

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

S. S. BURLINGAME, OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND.

## IMPROVEMENT IN INSTRUMENTS FOR THREADING NEEDLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **22,934**, dated February 15, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, STEPHEN S. BURLINGAME, of Warwick, in the county of Kent and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and Improved Instrument for Threading Needles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view exhibiting my needle-threader passed through the needle-eye to the position in which it receives the thread. Fig. 2 is a side view exhibiting the needle-threader as having been withdrawn from or through the eye and drawn the thread through.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the two figures.

My improved needle-threader is more particularly intended for threading worsted-needles, which, owing to the narrowness of their eyes and the large size and loose character of the thread used in them, are very troublesome to thread with the fingers. It consists in a fork having its prongs elastic and barbed internally, as hereinafter more fully described.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawings.

The instrument is made of a thin flat piece of steel or other suitable metal of a width not greater than the length of the eyes of the needles for which it is to be used, having one end curled, as shown at *a*, or otherwise formed, so that it can be conveniently held between the

thumb and fingers, but having the whole remaining portion straight, and its opposite end in the form of a fork, whose prongs *b b* are provided with barbs *c c* on their inner edges, which barbs nearly meet, and beveled outwardly from the said barbs to their extremities.

To thread the needle with this instrument its fork is passed some distance through the eye of the needle, as shown in Fig. 1, and, while it is held in one hand with the needle suspended upon it, the thread (shown in red color) is held near one extremity by the fingers of the other hand and extended across the fork and pressed between the points, which are thus caused to spring apart till it passes the barbs *c c*. Then by withdrawing the instrument from the eye the barbs are caused to catch the thread and draw it through the eye in the form of a loop, as shown in Fig. 2, after which the fork is to be slipped sidewise over the end of the thread.

By the use of this instrument the needle can be threaded without difficulty with the largest thread that can possibly be used in it.

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

The needle-threader consisting of an internally-barbed elastic pronged fork, substantially as described.

S. S. BURLINGAME.

Witnesses:

SAM W. CLARKE,  
GEORGE W. SHELDON.

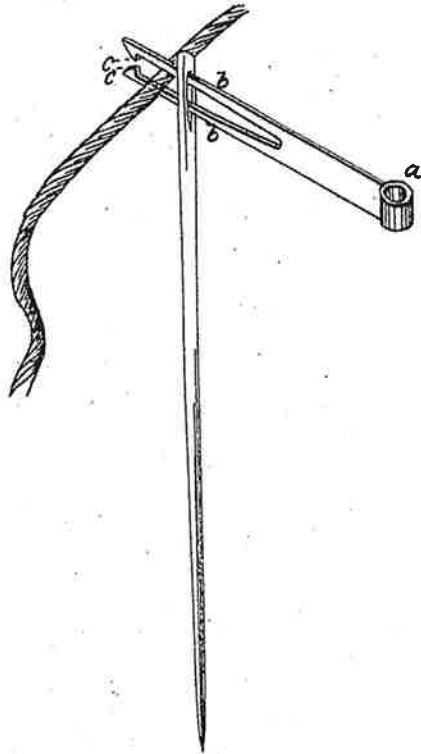
*S. S. Burlingame.*

*Needle Threader.*

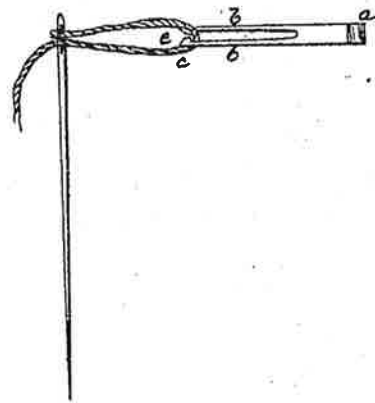
*N<sup>o</sup> 22934.*

*Patented Feb. 15. 1859.*

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses*

*Sam<sup>l</sup> W. Clark*  
*George W. Sheldon*

*Inventor*

*S. S. Burlingame.*