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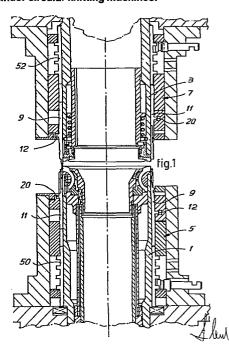
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A Procedure and equipment for the production of a sock on double-cylinder circular knitting machines.

A sock is produced with uniform rib stitching throughout the whole length of the product, even at the pockets for the heel (T) and toe (E) where said rib stitching is formed with alternating motion and with increases and reductions in the courses for formation of said pockets.

The appearance and elastic characteristics of the fabric, especially as regards the top (I) of the sock, are obtained by differentiated interlacing of the stitches of said rib stitching fabric, for instance by tucked stitches.



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- 1. Description of the industrial invention entitled:
- . "PROCEDURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A SOCK ON
- . DOUBLE-CYLINDER CIRCULAR KNITTING MACHINES".
- .in the name of OFFICINE SAVIO S.p.A. of Italian nationality .
- 5. at 105 Via Udine, PORDENONE

## DESCRIPTION

Circular knitting machines are known which comprise a 10 double bar of needles or other working organs that cooperate to form tubular products with plain and purl stitches, namely rib stitching. So as to make a simple tubular continuous product, machines can be envisaged with the two bars; and, in particular, machines can be visualised with two opposed cyl-15 inders and with special double needles able to be transferred from one cylinder to the other, or else with simple latch needles and controlling butts; said sock products, even when they are made on sock-manufacturing machines, do not offer a shape such as that which can be obtained with the pockets 20 for the heel and toe, which can be made with alterning movements of the neddle cylinders; the socks products thus obtained, therefore, are not regarded very highly. In the making of traditional socks shaped with a heel and toe, doublecylinder machines are employed which are equipped with double needles that can be transferred between one cylinder and that

other and that cooperate with needle pushers or so-called sliders, which have the twofold task of ensuring the opening of the latch of the point of the needle opposite each slider and of inducing the point or hook of the needle in such a way as to draw it into their own cylinder or to bring about its displacements; the pockets for the heel and toe of a sock are made with this kind of machine and with this kind of process by working with alternating motion, and it is possible thereby to obtain a product which is relatively more highly regarded and which, in the area of said pockets for toe and heel and perhaps of the sole of the foot, is processed with a smooth texture instead of a ribbed texture, whereas the leg and back part of the sock can be obtained with a ribbed or, perhaps, patterned texture; furthermore, the top of the sock or its elastic edge can be formed at the upper open end of the product with a combination of ribs, namely of plain and purl stitches, which is different from that employed for the leg.

Moreover, this method of working and this traditional equipment in a two cylinder machine implicate a certain complication in the processing, a limit to the speed, extreme precision (which is lost as wear proceeds), burdensome maintenance and a considerable loss of production through machine down times.

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The invention has the purpose of making a product which is commercially well liked owing to its structure and which can be made on a two-cylinder machine simply equipped and able to operate at high speed with modest maintenance requirements and also with relatively very economical components.

According to the invention a sock product or the like consists of uniform ribbed stitching throughout its whole length, the pockets for toe and heel being also produced

with the said ribbed texture made with alternating movement.and with reductions and increases in the courses so as toform said pockets.

In a product of this kind the formation may be envisaged.

5. of a structure differentiated as regards appearance in the area of the open end of the sock, namely coinciding with said top of the sock, by means of a process of differentiated interlacing of the stitches of said ribbed stitch taxture, for instance, with tucked stitches. A variation in the elastic characteristics can be obtained by introducing an elastic, or by employing elastic yarn.

The invention also concerns a procedure for the processing of a sock product or a product with said pockets with an alternating motion, whereby said procedure eliminates the shortcomings mentioned earlier. According to the invention, the processing is envisaged with uniform ribbed stitching throughout the whole length of the product, even in the areas of said pockets obtained by processing with alternating motion and in the area of the sole.

In practice, for the formation of said pockets with alternating motion there are envisaged increases and reductions in the arcs of needles working in both the upper and lower cylinders of the machine.

