

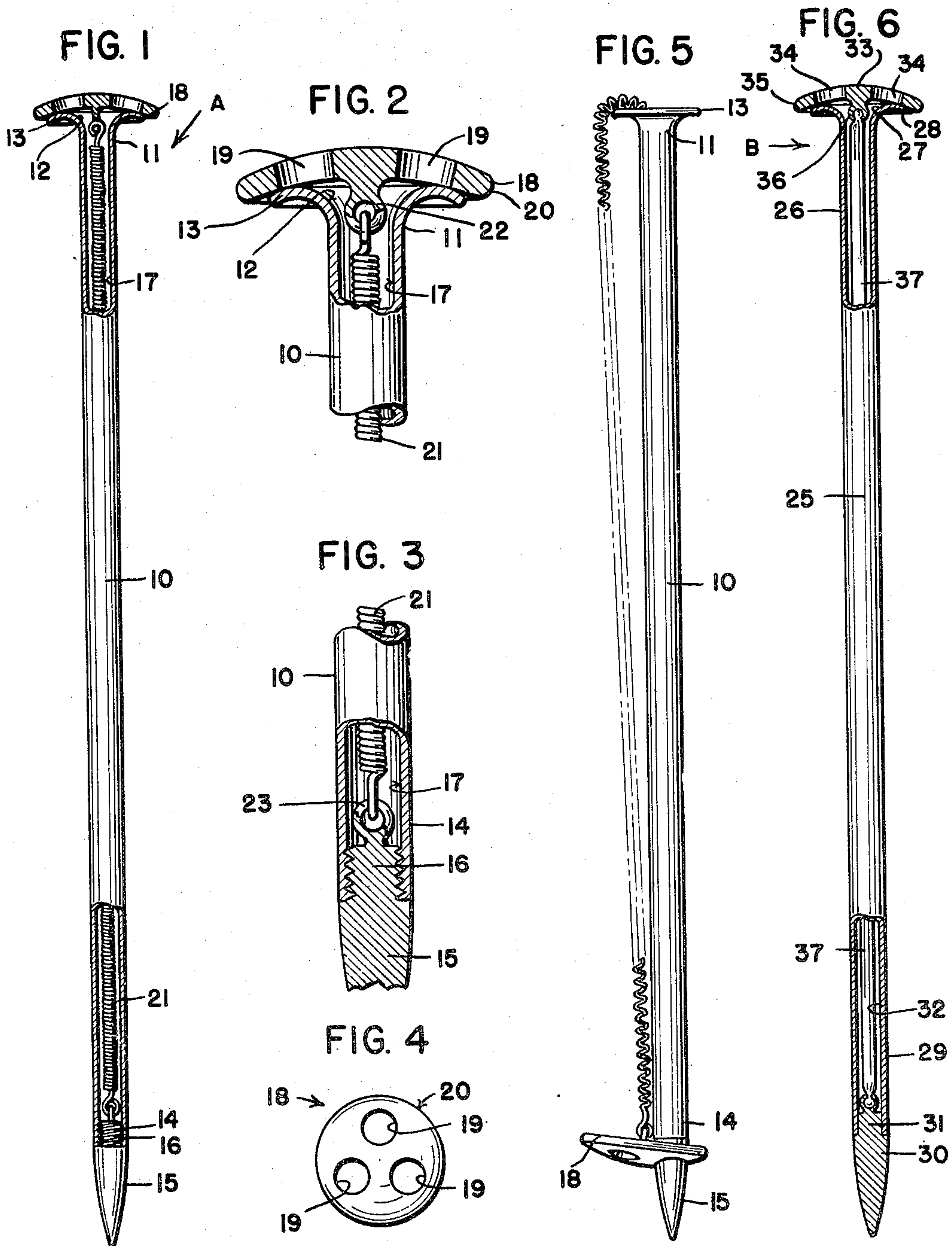
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KNITTING NEEDLE WITH LOOP RETAINING ATTACHMENT

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## KNITTING NEEDLE WITH LOOP RETAINING ATTACHMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 66—117)

1

This invention relates to improvements in knitting needles and more particularly to knitting needles provided with loop-retaining attachments.

An important object of the invention is to provide a knitting needle having means attached thereto which, when in one position, is out of the way of the knitter's hands and, when in another position, provides a retaining means to be positioned in order to prevent dropping of the loops from the needle if the knitting is interrupted, laid aside or the like.

