Feb. 6, 1945. G. N. BOLINGER 2,368,913

BARRETTE

Filed Oct. 23, 1944

FIG. 1.

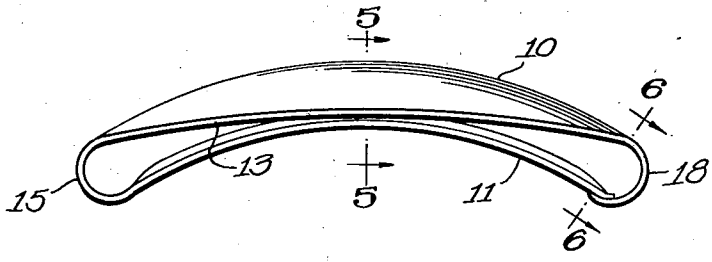


FIG. 2.

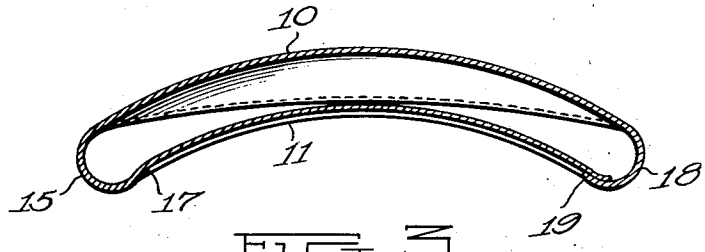


FIG. 3.

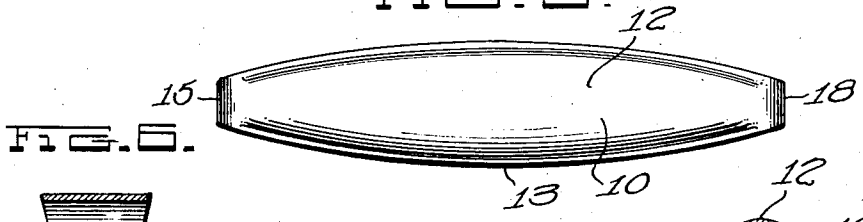


FIG. 6.

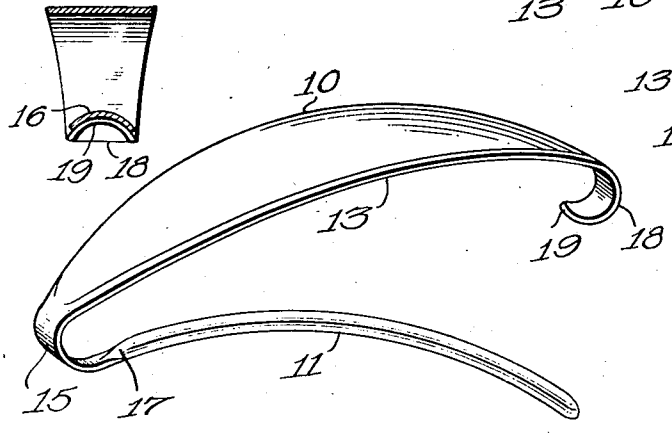


FIG. 4.

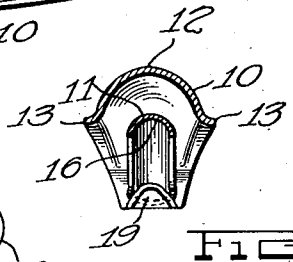


FIG. 5.

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BARRETTE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 132—48)

This invention relates to barrettes.

An important object is to provide a single unitary barrette construction which is simple and efficient in operation for holding the hair of the wearer in place.

A further object is to provide a novel barrette which is formed of a single piece of normally resilient material to provide the necessary resilience where needed, and to so alter those portions of the device where stiffness is desired to provide the necessary degree of rigidity.

A further object is to provide such a device wherein a firm hair-clamping action is provided to prevent the device from becoming displaced, without the use of gripping teeth and without the hair coming into contact with any sharp edges which damage the hair.

A further object is to provide a unitary barrette wherein the elements forming the means for clasping the two arms of the device in operative position are so shaped as to positively prevent disengagement of the two arms.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description.

In the drawing I have shown one embodiment of the invention. In this showing,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device,

Figure 2 is a central longitudinal sectional view through the same,

Figure 3 is a face view of the device,

Figure 4 is a detailed perspective view of the device showing the clasp elements disconnected to illustrate the position normally assumed by the clamping arm,

Figure 5 is a detailed sectional view on line 5—5 of Figure 1, and

Figure 6 is a similar view on line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, it will be noted that the barrette is formed of a single piece of material, and such material is of such nature as to possess a relatively high degree of resiliency. The device comprises a body 10 and a clamping arm 11, the body being relatively highly arched transversely as at 12 with the longitudinal edges of the body flared as at 13. The body is relatively deep intermediate its ends as shown in Figures 2 and 5, the downwardly extending sides tapering to decrease in width toward the ends of the body. As shown in Figure 3, the width of the body decreases from the center toward the ends thereof. The cross sectional shape of the body is such as to lend rigidity thereto, this rigidity being increased by the flared edges 13. While the depth of the body decreases from the center toward the ends thereof, the greatest strain on the device, in use, is present at the center of the body and accordingly the highest degree of rigidity is desirable in such region of the length of the body.