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A further object of the invention is formed by a two-cylinder machine (or the equivalent) for processing with an alternating motion too, said machine being characterized by including:

- in each cylinder, simple needles with hook-wise point and latch, said needles being alternated, according to a suitable lay-out, with sliding elements also called "sliders",

which are intended for functions more understandably detailed hereinafter and which cooperate with the needles of the other cylinder, wherein needles are envisaged that

- coincide with the sliders of the first cylinder so as tocooperate with them;
  - stitch cams substantially symmetrical in respect of the feed, for processing with alternating motion, and substant-
- 5. ially symmetrical in respect of a plane of symmetry between the two cylinders;
  - and transfer means or so-called pickers, symmetrically placed respectively for inserting and excluding from work, during the alternating movement, the needles and sliders
- of each cylinder in combination with the aforesaid subtantially symmetrical stitch cams, said pickers making possible the increases and reductions in the courses of alternating stitches.

To be more specific, the machine according to the invention is equipped with substantially traditional needles provided with a hook-like point and a latch, said needles each having at least one butt to control the needle; the sliders are conformed without the attachment means for transferring two-spring needles but are conformed solely to ensure the opening of the latch and are provided with butts to cooperate with the pickers and possible selection butts.

. The symmetrical stitch cams are preferably of the type . usually employed in flat knitting machines for alternating . motion, the purpose being to ensure better protection of 25. the latches.

. With a lay-out such as the aforesaid lay-out many ad. vantages are obtained which will be obvious to experts in
. this field. From said advantages we can pick out the follow. ing. The machine is not equipped with two-hook needles,
. which besides being expensive, are troublesome when they

which besides being expensive, are troublesome when they are thin for making products of so-called fine gauges.

The sliders too are made without the hook-wise conformation which causes certain problems. As a result, the possi-

- bility is avoided of breakages due to the continuous impacts
  which occur between a slider and a two-spring needle attached
  thereto in the presence of the play needed for the attachment, a play which increases with wear. The necessity for
- be needed if it were necessary to arrange for the reciprocal attachment of needles and sliders. All the organisms are eliminated which are needed, in machines equipped with two-spring needles, to cause the transfer of the needles and the radial oscillation of the sliders necessary for the attachment of the needle. The necessity is also eliminated of having to hold down the speed of the machine and, therefore, to

ing to hold down the speed of the machine and, therefore, to restrict the productivity of said machine, a disadvantage which is, instead, necessary with two-hook needles and the relative sliders.

The invention will be understood more readily by readingthe description and attached figures, which show a practical but non-restrictive example of the invention itself, and wherein:

- . Fig. 1 shows a section of the double-cylinder;
- 20. Fig. 2 shows a rough overall sketch of the development of the jacket of came:
  - Figs. 3 & 4 show in detail two portions of that jacket, with needles and sliding elements, or so-called "sliders" in various positions:
- 25. Figs. 5 & 6 give two views of a needle;
  - Figs. 7 & 8 give two corresponding views of a slider;
    - Fig. 9 shows a sock product which can be made according to the invention;
- Figs. 10 & 11 show an angular diagram relating to the arcs of needles working during the formation of the said pockets, and a diagrammatic structure of a pocket.

According to the details shown in the attached drawings

of a double-cylinder circular knitting machine, 1 is the lower cylinder and 3 is the upper cylinder, which are embodied substantially in a traditional way and are provided, amongst other things, with corresponding lengthwise channels for needles and sliders; around each of the wlinders is envisaged a jacket of cams, 5 and 7 respectively; each of said jackets 5 or7 is equipped with cams shown in the drawings and described better hereinafter. The cams of the twojackets 5, 7, are substantially symmetrical in respect of a plane of symmetry of the cylinders 1, 3 at right angles to the common axis of said cylinders and disposed between the two cylinders 1, 3.

Each cylinder 1 or 3 is equipped with needles 9 and sliders 11. The needles are of a substantially traditional type, having a body provided with at least one butt 12 for cooperat -ion with inclusion and exclusion pickers and also provided with an end or hook-shaped point 14 and with a latch 16 articulated close to said point 14 and cooperating therewith; the lower needles are intended for processing the heel and toe of the sock and are equipped with a lateral-latch appendix 18 which serves so as to be able to close the sinker nib of the lower cylinder 1 during the increases and reductions of the heel, this being a process already known with double cylinder machines with transfer of needles and with dummy 25. sinker. The sliders 11 too comprise a butt 20 intended to cooperate with the pickers and have an active end 22 to ensure the opening of the latch 16 of an apposed needle 9 up to the time when this task is undertaken by an appropriate cam envisaged in the respective jacket 5 or 7; in essence, 30 the slider 11 serves to protect the latch 16 and to determine the opening thereof in a traditional manner as regards the opposed needle 9; each slider 11 also serves to regulate the operation of the pickers and to obtain regular reductions

and increases during formation of said pockets with alternating motion, as will be shown better hereinafter. The lower sliders ll of the zones of pockets with increases and reductions also comprise a lateral latch 24 like the latch 18; said lateral latch has the purpose, like the latch 18, of closing the sinker nibs in the zone of the reductions and already exsists in two-cylinder machines with transfer of

. needles.

