Aug. 27, 1946. I. B. MILLER 2,406,700

HAT SIZE REDUCER

Filed Nov. 29, 1943

Fig. 1

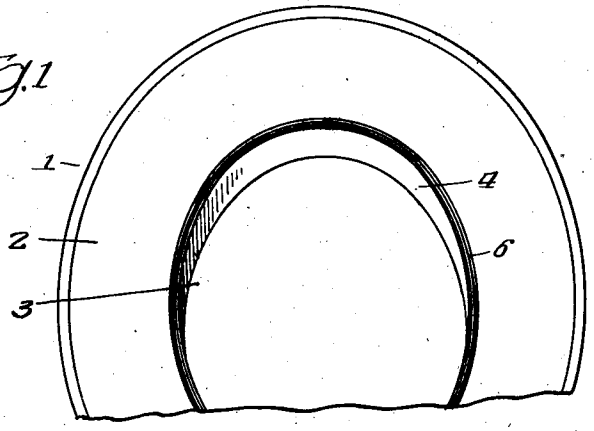


Fig. 2

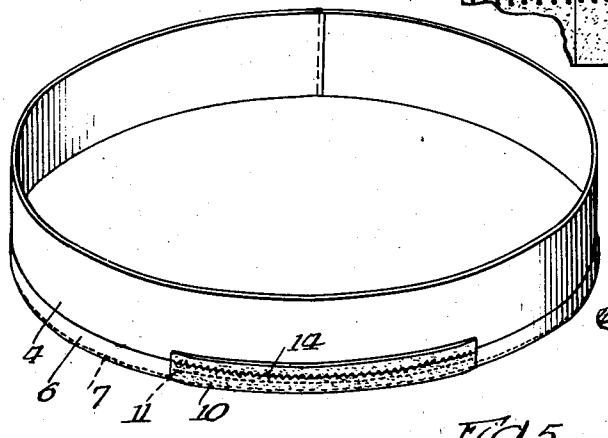


Fig. 3

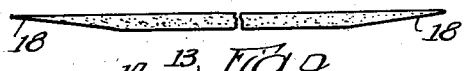


Fig. 4

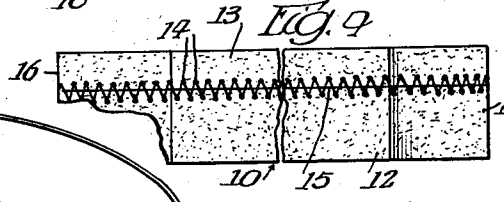


Fig. 6

Fig. 5

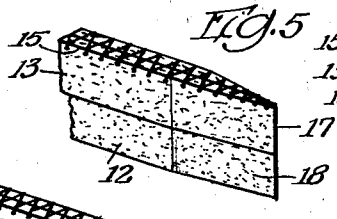


Fig. 8

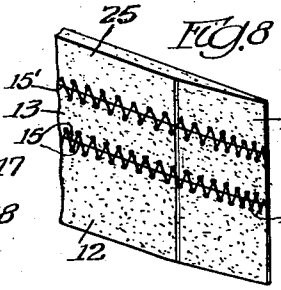
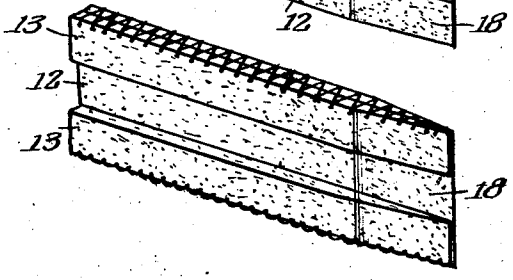


Fig. 7

Fig. 9



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HAT SIZE REDUCER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 2—183)

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This invention relates to hat size reducers, and more particularly to such reducers as may be incorporated in a hat either as a permanent part of the hat or as a part which may be readily put into or removed from the hat, and which will enable the changing of the size of the hat.

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention the hat reducer comprises a strip of material arranged so that it may have one or more folds formed therein and which folds remain in the position in which they are placed. This strip may be placed in the hat between the sweat band and the body of the hat, either at the front of the hat, the rear of the hat, the sides of the hat, or any combinations of those places. If the strip is then folded one or more times the net effective thickness of the inserted strip is increased and the effective size of the hat is correspondingly decreased. The material used is preferably fur felt which, as above stated, is so constructed as to facilitate formation of a fold therein.

