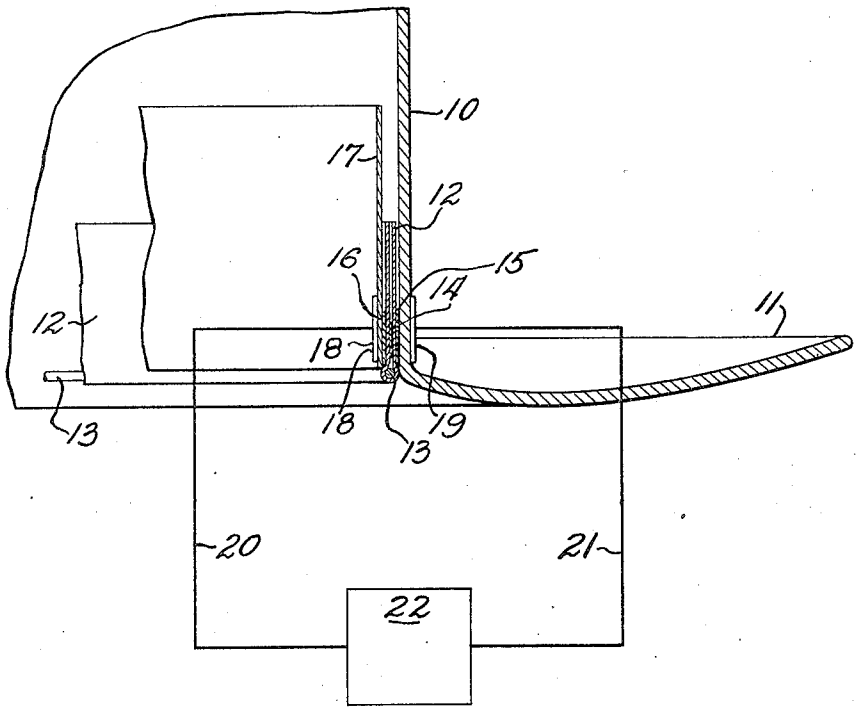
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HAT CONSTRUCTION

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HAT CONSTRUCTION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—181)

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The present invention relates to the manufacture of hats and particularly to a hat construction.

More particularly still the invention relates to the fastening of the commonly used reeded sweatband to a hat. Recently the reeded sweatband construction has been frequently used in hats because of its advantages particularly in rendering the hat readily conformable to the head of the wearer. In this construction, as previously utilized, a strip of waterproof material was folded over a reed or wire, one of the folds of material being sewn to the hat and the other fold being sewn to the sweatband. Thus at the lower margin of the sweatband and hat there was a yielding section which rendered the hat more readily conformable to the wearer's head. However, this construction was particularly objectionable in that the sewing by means of which the sweatband and the waterproof material were fastened to each other made contact with the body of the hat and, consequently, perspiration passed through the waterproof material and frequently stained the hat and the trim band thereon. In my present construction the sweatband is fixed to the waterproof material and the other fold of the waterproof material in turn fixed to the hat by means of a thermosetting plastic and, consequently, there is no sewing which can act as a wick to transmit perspiration through the sweatband and waterproof material to the hat and the trimming band thereon.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a hat construction utilizing a reeded sweatband in which a waterproof material forming a portion of the structure is adhered both to the sweatband and to the hat by means of a thermosetting adhesive.

It is a further object of the invention to provide such a structure which eliminates any sewing and, therefore, prevents the transmission of perspiration through the sweatband and waterproof backing material to and through the hat.

It is another object of the invention to utilize induction heating for causing the thermosetting adhesive to set and adhere the parts in their final positions.

Other objects and features of the invention will be apparent when the following description is considered in connection with the annexed drawing which illustrates a fragmentary cross-sectional view of a hat having the sweatband affixed thereto in accordance with my invention.

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Referring now to the drawing, there is shown at 10 a hat having the usual brim 11. A strip of waterproof material 12 is folded over a reed 13, thereby providing an outer and an inner fold, each fold having an outward and an inward surface. Thermosetting adhesive is placed, as indicated at 14, between the folds of the material 12. In addition, thermosetting material is placed at 15 between the outer surface of the outer fold of the material 12 and the hat, and at 16 between the inner surface of the inner fold of the material 12 and the sweatband 17. With the reed, the material 12, the sweatband, and the hat assembled in position, as shown, annular bands 18 and 19 are placed against the inner surface of the sweatband and the outer surface of the hat respectively. These plates 18 and 19 are connected by means of the wires 20 and 21, respectively, to a high frequency oscillator 22 and thus the assemblage is inductively heated by the high frequency currents passing through the capacity formed by the plates 18 and 19 and the dielectric material 17, 12 and 10. As a result of this, the thermosetting adhesive 14, 15 and 16 is caused to adhere the folds of the material 12 together as well as to adhere the material 12 to the sweatband 17 and to the hat 10.

As is clearly indicated in the drawing, the reed 13 having the material 12 folded thereover is relatively free to flex and since this reed is continuous and of the general shape of the hat itself, it will be seen that it tends to conform to the wearer's head and to make the hat more comfortable in use. As has been indicated, the use of the thermosetting adhesive in a structure of this type is particularly important since in prior constructions utilizing the reeded sweatband the sewing of the sweatband to the material such as 12 has extended through that material and the thread has made contact with the hat proper 10 thereby providing paths through which moisture might penetrate into the felt and even, in many instances, through the felt and onto the trim band which is common in such hat structures.

While I have disclosed the utilization of high frequency inductive heating as the means for causing the plastic adhesive to adhere to the material 12 and to the sweatband 17 and hat 10, it will be understood that other modes of heating may be employed such, for example, as steam, hot air, or the like. Consequently, I wish to be limited not by the foregoing description which

is given solely for purposes of illustration but rather by the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In a hat, in combination, a sweatband, a reed, a continuous strip of waterproof material, said waterproof material being folded over said reed to cover said reed, said reed and folded waterproof material being positioned between the sweatband and the juncture point between the crown and brim of said hat, a continuous strip of thermosetting adhesive material positioned between the folds of said waterproof material, said strip being adhered to said folds to position said reed in the fold of the waterproof material, a second continuous strip of thermosetting adhesive material positioned between said sweatband and the outer surface of the inner fold of said waterproof material, said last-mentioned strip being adhered to said waterproof material and said sweatband, and a third continuous strip of thermosetting material positioned between the outer surface of the outer fold of said waterproof material and the crown of said hat, said last-mentioned strip being adhered to said waterproof material and to said crown, said last-mentioned strip having its lower edge positioned immediately above said reed and said thermosetting strips being aligned with respect to each other.

THOMAS F. LEE.

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