Another important object is to provide a knitting needle with the loop-retaining attachment described which has no cumbersome parts and, when the attachment is in its out-of-the-way position, the needle has substantially the appearance of a conventional knitting needle.

Still another important object is to provide a knitting needle with attachment as described, which attachment, altho it includes a length of stretchable material, as a retraction spiral spring, will not become entangled with the knitting and is readily removed from its loop-retaining position, without tearing the yarn or the like.

Another important object is to provide a needle containing a loop-retaining portion which includes a preferably slightly dished member, provided with needle-tip accommodating perforations so disposed that, when the member is positioned at the tip of the needle, the member will cant slightly thus aiding in retaining it in place.

A further important object is to provide a knitting needle as described which may be readily manufactured, without employing complicated machinery, and may be marketed at a reasonable price.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description of the invention, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this disclosure, and in which drawing:

Figure 1 is a view mostly in longitudinal section of one form of the new needle and with the loop-retaining means in its retracted or out-of-the-way position.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal section of the rear end of the needle of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is also an enlarged fragmentary longitudinal section, but of the needle and loop-retaining means adjacent the needle tip.

Figure 4 is a plan view of a member adapted to be positioned on this tip.

2

Figure 5 is an elevation of the needle of Figure 1, with the loop-retaining means in its retaining position.

Figure 6 is a view partly in elevation and partly in longitudinal section of modification of the showing in Figure 1.

In the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration are shown two forms of the invention and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the letter A designates one form of the invention and the letter B, another form thereof.

Both forms include an elongated tubular needle shank portion having a mouth and a flange at one end, an inserted tip at the other end, a removable member at the flanged end and normally disposed upon the flange and closing the mouth but adapted to be positioned upon the tip, since it has a perforation to accommodate a portion of the tip, and a length of resilient, readily stretchable and flexible material connecting the removable member and the remainder of the needle.

The form A of Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5, includes an elongated tubular needle shank portion 10, which is preferably flared at its rear end section 11 to provide a rounded mouth 12 and an outwardly curved flange 13, while the opposite or front end section 14 carries a tip 15 having an outer contour substantially like that of a conventional knitting needle and merging into the outer surface of the portion 10. In the example shown, the tip 15 has a circumferentially-reduced shank 16 which is exteriorly screw threaded to be accommodated by interior screw-threads of the end section 14. Thus, there is provided an elongated chamber 17 within the needle A, opening at the mouth 12.

Over the mouth 12 is normally disposed a removable member 18 which provides a closure or guard for the mouth, a means for rounding out the rear end of the needle A, and a device to be positioned upon the tip 15, as in Figure 5 to retain the knitting loops. Preferably, this member 18 is slightly dished, as is clear in Figures 2 and 4, and is provided with a plurality of spaced-apart perforations or openings 19, disposed intermediate the center of member and its rim or edge 20, and adapted to accommodate a portion of the tip 15, as shown in Figure 5. When disposed as in Figure 2 the member 18, in conjunction with the flange 13, rounds out the end of the needle A and there are no sharp edges to injure the knitter nor damage the knit-



3

ting. The portions of the needle A thus described may be of metal, hardened plastic or the like or combinations thereof.

Attached at one end to the member 18 and extending into the chamber 17 where it may be attached, at its other end, to the inner end of the shank 16, is a suitable resilient, readily-stretchable and flexible member 21 which is shown as a retraction spiral spring, as of steel wire, having one end secured as by a connecting hook at the terminal of one of the last convolutions, to an eye portion 22 carried by the member 18 at its axial center, and secured in a like manner at its other end to an eye portion 23 carried by the shank 16.

While knitting or when the needle A is not in use or not inserted into the loops of laid aside knitting, the parts are disposed as in Figures 1, 2 and 3 but when the knitting is laid aside with the needle within the loops the parts are positioned as in Figure 5 since the knitter may readily grasp the member 18 (because its rim 20 extends beyond the edge of the flange 13) and pull upon it to carry it to the position shown in Figure 5. The resilient member 21 will stretch out of the rounded mouth, over the flange 13 and extend along the tubular portion 10, so that the member 18 will be held in place (not by friction alone, which has proven not very satisfactory) but by the pull of the member 21 plus the hold of the tip 15 upon the member 18 caused by canting of the latter. Of course the knitting loops to be retained will be upon the tubular member 10 between the member 18 and the flared end section 11.