The preferred arrangement for facilitating folding of the strip consists of forming the strip of two or more lengthwise extending pieces abutting edge to edge and secured together by a row of zigzag stitching. The strips normally lie in the same plane but due to the inherent flexibility of the material the composite strip may be folded along the line of the stitching so that one strip is superimposed upon the other. If desired the hat reducer may consist of three or more lengthwise abutting strips, each strip being secured to the adjacent strip by a row of stitching. By this arrangement a series of folds may be formed, each fold increasing the net effective thickness of the strip. The strip is preferably skived or beveled at its transverse edges so that the diminution in size, which is brought about by the strip, is gradual at the commencement of the strip.

As previously stated, the strip may be entirely separate from the hat or it may be sewed into the hat. When it is sewed into the hat it is preferably sewed to the sweat band or to the usual rattan reed that is sewed to the sweat band, or the hat reducer may, if desired, be sewed by stitching directly to the body of the hat.

The attainment of the above and further objects of the present invention will be apparent from the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing forming a part thereof.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, looking into the bottom of a hat embodying the present invention;

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Figure 2 is a perspective view of a hat sweat band with a strip of hat reducer secured thereto;

Figure 3 is a top view of a hat reducer strip;

Figure 4 is a front view of a hat reducer strip;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of part of the hat reducer strip of Figure 4 folded along the line of fold;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view of a hat in which the hat reducer of Figure 2 is incorporated;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view corresponding to Figure 6 and illustrating the manner of folding the hat reducer to reduce the effective size of the hat in which the reducer is incorporated;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of reducer; and

Figure 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of still another form of reducer.

Reference may now be had more particularly to Figure 1. In this figure a hat is indicated in general by the reference numeral 1. This hat is the usual type of soft felt hat the body of which is made of fur felt. The hat includes a brim 2, a crown portion 3 and a sweat band 4, of thin flexible leather, as is usual in men's hats. The sweat band may have a rattan reed 6 sewed to the lower edge thereof by a line of stitching 7, as is usual in one type of hat sweat band. A hat reducer strip 10 is sewed to the reed 6 as by a line of stitching 11. In this instance the hat reducer is located at the part of the sweat band which is to be at the forehead of the wearer. It may, however, be secured in place at any other part of the sweat band as, for instance, at the part of the band which is at the sides or at the back of the head of the wearer.

The hat size reducer strip 10, illustrated more fully in Figures 3 and 4, consists of a strip of flexible material, such as fur felt, which is the same material as that of which the body of the hat is made, although the reducer 10 may be made of any other flexible material. The reducer 10 is flexible and also has perspiration absorbing characteristics. The strip 10 is in effect formed of two separate strips, indicated at 12 and 13, that are placed in abutting relationship and stitched together by a row of zigzag stitching 14. This provides a line of fold 15 along which the strip 13 may be folded forward or backward over the strip 12, the material being of sufficient flexibility to allow folding of the strip 13 to lie flat over either of the two opposite faces of the strip 12.

The line 15, which is the line of severance of the strips 12—13, constitutes a weakened line extending longitudinally along the strip 10, which weakened line is a line of fold. At its opposite lateral edges 16—17 the strip 10 is tapered or beveled, as indicated at 18—18. The taper may be at one or both surfaces of the strip, it being sufficient that the edges 16 and 17 are tapered to a line, for a purpose which will be apparent as this description proceeds.

When the sweat band of Figure 2 is incorporated in a hat it is secured in place by a line of stitching 20 which passes through the body of the hat and through the folded lower edge of the reed 6 that projects below the bottom of the leather band 4 by a slight amount, an amount merely sufficient to receive the stitching 20. This stitching is generally concealed by the lower part of the usual hat band 21. When the reducer 10 is in place, as illustrated in Figure 6, it reduces the effective size of the hat by a small amount. If it is desired to increase the amount of reduction of the hat size it is merely necessary to fold the sweat band 4 momentarily out of place and then fold the upper strip 13 of the reducer 10 along the line of fold 15, to a position illustrated in Figure 7. When this is done the net effective thickness of the hat reducer is doubled, thereby increasing the amount of the reduction of the size of the hat.

If desired the hat reducing strip 10 need not be sewed in place in the hat. It may be positioned therein between the sweat band and the crown of the hat without being sewed in place. Such a strip 10 may be positioned in the hat at any place where necessary. Thus if the oval of the hat opening is too long the strip may be positioned at the forward and rear parts of the hat opening. If the opening is not too long but is too wide, then strips such as the strip 10 would be positioned in the hat to be on opposite sides of the head of the wearer, rather than the front and rear of the head. The strip may be positioned in place whether the sweat band is or is not provided with a reed, such as the reed 6.

The purpose of the tapered beveled edges 18 is to prevent an abrupt bulge of the sweat band 4 at the parts of the sweat band where the edges of the hat reducer are located.

