2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. LANSTON.

Sewing-Machine Table.

No. 204,157. Patented May 28, 1878.

Fig. 1.

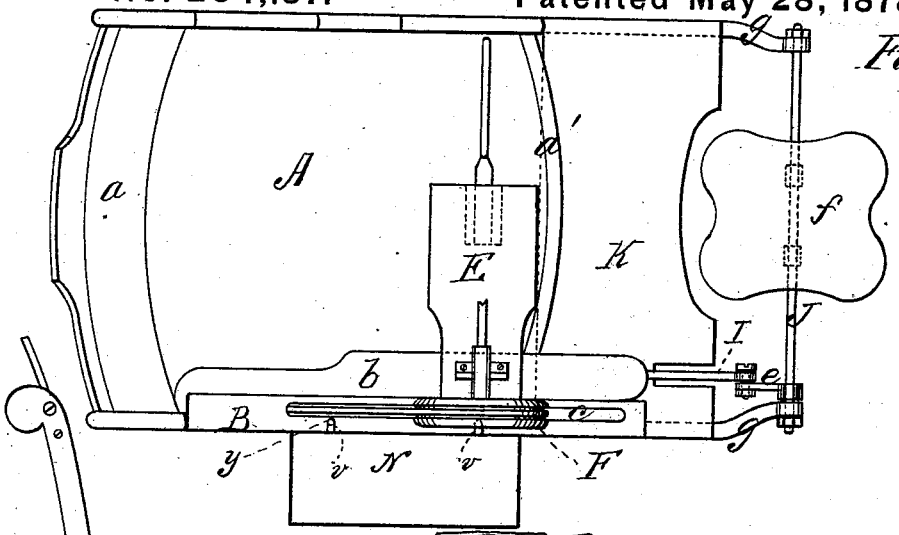

Fig. 2.

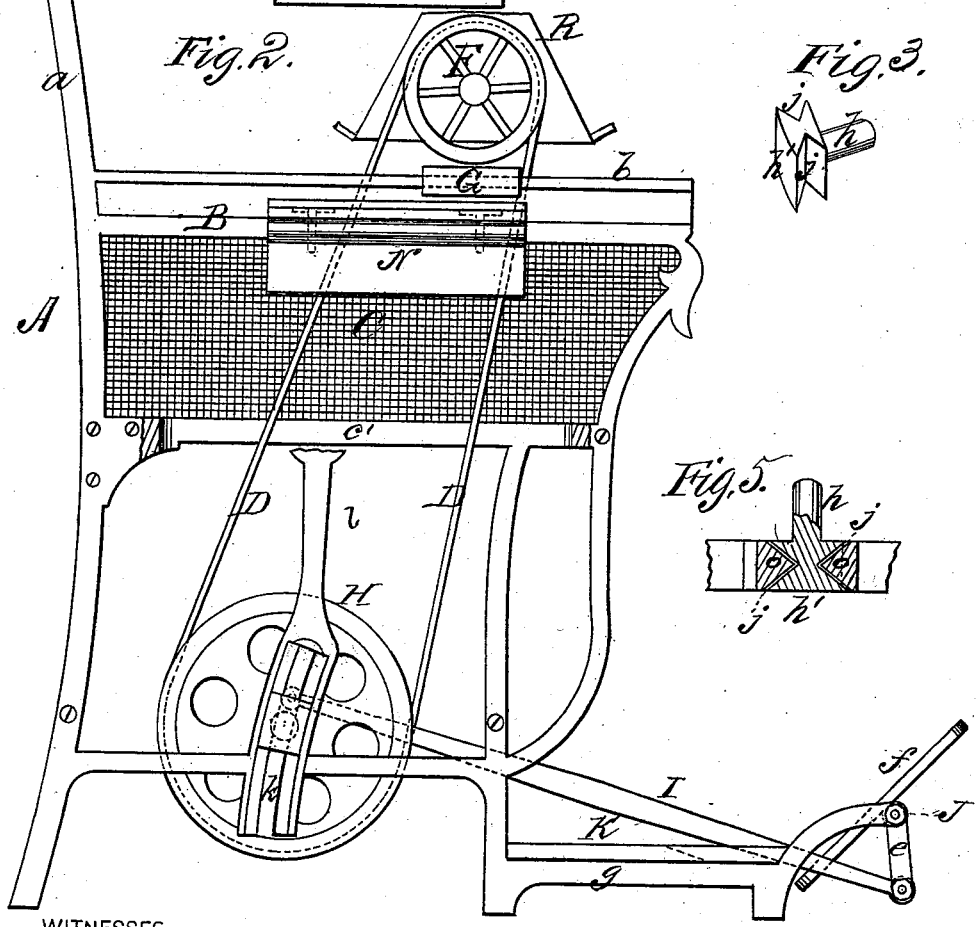

Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

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Fig. 6.

