March 24, 1959 W. E. SCHUESSLER 2,878,479

FLAP-EQUIPPED CAP

Filed May 11, 1955

Fig. 1

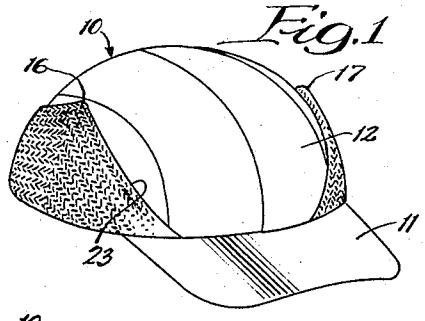
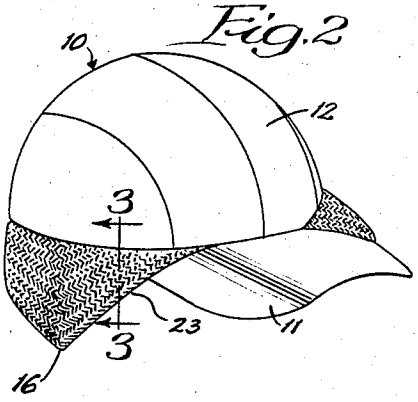


Fig. 2



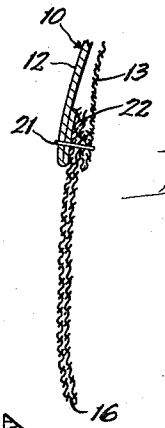
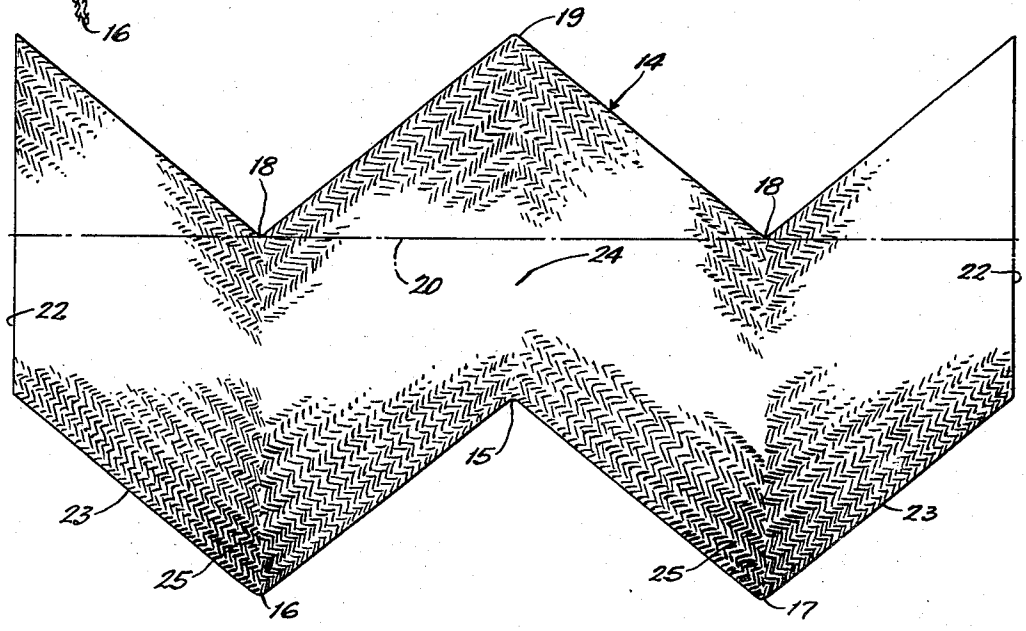


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



INVENTOR:
Walter E. Schuessler,
BY
Dawson, Tilton & Graham,
ATTORNEYS.

United States Patent Office 2,878,479
Patented Mar. 24, 1959

2,878,479

FLAP-EQUIPPED CAP

Walter E. Schuessler, Chicago, Ill.

Application May 11, 1955, Serial No. 507,565

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—172)

This invention relates to a flap-equipped cap, and more particularly to a cap equipped with ear flaps formed from a single swatch.

An object of the present invention is to provide a method whereby knitted material may be readily combined with a cap for the forming of ear flaps which are formed from a continuous knitted swatch or band, the flaps tending to remain tightly against the sides of the cap when in raised position and to draw inwardly about the ear when in lowered position. A further object is to provide a cap structure in which there is utilized a continuous swatch formed by zigzag knitting means whereby a section of the completed structure may be utilized in the forming of effective cap flaps. A still further object is to provide an improved flap-equipped cap structure and a continuous method for forming the same utilizing continuously-formed knitted swatch material. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown, in an illustrative embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cap formed in accordance with my invention, the flaps being in raised position; Fig. 2, a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the flaps in lowered position; Fig. 3, an enlarged detail sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4, a top plan view of a zigzag swatch which is utilized in the forming of the flaps for the cap.