Figure 8 illustrates a fragmentary portion of a modified form of hat size reducer. This hat reducer differs from that of Figure 4 in that it has an additional strip 25 of the same width as the strip 13 secured to the outer edge of the strip 13. The strip of Figure 8 may be folded in one direction along the line of fold 15 and then again, optionally, in the opposite direction along the line of fold 15'. By this arrangement it is possible to produce a double layer if the strip is folded only once, or a triple layer, if the strip is folded twice, thereby allowing a greater range of amount of hat reduction possible with a strip such as shown in Figure 8.

In Figure 9 there is shown still another embodiment of the present invention wherein the strip 12 has two strips 13—13 secured thereto, one at each of the two opposite longitudinal edges of the strip 12. Either one or both of the strips 13 may be folded over the face 12. They may both be folded over the same face of the strip 12 or may be folded in opposite directions to overlie opposite faces of the strip 12, as desired.

The hat reducer strips of the present invention may be made in any suitable lengths for positioning in hats, the opposite lateral edges of each length of strip being tapered or skived as illustrated in Figure 3. If desired the hat reducer strips of Figures 5, 8 and 9 are made of a continuous length which is dispensed to hat users who then cut off pieces of the required length and skive or bevel the individual pieces. While I have shown the strips 13 as being of a width of half the width of the strip 12, it is within the purview of the present invention to make the strips 12 and 13 of the same widths.

When a hat reducer such as is above described is used in a hat it allows a considerable range of size reduction. In addition, the hat reducer strip being made of material which absorbs perspiration will prevent the passageway of perspiration from the wearer of the hat to the outside of the hat and thus prevent the unsightly perspiration stains that are sometimes seen on hats.

It is apparent from the above description that the present invention is applicable not only to fur felt hats but also to other types of hats, including even straw hats, caps, and the like, and that the above invention is applicable not only to men's hats but also to women's hats.

In compliance with the requirements of the patent statutes I have here shown and described a few preferred embodiments of the present invention. It is, however, to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise constructions here shown, the same being merely illustrative of the principles of the invention. What is considered new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. In a hat, a sweat band, a hat size reducer between the sweat band and the body of the hat said hat size reducer comprising a flexible strip of substantial thickness having a longitudinally extending weakened line of fold, said weakened line comprising a line of physical separation of the strip into two separate abutting non-overlapping parts and a hinge connection between the parts, the lower part being secured to the hat and the upper part being free for folding and unfolding at said hinge, said hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the two strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along its line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased.

2. In a hat, a sweat band, a hat size reducer between the sweat band and the body of the hat said hat size reducer comprising a flexible strip of substantial thickness beveled at its lateral edges and having a longitudinally extending weakened line of fold, said weakened line comprising a line of physical separation of the strip into two separate parts and a hinge connection between the parts, the lower part being secured to the hat and the upper part being free for folding and unfolding at said hinge, said hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the two strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along its line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased, said strip extending around only a fractional part of the circumference of the sweat band whereby the beveled lateral edges of the strip prevent a sharp bend in the sweat band at the lateral edges of the strip.

3. A hat size reducer comprising a flexible strip of material of substantial thickness having a plurality of parallel longitudinally extending weakened lines of fold, said weakened lines comprising lines of physical separation of the strip into separate parts and hinge connections between the successive parts, the parts being all of the same

material, each hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the adjacent strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along a line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased.

4. A hat size reducer comprising a strip of felt of substantial thickness beveled at its lateral edges and having at least one longitudinally extending weakened line of fold, said weakened line comprising a line of physical separation of the strip into two separate abutting non-overlapping parts and a hinge connection between the parts, the parts being all of the same material, said hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the two strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along its line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased.

5. A hat having a sweat band and a hat size reducer between the sweat band and the body of the hat, said reducer being a strip of substantial thickness beveled at its lateral edges and having at least one longitudinally extending weakened line of fold, said weakened line comprising a line of physical separation of the strip

into separate parts and a hinge connection between the parts, said hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the two strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along its line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased, the lower part of the strip being secured in the hat and the upper part being free for folding on the line of fold.

6. A hat having a sweat band, a reed between the band and the body of the hat and sewed to both the band and the body of the hat, and a hat size reducer sewed to the reed, said reducer being a strip substantially narrower than the sweat band and of substantial thickness and having a longitudinally extending weakened line of fold, said weakened line comprising a line of physical separation of the strip into separate parts and a hinge connection between the parts, said hinge connection being a series of stitches securing the two strip parts together, whereby upon folding of the strip along its line of fold the strip remains folded and the net effective thickness of the strip is increased.

IRVING B. MILLER.