The machine has in a first cylinder the needles and

10. sliders ll alternating in successive channels with a predisposed lay-out depending on the conformation of the ribbed

fabric to be made; in the other cylinder the needles 9 are

arranged opposite the sliders ll of the first cylinder, while

the sliders ll are opposite the needles 9 of the first cyl
inder.

In substance, to each needle 9 there corresponds in the opposite cylinder 1 o 3 a slider 11 intended to cooperate with said needle in opening the latch 16. Figs. 3 & 4 show a lay-out of needles 9 to make ribbed stitches 1:1. Figs. 10 & 11 show a diagram of the lay-out of needles 9 to form a pocket for toe and heel, and also a diagram of the pocket which can be obtained with alternating motion. In the intermediate arc B of the pocket are formed the courses of stitching of minimum length; in the arcs A outside the arc B are formed the increases and reductions during the formation of a pocket with alternating motion, the courses of stitches of maximum length being indicated with the arc C; the arcs A are, roughly, of the order of 30° and the arc B is, roughly, of the order of 100°-120° for the formation of a heel or toe of a sock. The needles and sliders are ready, when correspond ing with the arcs A, to cooperate with the pickers.

Figs. 2 & 4 show the development of the two jackets of cams 5 & 7, wherein the cams are substantially symmetrical,

apart from the lay-out of the cams 30, which serve to protect the latches 16 and keep them open. In the jacket of cams 5 or 7 the double arrows f32D and f32S indicate the two.
positions of a first feed of the varn, which serves to feed

· positions of a first feed of the yarn, which serves to feed. 5. the yarn for forming the stitches in correspondence with . stitch-forming cams 34 of the lower cylinder and 134 of the . upper cylinder; the relative thread guide is displaced to the position f32D for the formation of the tubular portion . of the sock with continuous motion; said thread guide is, in-10. stead, displaced alternatively to the two positions f32D and F32S in step with alternating movements of the needle cylinder 1 or 3 during formation of the toe and heel pockets with alternating motion and with only aforesaid feed. During continous motion (formation of the tubular portion of the sock) there intervenes, accordin to the drawings, at least another feed at f36, which is intended to feed the thread for formation of stitches in correspondence with the stitchforming cams 38 in the lower cylinder and 138 in the upper cylinder; this second (and every other) feed is at a fixed positions because it is intended to work only with countinuous motion of rotation of the needle 1 & 3 cylinders in the direction of the arrow fC, while the first feed is displaced to f32D and f32S when working with alternating motion of the needle cylinders, the cams 34 and 134 being symmetrical in respect

Two exclusion pickers 42 and 44 may cooperate in a traditional way with the cam 34, being arranged symmetrically in respect of the cam 34; likewise, pickers 142 and 144 are envisaged for cooperating with the cam 134 and are arranged symmetrically thereto. Moreover, one single insertion picker 46 is envisaged for cooperating with the cam 34, and in a corresponding manner an insertion picker 146 is envisaged

of a diametral plane.

. for cooperating with the cam 134. In a lay-out 1: 1 for rib-

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bed stitching, when the pickers 42, 44 and 142, 144 are inserted, they exclude the first needle 9 or first slider 11 in an arc of needles at work advancing in every cylinder 1, 3 and bring the butt 12 of each needle 9 or butt 20 of the opposed slider above the cam 34 or 134 (and outside the action thereof) in such a way as to prevent the formation of the stitch with said needle 9. Each of the pickers 46 and 146, when inserted, includes (according to ribbed stitching 1 : 1) a needle 9 and a slider 11 adjacent to the arc working and acts on the butt 12 o 20 of the needle 9 and slider 11 adjacent to the ends of an arc of needles at work at that moment, causing their butts 12 and 20 to pass below the cams 34 and 134 so as to form the stitch with said needles. Thus it is

134 so as to form the stitch with said needles. Thus it is possible to obtain with said pickers 42, 44; 142, 144 the reductions, and to obtain with the picker 46; 146 the increases along the arcs of needles A during formation of pockets with alternating motion, so as to obtain said pockets in a substantially traditional way; furthermore, as regards the foregoing, each pocket is obtained with the formation of some stitches with the needles 9 of the lower cylinder 1 and of other stitches with the needles 9 of the upper cylinder 3, in relation to the lay-out of the needles 9 and sliders 11 on the two cylinders, 1 and 3, as shown in figs. 3 and 4, for instance.

