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Embroidering apparatus for use with sewing machine.

(57)

An embroidering apparatus for use with a sewing machine (20) has a body (26) supported on a bed (21) and movable back and forth and laterally along guide rails (33, 35) extending perpendicularly to each other. A table (27) and a support frame (28) to which an embroidery frame (45) is attachable are mounted on the body for movement therewith. A fixed tracing needle (41) is oriented to the table on which an original pattern is to be placed. In operation, the table can be manipulated to permit the tracing needle (41) to follow the pattern on the table (27) while the latter is being moved around.

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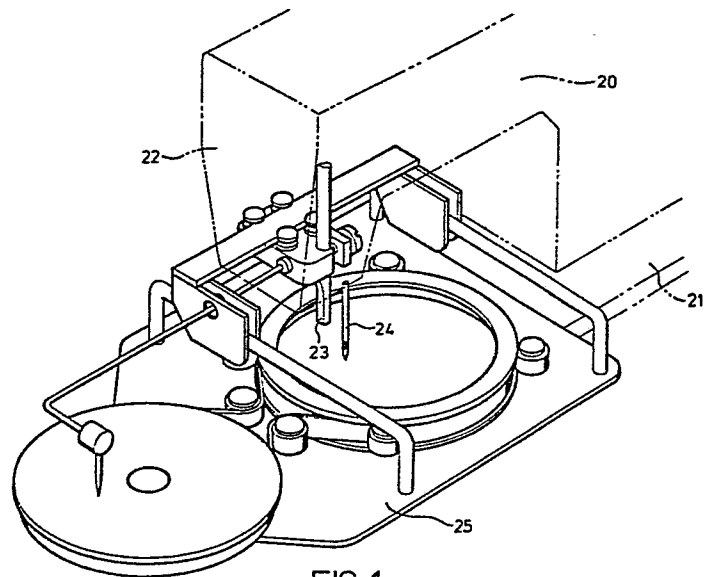


FIG. 1

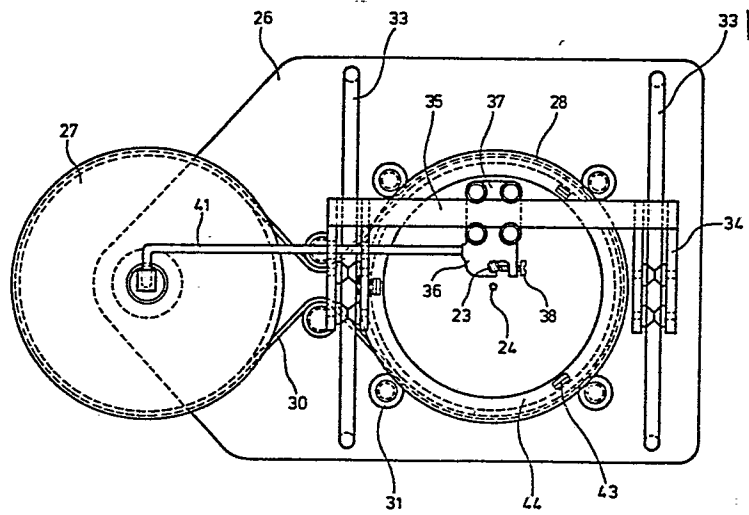


FIG. 2

EMBROIDERING APPARATUS FOR  
USE WITH SEWING MACHINES

DESCRIPTION

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to an embroidering apparatus mountable on a sewing machine bed.

5 Prior Art:

Known embroidering apparatus comprises a fixed rail mounted on a sewing machine frame, a movable rail extending in criss-cross relation to the fixed rail, and an embroidery frame movable back and forth and laterally along the fixed and movable rails. A piece of cloth on which a pattern is drawn after an original pattern is placed under tension on the embroidery frame, which is manually moved around so as to allow a sewing needle as it moves up and down to follow the pattern on the piece of cloth. It is not an easy task to pattern a figure in detail after a model on the cloth as correctly as the operator desires, or there is always a tendency for the pattern to be drawn somewhat differently from the model pattern. Another difficulty with the prior embroidering apparatus is that it is difficult to move the embroidery frame in order for the needle to pierce the cloth exactly at desired positions, resulting at times in embroidered works which are not patterned after the model.

Another type of embroidering apparatus comprises a tracing needle which traces a fixed original pattern while

the tracing needle is moving with an embroidery frame.

The embroidery frame may be either movable back and forth and laterally along crossing rails, or supported on a pantograph mechanism of parallel links which is expansible and collapsible for allowing back-and-forth and lateral movements of the embroidery frame. The tracing needle is attached to a rod extending from the embroidery frame for movement therewith. In operation, the rod is gripped at an end portion thereof adjacent to the tracing needle and moved so as to enable the latter to follow the original pattern. With this arrangement, it is not necessary to draw a pattern on a piece of cloth after the original, and the patterning can be effected easily and reliably as the tracing needle follows the original while kept in contact therewith or closely thereto.

However, since the tracing needle and the embroidery frame move in unison, rightward movement of the tracing needle causes the sewing needle to be located leftward in the embroidery frame and forward movement of the tracing needle causes the sewing needle to be located rearwardly in the embroidery frame, making an embroidered pattern look inverted. Such an inverted pattern renders it quite difficult for the operator to ascertain whether the original model is being followed to a nicety while in the embroidering operation. There has been known an apparatus having a mechanism for orienting an embroidered work in the same direction as the original pattern. Inclusion of such an additional mechanism makes the apparatus complex in construction.

Furthermore, since the rod is relatively slender and flexible, it tends to flex due to frictional resistance between the cloth placed on the embroidery frame and a throat plate, with the results that movement of the embroidery frame will not correctly reflect that of the tracing needle, and hence the resultant embroidered pattern will not look much like the original pattern.

The prior embroidering apparatus as described above are designed to embroider a piece of cloth only with stitches in one and same directions, and are unable to produce embroidery works with stitches in any different directions, such as a pattern of fur of an animal.

To cope with this, there have been devised embroidering apparatus having an embroidery frame that is rotatable as well as movable back and forth and laterally to produce an embroidered pattern with varying stitches. One such embroidery apparatus is manually actuatable, while the other is electrically controllable. The manually operable apparatus has suffered from problems in that a pattern should be drawn on a piece of cloth after a model, a procedure which can produce a rough contour of the model but fails to transfer exactly the same pattern on the cloth, and hence the original pattern, the figure drawn on the cloth and the embroidered pattern are likely to look differently. Furthermore, the operator should be trained and skilled sufficiently in rotating, moving back and forth, and moving laterally the embroidery frame or a support frame therefor at the same time.

Otherwise, embroidering a pattern exactly after a model would not be possible.

The electrically-operated embroidering apparatus comprises an actuator including three pulse motors for  
5 rotating, moving back and forth, and moving laterally an embroidery frame, and a control unit for electrically controlling the pulse motors. The embroidering apparatus is thus quite complex in structure and expensive to construct.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide an embroidering apparatus for use with sewing machines which comprises a table for placing thereon an original pattern, an embroidery frame operatively connected to the table for  
15 back-and-forth and lateral movement therewith, and a fixed tracing needle oriented to the table, so that the table can be moved in order for the fixed tracing needle to follow the original pattern.

The table and the embroidery frame may be movable back and forth and laterally by runners rollingly movably mounted  
20 on crossing rails, or may be supported on an expansible and collapsible pantograph mechanism. With the former arrangement, the runners can be locked by stoppers on the rails against movement therealong. The runners thus locked are prevented  
25 from running off the rails or prevent the embroidery frame from hitting and breaking the sewing needle when the embroidering apparatus is tilted for removal and insertion of

a bobbin out of and into the sewing machine, allowing the embroidery frame and the table to slide away. The embroidery frame and the table are also prevented from accidentally moving when the embroidering apparatus is carried around.

- 5 When only one of the runners movable along the rails is locked against movement, a piece of cloth can be embroidered neatly with stitches along a straight line.

The stoppers may comprise caps movably mounted on the rails and capable of sandwiching the runners therebetween  
10 against movement along the rails.

Alternatively, the stoppers may be mounted on the runners and comprise cams angularly rotatably supported on the runners and actuatable by handle levers into pressing engagement with the rails for securing the runners to the rails.

- 15 The pantograph mechanism is advantageous in that it allows the apparatus to move more smoothly than the rail-mounted apparatus.

With the embroidering apparatus of the present invention, it is unnecessary to draw in advance a pattern on a piece of  
20 cloth, the original pattern and the embroidery frame move exactly in unison, and desired points on the original pattern can easily be brought into alignment with the fixed tracing needle, so that an embroidered pattern can easily and reliably be formed in exact agreement with the original pattern.

- 25 Since the embroidery frame and the original pattern move in unison, an embroidered pattern has the same orientation

or that of the original pattern and hence the operator can manipulate the apparatus while ascertaining easily whether the embroidered work is patterned properly after the original pattern. The embroidering apparatus of the invention needs  
5 no specially designed mechanism for directing the embroidered and original pattern in one direction.

The embroidering apparatus of the present invention is also advantageous in that the table and the embroidery frame are rotatable, and there is a means for transmitting rotative  
10 power from the table to the embroidery frame.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an embroidering apparatus for use with sewing machines which can produce embroidered works having varying stitches by rotating, moving back and forth, and moving laterally a table  
15 on which an original pattern is placed. Angular velocities of the embroidery frame and the table are the same at all times and the tracing needle is directed toward the axis of rotation of the table when the sewing needle points at the centre of rotation of the embroidery frame, so that the  
20 embroidery frame and the table are always in angular agreement irrespective of an angular position of an original pattern on the table.

If the angular velocities of the table and the embroidery frame were different, they would rotate at different rates and shift embroidering  
25 stitches out of agreement with the original pattern. In addition, if the sewing and tracing needles were not spaced equidistantly from the respective axes of rotation of the



table and the embroidery frame, the needles would describe arcs of different lengths on the table and the embroidery frame as they rotate through the same angle, resulting in an embroidered pattern different from the original pattern.

5       The table is preferably coupled by a power transmitting device to a support frame to which the embroidery frame is attached, though rotative power may be transmitted from the table directly to the embroidery frame by a power transmitting device such as a belt drive device, a gear drive device, or  
10       a friction drive device.

      According to the present invention, a body is mounted on a sewing machine bed and is supported on one of guide rails which extend perpendicularly to each other, the body being movable back and forth and laterally in directions in  
15       which the guide rails extend. A table and a support frame are rotatably mounted on the body and are operatively connected by an endless belt extending therearound. As an alternative, the body is mounted on one end of a pantograph mechanism secured at the other end to a frame of the sewing machine  
20       or the fixed member     the pantograph mechanism comprising parallel links.