In the illustration given, **10** designates a cap equipped at its front with a bill or visor **11**. The crown portion of the cap is preferably formed of an outer layer or body **12** and an inner lining material **13**. For example, the outer fabric **12** may be formed of leather or imitation leather or fabric material, and the liner **13** may be formed of cotton, rayon and similar fabric. It will be understood that any suitable materials may be utilized in the production of the cap proper, consisting of the crown portion **10** and the bill or visor portion **11**.

In the practice of my invention, I knit a zigzag form of swatch, as indicated broadly by the numeral **14**, and this may be formed upon a continuous machine which is of well known structure. Such a machine is illustrated in a general way by Schuessler Patent 2,150,730. From the continuously knitted zigzag swatch, I cut segments in the shape illustrated in Fig. 4, the segment having a single V-shaped recess **15** on the lower side thereof and two pointed portions **16** and **17**, while on the upper side of the swatch there are two recesses **18** and a single central point **19**. Next I sever a swatch segment as shown in Fig. 4 along the longitudinal line **20**, discarding the upper portion of the segment. The lower segment, having the single recess **15** and the points **16** and **17**, is secured between the outer fabric **12** and the liner **13** at the lower edge of the crown, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The severed portion of the segment need not be stitched, but may be inserted simply in the cut form within the space between the members **12** and **13**, as

illustrated in Fig. 3, and stitches **21** may then be passed through the inwardly-folded edge portions of the members **12** and **13** to secure the cut edge portion of the swatch segment securely within the lower portion of the cap crown.

In the attachment of the lower section of the swatch to the cap, the end portions **22** are extended upwardly between the crown portions **12** and **13** and secured therein so that the outer, inclined edges **23** form inclined lines to the bill or visor **11**, as shown more clearly in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, the inclined portions **23** are utilized for extending across the bill or visor so as to draw the earflaps inwardly and downwardly when in use about the ears, while at the same time the same portions are utilized for holding the flaps tightly against the crown when in raised position.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that an extremely quick and effective method for the forming of the flap-equipped caps can be brought about by utilizing the zigzag continuous switches, it being necessary merely to cut the continuous zigzag swatches into segments as illustrated in Fig. 4 and then to cut each longitudinally along line **20**, as indicated in Fig. 4 . The severed swatch is then drawn upwardly between the portions **12** and **13** of the cap and in a single stitching operation the flaps are anchored to the cap, as illustrated best in Figs. 2 and 3. In the resultant structure, the neckband of the cap is formed by the portion **24** above the V-recess **15**, and the inclined forward edges of the swatch which are needed about the visor **11** are formed by the inclined edges **23**, the upper portion of the lower segment extending freely within the space between the crown members **12** and **13**, and since they are stitched permanently therein by stitching **21**, there is no need for the gathering of the stitches along the upper severed line **20**.

If desired, the lower point portion **17** may be provided with tight stitches in the area indicated by the numeral **25**, such tight stitches having the tendency to draw the tip portion of the flaps inwardly so as to cup under the ear. Mechanism for the forming of tight stitches at selected areas is illustrated in Schuessler Patent 2,150,730.

While, in the foregoing specification, I have set forth a specific method and structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating the invention, it will be understood that such details may be varied widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A visor-equipped cap, comprising a double-ply crown portion secured to a visor, a knitted swatch having an upper severed, substantially straight end extending between the plies of the crown and stitched thereto, said swatch having its lower portion provided centrally with a V-recess and with a point on each side of the recess, the forward edge of each point extending over the visor of the cap and being stitched between the crown plies thereabove, each of said points being located with respect to the sides of the cap to form ear-covering portions when the visor of the cap is positioned above a wearer's face, the portion of said swatch between the apex of said recess and the upper severed end being positioned between said plies.

2. A unitary cap structure, comprising a double-ply crown portion having attached thereto a visor portion and a retractable ear-covering portion, the said ear-covering portion including an elongated knitted swatch having a straight top edge and a lower edge equipped with a pair of V-shaped depending portions, the adjacent edges of said depending portions intersecting a spaced distance below said top edge and centrally of the length of said swatch, whereby when a longitudinally-extending portion defined by said top edge and the point

of intersection of said adjacent edges is secured between the two plies of said crown, the depending portions are adapted to cover the ears of a wearer, a portion of each of the opposite edges of said depending portions extending over said visor, whereby said visor cooperates with the portion of said swatch extending thereover to produce a tightening action on said swatch.

3. The structure of claim 2, in which the lower part of both V-shaped depending portions is provided with tight stitches to promote a cup-like formation in said depending portions when the cap is placed on the head of a wearer and the said depending portions are pointed downwardly.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

251,572	Goldmann	Dec. 27, 1881
948,273	Finestone et al.	Feb. 1, 1910
1,050,310	Steinberg et al.	Jan. 14, 1913
1,471,724	Ensten	Oct. 23, 1923
2,178,941	Schuessler	Nov. 7, 1939
2,664,725	Schuessler	Jan. 5, 1954

FOREIGN PATENTS

506,572	Canada	Oct. 19, 1954