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permanently secured spaced-apart, to the strands (11) of the support net (10). The bands of hair are disposed in a predetermined pattern to conceal the net while maintaining flexibility thereof. Independent attachment spring clips (20) are permanently secured in an upper portion of the support net (10) to removably secure the net in the wearer person's natural hair (43) wherein the net (10) and the attachment spring clips (20) are substantially non-visible in the natural hair to supplement and provide styling to the natural hair.

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HAIR-SUPPLEMENTING AND STYLING HAIRPIECE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a hairpiece for
5 supplementing the natural hair of a wearer person and
wherein the hairpiece is provided with attaching spring
clips which facilitate securement thereof while preventing
damaging the natural hair and wherein a support form
provides for the construction and styling of the
10 hairpiece.

BACKGROUND ART

It is known to enhance the appearance of a person
by supplementing natural hair with one or more hair pieces
15 whereby to increase the volume of hair by blending the
hairpiece with the natural hair. These hairpieces are
usually fabricated from natural hair or synthetic hair.
Metal clips are used to attach these hairpieces to the
natural hair and a typical example of such hairpiece and
20 attachment clips is described in U.S. Patent 6,708,696. A
disadvantage of such hairpiece is that the attachment
clips are difficult to secure in a person's hair and they
also damage the person's natural hair and cause hair loss
particularly in the area where the hairpiece is attached.
25 For a person who has very thin hair and who easily loses
hair, this is a major disadvantage as while trying to
conceal baldness or thinning hair, the hairpiece causes
further loss of the natural hair of the wearer. As shown
in that patent, a braided or plaited carrier strand is
30 used to provide attachment of a plurality of hair switches
thereto by support rings which are linked through the
closed loop of the carrier strand. The formation of these
loops causes aggravation to the scalp of the wearer as
they are in direct contact and friction with the wearer's
35 scalp. Also, a single strand of hair switches provides
for limited cover and body to the natural hair. The

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carrier strand is attached by a large barrette at each end and these are not concealed by the hairpiece and become visible in the wearer's natural hair.

Attachment devices for known fashioning hairpieces of this type have not proven to adequately secure the hairpiece to permit extended wear, particularly during strenuous activities or during sleeping where the head is in contact with a pillow. Many of the known attachment devices are not readily securable by a wearer person and one has to visit a hair stylist to secure and style the hairpiece. If the hairpiece then becomes detached, the wearer person must remove the entire hairpiece and this normally causes damage to the wearer's hair and no longer provides enhancement.

Many types of artificial hairpieces are known for enhancing the appearance of a wearer and examples thereof can be referenced by U.S. Patent 5,899,211 which shows an artificial hairpiece having an independent extension of synthetic human hair secured at one end to a stretchable, twistable and foldable elastic loop. Other examples of attachment hair clips or barrettes have been provided such as exemplified by U.S. Patent 5,862,814.

There is also a need to provide a hairpiece which will permit the removable attachment of several hair switches or hair strands thereto to provide temporary styling and wherein the support base of the hairpiece can be modified to suit a specific wearer person. There is also a need to provide a hairpiece support form wherein the hairpiece can be temporarily attached thereto to provide combing or styling of the hairpiece or individual hair switches by the user person or by a hair stylist and wherein independent switches can be relocated easily unto the support base or interchanged with other switches, of different color for example, and in a simple effective manner by the wearer person.

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DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

It is a feature of the present invention to provide a hairpiece for supplementing natural hair to the scalp of the wearer person and which substantially
5 overcomes all of the above-mentioned disadvantages of the prior art and provides the mentioned need.

Another feature of the present invention is to provide a hairpiece for supplementing the natural hair of a wearer person and wherein the support base of the
10 hairpiece is a support net which can accommodate a plurality of rows of strands of hair permanently secured thereto and which also permits the removable attachment of hair switches to provide styling in a simple and effective manner.

15 Another feature of the present invention is to provide a hairpiece for supplementing the natural hair of a wearer person and wherein the hairpiece can be attached and styled by the wearer person and further modified by the wearer person.