      The support frame is supported by rollers rotatably mounted on the body and held against the periphery of the support frame. As an alternative, the body may have a  
25       cylindrical portion over which the support frame is rotatably fitted, there being a cover holding a portion or entire

periphery of the support frame to prevent the latter from being dislodged upwardly.

Various embodiments of the present invention have features that follow which may be incorporated independently or in combination.

One such feature is that the embroidering apparatus of the invention can readily be mounted on existing sewing machines irrespective of their types by being secured to the presser bar of the sewing machine. With the embroidering apparatus attached to the presser bar, lifting of the presser bar produces a clearance between the apparatus and a throat plate of the sewing machine, which clearance allows the embroidery frame to be taken out therethrough. Therefore, the embroidery frame can easily be removed without interference with the needle and the presser bar which would otherwise hamper removal of the embroidery frame upwardly from the body.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a pair of guide rails are fixedly mounted on sides of a body which supports thereon a table and an embroidery frame, the guide rails being movably supported on runners secured to ends of another guide rail extending normally to the pair of guide rails. The latter guide rail is movably supported on a runner attached to a fixed member secured to a presser bar of a sewing machine. In this embodiment dimensions of the fixed member need not be larger than those which can positively hold the runner thereon. The

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fixed member is thus prevented from projecting out of the body while the latter is moving back and forth and laterally, resulting in a reduced space taken up by the apparatus during operation.

5       The guide rail engaging the runner to which the fixed member is attached may be of a circular cross section and may be rotatably mounted on the runner, so that the body is angularly movable with respect to the fixed member. Even when the fixed member is secured to the presser bar in a  
10       vertically tilted position, the body can be maintained parallel to the bed of the sewing machine. When the embroidering apparatus is to be mounted on the sewing machine, the body is first placed on the bed, and then the fixed member is attached to the presser bar without concern over  
15       the position of attachment of the fixed member for the reason described above.

      According to another embodiment, the embroidering apparatus comprises a single guide rail fixed to a body on  
      <sup>support</sup>  
      which a table and an embroidery frame, another guide rail  
20       extending in criss-cross relation to the former guide rail, and a runner assembly including a pair of upper and lower runners on which the guide rails are movably supported, the  
      latter guide rail being secured to the presser bar of a sewing machine. The embroidering apparatus of this embodi-  
25       ment is thus simpler structure in that it comprises only two

guide rails.

According to still another embodiment, the body is connected to a member fixed to the presser bar through a pantograph mechanism comprising parallel links.

5        In the foregoing embodiments, a tracing needle is fixed to an end portion of a rod which is secured to the presser bar, a sewing machine frame, the guide rail or a fixed member secured to the presser bar. With the rod secured to the guide rail or fixed member, the embroidering apparatus can  
10       be mounted on the sewing machine more easily.

      According to still another feature, there is provided a locking device for stopping rotation of an embroidery frame which is rotatable and movable back and forth and laterally, allowing the embroidering apparatus to produce an embroidery  
15       work with in one and the same direction or in any different directions. The braking

device is selectively movable between positions, one for allowing movement of and the other for disabling the embroidery frame, power transmitting device, or table. The  
20       braking device may comprise a roller pressable against or a pointed projection movable into biting engagement with the embroidery frame, power transmitting device, or table. Alternatively, the braking device may comprise a roller movable back and forth by a cam actuatable by a handle lever  
25       attached thereto. When the roller is moved forward, it is pressed against an endless belt extending around the embroidery frame and the table, whereupon the endless belt is

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tightened to fasten the table and the embroidery frame against rotation.

Still another feature of the present invention is that the embroidery frame can simply and easily  
5 be attached to or detached from the support frame.

The embroidery frame is made of synthetic resin and comprises inner and outer frame members, the inner frame member being forcibly fitted in the

outer frame member with a piece of cloth extending over the  
10 inner frame member and kept under tension by being sandwiched between the inner and outer frame members. Either one of the inner frame member and the support frame has a notch and the other has a prong forcibly fitted into the notch, thus putting the embroidery and support frames together. The  
15 embroidery frame of synthetic resin can be fabricated more easily than it is formed of wood as is conventional. Alternatively, a piece of cloth may extend over the embroidery frame or the support frame, then the embroidery frame may be forcibly fitted in the support frame.

20 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparant from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which show preferred embodiments of the present invention.

25 FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a sewing machine equipped with an embroidering apparatus;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the embroidering apparatus shown in FIG. 1 with fixed member secured to a presser bar;

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of the embroidering apparatus;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the embroidering apparatus with a belt, a body and a support frame shown partly in cross section;

FIG. 5 is an elevational view, partly in cross section, of a support frame rotatably supported by a modified structure;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary plan view of a table and a support frame rotatably coupled through a gear drive;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary plan view of a table and a support frame rotatably coupled through a friction drive;

FIG. 8 is a side elevational view of the embroidering apparatus with the fixed member attached to the presser bar in an inclined position;

FIG. 9 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an embroidery frame attached to the support frame;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a modified embroidery frame attached to the support frame;

FIG. 11A is an enlarged plan view of a locking device for the embroidery frame;

FIG. 11B is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line I - I of Fig. 11A;

FIG. 12A is an enlarged plan view of a locking device according to another embodiment;

FIG. 12B is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line II - II of FIG. 12A;

FIG. 13 is an enlarged plan view of a locking device according to still another embodiment;

FIG. 14 is an enlarged front elevational view of a runner secured by stoppers to a rail;

Figure 15 is an enlarged front elevational view, partly broken away, of a runner secured by a different stopper to a rail;

5 FIG. 16 is a view of another runner secured by a stopper;

FIG. 17 is a plan view of an embroidering apparatus according to another embodiment;

FIG. 18 is a righthand side elevational view of the embroidering apparatus shown in Fig. 17;

10 FIG. 19 is a plan view of an embroidering apparatus according to another embodiment; and

FIG. 20 is a front elevational view of the embroidering apparatus shown in FIG. 19.

15 As shown in FIG. 1, a sewing machine 20 comprises a bed 21 and a head 22 which supports a presser bar 23 and a needle 24. An embroidering apparatus according to the present invention is mounted on the bed 21, the embroidering apparatus being generally indicated at the reference number 25.

20 As illustrated in FIGS. 2 through 4, the embroidering apparatus 25 comprises a body 26 on which a circular table 27 is journaled for placing and fixing thereon an original pattern, and an annular support frame 28 is rotatably mounted. Each of the table 27 and the frame 28 has a peripheral groove 29 receiving therein an endless belt 30, or preferably a  
25 timing belt, which extends around the table 27 and the frame 28 for their rotation, or for transmitting rotative power

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from the table 27 to the support frame 28, the table 27 and the support frame 28 having the same diameter where the belt 30 engages them. The support frame 28 is rotatably mounted on the body 26 by a plurality of rollers 31 rotatably supported on the body 26 at spaced locations and held in engagement with the belt 30 disposed around the support frame 28.

According to another embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5, the support frame 28 is rotatably fitted in a cylindrical member 261 integral with the body 26. A holder 32 is preferably mounted on the body 26 and holds the support frame 28 at its upper surface to prevent the support frame 28 from being accidentally displaced upwardly. Rotative power may be transmitted from the table to the support frame by a gear drive device (FIG. 6) or a friction drive device (FIG. 7). A pair of parallel rails 33, 33 is fixed to an upper surface of the body 26 and disposed one on each side of the support frame 28. A transverse rail 35 supports on ends thereof a pair of runners 34, 34 which are rollingly mounted on and support the rails 33, 33, respectively. The rail 35 is supported on a runner 37 secured to a fixed member 36 for rolling movement relative to the runner 37, the fixed member 36 embracing at an end thereof and being secured to the presser bar 23 by a set screw 38.

The body 26 is thus movable horizontally omnidirectionally, or in longitudinal directions of the rails 33, 35, across



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an extent which is large enough to cover the diameter of an embroidery frame (later described) mounted on the support frame 28. Conventional sewing machines have a sufficient space available for the support frame to move within the fore-  
5 going extent during embroidering operation. The embroidering apparatus 25 is oriented with respect to the sewing machine 20 such that the longitudinal axis of the apparatus 25 extending through the centers of the table 27 and support frame 28 is directed along the longitudinal direction of the bed  
10 21. With such orientation of the embroidering apparatus 25, the operator can watch equidistantly the original pattern on the table 27 and an embroidery being formed in the embroidery frame with the needle 24 right before her, resulting in a facilitated embroidering operation. In addition, the embroi-  
15 dering apparatus 25 thus directed on the sewing machine 20 allows unobstructed insertion and removal of a bobbin into and out of the sewing machine 20.

When attaching the fixed member 36 to the presser bar 23, it is required that the fixed member 36 lie parallel to  
20 the bed 21. Had the fixed member 36 be inclined with respect to the bed 21, the runners 34, the rail 33, and the body 26 would also be inclined with respect to the bed 21, causing a piece of cloth attached to the embroidery frame to be either spaced upwardly away from a throat plate with a  
25 resultant skip stitch, or pressed against the bed 21 and subjected to sluggish movement, which prevents the embroider-

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ing apparatus 25 from moving smoothly. In attaching the fixed member 35 to the presser bar 23, therefore, the fixed member 35 is positionally adjusted several times with respect to the presser bar 23 while the operator moves the embroidering apparatus around to see if it lies in a horizontal plane, a procedure which is quite tedious and time consuming, however.

To avoid such a complicated adjustment operation, the rail 35 may be of a circular cross section as shown in FIG. 8, and may be rotatably mounted on either the runner 37 or the runners 34. With this arrangement, the runners 34 are permitted to follow the rails 33 on the body 26 mounted on the bed 21 until the runners 34 lie parallel to the bed 21 even when the fixed member 36 extends at an angle to the bed 21. No positional adjustment is thus rendered necessary when the fixed member 36 is attached, as inclined, to the presser bar 23 at a slightly lowered position thereon, as illustrated in FIG. 8.

The fixed member 36 may be shorter than illustrated in FIG. 2 it can support the runner 37 and be secured to the presser bar 23. The shorter fixed member 36 is advantageous in that the space taken up by the embroidering apparatus 25 can be smaller since the fixed member 36 and the runner 37 will not project beyond the peripheral edges of the body 26 when the body 26 is moved until the inner edge of the embroidery frame gets close to the needle 24.

A rod 41 is secured at one end to the fixed member 36

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and has at the other end a tracing needle 40 directed toward the table 27. The tracing needle 40 is so positioned that it points to the center of rotation of the table 27 when the needle 24 is directed to the axis of rotation of the support frame 28.