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Seeing that the pickers of the upper and lower jackets
7 & 5 are activated or disactivated at one and the same time
(for reductions or increases respectively), when, for example,
the complex of pickers 44, 144 is inserted, either the butt
12 of a needle or the butt 20 of a slider is taken out of
work, above the cam 34, in the lower cylinder 1 by the picker
44, depending on whether the first butt of the arc then at
work belongs to a needle 9 or to a slider 11; at the same
time the picker 144 takes out of work a butt 12 of a needle

1. 9 (if the picker 44 has taken out of work a butt 20 of a slider) or else a butt 20 of a slider 11 (if the picker . 44 has taken out of work a butt 12 of a needle).

It obviously follows therefrom that at each inverted stroke of the needle cylinder 1 or 3 there are excluded simultaneously a needle 9 in one cylinder 1 or 3 and a slider ll in the other cylinder 3 or 1, whilst during the successive alternating oscillations of each cylinder 1 or 3 the needles 9 and the sliders 11 which are located in the successive 10 grooves with the pre-set lay-out are excluded successively. Therefore, a regular reduction is obtained in the course of stitches and, thereby, in the arc of needles at work at that moment. It should be noted that the decrease can be brought about butt by butt or even, in some cases, each time per pair 15 or greater number of butts in relation to the conformation of the pickers (for instance, per two feeds during the formation of the pockets). When the two pickers 46 and 146 too are set to work simultaneously, at each oscillation there are inserted into operation a needle 9 and slider 11 oppos-20 ite to each other, of which the butts 12 & 20 are made to pass under the cams 34 and 134, so as to obtain in this way an increase in the arc of needles at work and, therefore, an increase in the pocket being formed; normally the pickers 46 and 146 include two butts, one of which is excluded by the respective picker 42 and 142 or 44 and 144 from the successive course. In this case too, to a needle 9 set to work in a cylinder 1 or 3 there corresponds the activation of the corresponding opposed slider 11 in the other cylinder 3 or 1; this is brought about by the presence of butts 12 or 20 in each of the channels of each cylinder 1 or 3.

It follows from the foregoing that increases and reductions are obtained reguarly, just as in a pocket made with smooth stitching, by inserting or taking out (at the

ends of an arc of needles at work) needles 9 belonging alternatively (according to the pre-set programme for ribbed stitching) one needle 9 to the upper cylinder 3 and one needle to
the lower cylinder 1 along the arcs A.

As said earlier, to the insertion of one needle 9 in one cylinder 1 or 3 there corresponds the insertion of a slider 11 in the other cylinder 3 or 1, and therefore to every needle 9 at work there corresponds an active slider 11 which thus protects the latch 16 of the needle 9 and ensures that it is open during the functioning of the needle 9; to the exclusion of a needle 9 from work there corresponds the exclusion of the corresponding slider 11 in the opposed cylinder. The sliders 11, therefore, have the double task of regularizing the insertion and exclusion of the needles 9, whereby said sliders 11 and said needles 9 cooperate with pickers, and also of starting to work in a timely manner so as to protect the needles 9 oppostite to them.

The foregoing makes it clear that after the formation of a leg G with ribbed stitching (see Fig. 9) and after the front, marked with F1, F2 and F3 in said figure, has been reached the alternating motion begins for the formation of the heel T with increases and reductions along the arcs A, whilst along the front of the instep of the foot the needles 9 remain out of action and withhold the (ribbed) stitching while waiting to restart their work. During the alternating motion the heel T is formed in the manner described with ribbed stitching throughout, exactly like the stitching used along the leg G. When the heel T is completed, the working front is that indicated with F4, F2 and F3; from this point onward the work begins again with continuous motion of the needle cylinder 1-3 so as to form the zone P of the foot, said zone too being worked with ribbed stitching according to the pre-set programme, until the front indicated with

F5, F6 and F7 is reached; a second end pocket E is then
 formed for the toe of the sock or stocking by means of fur ther processing with alternating motion, making use of arcs
 of needles which in general correspond with those used for
 the formation of the pocket T. The pocket E too is formed
 with the same structure of texture with ribbed stitching,
 as programmed for the whole product.