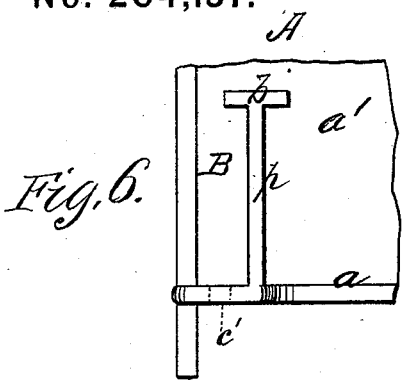


Fig. 7.

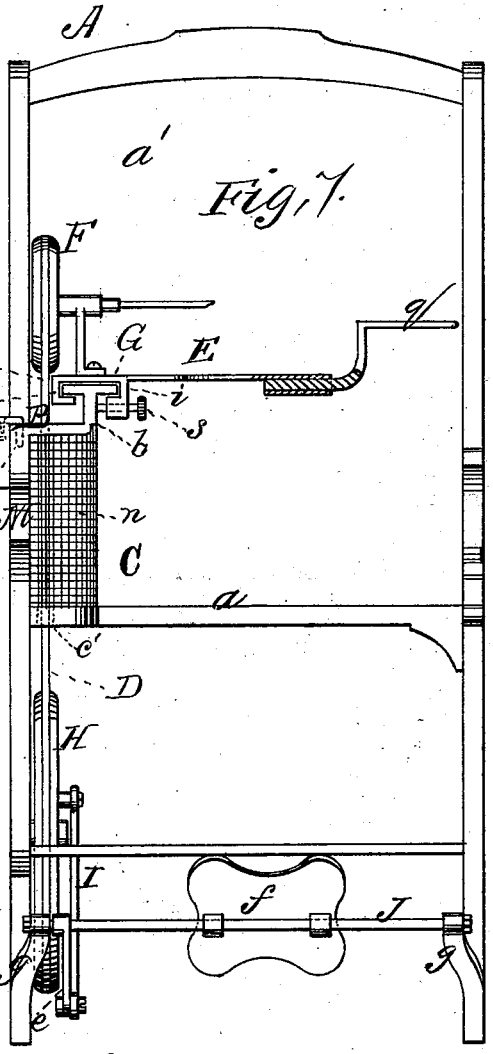


Fig. 8.

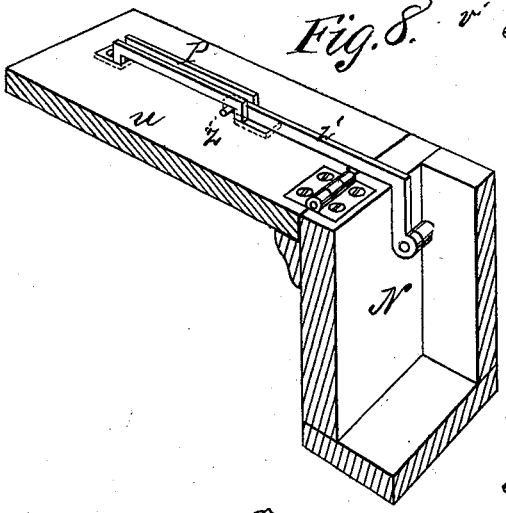


Fig. 9.

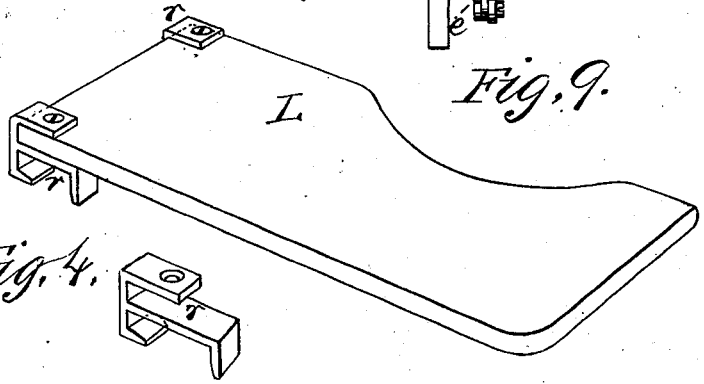
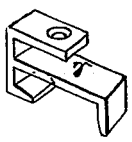


Fig. 4.



