F. KLEEMANN.

CORSET AND LIKE STIFFENER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 12, 1917.

1,276,700. Patented Aug. 20, 1918.

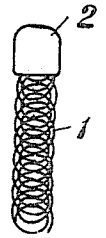


Fig. 2.

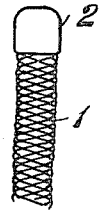


Fig. 3.

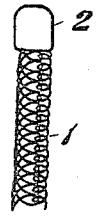


Fig. 4

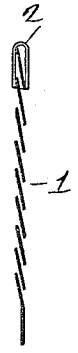


Fig. 5.

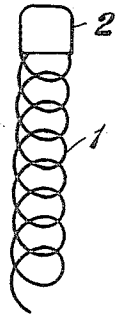


Fig. 1.

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FELIX KLEEMANN, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

CORSET AND LIKE STIFFENER.

1,276,700. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 20, 1918.

Application filed March 12, 1917. Serial No. 154,258.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FELIX KLEEMANN, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 23 Moor Lane, London, E. C., England, have invented new and useful Improvements in and Connected with Corsets and like Stiffeners, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to stiffeners especially for use in ladies' dress. The invention has, more especially, reference to the provision of tips or caps upon the end of stiffeners consisting of flattened wire springs. As is known to those versed in the art stiffeners of this nature are often made by winding wire upon a mandrel and flattening the resulting springs by means of flatting rolls or like devices. Then the flattened springs are cut up into lengths to fill the stiffened pockets of the garment on which it is to be used. It is obvious that the operation of cutting leaves sharp and jagged ends exposed. Usually these ends are capped by a small tip of sheet metal but it has been recognized that this form of cap has the disadvantages, first, of expense owing to the time required for the capping operation, and secondly, owing to the fact that the hard cap is liable to wear out the garment at the ends of the stiffener.

The main purpose of the present invention is to provide an extremely simple method of capping stiffeners of the class mentioned in order to overcome these difficulties. The main object of the present invention, therefore, comprises a tip of plastic material such as gelatin, india-rubber, celluloid and so forth, and sometimes the tip may be given a finish by covering the plastic material with some fabric such as paper or strips of cloth or paper, in order to prevent the plastic material from breaking away from the wires at the end of the stiffener. Thus, in applying the tip the plastic material is pressed into the interstices of the wire coil for some short distance at the end only, and is then hardened or dried. In the annexed drawings some embodiments of the invention are shown applied to known types of stiffeners.

In Figure 1 the type of stiffener comprising a coil formed of a single wire wound in circular convolutions is shown. Fig. 2 is an example of a multi-wire stiffener with circular convolutions. In Fig. 3 a number of wires wound regularly in the shape of helices on a mandrel are pressed flat. Fig. 4 illustrates a more complex form of wire stiffener and Fig. 5 shows one form diagrammatically in side view. In all of these cases, the stiffener 1 has at its end portion the cap 2 affixed. In all cases a plastic material of the kind referred to above is well pressed into the interstices of the stiffener until a complete cap of somewhat the shape shown in the drawings is obtained. The cap can then be hardened or dried and used in this state, but preferably it is covered with paper or cloth strip 3 (Fig. 5), say, for cheapness, in order to make a more smooth finish to the article and to prevent the cap coming away in flakes.

The invention can also be carried out by taking fabric on to which a plastic substance has been fixed and cutting it into short strips. A strip is pressed around the end of the stiffener in such a way that the plastic layer is pressed into the interstices of the convolutions of the wire while still in the plastic state, that is, before being hardened. By this method a cap or tip is produced similar in appearance to that described above.

What I claim is:—

1. A method of capping corset and like wire stiffeners consisting in pressing a non-metallic plastic substance into the interstices only at the end, fashioning said plastic substance into desired shape and hardening said plastic substance.

2. A method of capping corset and like wire stiffeners consisting in pressing a plastic substances into the interstices only at the end, fashioning said plastic substance into desired shape and covering said plastic substance with fabric.

3. A dress stiffener comprising a flattened wire coil with a cap at the end only of plastic substance pressed into the interstices of said coil.

4. A dress stiffener comprising a flattened wire coil, a cap of plastic substance pressed into the interstices of the coil at the end only and a piece of fabric covering said cap.

In testimony whereof I sign my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FELIX KLEEMANN.

Witnesses:
GEORGE HUYLER,
EDWARD C. FOYER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."