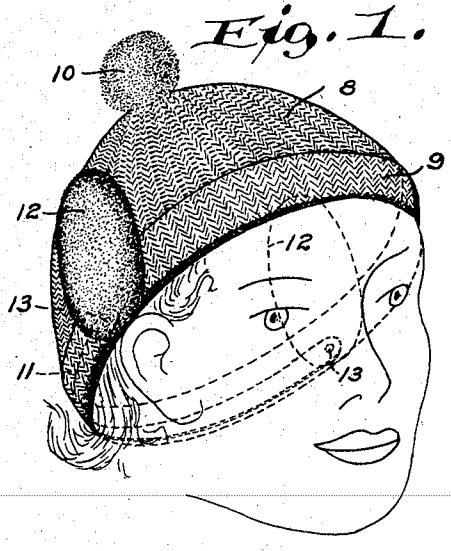
May 23, 1939. F. J. WENGEN 2,159,609

CAP

Filed Jan. 15, 1938

Fig. 1.



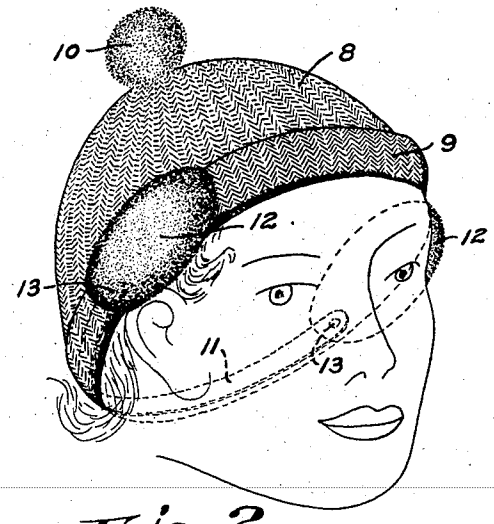


Fig. 2.

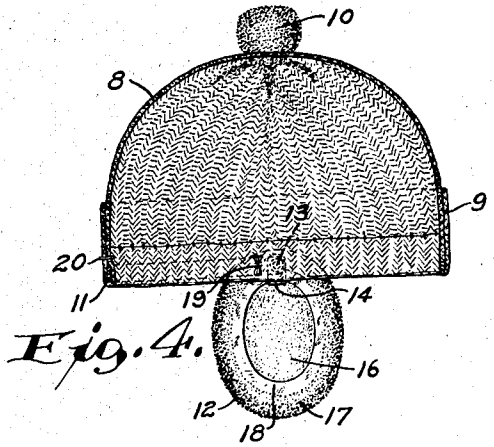


Fig. 4.

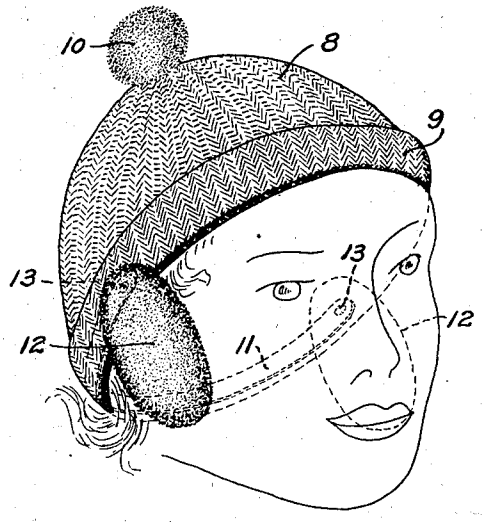


Fig. 3.

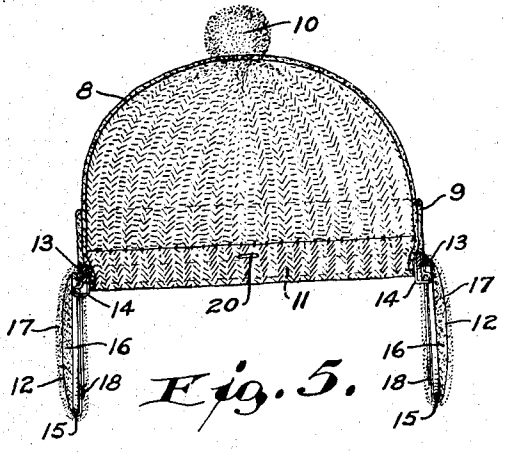


Fig. 5.