20 Another feature of the present invention is to provide an attaching spring clip for attaching a hairpiece to a wearer person's natural hair in a substantially concealed manner and which is substantially non-damaging to the natural hair.

25 A still further feature of the present invention is to provide a hairpiece support form for constructing and styling the hairpiece and hair switches and which form can be used by the user person or a hair stylist at a comfortable position.

30 According to the above features, from a broad aspect, the present invention provides a hairpiece for supplementing the natural hair of a wearer person in a substantially concealed manner. The hairpiece comprises a support net formed by interconnected strands. The net is
35 shaped to conform with a portion of the scalp of the wearer person. A plurality of bands of hair is

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permanently secured to the strands of the support net. The bands of hair are disposed in a predetermined pattern to conceal the net while maintaining flexibility thereof. Independent attachment means are permanently secured in an upper portion of the support net to removably secure the net in the wearer person's natural hair wherein the net and the attachment means are substantially non-visible in the natural hair to supplement and provide styling to the natural hair.

According to a further broad aspect of the present invention there is provided an attaching spring clip for securing a hairpiece in the natural hair of a wearer person. The spring clip has a pair of spaced-apart attaching legs provided with securement means. The attaching legs are disposed side-by-side in a common plane and define a passage therebetween. A pair of top leafs extend over a top surface of the attaching legs and are formed integral with the attaching legs from a common end thereof. The top leafs are interconnected to one another at a free end thereof by an integrally formed lip portion which is angulated outwardly of the attaching legs to form a mouth opening to facilitate the positioning of a swatch of natural hair, of substantially predetermined volume from a wearer person's scalp, in the clip. A hair biasing leaf is formed integral with one of the top leafs and has a curved section projecting between the attaching legs and in the passage from the common end thereof. The hair biasing leaf has an outwardly curved central portion extending between the pair of top leafs and terminates in a free end disposed between the attaching legs whereby to secure the spring clip to the swatch of hair when positioned under the pair of leafs and over the biasing leaf to secure the support net and bands of hair secured thereto in the natural hair of the wearer person.

According to a still further broad aspect of the present invention there is provided a hairpiece support

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form for constructing and styling a hairpiece. The support form defines three distinct working surface portions. A first of the surface portions is a curvate rearwardly inclined side surface portion having a wide top end tapering to a narrower bottom end for securing a support net of the hairpiece thereto. A second of the surface portion is a flat top inclined surface portion sloping rearwardly from a marginal edge of the wide top end of the first surface portion to secure hair switches thereto to effect a transformation or maintenance to the hair switches such as dyeing, washing, drying or waving. A third of the surface portions is a vertical inwardly inclined surface portion to provide a storage surface for retaining hair switches in a depending condition at an unobstructing position from a lower edge of the second surface portion. Means is provided to immovably attach the support forms to a stationary object.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1A is a plan view of the hairpiece support net formed by interconnected strands used to fabricate the hairpiece of the present invention;

FIG. 1B is a view similar to Figure 1A but showing the disposition of shaping stitches in the net to impart a curved shape to the net;

FIG. 1C is a perspective view showing the curved shape of the hairpiece support net;

FIG. 2A is an exploded view showing the spring clips attached to a rear upper portion of the support net of Figure 1C;

FIG. 2B is a fragmented perspective view showing the attaching spring clip secured to a rear upper corner area of the support net;

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FIG. 3A is a plan view of a metal stamping of spring steel material which forms the attaching spring clip which is used to secure the hairpiece to a wearer's natural hair;

5 FIG. 3B is a plan view showing the stamping shaped to form the spring clip;

FIG. 3C is a side view of the spring clip and particularly showing the shape of the spring biasing leaf portion of the spring clip;

10 FIG. 4 is an exploded view showing bands of hair to be permanently secured to the support net;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing a first band of hair secured to a lower edge of the support net and the manner of doing so;

15 FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing a support net with a plurality of horizontally spaced-apart bands of hair permanently secured thereto to form the hairpiece of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view showing 20 where the hairpiece of the present invention is secured in the natural hair of a wearer person;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view illustrating the securement of the attaching spring clip to the natural hair of a wearer person;

