.

Witnesses:

A. E. DIETERICH,
LOUIS DIETERICH.