As shown in FIG. 9, the support frame 28 is preferably made of synthetic resin and includes a plurality of attachment projections 44 circumferentially spaced from each other and each having in its upper surface a notch 43. The embroidery frame 45 comprises an inner frame member 45a and an outer frame member 45b, both made of synthetic resin, the inner frame member 45a having a plurality of flexible clips 47 of synthetic resin which positionally correspond respectively to the attachment projections 44 and include prongs 46 that can fit in the notches 43. The attachment projections 44 are engaged by the clips 47 to hold down the embroidery frame 45, and should have such an extent of projection as to be able to accommodate embroidery frames of various diameters.

When the embroidery frame 45 is to be attached to the support frame 28, a piece of cloth W as stretched is held against the inner frame member 45a or the outer frame member 45b, and the inner frame member 45a is fitted in the outer frame member 45b with the piece of cloth W sandwiched therebetween. Then, the assembled embroidery frame 45 is inserted into the support frame 28 until the former abuts against the attachment projections 44, and the embroidery frame 45 is

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turned until the clips 47 are brought into positional alignment with the attachment projections 44. The clips 47 are now pushed radially outwardly to force the prongs 46 into the notches 43. As an alternative, the support frame 28 has an attachment projection extending continuously along the entire peripheral edge of the support frame and having a notch in its surface, an arrangement which makes it possible to attach the embroidery frame to the support frame 28 in any desired angular relation to the latter.

When it is necessary to attach the embroidery frame 45 to or remove the same from the support frame 28 after the fixed member 36 has been secured to the presser bar 23 and the embroidering apparatus 25 has been mounted on the sewing machine 20, the presser bar 23 is first lifted to raise the embroidering apparatus 25 away from the bed 21, and then the embroidery frame 25 is inserted or removed through a clearance formed between the bed 21 and the body 26 as elevated.

According to a modification shown in FIG. 10, an inner frame member 45a has in its upper surface a slot 49, and a support frame 28 has on its inner peripheral edge a plurality of attachment projections 44 or a single continuous attachment projection 44 supporting thereon a plurality of protuberances 50 or a continuous ridge 50 directed downwardly and forcibly inserted in the slot 49. Alternatively, the piece of cloth W may be pinned to the embroidery frame 45 in which case the latter may be of an integral structure and separate inner

and outer frame members may be dispensed with.

Although not shown, the piece of cloth W may be retained in place by being forcibly sandwiched between the inter-fitting embroidery frame and the support frame. Such an arrangement requires no attachments to hold the embroidery and support frames together, but it is preferable that one of the embroidery and support frames has some means which engage the other so that the embroidery frame will not accidentally be displaced out of the support frame.

In operation of the embroidering apparatus 25, an original pattern is fixedly placed on the table 27 which is then supported by hand, and, as the sewing machine 20 operates, the table 27 is manually rotated and the body 26 is moved back and forth and laterally for causing the needle 40 to trace the pattern on the table 27. The embroidering apparatus 25 of the present invention can be operated with greater ease than conventional embroidering apparatus in which an embroidery frame needs to be rotated and moved to and fro in various directions.

The embroidering apparatus thus constructed can produce an embroidery work having stitches in any different directions by rotating the embroidery frame during operation. It is, however, difficult to embroider a piece of cloth with stitches in one and the same direction simply by holding the table by hand against rotation since the table is liable to turn when the body 26 is moved around.

To eliminate the above difficulty, a locking device for

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limiting rotation of the table may be employed. More specifically, as illustrated in FIGS. 11A and 11B, one of a pair of rollers 31 which engage the belt 30 between the table 27 and the support frame 28 is mounted for rotation on a pin 52 slidably received in a slot 54 in the body 26 and supporting a channel-shaped member 53 in which the roller 31 is rotatably disposed. An eccentric cam 55 is rotatably mounted on the body 26, and the channel-shaped member 53 is held at its back against the eccentric cam 55 under the tension of the belt 30. The eccentric cam 55 has a handle 56 which, when actuated, turns the eccentric cam 55 to move the channel-shaped member 53 and hence the roller 31 back and forth along the slot 54. When the channel-shaped member 53 is lifted upward by the cam 55 to cause the roller 31 to make the belt 30 tighter, the table 27 and the support frame 28 are fastened by the belt 30 to the point where they are prevented from rotation. Retraction of the channel-shaped member 53 permits the belt 30 to get loosened, whereupon the table 27 and the support frame 28 are rendered rotatable. Preferably, the channel-shaped member 53 may have on its back a ridge, and the peripheral cam may have in its cam surface grooves receptive therein of the ridge when the roller 31 is pushed forward and backward, respectively. With such a locking device, the table 27 and the support frame 28 can selectively be locked against rotation or rendered freely rotatable.

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FIGS. 12A and 12B illustrate a locking device according to another embodiment in which the body 26 supports thereon a pair of spaced projections 59 having holes through which extends a threaded rod 60 secured at one end thereof to a channel-shaped member 53 in which a roller 31 is rotatably mounted. A dial or adjustment nut 58 is threaded on the rod 60 and located between the projections 59. Turning the dial 58 causes the channel-shaped member 53 to move back and forth on the body 26, whereupon the roller 31 tightens or loosens the belt to lock or free the table 27 and the support table 28. The roller 31 can be moved back and forth for small intervals to enable fine adjustment of tension of the belt.

The roller 31 may be rotatably mounted on an end of a bell crank or lever pivotally mounted at its center on the body 26. The other end of the bell crank or lever can be angularly moved to shift the roller 31 in order to increase or reduce the tension of the belt, and should preferably be able to be held at a desired position in a manner well known in the art.

FIG. 13 shows a locking device for locking a table and a support frame which are operatively connected by a gear drive device for transmitting rotative power from the table to the support frame. The locking device comprises a bolt 63 extending threadedly through a projection 62 mounted on the body, a ratchet 64 rotatably supported on the body, and a

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spring 65 resiliently held against an end of the bolt 63 for biasing the ratchet 64 toward the projection 62. Rotation of the bolt 63 for axial movement thereof through the projection 62 causes the ratchet 64 to move into and  
5 out of engagement with a transmission gear 66, thus allowing the support frame to be fixed and rotatable, respectively.

The embroidering apparatus 25 is movable freely in a desired direction due to combined motion of the body 26 that travels along the directions in which the rails 33, 35 extend.

10 There are occasions in which the piece of cloth should be embroidered with stitches along a straight line by moving the embroidering apparatus 25 only in a back-and-forth direction or in a lateral direction. However, the apparatus 25 tends to move around in undesired directions even if the  
15 operator attempts to move the embroidery frame rectilinearly in one direction, resulting in a failure to embroider the piece of cloth along a desired straight-line direction.

The above difficulty can be eliminated by securing the runner to the rail with a stopper at any desired position on  
20 the rail. One such stopper comprises a cap 69 mounted slidably on a rail 68 as shown in FIG. 14, the cap 69 being of a resilient tubular configuration formed of rubber or plastics. Two of such caps 69 are fitted over the rail 68 and held against opposite ends of a runner 70 to sandwich  
25 and keep the latter in a desired position on the rail 68 against movement therealong. FIG. 15 illustrates an



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alternative embodiment in which a runner 72 has a cam block 74 rotatably disposed therein and having a handle lever 73 projecting out of the runner 72, the cam block 74 preferably comprising a resilient eccentric cam made of rubber or

5 plastics. The runner 72 is to be fixed in position on a rail 75, <sup>when</sup> the handle lever 73 is turned until the cam block 74 is pressed against the rail 75. The cam block 74 may be replaced with a pointed projection which can be turned into biting engagement with the rail 75.

10 According to still another embodiment shown in FIG. 16, a runner 77 has an arm 78 projecting therefrom and through which threadedly extends a threaded rod 80 directed to a rail 79 and having a handle 81 secured thereto for rotating the rod 80 about its own axis. The runner 77 can be fixed in  
15 position by turning the handle 81 to advance the threaded rod 80 until its end is pressed against the rail 79. A resilient cap 82, preferably of synthetic resin or rubber, is mounted on the end of the threaded rod 80 to prevent the latter from biting into and hence damaging the rail 79.

20 With the runners thus secured in position, the embroidering apparatus 25 is prevented from accidentally sliding and breaking the sewing needle 24 when the sewing machine is tilted for insertion and removal of the bobbin or is carried around.

25 According to another embodiment shown in FIGS. 17 and 18, an embroidering apparatus comprises a body 101 on which

there is mounted a rail 102 supported at ends thereof on a pair of supports 103, 103 fixed to the body 101, the rail 102 being spaced upwardly from the body 101. A runner assembly 104 comprises a pair of upper and lower runners 104b, 104a, the lower runner 104a supporting the rail 102 so as to allow the latter to be movable relatively to the lower runner 104a. A rail 105 which extends at a right angle to the rail 102 is movably supported on the upper runner 104b, and is secured at one end thereof to the presser bar 23 of the sewing machine by a set screw 106 so as to lie parallel to the bed 21 of the sewing machine. The body 101 supports thereon a circular table 107 and an annular support frame 109 with an embroidery frame 108 attached thereto, the table 107 and the support frame 109 being connected by an endless belt 110 disposed therearound. A rod 112 is fixed endwise to the rail 105 and has a tracing needle 111 disposed over and oriented to the table 107. In operation, the embroidery frame 108 can be rotated and moved around by rotating and moving around the table 107, or by rotating the table 107 and moving the body 101 with a grip handle 113 attached to the body 101. The embroidering apparatus shown in FIGS. 17 and 18 is more advantageous than the foregoing embroidering apparatus 25 in that only two rails 102, 105 are required and no separate fixed member is needed.

FIGS. 19 and 20 illustrate an embroidering apparatus according to another embodiment. The apparatus comprises a

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body 130 operatively coupled by a pantograph mechanism 133 to a fixed member 132 secured to the presser bar 23 by a set screw 131. The pantograph mechanism 133 is extensible and collapsible to allow back-and-forth and lateral movement of the body 130. The pantograph mechanism 133 comprises a disk-shaped intermediate member 135 and two sets of parallel links 136 operatively connected between the intermediate member 135 and the fixed member 132 and between the intermediate member 135 and the body 130, respectively. Pantograph mechanisms of known constructions may be used in place of the illustrated pantograph mechanism. The body 130 supports thereon a table 137 and a support frame 139 to which an embroidery frame 138 is attached, there being an endless belt 140 disposed around the table 137 and the support frame 139 for transmitting rotative power from the former to the latter. A rod 143 with a tracing needle 142 attached is supported on the fixed member 132, the tracing needle 142 being directed toward the table 137.

Although certain preferred embodiments have been shown and described in detail, it should be understood that many changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. An embroidering apparatus for use with a sewing machine, comprising a pair of guide rails extending perpendicularly to each other, an embroidery frame movable back and forth and laterally along said guide rails, a table  
5 operatively connected to said embroidery frame and manually actuatable for movement with the embroidery frame, and a fixed tracing needle oriented to said table on which an original pattern is to be placed.