Upon resuming knitting, the knitter again grasps the member 18 by its rim 20 and pulls it toward and over the free end of the tip, whereby the convolutions of the resilient member (spring) spread and, consequently, the loops will not be pinched. The member 18 is then preferably carried in an arc to the rear end section 11 and redispersed as in Figures 1 and 2.

The form B, illustrated in Figure 6, includes an elongated tubular needle shank portion 25, preferably having its rear end section 26 flared, as in the form A, to provide a rounded mouth 27 and outwardly extending curved flange 28 while its front end section 29 carries a tip 30 provided with a hollowed shank 31 having a force fit with the portion 25 and there is provided an elongated chamber 32. A member 33, in general shape similar to the member 18 is provided having perforations 34 like the perforations 19 and rim or edge 35, but there is no eye portion similar to the eye portion 22 since we prefer, in this form, to provide a hollow shank 36 of deformable or moldable material to receive one end (as a knotted or enlarged end) of a resilient or stretchable member 37 with its other end enlarged, as by being knotted and accommodated in the hollow of the shank 31 and with the material of the shanks 31 and 36 upset about the enlargements.

The member 33 of the form B is manipulated exactly like the member 18 of form A.

It has been customary for knitters to employ a cork or the like to position upon the tip of a knitting needle in order to retain loops in place but such devices are apt to become lost or mislaid and become disengaged from the needle too readily, since they are held solely by friction. The loop retaining means herein disclosed obviates these disadvantages and, in

4

addition, provides a terminal and protection for the rear end of the needle when in use.

Various changes may be made to the forms of the invention herein shown and described without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a knitting needle having an elongated needle shank portion and a tip portion, having a chamber opening exteriorly thereof, at one end of the shank portion, a length of flexible and readily stretchable material secured at one end to one of said portions and normally disposed in said chamber, and means to retain a knitting loop upon said shank portion, comprising a removable member having an opening receiving a section of said tip portion when said removable member is in one position and said length is stretched to extend outwardly of said chamber, said removable member being secured to the other end of said length of flexible material.

2. In combination with a knitting needle having an elongated tubular needle shank portion with a mouth at one end thereof and a tip portion at the other end thereof, a length of resilient and flexible material secured at one end to one of said portions and extending into said shank portion, and means to retain a knitting loop upon said shank portion, comprising a removable member provided with an opening, receiving a section of said tip portion when said removable member is disposed upon said tip portion, and to cover said mouth when said removable member is pressed over said mouth, and means securing the other end of said length of flexible material to said removable member, the retracted length of said length of flexible material being such that, when said removable member is pressed against the walls of said mouth when in the last-named position and pressed upon said tip portion when in the first-named position, said removable member will be resiliently held in place by said length of resilient material.

3. In combination with a knitting needle having an elongated tubular needle shank portion with a mouth at one end thereof and a tip portion at the other end thereof, a length of resilient and flexible material secured at one end to said tip portion and extending through said shank portion, and means to retain a knitting loop upon said shank portion, comprising a removable member provided with an opening, receiving a section of said tip portion when said removable member is disposed upon said tip portion, and to cover said mouth when said removable member is pressed over said mouth, and means securing the other end of said length of flexible material to said removable member, the retracted length of said length of flexible material being such that, when said removable member is pressed against the walls of said mouth when in the last-named position and pressed upon said tip portion when in the first-named position, said removable member will be resiliently held in place by said length of resilient material.

4. In combination with a knitting needle having an elongated tubular shank portion with a mouth and an outwardly-extending flange at one end and an inserted tip at the other end, a length of flexible and stretchable material with one end thereof secured to that part of the tip portion within said tubular portion, and with said length of material extending through said tubular mem-



## 5

ber, and means providing a closure for said mouth, a guard over said flange and a knitting re-  
 tainer, comprising a shallow dished member pro-  
 vided with a plurality of spaced-apart tip-ac-  
 commodating perforations, means securing said  
 dished member to the other end of said length of  
 material, the retracted length of said length of  
 material being such that when said removable  
 member is over said mouth said removable mem-  
 ber will press against said flange and when any  
 one of said perforations accommodates said tip,  
 said removable member will be removably re-  
 tained upon said tip.

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15

## 6

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