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CAP

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Application January 15, 1938, Serial No. 185,130

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—209)

My present invention relates generally to improvements in the art of producing headwear, and relates more specifically to improvements in the construction of caps having ear protectors associated therewith.

Generally defined, an object of the present invention is to provide an improved cap and ear muff assemblage having maximum utility, which is also durable in construction and extremely attractive.

Many different types of caps for winter wear have heretofore been marketed, and most of these garments are provided with some kind of ear protectors which are capable of being folded either upwardly against the opposite sides of the crown or top of the cap, or downwardly over the ears. These prior caps are formed of various types of material such as ordinary cloth or knitted fabric, and are frequently provided with decorative pompons, eye shields, and with head encircling rims foldable outwardly and upwardly about the lower edges of the crowns. It has also been common commercial practice to provide a set of ear muffs pivotally attached to the opposite ends of a resilient U-shaped strip of metal adapted to be disposed about the rear lower portion of the head of the wearer and to clamp the ear muffs snugly against the ears. This pivotal attachment of the muffs to a flexible but relatively stiff supporting strip, not only insures firm or snug clamping of the muffs against the opposite sides of the wearer's head at all times, but also permits convenient pivotal adjustment of the muffs to various positions. While the prior caps with ordinary ear protectors have many advantages, and the prior ear muff assemblages have additional advantageous features, none of the prior caps have incorporated all of these advantages in a single unitary structure, and they have therefore lacked the utility and comfort obtainable with the individual prior cap and ear muff assemblages.

It is therefore a more specific object of my present invention, to provide a combined cap and pivotally adjustable ear muff assemblage which not only combines the advantageous features of the above described individual devices, but which also possesses added advantages.

Another specific object of this invention is the provision of a cap and ear muff combination wherein the ear muffs are pivotally adjustable about the opposite ends of a resilient support which also serves to retain the rear lower portions of the cap in snug engagement with the wearer's head.

A further specific object of the invention is to provide a new and useful cap assemblage having highly attractive pivotally adjustable ear muffs which may be swung to various positions and are always biased into snug engagement with the head of the wearer.

Still another specific object of my invention is the provision of a durable ear muff and cap assemblage which may be manufactured of attractive knit fabric or cloth and at moderate cost.

These and other specific objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description.

A clear conception of an embodiment of the invention, and of the mode of constructing and of utilizing ear muff and cap assemblages manufactured in accordance with the improvement, may be had by referring to the drawing accompanying and forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters designate the same or similar parts in the various views.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one of my improved ear muff and cap essemblages applied to the head of a wearer, and showing the muffs swung upward to the maximum extent;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same assemblage, showing the ear muffs adjusted to an intermediate position in substantial alinement with the brim or band of the cap;

Fig. 3 is another similar view of the assemblage, showing the ear muffs in ear engaging or lowered position;

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal vertical section through the improved cap and ear muff assemblage, showing the ear muff support distended as when in use; and

Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section through the assemblage with the ear muff support likewise distended.

While I have shown the invention as being embodied in a tight fitting cap formed of knitted fabric and provided with a pompon but no eye shield, it is not the intent to thereby unnecessarily restrict the scope, since the improvement is also applicable to other types of caps formed of other suitable materials.

Referring to the drawing, the cap shown therein comprises a tubular knitted crown or head engaging portion 8 preferably formed of elastic material and shaped to snugly fit the wearer's head; a rim or band portion 9 formed integral with or attached to the lower edge of the crown portion 8 and normally being folded outwardly and upwardly over the lower part of the portion 8; and a decorative pompon 10 secured to the

uppermost part of the crown portion 8 at the common gathering point of the knitted material. The ear muff assembly comprises a U-shaped resilient metal support or strip 11, the opposite ends of which are biased inwardly toward each other; and an ear muff 12 pivotally attached to each end of the strip 11 by means of a transverse pivot pin 13 coacting with the outer end of a metallic bifurcated bracket 14, the inner end of which swingably supports the adjacent ear muff 12. The ear muffs 12 are of similar construction, each muff having an oval wire frame 15 to which a pad 16 is permanently attached, and which is embraced by an attractive covering 17 detachably secured to the frame 15 by means of an elastic retaining band 18 as clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

The crown portion 8, band portion 9, pompon 10 and ear muffs 12 may be of various colors, either plain or striped, and the muffs 12 are always biased inwardly by the resilient strip 11 so as to snugly engage the head of the wearer. The cap and ear muffs are assembled into a unitary structure, by placing the supporting strip 11 within the recess formed between the rear parts of the crown and band portions 8, 9 as clearly shown in the drawing, and by causing the opposite ends of the strip 11 to project through slots 19 in the band portion 9 before the muffs 12 are finally attached thereto, see Fig. 4. The strip 11 may thereafter be permanently confined within this recess by local stitching 20 and by other stitching applied at the slots 19, thus completing the assemblage.