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TOLBERT LANSTON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SEWING-MACHINE TABLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **204,157**, dated May 28, 1878; application filed January 17, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TOLBERT LANSTON, of Washington, in the county of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Sewing-Machine Chairs; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a top view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a side view thereof. Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 are details, and Fig. 7 is a front view of the chair.

This invention has relation to improvements in sewing-machines.

The nature of the invention consists in a chair supporting a sewing-machine.

It also consists in combining with a chair a sewing-machine that is adjustable to or from the operator.

It also consists in combining, with a chair and a sewing-machine adjustable to or from the operator, a gravitating automatically-adjustable driving-wheel, that holds the endless belt conveying motion to the sewing-machine properly tense, whatever be the position of adjustment of the said machine.

It also consists in a screen interposed between the operator and the driving mechanism, that prevents the garments of the said operator from being soiled, abraded, or caught.

It moreover consists in certain novel constructions and arrangements of the operative parts of the device, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A designates a chair, constructed of wood or metal, or of a combination thereof, and provided with a back, *a*, and at its right-hand side with a horizontal seat-arm, B, that extends considerably beyond the front edge of the seat *a'*, as shown in Fig. 1. This arm is provided upon its inner edge with an upright metallic T-flange, *b*, extending from end to end thereof, and outside of the said flange with a longitudinal slot, *c*, the object of which will hereinafter appear. The seat and back may be upholstered in any suitable manner, and the seat-arm B is connected with the adjacent edge of the seat by a guard-screen, C. This latter may be made of any suitable material, as cane, canvas, wood-veneer, sheet metal, or wire-cloth, and is designed to prevent the dress of the operator from being injured by the endless belt D.

E represents a platform, upon which the working parts of a sewing-machine are secured in any suitable manner. This mechanism is driven by the balance-wheel F. Upon the under side of the platform, at the end thereof adjacent to the balance-wheel aforesaid, is formed, by means of the L-shaped flanges *i*, a guideway, G, which permits the platform E to be applied to the seat-arm. The space between the flanges *i* is T-shaped, and snugly receives the T-flange *b* upon the seat-arm, when the said flange *b* is inserted into the space between the flanges *i* of the guide and the platform pushed toward the chair-back. This platform is adjustable to or from the operator seated in the chair, as may be desired, and is prevented from slipping by a set-screw, *s*, extending through a seat at the lower edge of the inner flange *i*, and bearing against the vertical portion of the flange *b*. When the platform is in position the balance-wheel is directly over the seat-arm slot *c*, and in line with a similar slot, *c'*, in the right-hand side bar of the seat-frame, and the endless belt D passes around the driving-pulley H, passes upward through the slots *c' c*, and encircles the balance-wheel F.

I represents a pitman connecting the driving-pulley with an arm, *e*, of the treadle-shaft J. This shaft is provided with a treadle, *f*, and is journaled in the ends of the projecting arms *g*, that support the foot-rest K at the front portion of the chair. By operating this treadle, motion is communicated through the shaft J, the pitman I, the driving-pulley H, the endless belt D, and the balance-wheel F to the sewing-machine upon the platform. The driving-pulley H rotates upon a spindle, *h*, projecting from a rectangular body, *h'*, having in its lateral edges the angular grooves *j*. The body *h'* has free motion in a curved slot, *k*, formed below the seat in the side frame *l* of the chair, the side walls of which are angular, as shown at *o*, Fig. 5, and are received in the grooves *j* of the spindle-body *h'*. The driv-

ing-wheel is suspended from the balance-wheel by means of the endless belt D, and is sufficiently heavy to hold the said belt properly tense. When the platform is adjusted toward the operator the driving-pulley descends in the slot *k*, thereby taking up the slack of the belt, and when it is thrust away from the operator ascends therein, in each instance preserving the tension of the said belt and rendering the apparatus effective.