As in traditional machines, in the channels of the cylinders 1 and 3 or of only one of the cylinders, besides the
sliders 11 and needles & and besides the selection jacks 50
and 52 for the starting operations and for the pockets, further jacks are envisaged by means of which the lifting of
the needles 9 and sliders 11 cab be operated selectively to
obtain regularly discharged stitching or tucked stitches,
depending one determined patterns. These patterns, still obtained with ribbed fabric but with tucked stitches or discharged to suit the pattern, can be developed along the leg
G and foot D of the sock in a circular manner or in desired areas along the circumferential periphery of the product.

In particular, a differentiation based on such criteria can be obtained to advantage in correspondence with an initial zone l coinciding with the top of a sock, in this way making something like the top traditionally produced with ribbed stitching differentiated from that of the leg G and/or foot D of the sock; a differentiation can also be obtained simply (or in addition to the effect of a pattern) with the introduction of a different or supplementary yarn, particylarly an elastic yarn as a rubber thread.

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It is to be understood that the drawings show only one example, which is given only as a pratical demonstration of the invention, but said invention cab be varied as regards shapes and lay-outs without departing thereby from the scope of the concept inspiring the invention itself.

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The possible presence of reference numbers in the attached claims has the purpose of making easier the reading of the claims with reference to the description and drawings and does not restrict the scope of the protection afforded by the claims.

It is best to note that a needle and its opposed slider can be introduced into the channels of the cylinders of traditional machines in all the positions in which, during the whole cycle of production of the product, a transfer of a stitch from one needle board to the other is not required.

Gilberto Petroz

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## CLAIMS

1-Procedure for the production of a sock or the like with

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uniform ribbed stitching, with pockets for heel (T) and/or.
toe (E) formed with alternating motion, characterized by .
the fact that processing is carried out with uniform ribbed.
stitching throughout the whole length of the product, whereby
the pockets for heel (T) and/or toe (E) are also made with

. the pockets for heel (T) and/or toe (E) are also made with .
. said ribbed stitching with alternating motion and with reductions and increases in the course for the formation .
of said pockets.

2 - Procedure as in the Claim hereinbefore, characterized by the fact that, so as to form the pockets (T & E) with alternating motion, increases and reductions are envisaged in the arcs of needles working in the upper and lower cylinders (3-1) of the machine.

3 - Procedure for forming a sock, as described and shown.

4 - A sock product or the like with heel (T) and, possibly, toe (E) characterized by the fact that it is worked with the procedure described and shown and thus is composed of uniform ribbed stitching throughout the whole length of the product, even in the zones of the pockets (T & E),

which are of the type made with processing with alternating motion and also in the zone of the sole (P).

5 - A double-cylinder machine (or the equivalent) for processing also with alternating motion, characterized by comprising
- in each cylinder (1 & 3) simple needles (9) with hook-wise
point (14) and latch (16), whereby said needles are alternated,
according to a lay-out pre-set for a given ribbed texture,
with sliding elements (11) intended to cooperate with the
needles (9) or the other cylinder (3-1), and whereby the
needles in each cylinder (1 or 3) are located so as to
correspond with the sliding elements (11) of the other cylinder

(3 or 1) in order to cooperate therewith: cams to form

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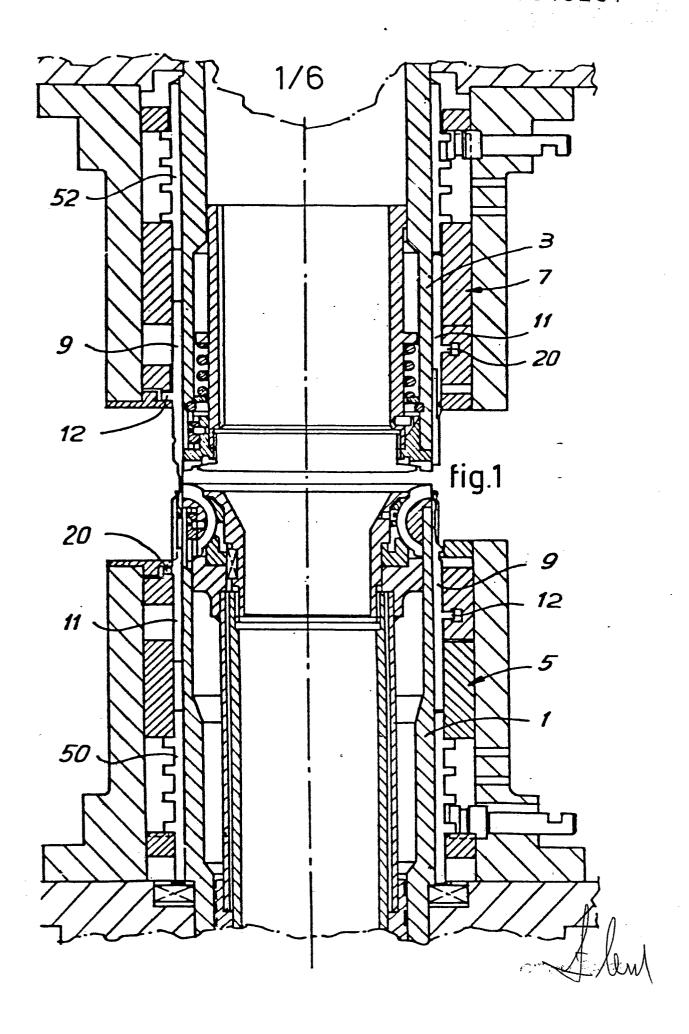
- 1. stitches (34, 134; 38, 138) which are substantially simmetrical in respect of the feeds (F32, F36) for processing with alternating motion, and are substantially symmetrical in respect.