When the improved assemblage is in normal use, the crown portion 8 is snugly applied to the head of a wearer as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, and the band portion 9 snugly embraces the wearer's head. The resiliency of the supporting strip 11 which is confined within the recess at the rear of the crown and band portions 8, 9, causes these portions of the cap to hug the lower rear portion of the wearer's head, thus tending to retain the cap in position. The ear muffs 12 which are biased toward the wearer's head by the resiliency of the strip 11, may then be set in any desired position. As shown in Fig. 1, the ear muffs 12 have been swung upwardly so as to point toward the pompon 10, and are in snug engagement with the crown portion 8 and the adjacent band portion 9. As depicted in Fig. 2, the ear muffs 12 have been swung forwardly about the pivots 13 and snugly engage the band portion 9 forwardly of these pivots. As illustrated in Fig. 3, the ear muffs 12 have been swung downwardly over the wearer's ears and snugly engage the same. The muffs 12 may also be swung about the pivots 13 to any other desired position, as for instance, rearwardly of the pivots 13 and in substantial alinement with the band 9, and regardless of the position to which the muffs are adjusted, they will always hug the wearer's head. It will thus be noted that the improved assemblage has great utility and flexibility, and may be worn to suit the whims of the particular user.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that my invention provides an improved cap and ear muff assemblage which possesses all of the advantageous features of the prior caps and ear muff structures alone, and wherein the cap is additionally held in snug engagement with the wearer's head by the cooperation of the ear muff supporting strip 11 with the rear portion of the cap. The cap may obviously be formed of any suitable material such as ordinary fabric or tubular knitted material, and the ear muffs may be decorated with the aid of coverings 17 of attractive material. The assemblage may obviously be readily manufactured and applied to the head of a wearer, and may if desired be provided with an eye shield applied between the front part of the band portion 9 and of the crown portion 8. The entire assemblage, besides possessing extreme utility and flexibility when in actual use, is also relatively durable in construction and may be manufactured and sold at moderate cost. The use of the resilient inwardly biased support 11 for the ear muffs 12, which provides a sturdy connection between these ear muffs, also insures snug cooperation between the ear muffs 12 and the wearer's head, regardless of the position of the muffs which are adjustably swingable about the pivots 13 and may also be swung inwardly into the interior of the cap.

It should be understood that it is not desired to limit this invention to the exact details of construction or the precise mode of use, herein shown and described, for various modifications within the scope of the claims may occur to persons skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. A cap assemblage comprising, a flexible crown formed to snugly engage the top of the wearer's head, a rigid resilient support attached to and concealed by the lower edge portion of said crown and having end portions outwardly penetrating the material of said crown, and ear muffs pivotally suspended from the protruding ends of said support on opposite sides of said crown edge portion, said muffs being swingable to various positions of snug engagement with the wearer's head and externally over said crown.

2. A cap assembly comprising, a flexible crown formed to snugly engage the top of the wearer's head, a rigid resilient support concealed within the rear lower edge portion of said crown and having end portions outwardly penetrating the material of said crown, and ear muffs pivotally suspended directly from the protruding ends of said support on opposite sides of said crown edge portion, said muffs being swingable to various angular positions of snug engagement with the wearer's head and externally over said crown about their suspension pivots.

3. A cap assembly comprising, a flexible snug fitting crown including a lower band foldable upwardly and outwardly over the lower edge portion of said crown, a rigid U-shaped resilient support concealed between the rear part of said band and crown so as to avoid contacting the wearer's head and having end portions outwardly penetrating the material of said band, and ear muffs pivotally suspended directly from the protruding ends of said support externally of said band, said muffs being swingable about their suspension pivots to various positions of snug engagement with the exterior of said crown.

FRANK J. WENGEN.