2. An embroidering apparatus for use with a sewing machine, comprising a fixed member, a pantograph mechanism attached at one end to said fixed member, a table operatively connected to the other end of said pantograph mechanism and  
5 manually actuatable for back-and-forth and lateral movement as said pantograph mechanism expands and collapses, an embroidery frame movable in unison with said table, and a fixed tracing needle oriented to said table on which an original pattern is to be placed.

3. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, including a body on which said embroidery frame and said table are supported.

4. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 1, one of said guide rails comprising a pair of parallel rail members secured to a body on which said embroidery frame and said table are supported, the other guide rail being movably  
5 supported on a runner mounted on a fixed member secured to a

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presser bar of the sewing machine, and said rail members being movably supported by respective runners on said other guide rail at ends thereof.

5. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 4, said other guide rail being rotatably supported on said runner secured to said fixed member.

6. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 4, said last-mentioned runners being rotatably supported on said other guide rail.

7. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 2 or 4, including a rod attached to said fixed member and supporting said tracing needle.

8. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 1, including a runner assembly comprising a pair of upper and lower runners on which said guide rails are movably supported respectively, one of said guide rails being fixed to a body  
5 on which said embroidery frame and said table are supported, and the other guide rail being secured to a presser bar of the sewing machine.

9. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 8, including a rod secured to said other guide rail, said tracing needle being attached to said rod.

10. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 4 or 8, including stopper means for fixing said runners in position.

11. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 10, said stopper means comprising a pair of caps movably mounted

on each of said guide rails for sandwiching each of said runners.

12. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 10, said stopper means comprising a cam block rotatably mounted on each of said runners and having a handle lever actuatable to turn the cam block into pressing engagement with each of  
5 said guide rails.

13. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 10, said stopper means comprising threaded rods threaded through said runners and having handle levers which can be turned to press ends of said threaded rods against said guide rails.

14. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 3, including a support frame to which said embroidery frame is attached.

15. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 14, said support frame having on an upper inner peripheral edge thereof an attachment projection having a first engagement portion on its upper surface, said embroidery frame being  
5 made of plastics and having a flexible clip including a second engagement portion engageable with said first engagement portion, said embroidery frame being fitted in said support frame and held against said attachment projection, with said first and second engagement portions held in  
10 interfitting engagement with each other.

16. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 15, said attachment projection extending fully along said upper

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inner peripheral edge of said support frame.

17. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 15, said embroidery frame comprising inner and outer frame members for sandwiching a piece of cloth therebetween, said clip being mounted on said inner frame member.

18. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 14, said support frame having on an upper inner peripheral edge thereof an attachment projection having a first engagement portion on its lower surface, said embroidery frame being made of plastics and having in an upper surface thereof a second engagement portion for interfitting engagement with said first engagement portion.

19. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 14, said embroidery frame being shaped to allow a piece of cloth to be sandwiched between said embroidery frame and said support frame.

20. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 3, said embroidery frame and said table being rotatable, including means for transmitting rotative power from said table to said embroidery frame.

21. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 14, said support frame and said table being rotatable, including means for transmitting rotative power from said table to said support frame.

22. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, said transmitting means comprising an endless belt extending around peripheral portions of said support frame and said

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table which are of the same diameter.

23. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 22, said endless belt comprising a timing belt.

24. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, said transmitting means comprising a friction drive device.

25. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, said transmitting means comprising a gear drive device.

26. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, including at least three rollers mounted on said body for rotation about their axes and held against the periphery of said support frame for supporting the latter.

27. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, said body having a cylindrical portion on which said support frame is supported.

28. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 21, including a device for locking said support frame against rotation.

29. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 28, including a roller held against said endless belt between said table and said support frame, said roller being movable by said locking device to tighten said belt until said support  
5 frame is fastened against rotation.

30. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 29, said locking device comprising a cam pivotally supported on said body and held in engagement with a member on which said roller is rotatably mounted, said cam including a handle



5 lever actuatable to turn the cam.


31. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 30, said member having a ridge, and said cam having grooves receptive therein of said ridge when said support table is rendered rotatable and held against rotation, respectively.

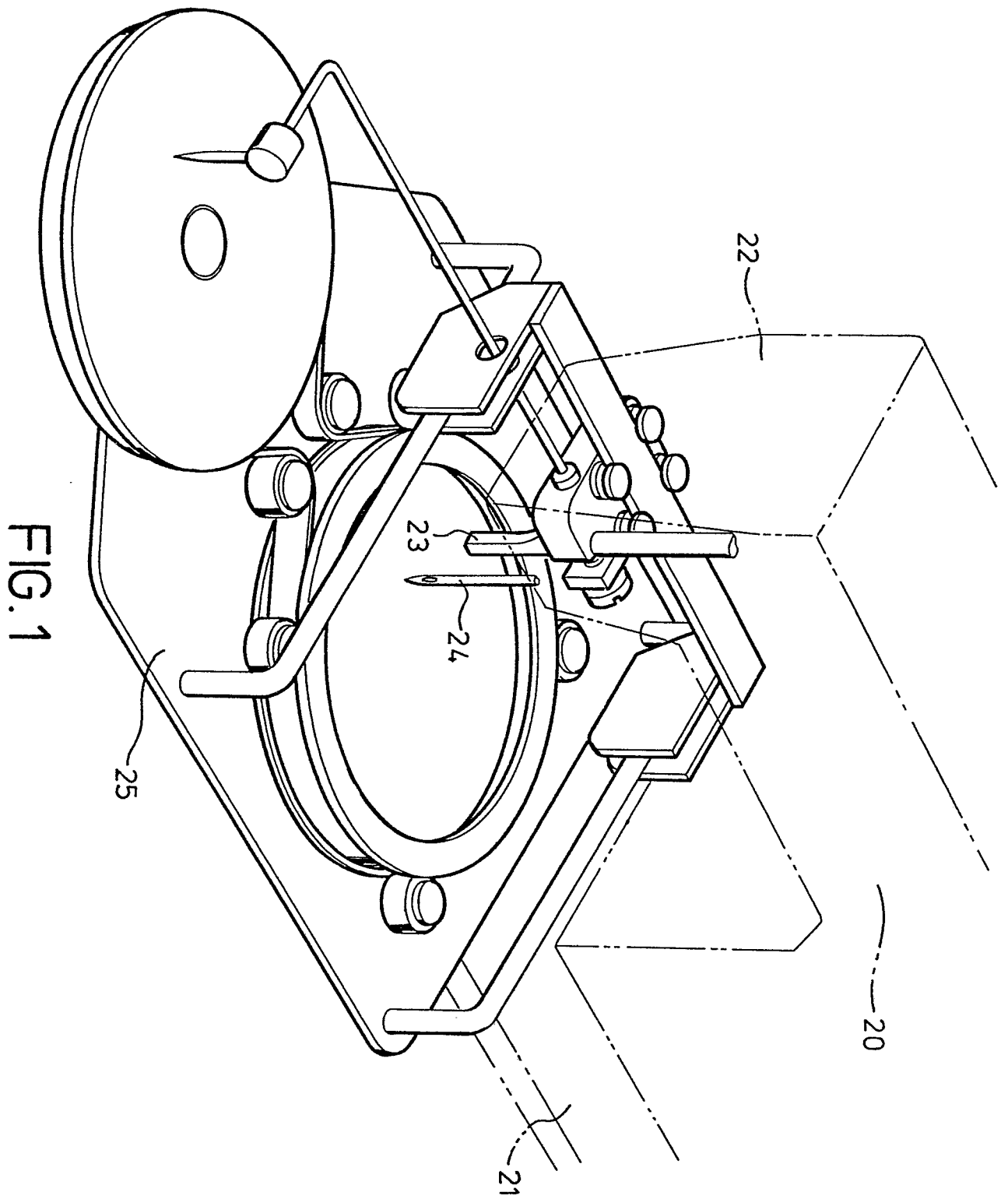
32. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 29, said locking device comprising a channel-shaped member on which said roller is rotatably mounted, a pair of spaced projections mounted on said body, a threaded rod secured to  
5 said channel-shaped member and extending through said pair of spaced projections, and a dial disposed between said projections and held in threaded engagement with said threaded rod.

33. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 28, said locking device comprising a lever supporting on one end thereof said roller for rotation about its own axis and pivotally mounted at its center on said body.

34. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 28, including a locking device comprising a pointed projection disposed for biting engagement with one of said support frame, table, and transmitting means.

35. An embroidering apparatus according to Claim 28, said locking device comprising a gear drive device including a transmission gear for transmitting rotative power from said table to said support frame and a ratchet movable into and  
5 out of engagement with said transmission gear.