It will be apparent that the body is curved transversely and longitudinally from end to end, and the metal of the device, at one extremity of the body, is flat in cross section and bent to form a loop 15. The flatness of the metal around such loop takes advantage of the natural resilience of the material, and it is obvious that the arm 11 tends to assume the position shown in Figure 4.

The clamping arm 11 is curved from end to end to generally correspond to the uppermost curvature of the body 10, as shown in Figure 2, and is curved transversely rather sharply as indicated by the numeral 16 in Figures 5 and 6. This transverse curvature lends the arm 11 a relatively high degree of rigidity, but such rigidity is substantially lower than that possessed by the body 10. Accordingly the central portion of the arm 11 is adapted to "give" to some extent when clamped about the hair as will be further referred to later. The transverse curvature 16 of the arm 11 terminates at the adjacent end of the loop 15, as indicated by the numeral 17 in Figure 2.

The end of the body 10 opposite the loop 15 is flattened and curved as at 18 substantially on an arc of a circle, such curvature generally corresponding to the curvature of the loop 15 so that the device presents an almost perfectly symmetrical figure. The extremity of the curved portion 18 extends inwardly as at 19 (Figures 2 and 6) to enter the channel formed by the curvature 16 of the clamping arm 11. The member 18 as a whole, therefore, forms a clasp for holding the arm 11 in position.

The operation of the device will be rather obvious from the foregoing description. The strand of hair to be held by the barrette will be suitably gathered in place on the head, whereupon the user will place her thumb at one side of the body 10 with her forefinger and middle finger engaging the opposite side of the body. With the arm 11 unhooked, as shown in Figure 4, the user may then slip the free end of the arm 11 beneath the strand of hair to be clamped. The end of the arm 11 is rounded as shown in dotted lines in Figure 5, thus facilitating the slipping of the arm 11 into position without any catching of the end of such arm in the hair. After the device has been thus placed in the desired position, the

free end of the arm 11 is flexed into position on the hook 19 as shown in Figure 2.

The hair will be tightly gripped between the smooth surfaces represented by the inside of the body 12 and the convex face of the arm 11. The shape of the body 10, as previously stated, is such that this arm possesses a very high degree of rigidity. The arm 11 also is quite rigid, but does not possess the same high degree of rigidity as the body 10, and accordingly is adapted to "give" according to the thickness of the strand of hair clamped between the body 10 and clamping arm 11. The inturned end 19 of the hook 18 engages within the channel formed in the arm 11 and such mode of contact between these elements prevents lateral displacement of the free end of the arm 11. This arrangement also permits whatever elongation of the arm 11 is necessary as the latter is flexed by the thickness of the hair clamped in the device.

It will be apparent that a tight clamping action is provided, but at the same time the hair is not engaged by any teeth or rough edges, the edges of the arm 11 being turned almost directly inwardly and the edges 13 of the body 10 being turned outwardly. The maximum clamping action occurs between the outer surface of the arm 11 and the two closest points thereto on the inner surface of the body 10, such two points being at the junction of the out-turned edges 13 with the main portion of the body 10. Accordingly the device provides two distinct and efficient clamping points without utilizing any edges or teeth, and accordingly the device may be readily used without breaking or cutting the hair.

The arched formation of the body 10 and arm 11 provide substantial rigidity in the members referred to while the flat metal of the loop 15 permits the free flexing of the arm 10 relative to the body. The hook 18 is similarly formed flat in section, and such portion of the body as well as the loop portion 15 are adapted to "give" to some extent to compensate for a substantial thickness of hair in the device. If the thickness of the hair being clamped in the device is such that the relatively limited "give" of the arm 11 provides too tight a clamping action, the portions 15 and 18 of the device will add some degree of flexibility so as to accommodate a relatively thick strand of hair.

The device, as stated, is formed of a single piece of material and accordingly is relatively economically made, and the elimination of hinge pins as commonly employed in a device of this character adds greatly to the ruggedness of the device, there being nothing whatever in any part of the device to become worn so as to render the device incapable of use. Obviously the device may be suitably colored or otherwise ornamented.

