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(54) **Method of knitting fabric and circular knitting machine for this use.**

(57) The amount of vertical movement imparted to the needles (1a) during stitch loop formation is reduced by supporting special types of sinkers (8) for movement in a radial direction and along an inwardly and downwardly inclined path of travel (7a) relative to the needles (1a). As the needles (1a) are raised to the latch clearing level the sinkers (8) are moved inwardly and downwardly to lower the level of the stitch forming ledge (8a) thereof so that the amount of vertical upward movement of the needles (1a) is reduced. As the needles (1a) are then lowered to stitch drawing level, the sinkers (8) are simultaneously moved outwardly and upwardly to raise the stitch drawing ledge (8a) so that a portion of the length of the stitch being formed is determined by the amount of downward movement of the needle (1a) and the remaining portion of the length of the stitch being formed is determined by the amount of upward movement of the sinkers (8).

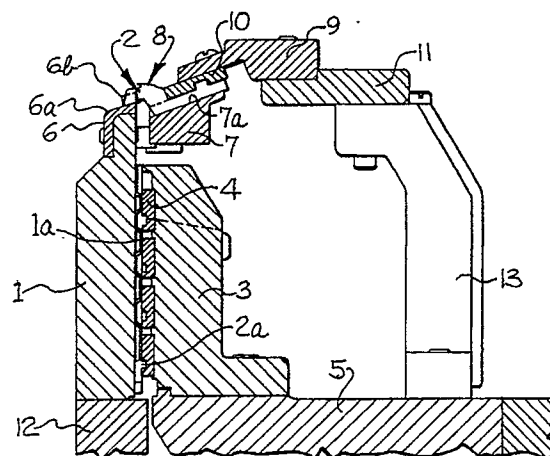


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 30 3711

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.5)
A	US-A-4 180 993 (PHILIP) * column 4, line 36 - column 6, line 4; figures 2-5 * -- --	1-3	D 04 B 15/06
A,D	US-A-3 986 371 (HAVRANEK) -- --		
A,D	US-A-4 532 781 (BUCK) -- -- -- --		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			D 04 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 19 June 91	Examiner VAN GELDER P.A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document 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			