

Figure 23.—WILSON'S PATENT MODEL, 1850.
(Smithsonian photo 45504-H.)

claimed control of the double-pointed shuttle. Although this claim was without justification, as can be seen by examining the Bradshaw patent specifications, Wilson did not have sufficient funds to fight the claim. In order to avoid a suit, he relinquished to A. P. Kline and Edward Lee, a one-half interest in his U.S. patent 7,776 which was issued on November 12, 1850 (fig. 23).

Inventor Wilson had been associated with Kline and Lee (E. Lee & Co.) for only a few months, when, on November 25, 1850, he agreed to sell his remaining interest to his partners for \$2,000. He retained only limited rights for New Jersey and for Massachusetts. The sale was fruitless for the inventor, as no payment was ever made. How much money E. E. Lee & Co. realized from the Wilson machine is difficult to determine, but they ran numerous ads in the 1851 and 1852 issues of *Scientific American*. A typical one reads:

A. B. Wilson's Sewing Machine, justly allowed to be the cheapest and best now in use, patented November 12, 1850; can be seen on exhibition at 195 and 197 Broadway (formerly the Franklin House, Room 23, third floor) or to E. E. Lee & Co., Earle's Hotel. Rights for territory or machines can be had by applying to George R. Chittenden, Agent.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ *Scientific American* (Dec. 6, 1851), vol. 7, no. 12, p. 95.

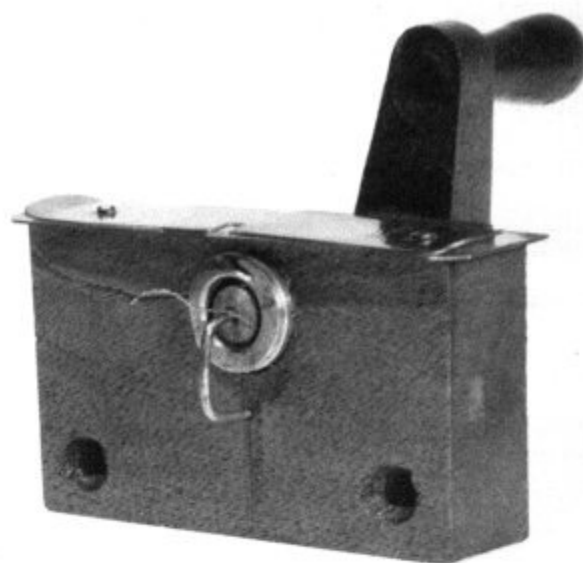


Figure 24.—WILSON'S PREPATENT MODEL for his rotary hook, 1851. (Smithsonian photo 45506-E.)

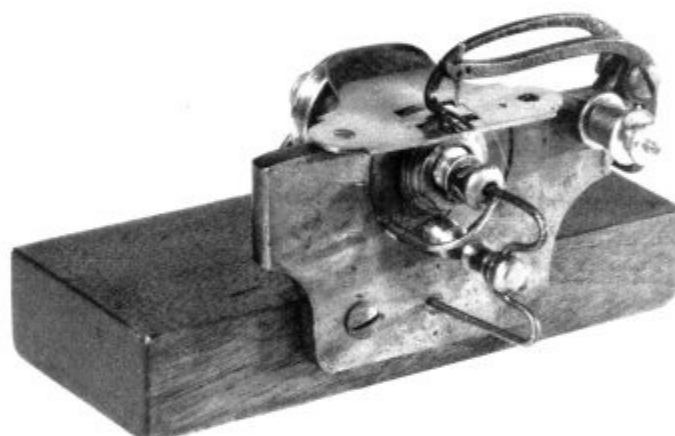


Figure 25.—WILSON'S ROTARY-HOOK PATENT MODEL, 1851. (Smithsonian photo 45505-B.)

Another reads:

A. B. Wilson's Sewing Machine . . . the best and only practical sewing machine—not larger than a lady's work box—for the trifling sum of \$35.⁴⁹

Wilson severed relations with Lee and Kline in early 1851 shortly after meeting Nathaniel Wheeler, who was to become his partner in a happier, more

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* (Sept. 20, 1851), vol. 7, no. 1, p. 7.