In practice, I preferably make the chair-frame entirely of metal, but if I deem it expedient shall combine wood and metal in its construction. For instance, the side of the chair supporting the driving and balance pulleys and the sewing-machine may be metallic and the remainder of the chair wooden. The upper portion of the belt will be included generally in a space between the guard-screen C and an outside shield, M, in which event the said screen is bent around, as shown at *n*, to close the front portion of this opening; but when I so elect the shield M may be dispensed with, and the front end of the seat-arm will be supported by the upright *p* at the front edge of the said screen. This construction is illustrated in Fig. 6.

q represents a removable angular arm applied to the inner end of the platform, with its horizontal branch on a level with the throat-plate, that is designed to support a skirt or other analogous article while being sewed. This arm has a prismatic end that engages a corresponding socket on the under side of the platform, and is thus held steady.

L represents a cutting-board of the usual form and materials, provided upon one end with spaced catches *r*, adapted to engage the T-flange *b* of the seat-arm. Room is made for this board by thrusting the platform to the front away from the operator, and when it is applied overhangs the lap of the operator. By this means the cutting of garments may be done without the occupant leaving the seat. This board may be detached by raising its free end until the catches are disengaged from the flange *b* aforesaid.

N represents a work-box, of suitable form and materials, having hinged to one edge a lid, *u*, and secured to the other the downwardly-bent hooked catches *v*. These catches engage the perforations *y* in the seat-arm B, and attach the said box to the chair. At each end the lid *u* is provided with a transverse longitudinally-slotted metallic bridge, P, with which a cross-head, *z*, on the end of an angular support, *z'*, is engaged. These supports are pivoted to the ends of the box, in close proximity to the side of the said box, to which the lid is hinged, and, while allowing the lid to be closed without opposition, effectually sustain it when open, and relieve the hinges of all undue strain. The top of the lid is very useful in supporting finished work, scissors, and other like articles required about a sewing-machine. The curved slot *k*, in which the spindle *h* of the driving-wheel H moves, is the arc of a circle having for its center the point of connection of the pitman I with the arm of the treadle-shaft J when the said arm depends vertically from the said shaft, thereby preserving the radius of the said pitman. In practice, the left arm of the chair extends forward but a short distance, or may be dispensed with altogether, thus allowing free ingress and egress to and from the chair when the platform is in position. The mechanism on the platform, when not in use, is protected by a peaked cover, R, the inclined sides of which converge or are truncated or cut off, as shown in Fig. 2, which forms a very convenient book-rest or reading-desk. The sides, at their lower edges, have the supporting-ledges *p*.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A chair having an arm or support adapted to receive and sustain the base-plate of a sewing-machine, and having suitable attachments or bearings beneath to support the driving mechanism of the same, substantially as specified.

2. A chair having one of its arms constructed to support the base-plate of a sewing-machine, the latter being adjustable horizontally upon said arm toward and from the operator sitting in said chair, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with a chair, a sewing-machine, supported thereby and adjustable to or from a sitter, and a balance-wheel, of a gravitating automatically-adjustable driving-pulley and its endless belt, substantially as specified.

4. The combination of a chair and a sewing-machine adjustable to or from its back, and provided with a driven pulley, of the gravitating driving-wheel and an endless belt suspending it from the driven pulley, substantially as specified.

5. In a chair having an arm-support for a sewing-machine, a guard-screen between the arm and chair-seat, to protect the apparel of the sitter from wear by the endless belt at the side of the chair, substantially as specified.

6. The combination, with a chair having arm B, with T-flange *b*, of the sewing-machine support, having the T-guide G, adapted to receive said flange, and a set-screw, *s*, substantially as specified.

7. The combination of a chair having a driving-pulley and treadle-shaft journaled thereon, a pitman connecting said pulley and shaft, a sewing-machine supported by said chair, a driven pulley on said machine, and an endless belt passing around said pulleys, substantially as specified.

8. The combination of a chair having the curved slot *k*, the spindle *h*, moving in said slot, and the driving-wheel H, with the driven pulley F of a sewing-machine and the suspending-belt D, substantially as specified.

9. The sewing-machine work-box, having a

hinged lid, *u*, with slotted transverse guides P, in combination with the angular arms *z'*, having cross-heads *z* engaging said guides, and pivoted to the end of the box, substantially as specified, and one portion of said arm bearing, when the lid is open, against the inner surface of the back of the box, and with the other resting upon the horizontal edge thereof, whereby the strain is taken off the hinges of the lid.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

TOLBERT LANSTON.

Witnesses:
W. E. DULIN,
JOHN M. WELTY.