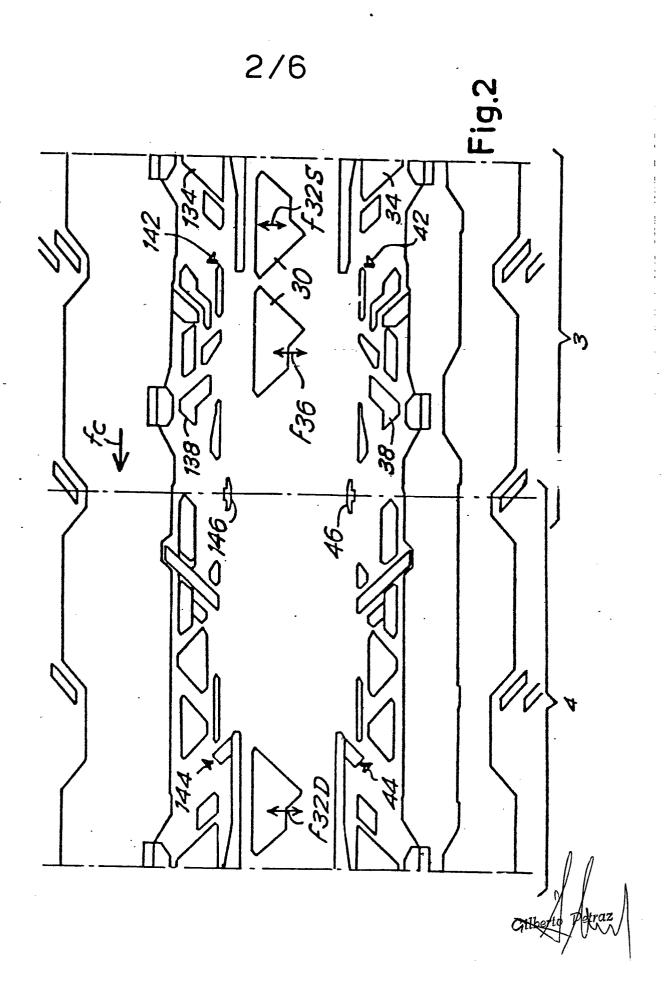
  of a plane of symmetry between the two cylinders (1-3): and
- 5. transfer means or so-called pickers (42, 44, 46) symmetrical in respect of said plane for respectively inserting into or excluding from work during the alternating motion some need. les (9) and sliding elements (11) of each cylinder (1, 3) simultaneously in combination with the aforesaid substantially symmetrical cams (34-134, 38-138) forming the stitching and belonging to the same one feed, whereby said pickers (42, 44, 46) enable reductions and increases to be made in the alternate courses of stitches.
- 6 Machine as in Claims hereinbefore, characterized by being equipped with substantially traditional needles (9) provided with a hook-wise point (14) and latch (16) and with sliding elements (11) conformed without the attachment means for transferring two-hook needles but conformed only to ensure the opening of the latch (16) and equipped with butts (20) to cooperate with the pickers (42, 44, 46) and with possible selection butts.

· 7 - Machine as described and shown.