25 FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing the hairpiece secured to the natural hair of a wearer person by the attaching spring clips;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view showing the hairpiece secured in the natural hair of a wearer person 30 in a substantially concealed manner and blending with the natural hair to add volume and styling;

FIG. 11A is a plan view of a stamping of a further clip used to removably attach hair switches to the net;

FIG. 11B is a plan view showing the stamping of 35 Figure 11A shaped to form the clip;

FIG. 11C is a side view of the clip of Figure 11B;

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FIG. 12 is a perspective view showing adjacent bands of hair secured to the support net, with two adjacent bands separated to expose the net whereby to secure hair switches thereto by the spring of Figures 11B and 11C;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view showing a switch of hair secured to the support net;

FIG. 14 is a perspective view showing a plurality of switches of hair blended with the bands of hair of the hairpiece of the present invention and wherein the switches are noticeably different from the hair of the hairpiece;

FIGs. 15A to 15C are front, rear and side views, respectively, of a hairpiece support form for constructing and styling the hairpiece of the present invention;

FIG. 16 is a transverse section view of the hairpiece support form showing its construction and its attachment clamp;

FIG. 17 is a side view showing the utility of the hairpiece support form; and

FIG. 18 is a further side view showing the hairpiece support form attached to an article of furniture and wherein a band of hair or portions thereof is being styled with the hairpiece secured to the frontal curvate surface of the support form.

MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1A to 1C, there is shown generally at 10 a support net utilized in the construction of the hairpiece of the present invention. The support net 10 is formed by interconnected strands 11 of material, preferably but not exclusively, having a component of elasticity to provide resiliency to the net. These synthetic strands 12 are interconnected in a pattern and define large openings 13 therebetween. Preferably the

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synthetic material has a coloured pigment to blend with an intended wearer's natural hair color. These strands are also stitched together to provide a plurality of parallel, horizontal and spaced-apart attachment strands 14 to which
5 are permanently secured bands of hair, as will be described later.

As shown in these drawings, the support net has a generally truncated outline defined by a substantially straight upper edge 15, inwardly sloped side edges 16 and
10 a shorter substantially straight lower edge 17. As shown in Figure 1B, the net is further provided with shaping stitches 18 extending from the side edges 16 and bottom edge 17 whereby to impart a curved shape to the net to provide conformity to the scalp of a wearer person.
15 Figure 1C illustrates a typical curvature of the net. The net can also be cut between the strands 14 to size the hairpiece.

With reference now to Figures 2A to 3C, there is illustrated the attachment means which are permanently
20 secured to the upper portion of the support net to removably secure the net of the hairpiece 35 (see Figure 6) in the wearer person's natural hair and wherein the net and the attachment means are substantially non-visible when secured in the natural hair whereby to supplement and
25 provide styling to the natural hair. This attachment means is constituted by an attaching spring clip 20 which is permanently stitched behind the net 10 along the upper edge 15 thereof adjacent each end of the straight upper edge as shown at 20' and 20". A further spring clip 20 is
30 secured intermediate the opposed ends and substantially centrally thereof, to provide additional support, as illustrated by reference numeral 20'''. These spring clips 20 are secured thereto by stitching with a thread and needle 21 as illustrated in Figure 2A. Other
35 securement means may also be envisaged. If desirable,

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of the top edge of the support net 10 and in a rear surface of the net.

The hairpiece of the present invention is then secured to the natural hair of a wearer person by forming
5 a hair partition, such as the hair partition 44 illustrated in Figure 7, in the natural hair of the wearer person. The top edge of the hairpiece 35 with the securement spring clips is secured to swatches of natural hair under the top edge of the support net with the upper
10 edge of the net held taut. To provide additional styling further switches of hair may be detachably secured to the net between the bands of hair 36 which are permanently secured to the net.

To provide hair enhancing treatment or storage of
15 the hairpiece 35 and the switches 46 of hair, the hairpiece and switches are removed from the wearer person's hair and placed onto the support form 50, as illustrated in Figures 15A to 18.

It is within the ambit of the present invention to
20 cover any obvious modifications of the preferred embodiment described herein, provided such modifications fall within the scope of the appended claims.