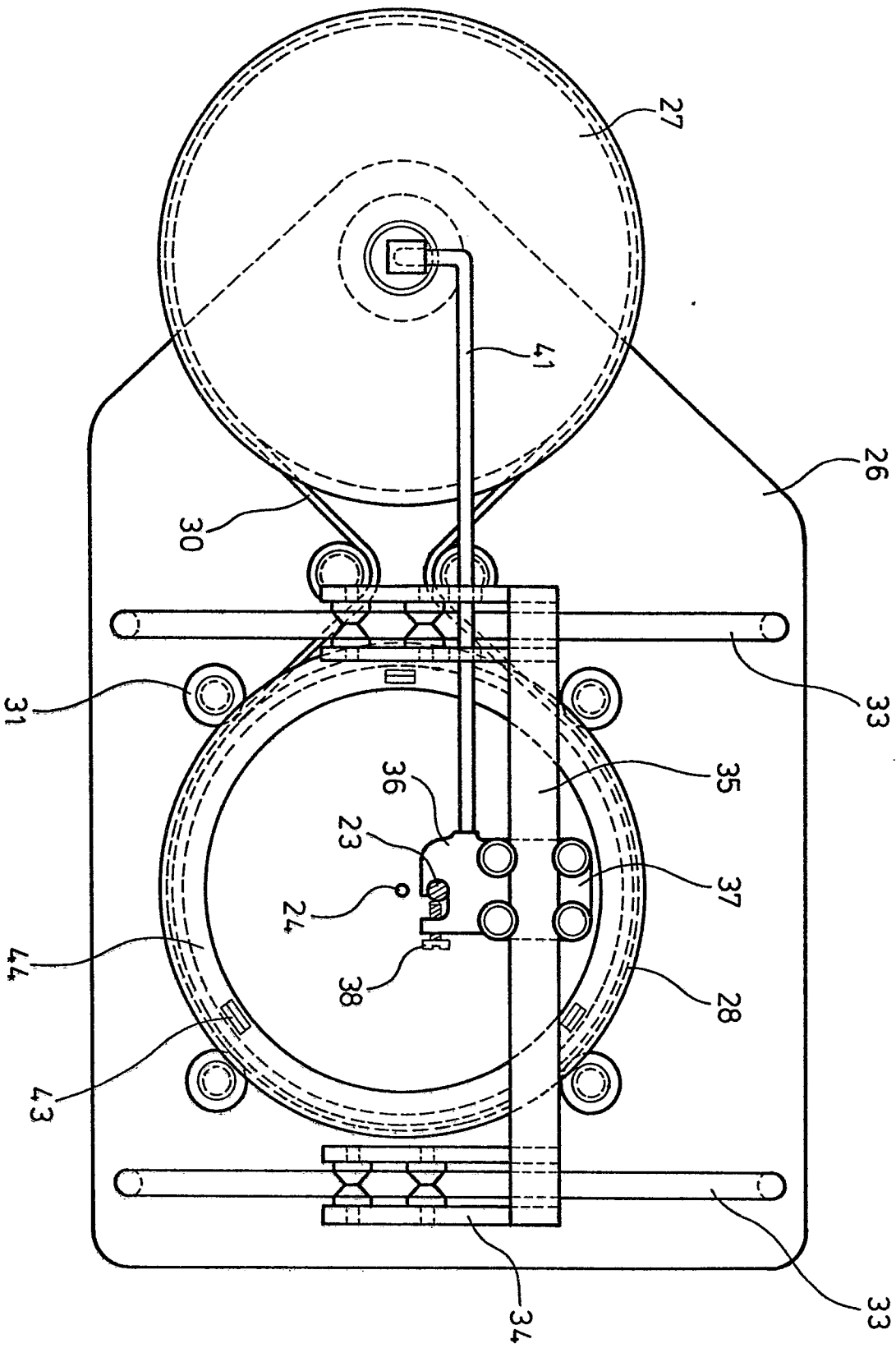


FIG. 2

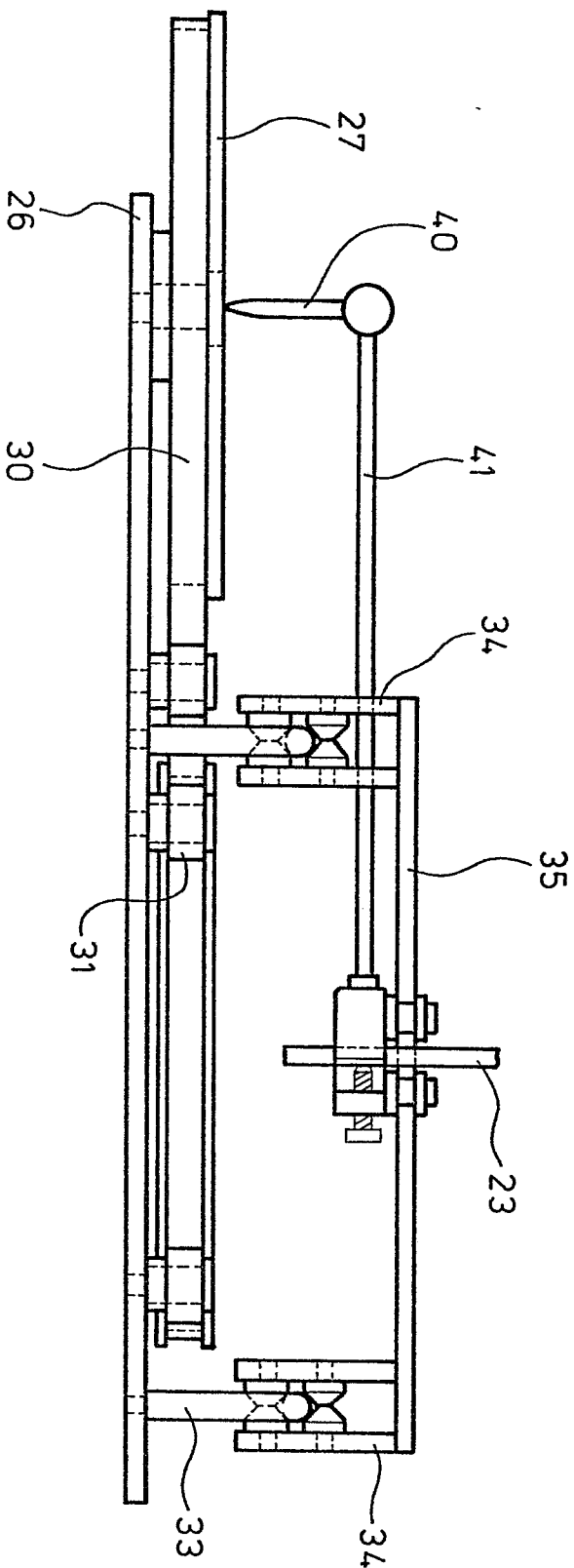


FIG. 3

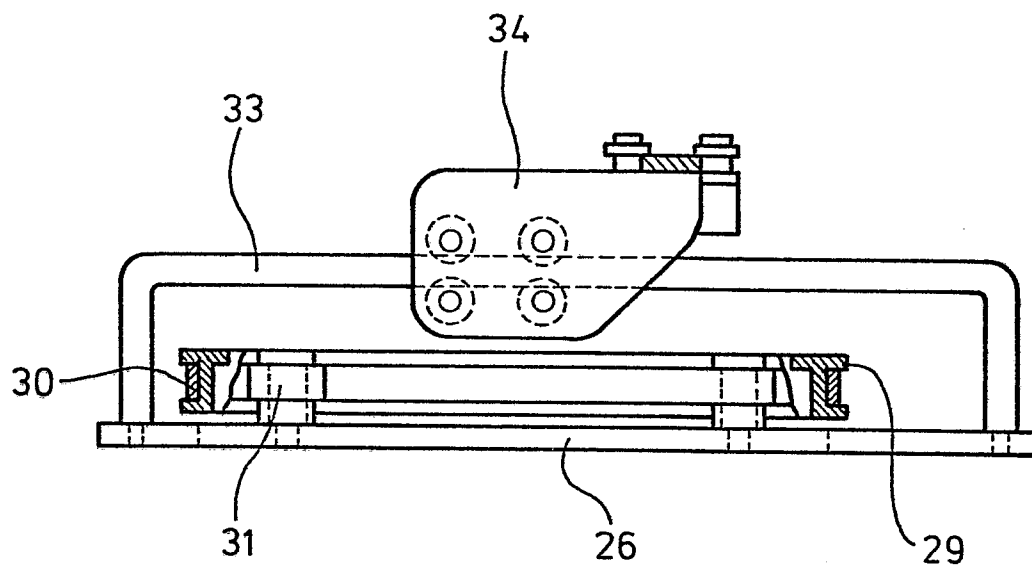
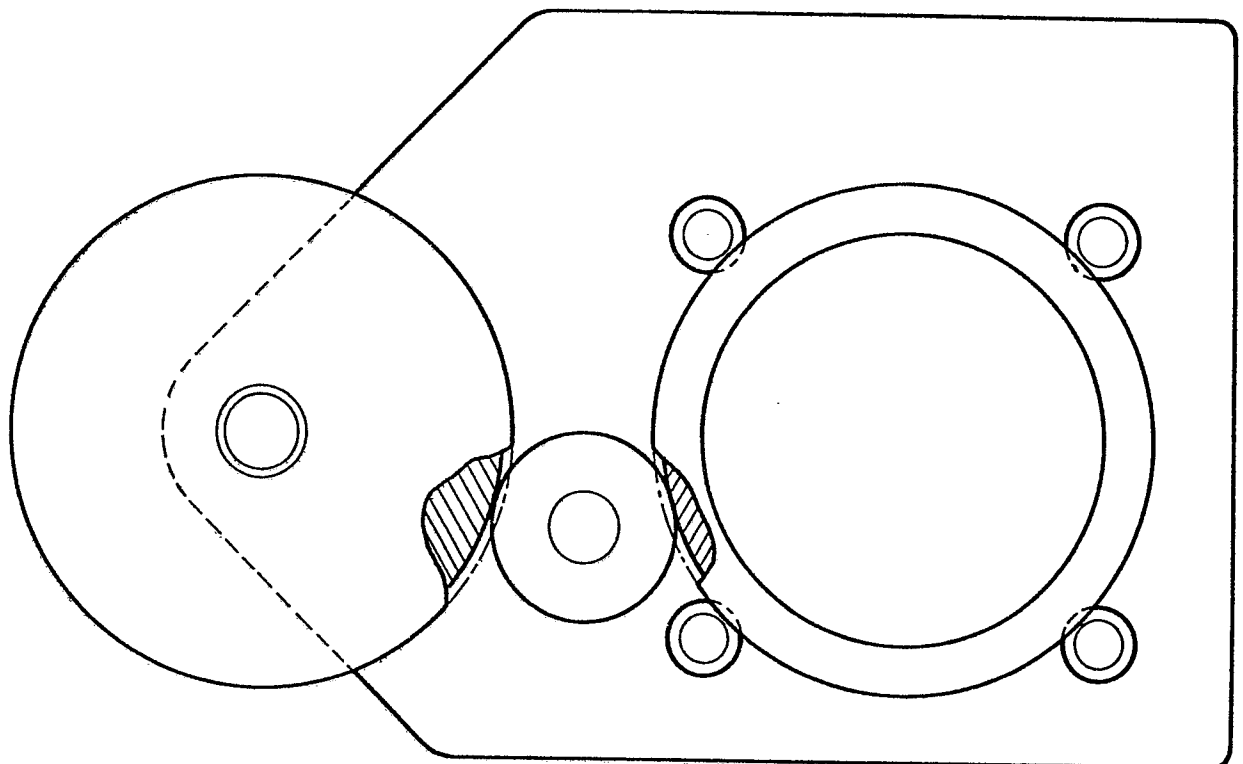
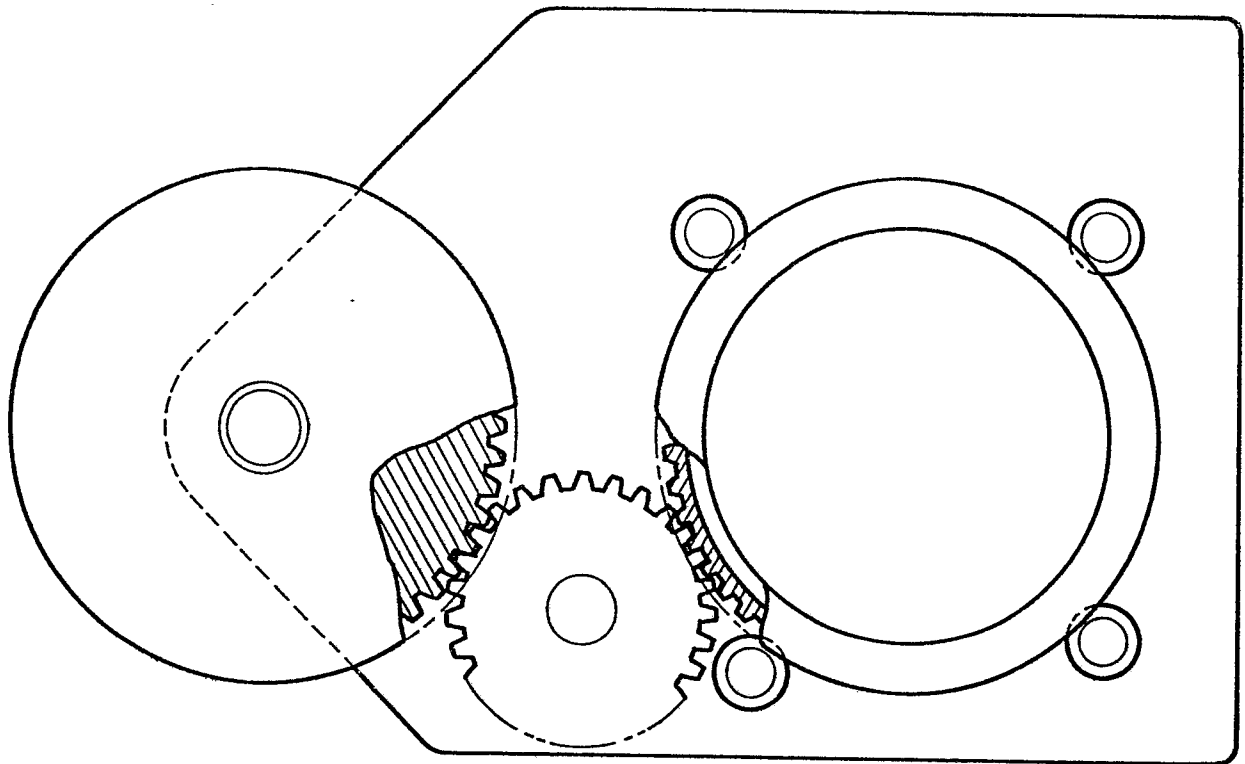