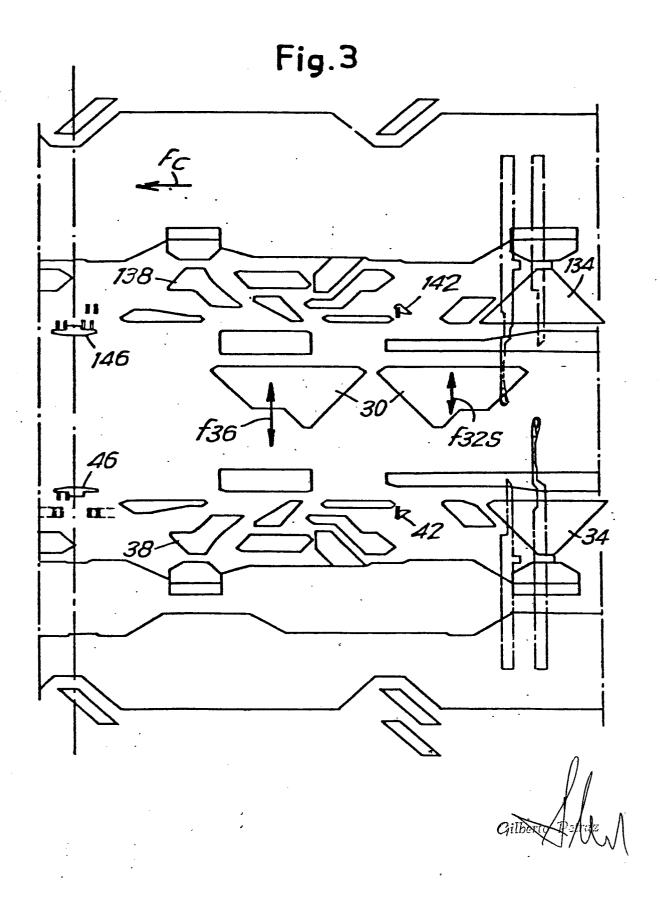
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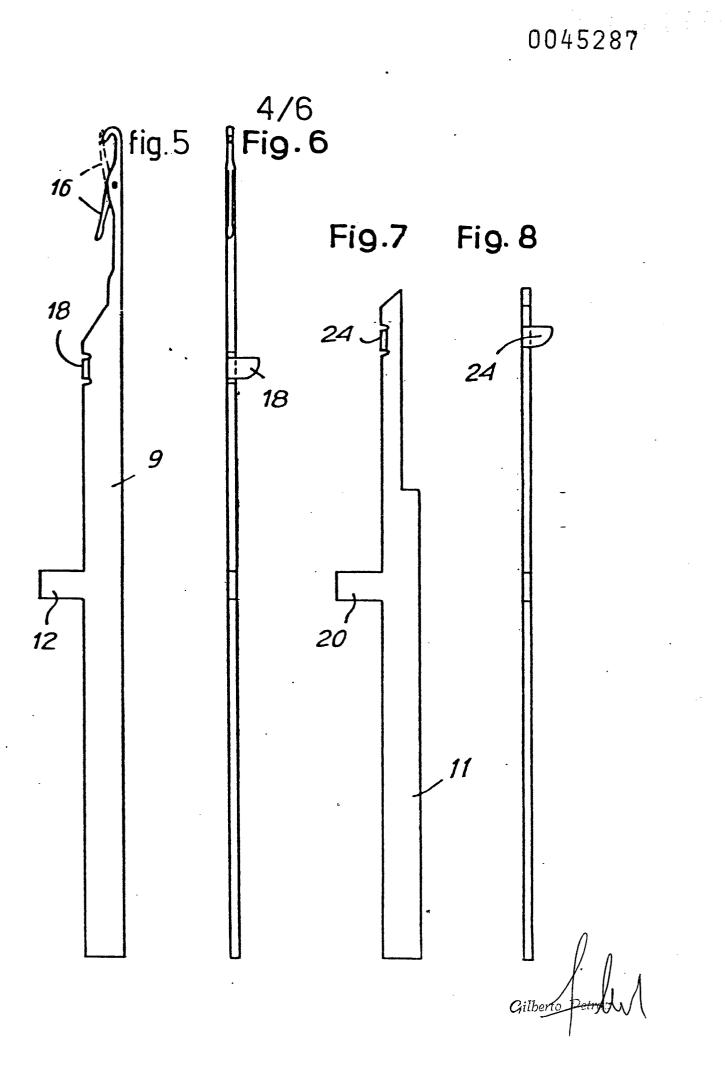
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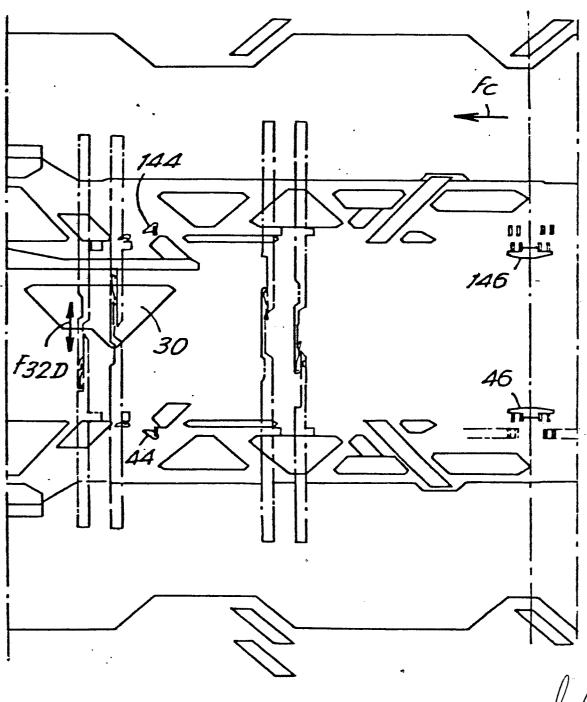
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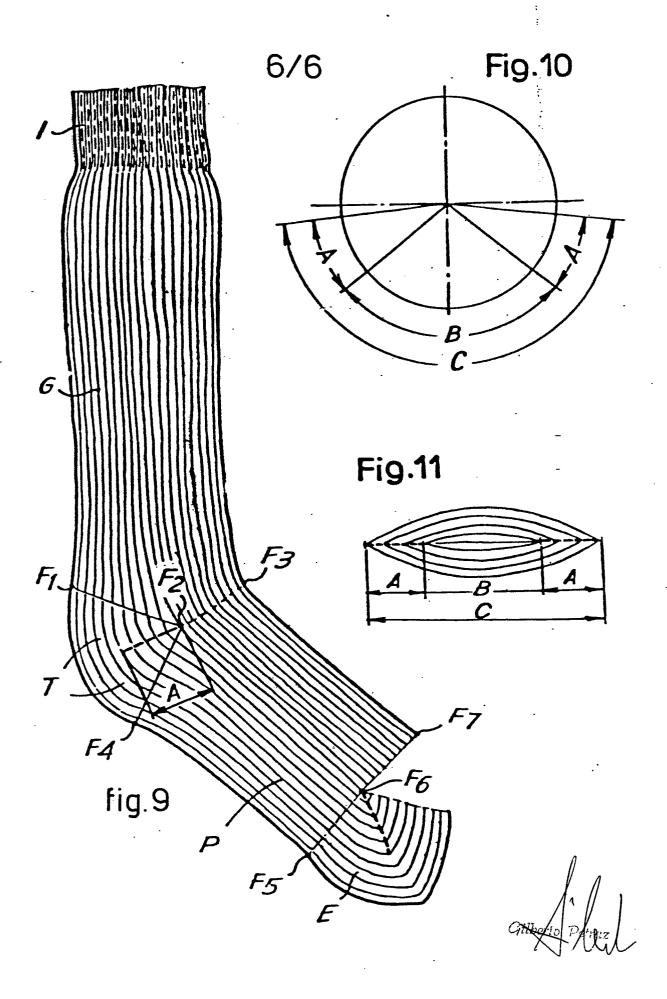


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Fig.4



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## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application number

EP 81 83 0130

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	ATTEGRATOR (III. 617)
	GB - A - 984 564 (MIDLAND HOSIERY MILLS)	1,3,4	D 04 B 1/26// D 04 B 9/10
	* Page 2, lines 21-39; figures 1-3 *		
			-
	GB - A - 119 478 (MARKS)	1,5	
	* Page 19, line 44 - page 20, line 52; page 24, line 9 - page 25, line 4; figures 11- 13,25,26 *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. <sup>3</sup> )
A	GB - A - 559 543 (BENTLEY)  * Whole document *	1	D 04 B
	ed en		_
A	<u>US - A - 2 366 001</u> (BROOKSBY)  * Whole document *	1	-
A	GB - A - 11 991 AD 1909 (SPIERS)	1	
	* Whole document *		
			CATECORYON
A	CH - A - 531 601 (RUTZ)	1	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
	* Whole document *		X: particularly relevant A: technological background
	and the took gas		O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document
			T: theory or principle underlying the invention
	c		E: conflicting application
			D: document cited in the application
			L: citation for other reasons
			&: member of the same patent
	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		family, corresponding document
Place of search Date of completion of the search Examiner			
PO Form 1	The Hague 03-11-1981		V. GELDER