

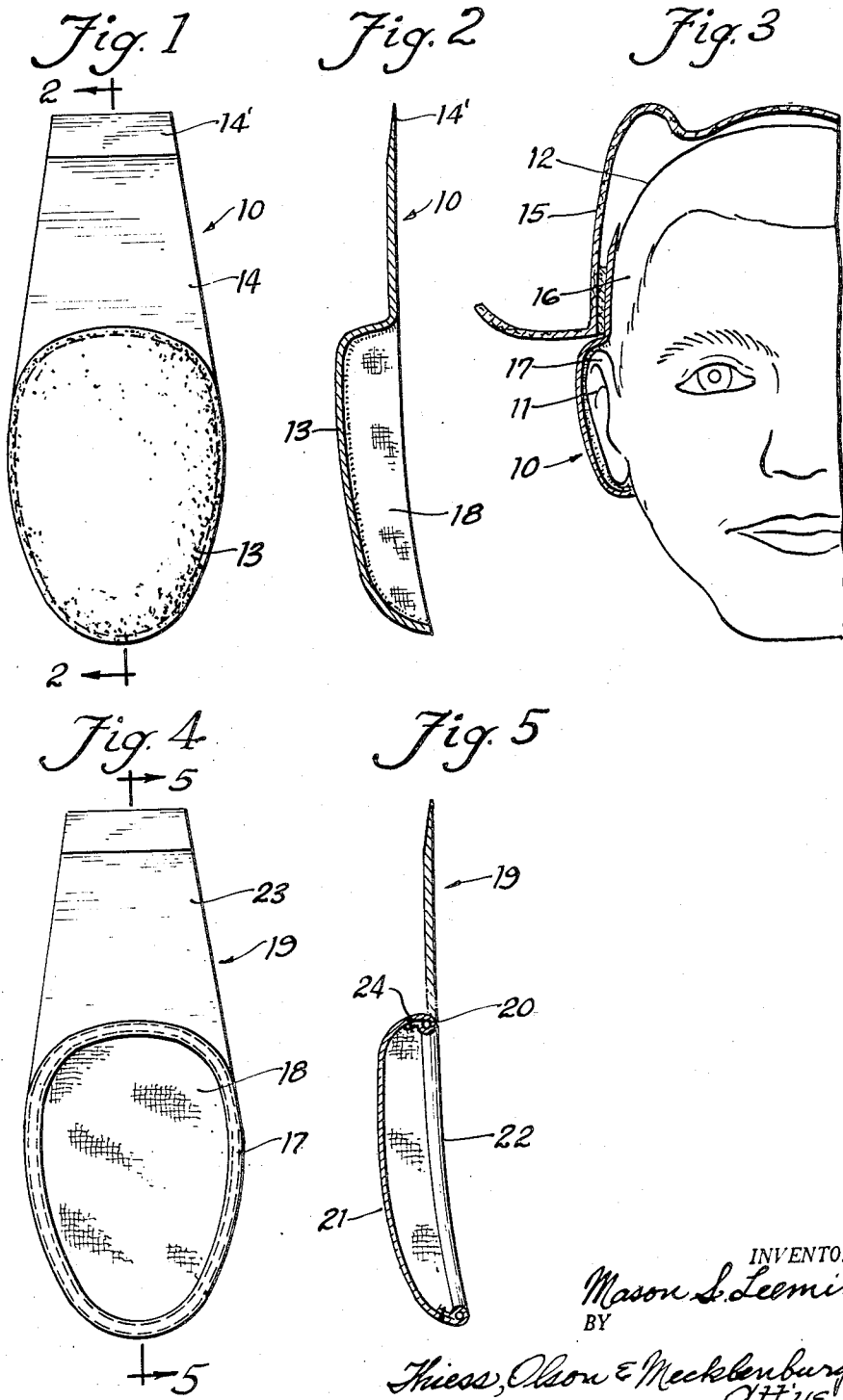
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EAR MUFF

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EAR MUFF

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2-209)

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This invention relates to an ear muff and, more particularly, to a device used in combination with a head covering.

Various types of ear muffs have heretofore been proposed which are of such design as to be awkward to handle, interfere with the wearing of the head covering, or require removal of the head covering to position them on or remove them from the ear of the wearer.

