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INSTRUCTIONS
FOR USING AND ADJUSTING
SINGER SEWING MACHINE
55-20

SINGLE NEEDLE
SINGLE THREAD CHAIN STITCH

THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.
If the feed dog is not set at the correctly height point, the hill depth of the teeth project above the upper surface of the feed plate. The feed dog should be set so that when it is pressed to the presser foot it is pressed to the teeth of the feed dog.

To Raise or Lower the Feed Dog

To Time the Feeding Mechanism

To Set the Slack Through Regulator

To Change the Sidewise Position of the Looper

To all whom it may concern:

To W. H. F."Singer" (R.E.B.) U.S. Patent No. 7,314,610, 6-3-03.
To Set the Needle Bar at the Correct Height

See that the needle is pushed up into the needle bar as far as it will go. Set the needle bar so that when it reaches the lowest position on its downward stroke, the distance from the top of the needle bar to the top of the machine casting will be 7/8 inch.

If the needle bar is not set at the correct height, remove the face plate and loosen the needle bar connecting stud clamp screw (L, Fig.5). Raise or lower the needle bar to the required height, then securely tighten the screw (L).

Fig.5 Needle Bar Set at Correct Height

To Time the Looper

With the needle bar at its lowest position, turn the balance wheel toward you so that the needle bar moves up 1/8 inch. In this position, the point of the looper should be at the center of the needle and slightly above the needle eye as shown at (K, Fig.5).

If the looper is out of time, loosen the two screws (B, Fig.3) on the looper shaft and move the looper as required. Then tighten the screws (B).

DESCRIPTION

Machine 55-20 is especially designed for basting materials up to 3/8 inch in thickness, and is adjustable for stitches from 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch in length.

The working space at the right of the needle is 10 1/8 inches.

This machine is provided with a single needle and a gear-driven rotary looper, and produces the single-thread chain-stitch. It is regularly equipped with a compensating presser foot and an adjustable guide for basting a wide range of fabrics.

The compensating presser foot adapts itself to any variations in the thickness of the material being sewn.

The adjustable guide is hinged and may be turned aside when not in use.

Speed

The machine can be operated at speeds up to 3000 stitches per minute when producing stitches 1/4 inch in length, or 2800 stitches per minute for 1/2 inch stitches, depending upon the nature of the material being sewn. The machine should be run at less than these maximum speeds until the parts which are in movable contact have become glazed by their action upon each other.
To Oil the Machine

Apply oil to all oil holes in the arm and bed of the machine as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 2. Also apply oil to the oil hole at the top of the lifting lever at the rear side of the machine. Remove the face plate and apply oil to all places in movable contact. Keep all moving parts in the machine lubricated with Singer Gear Lubricant. Turn the machine back on its hinges and apply oil to the parts underneath the machine indicated by the unlettered arrows in Fig. 3.

Occasionally check the grease in gear case (D) and, if low, replenish with Singer Gear Lubricant through the hole at (E) after removal of the screw. If the machine runs hard after standing for some time, use a little kerosene or benzene on the wearing parts, run rapidly, wipe clean, and then oil as instructed. The machine should always be cleaned and oiled before using.
To Adjust the Work Guide

To adjust the work guide, loosen the thumb screw (0, Fig. 4) and move the guide to the right or left as may be required, then firmly tighten the thumb screw (0, Fig. 4).

The work guide is hinged and can be turned aside, out of the way, when not in use.

Fig. 3 Base View of Machine

Needles

Needles for Machine 56-20 are of Class and Variety 163259 and are made in sizes 18, 19, 21 and 22.

The size of the needle to be used is determined by the size of the thread which must pass freely through the eye of the needle. The use of rough or uneven thread, or thread which passes with difficulty through the eye of the needle, will interfere with the successful use of the machine.

Orders for needles must specify the quantity required, the size number, also the Class and Variety numbers separated by the letter x.

The following is an example of an intelligible order:

"100 No. 19 163259 Needles"

The best stitching results will be obtained by using needles furnished by the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

To Set the Needle

Turn the balance wheel over toward you until the needle bar moves up to its highest position, loosen the set screw in the needle clamp and insert the needle up into the clamp as far as it will go, with the short groove of the needle toward the upright part of the machine arm and with the eye of the needle directly in line with the arm of the machine.