

**CIRCULAR KNITTING MACHINE WITH AN EXCHANGEABLE NEEDLE
CARRIER, ESPECIALLY A NEEDLE CYLINDER**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The circular knitting machine has a machine frame (1), a supporting ring (8,70) mounted on the machine frame (1), a needle carrier (9) supported on the supporting ring and having a needle carrier axis (10) and an upper and a lower edge, a carrier shaft (18) mounted in the machine frame (1) coaxial to the needle carrier axis (10), a component (24) mounted on a lower end of the carrier shaft and a device (35,35a,35b,35c,68) for moving the needle carrier (9) relative to the component in the direction of the needle carrier axis (10) so that the needle carrier can be disassembled or assembled by motions substantially perpendicular to the needle carrier axis and so that the needle carrier is movable into an operating position and an assembly position allowing assembly and/or disassembly.

Figure 3