CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A suturing device comprising a suturing head, the suturing head comprising:

a) a needle track housing portion including a needle disposed in a needle track, the needle track being adapted and configured to guide the needle along a curved path about an axis of rotation substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the suturing head;

b) a drive housing portion containing a drive, wherein the drive includes an elongate flexible member, at least a portion of the elongate flexible member being adapted and configured to reciprocate along a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, characterized by the needle having:

i) a curved body, the curved body covering an arc greater than about 180°; and

ii) an engagement surface for driving the needle, the engagement surface including a notch; and

the elongate flexible member being further adapted and configured to engage the ~~engagement surface~~notch of the needle and advance the needle through a circular arc as the elongate flexible member is ~~advanced~~ pulled in a rotation cycle along the longitudinal axis in a proximal direction,

whereby the needle moves through a first and then a second 180° revolution during the rotation cycle.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the elongate flexible member is biased to disengage from the ~~engagement surface~~notch after advancing the needle along a portion of the needle track.

3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the needle track housing portion and drive housing portion are joined along the longitudinal axis of the device.

4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the needle track housing portion defines a gap in the needle track for receiving tissue to be sutured by the needle.