FIG. 4



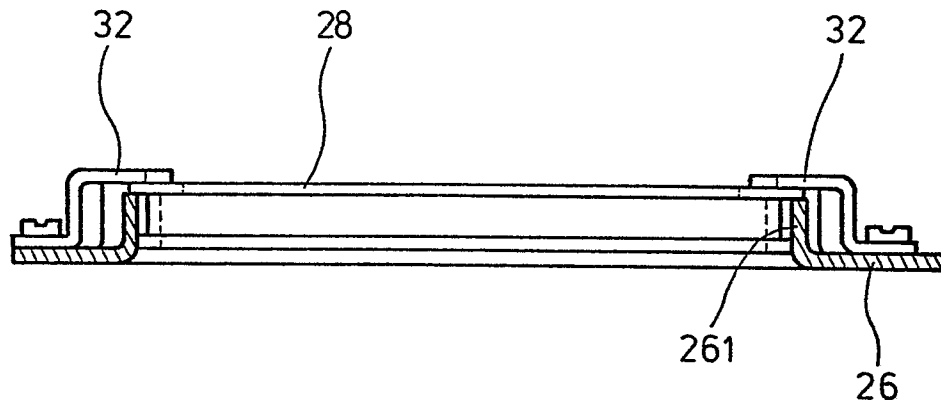


FIG. 5

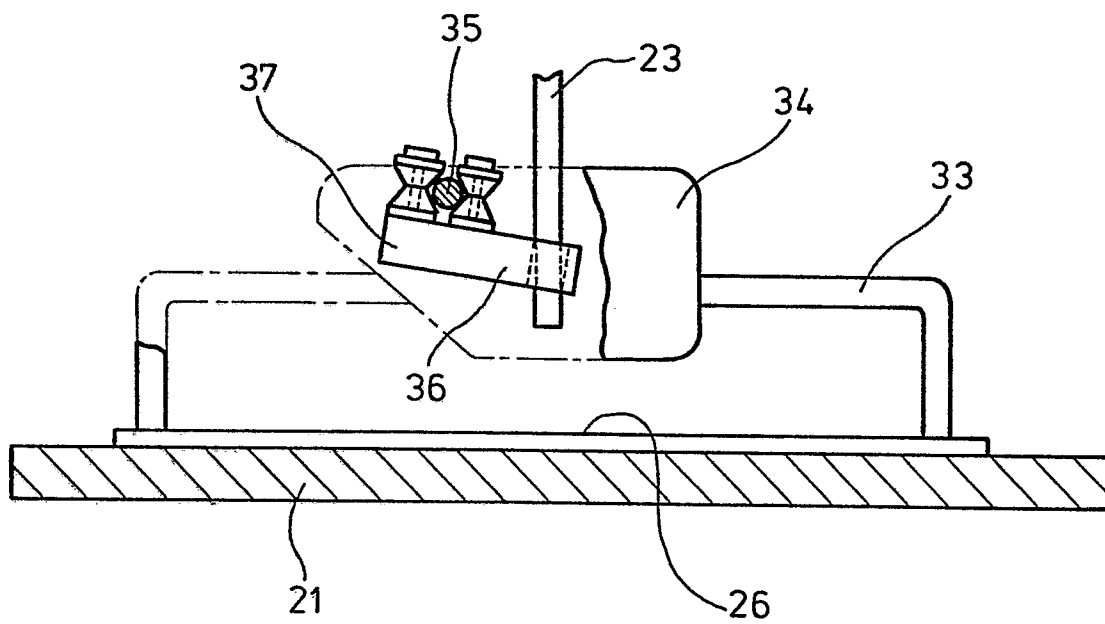


FIG. 8

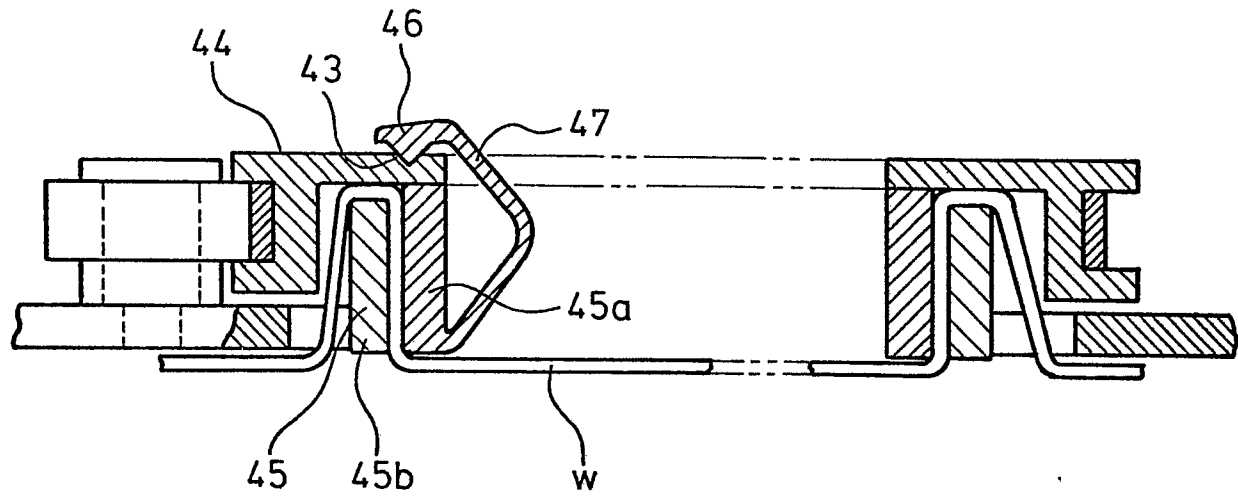


FIG. 9

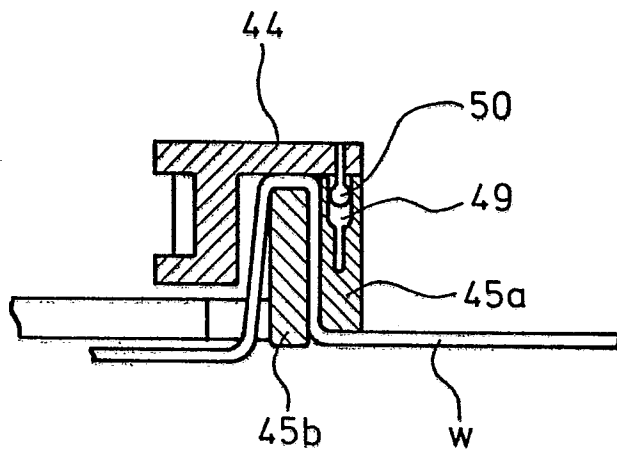


FIG. 10



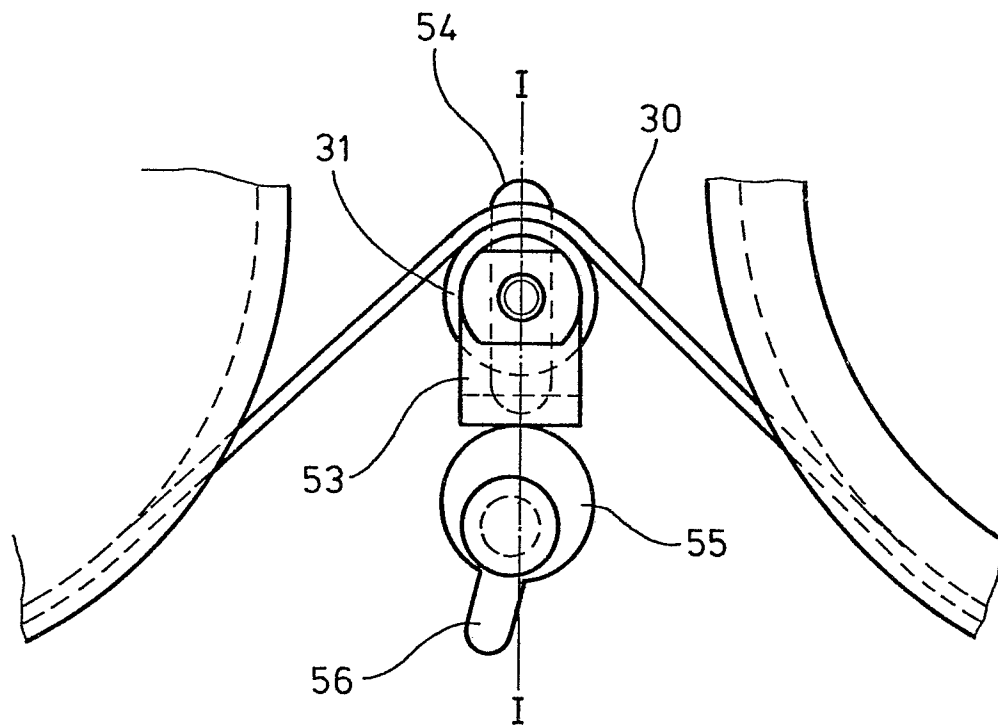


FIG. 11A

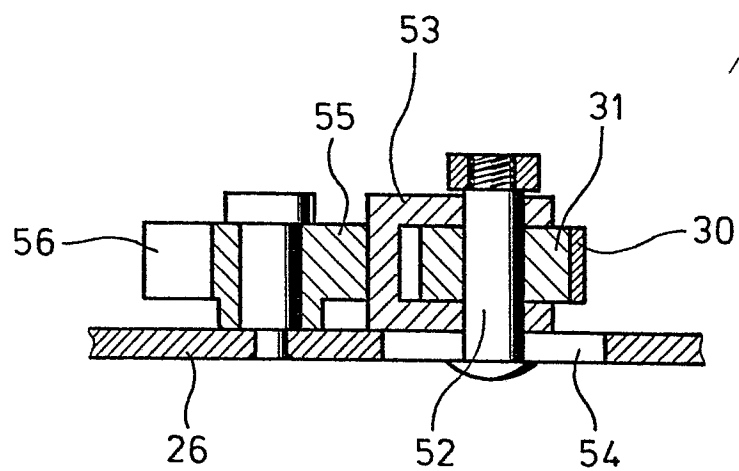


FIG. 11B

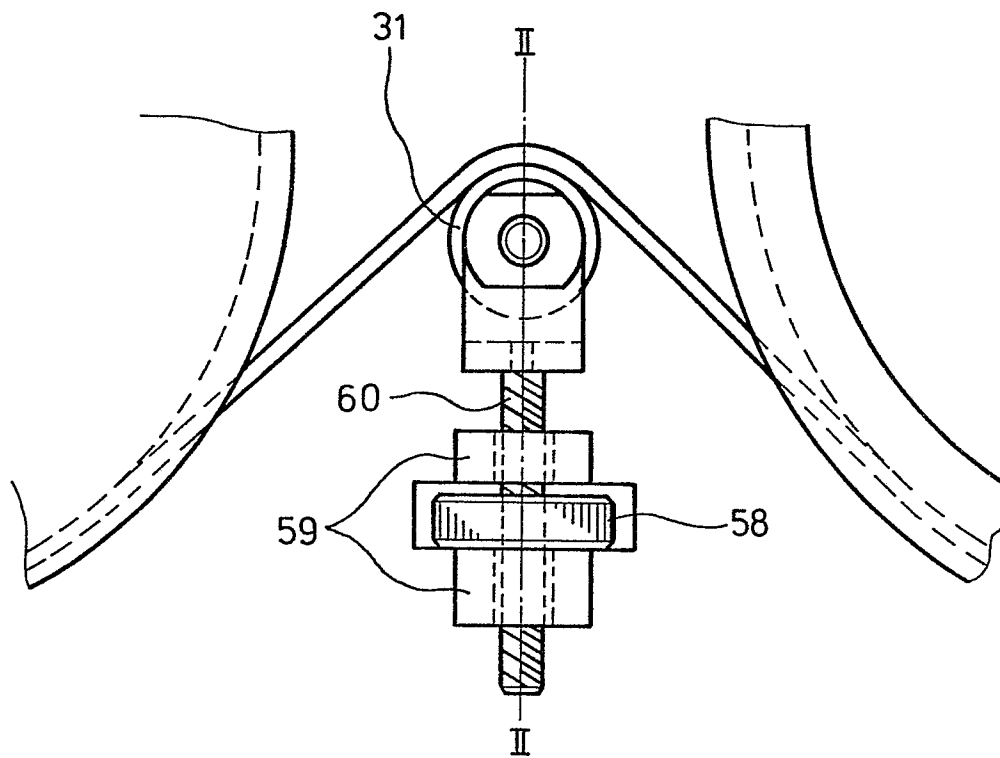


FIG. 12A

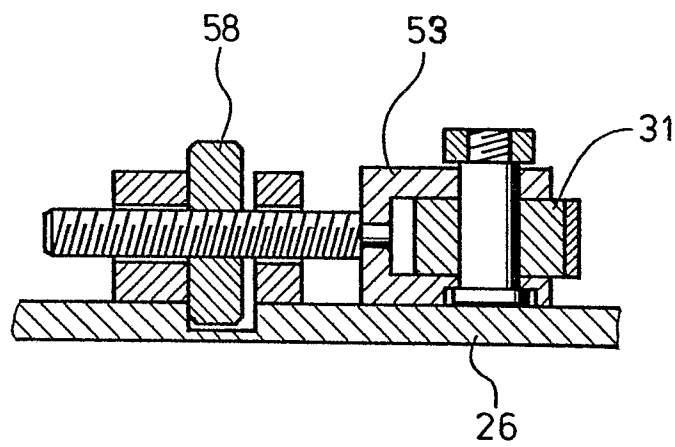


FIG. 12B

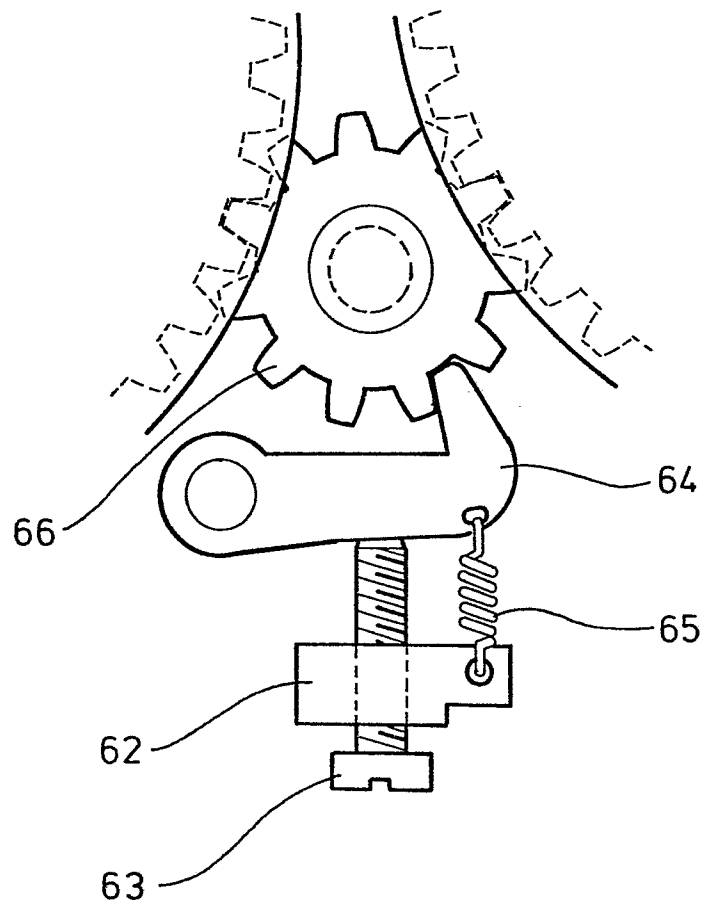


FIG. 13

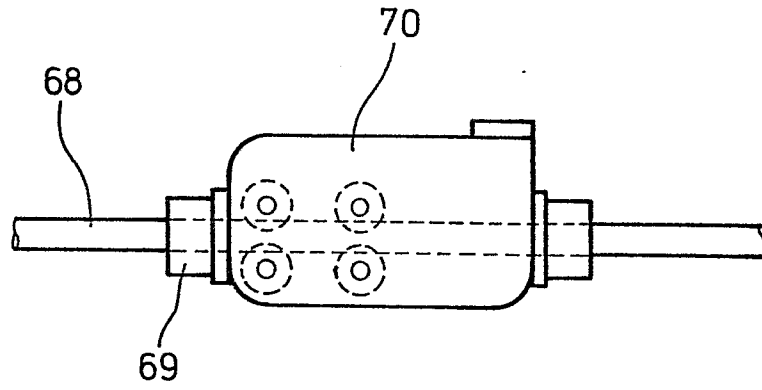


FIG. 14

