Aug. 7, 1962 J. SPREIREGEN 3,047,879

HEADWEAR

Filed Oct. 15, 1959

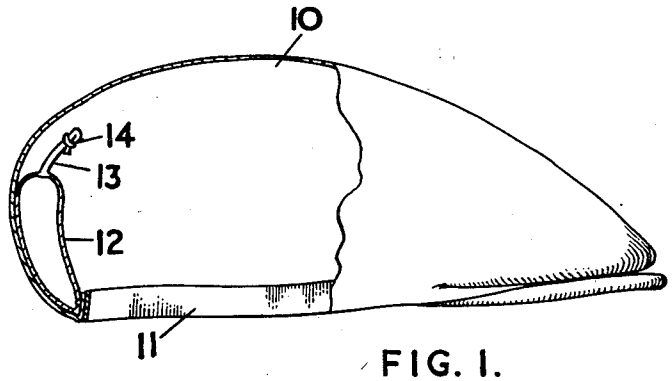


FIG. 1.

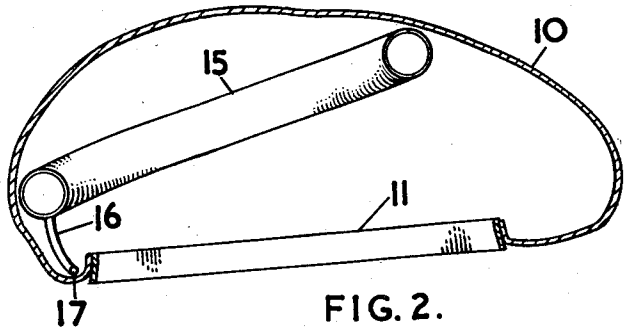


FIG. 2.

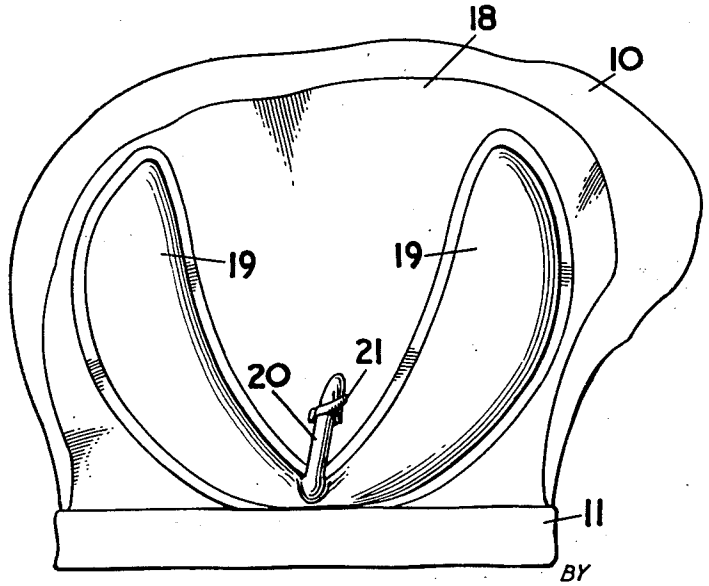


FIG. 3

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HEADWEAR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—181)

This invention relates to headwear.

It frequently occurs that a traveller in a motor-coach or a railway train or an aircraft desires to rest his head against the back of his seat, sometimes in order to sleep, but finds that it is not very comfortable owing to the vibration or the position of the headrest. Motor-cyclists and miners and other wearers of protective helmets or headwear sometimes find that the padding or harness in the headwear tends to cause discomfort by unduly localised pressure, and in case of accident may transmit damaging force from the headwear shell to the wearer's head.

The present invention is therefore intended to provide an improved article of headwear.

According to the present invention an article of headwear is provided with one or more cushions which can be inflated to act as a cushion or cushions for the wearer's head. In a convenient arrangement there are two somewhat crescent-shaped cushions located so that they can engage the lower rear part of the wearer's head. The cushion or cushions may be formed by securing one or more pieces of airtight sheet material to a lining of airtight sheet material. Any suitable airtight material may be employed, for example rubber or synthetic resin or coated or impregnated fabric, and the material should of course be soft and flexible for comfort. In an advantageous construction the cushion or cushions can be inflated by means of one or more small tubes (for example by mouth) which may be closed by suitable means (for example by folding and securing the tube by a clip or by inserting a plug in the end of the tube). The article of headwear may be of any desired kind. For travellers it is preferably of a soft and flexible nature, for example it may be a beret or a cap, whereas for motor-cyclists or workers requiring protection the headwear will comprise an appropriate shell with substantially conventional fittings.

The invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawing, in which

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of a cap according to the invention,

FIGURE 2 is a sectional side elevation of a beret according to the invention, and

FIGURE 3 illustrates a modified detail.

FIGURE 1 shows a cap comprising a crown portion **10** and a head-band **11**. Inside the rear part of the cap is a rubber cushion **12** which can be inflated by means of a small rubber tube **13** which is folded over at the end and secured by a clip **14**. When inflated the cushion

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12 forms a small air cushion of round shape as viewed from the front.

FIGURE 2 shows a beret comprising a crown portion **10** and a head-band **11** and provided with a toroidal cushion **15** of soft synthetic resin, for example polyvinyl chloride. The cushion **15** is located and dimensioned so that it can encircle the rear part of the wearer's head, and it can be inflated by means of a small tube **16** which can be closed by means of a removable plug **17** pushed into its end.

FIGURE 3 shows parts of a hat comprising a crown portion **10** and a head-band **11**. The hat is provided with a lining **18** of soft sheet material such as polythene, and the margin of a piece of similar material is welded to the rear part thereof to form two interconnected somewhat crescent-shaped cushions **19** located so that they can engage the lower rear part of the wearer's head. The two cushions **19** can be inflated by means of a small flexible tube **20** which can be closed by folding over its end and securing it with a plastic clip **21**. If the article of hearwear comprises a body or shell which is substantially impermeable to air the cushion or cushions may be formed by attaching flexible impermeable material to the body or shell, for example by adhesive, or by "welding" in the case of thermo-plastic material. One or more valves may be provided to enable the cushion or cushions to be inflated by means of a pump, for example a pump of the kind usually carried on motor-cycles or motor-scooters for inflating the tyres.

From the above description it will be seen that the articles of headwear described will give increased comfort to the wearer when the cushions are inflated to constitute air cushions against which the head can rest instead of leaning the head directly against the back of a seat or the like.

I claim:

An article of headwear, comprising a crown portion, a lining of air-impervious weldable soft sheet material inside said crown portion, a piece of air-impervious weldable soft sheet material marginally welded to the rear part of said lining, said piece of sheet material having a shape such that marginal welding of said piece of sheet material to said lining creates two interconnected crescent-shaped inflatable cushions to engage the head of a person wearing the article of headwear, and a closable flexible tube in connection with said cushions.

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