It is to be understood that the form of the invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

I claim:

1. A hair-holding device comprising a single piece of material bent in a loop intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm, said loop being resilient, the end of said body opposite said loop being formed as a hook to engage the corresponding end of said clamping arm, said body and said clamping arm being curved longitudinally and transversely and said clamping arm being substantially narrower than said body throughout the major portion of the length of the latter to clamp the hair between both edge portions of said clamping arm and the adjacent portions of said body.

2. A hair-holding device comprising a single piece of material bent in a loop intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm, said loop being resilient, the end of said body opposite said loop being formed as a hook to engage the corresponding end of said clamping arm, said body and said clamping arm being curved longitudinally and transversely and said clamping arm being substantially narrower than said body throughout the major portion of the length of the latter to clamp the hair between both edge portions of said clamping arm and the adjacent portions of said body, the longitudinal edge portions of said body being flared outwardly to increase the rigidity of said body and to present smooth inner surfaces thereof for engagement with the hair.

3. A hair-holding device comprising a single piece of material bent in a loop intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm, said loop being resilient, the end of said body opposite said loop being formed as a hook to engage the corresponding end of said clamping arm, said body and said clamping arm being curved longitudinally and transversely and said clamping arm being substantially narrower than said body throughout the major portion of the length of the latter to clamp the hair between both edge portions of said clamping arm and the adjacent portions of said body, the curvatures of said body and said clamping arm being such as to impart a substantial degree of rigidity to both, the degree of rigidity of said clamping arm being less than that of said body whereby the hair clamped in the device will flex said clamping arm relative to said body, said loop and said hook portions being flat in cross-sectional shape so as to possess a substantial degree of resiliency to increase the distance through which said clamping arm is movable from said body by the hair clamped in the device.

4. A hair-holding device comprising a single sheet of normally resilient material bent intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm connected by a loop, said body being substantially wider than said clamping arm and relatively deeply channeled longitudinally whereby it possesses a relatively high degree of rigidity, said clamping arm being longitudinally channeled throughout the greater portion of its length to reduce its normal resiliency and to impart to it a degree of rigidity substantially less than that of said body, said body being extended at the end opposite said loop to form a hook engageable with said arm to hold it in closed position relative to said body, said hook being so formed that its extremity extends into the channel of said arm to tend to prevent lateral displacement of the adjacent end of said arm relative to said hook.

5. A hair-holding device comprising a single sheet of normally resilient material bent intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm connected by a loop, said body being substantially wider than said clamping arm and relatively deeply channeled longitudinally whereby it possesses a relatively high degree of rigidity, said clamping arm being longitudinally channeled throughout the greater portion of its length to reduce its normal resiliency and to impart to

it a degree of rigidity substantially less than that of said body, said body being extended at the end opposite said loop to form a hook engageable with said arm to hold it in closed position relative to said body, said hook being so formed that its extremity extends into the channel of said arm to tend to prevent lateral displacement of the adjacent end of said arm relative to said hook, said body decreasing in width from its center toward its ends and having its longitudinal edges flared outwardly to present smooth surfaces for engagement with the hair arranged between said body and said clamping arm.

6. A hair-holding device comprising a single sheet of normally resilient material bent intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm connected by a loop, said body being substantially wider than said clamping arm and relatively deeply channeled longitudinally whereby it possesses a relatively high degree of rigidity, said clamping arm being longitudinally channeled throughout the greater portion of its length to reduce its normal resiliency and to impart to it a degree of rigidity substantially less than that of said body, said body being extended at the end opposite said loop to form a hook engageable with said arm to hold it in closed position relative to said body, said hook being so formed that its extremity extends into the channel of said arm to tend to prevent lateral displacement of the adjacent end of said arm relative to said hook, said hook and said loop being flat in cross-section so as to retain a substantial degree of resiliency therein whereby, in addition to flexing under the pressure of hair clamped by the device, said arm may partake of some movement away from said body.

7. A hair-holding device comprising a single sheet of normally resilient material bent intermediate its ends to form a body and a clamping arm connected by a loop, said body being substantially wider than said clamping arm and relatively deeply channeled longitudinally whereby it possesses a relatively high degree of rigidity, said clamping arm being longitudinally channeled throughout the greater portion of its length to reduce its normal resiliency and to impart to it a degree of rigidity substantially less than that of said body, said body being extended at the end opposite said loop to form a hook engageable with said arm to hold it in closed position relative to said body, said hook being so formed that its extremity extends into the channel of said arm to tend to prevent lateral displacement of the adjacent end of said arm relative to said hook, said body decreasing in width from its center toward its ends and having its longitudinal edges flared outwardly to present smooth surfaces for engagement with the hair arranged between said body and said clamping arm, said hook and said loop being flat in cross-section so as to retain a substantial degree of resiliency therein whereby, in addition to flexing under the pressure of hair clamped by the device, said arm may partake of some movement away from said body.

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