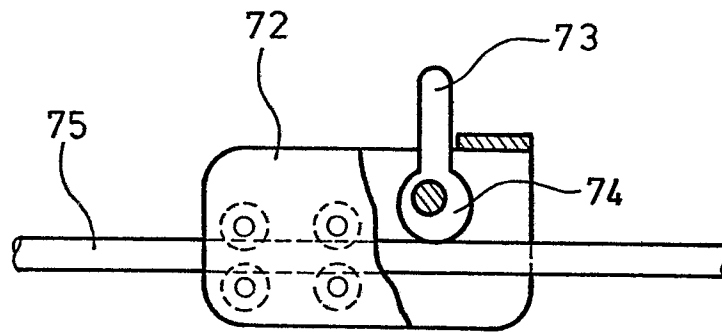


FIG. 15

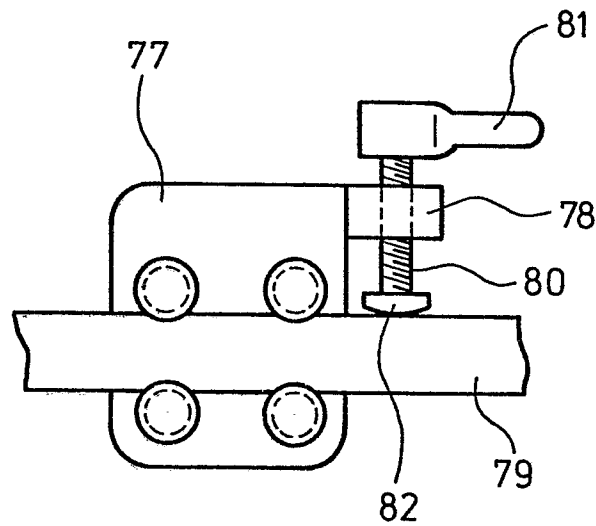


FIG. 16

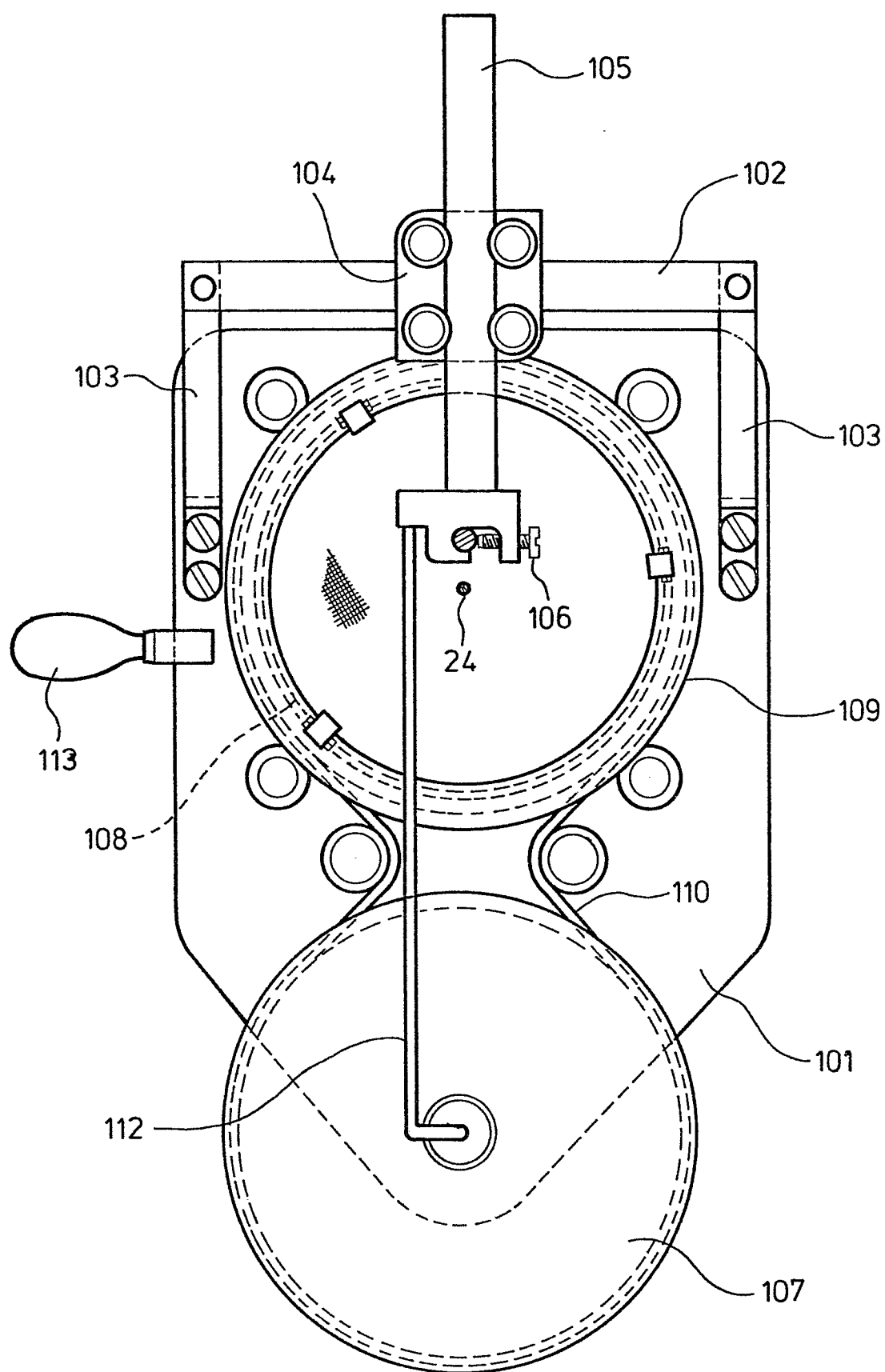


FIG. 17

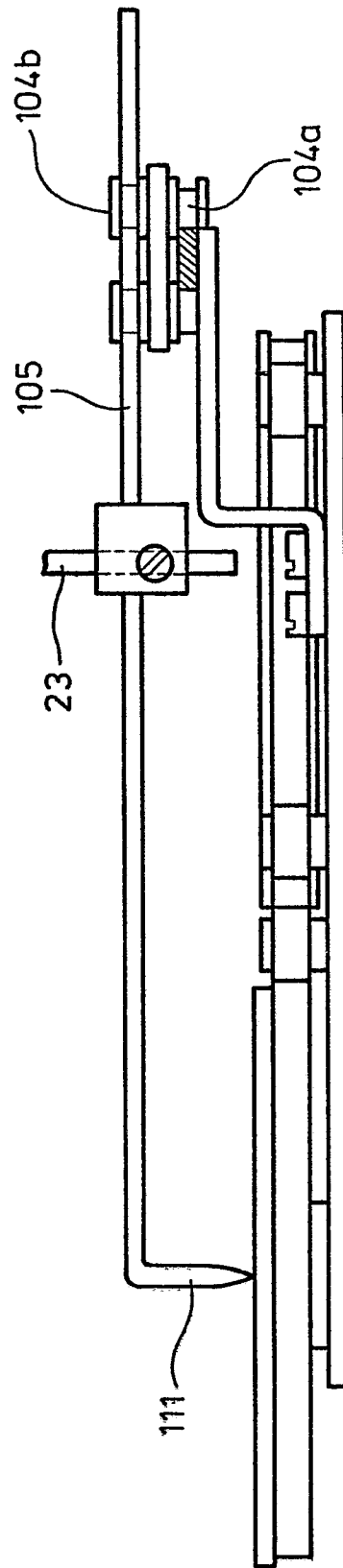


FIG. 18

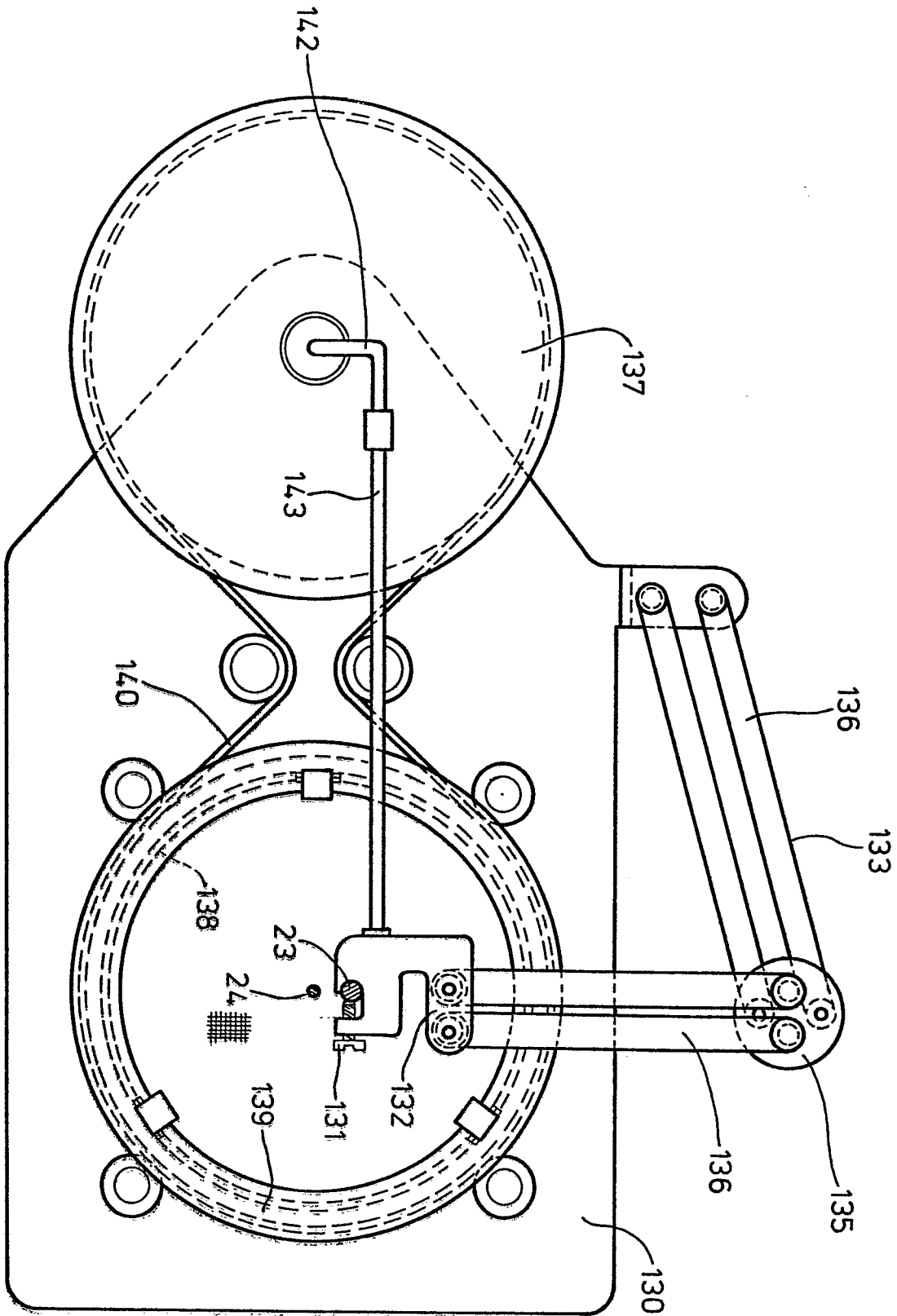


FIG. 19

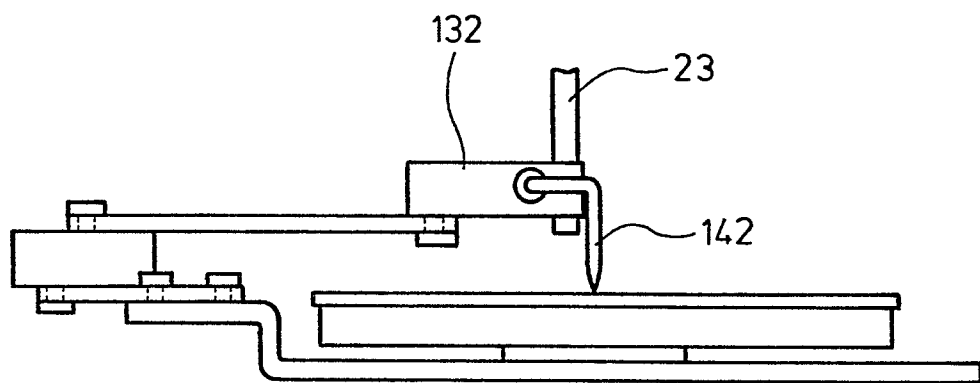


FIG. 20



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European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 81 30 5244

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. <sup>3</sup> )
X	CH-A- 253 692 (UYTTENBROEK)  *The whole document*	1-14, 20-35	D 05 C 9/06
A	US-A-2 989 015 (TAKETOMI) *The whole document*	1	
A	GB-A- 913 179 (NECCHI) *The whole document*	1	
A	FR-A- 478 352 (BRIGGS) *The whole document*	1	
A	FR-A- 442 873 (LAGORCE) *Column 1, lines 23-27*	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. <sup>3</sup> )
			D 05 B D 05 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29-06-1982	Examiner VUILLEMIN L.F.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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