Thus it is one of the objects of this invention to provide a device which has no wires or metal tapes to interfere with the fitting of the wearer's head covering or cause unsightly bulges to occur and mar the appearance of the head covering.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a device which is not bulky or awkward to handle and may be readily positioned about the ear without first requiring preliminary adjustments to be made on the device.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a device which may be positioned over the ear or removed therefrom without requiring removal of the wearer's head covering.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a device which is simple and compact in construction, effective in operation, comfortable to wear, and inexpensive to produce.

Further and additional objects will appear from the description, accompanying drawings, and appended claims.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, an ear muff is provided comprising an ear-enveloping member and a tongue upwardly extending therefrom. The tongue is smooth on both sides and is constructed of thin, relatively flexible material and is adapted, when the device is worn, to be wedged between the head covering of the wearer and the side of the head.

For a more complete understanding of this invention, reference should be made to the drawings wherein

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the device.
Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the device taken along line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cut-away view of the device shown operatively positioned on the ear of the wearer.

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view of a modified form of the device.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the modified form of the device taken along line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1 through 3, a pair of ear muffs 10, only one being shown, is provided adapted to be placed individually about the ears 11 of the

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wearer 12. Each device comprises an ear-enveloping member 13 and an upwardly-extending smooth-sided tongue 14 formed at one end of member 13 and shown, in this instance, integral therewith. The ear-enveloping member 13 is cup-like in design and is shaped substantially to conform to the shape of the ear 11. When the device is worn, the ear 11 of the wearer is enclosed by member 13, and the upper end 14' of the tongue is wedged between the head covering 15 of the wearer and the side of his head 16, as shown in Fig. 3. The member 13 is supported in a vertical plane by the top 17 of the ear and is supported in a transverse plane by tongue 14. The member 13 prevents the device from sliding with respect to the ear once it has been positioned thereon. The tongue is bowed-in slightly so that member 13 will snugly engage the ear. The smoothness and flatness of the tongue enables it to be readily inserted between the hat or head covering and the head of the wearer without an unsightly bulge being formed in the head covering. A fabric or fur lining 18 is mounted on the inside of the member 13 which engages the ear and provides warmth and protection therefor.

A modified form of ear muff 19 is shown in Figs. 4 and 5, wherein a stiffening wire 20 is provided at the outer edge of the enveloping member 21 forming a beaded edge 22, which encircles the ear and causes the ear to be more firmly embraced by the member. The wire 20 serves also to retain the proper shape of the member 21. The tongue 23 is the same shape as tongue 14 of device 10, but is a separate piece and not integral with the member 21. The tongue 23 is sewn, or secured by other similar means, to member 21 at point 24 as shown in Fig. 5.

The devices are constructed of durable lightweight, nonporous material, such as leather. It is to be understood, of course, that other materials, such as lightweight metal or plastic may be used if desired.

The devices are small and compact and, when not used, may be conveniently carried in a pocket or handbag.

Thus it will be seen that an ear muff has been provided which enables it to be positioned about the ear of the wearer without requiring the head covering of the wearer to be removed. Furthermore, a device has been provided which will not interfere with the fitting of the head covering and does not require preliminary adjustment of the device prior to it being positioned about the ear.

While several embodiments have been shown above, it will be understood, of course, that the

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invention is not to be limited thereto, since many modifications may be made and it is contemplated therefore, by the appended claims, to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. An ear-protecting device for use with a head covering comprising a cup-like member shaped substantially to conform to the periphery of an ear and engageable therewith and having a flanged top portion extending inwardly from the upper portion of said member for engaging the top of the ear to prevent downward movement of the cup-like member on the ear, and a wedge-like tongue firmly united with said flanged top portion extending upwardly from the outer edge of said top portion; said tongue being thin and uninterruptedly smooth on both sides and wedgeable between a head covering and the head of the wearer.

2. An ear-protecting device for use with a head covering comprising a cup-like member shaped substantially to conform to the periphery of an ear and engageable therewith and having a flanged top portion extending inwardly from the upper portion of said member for engaging the top of the ear to prevent downward movement of the cup-like member on the ear, and a wedge-like tongue firmly united with said flanged top portion extending upwardly from the outer edge of said top portion; said tongue being thin and uninterruptedly smooth on both sides and wedgeable between a head covering and the head of the wearer, said cup-like member being provided with an insulating lining.

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3. An ear-protecting device for use with a head covering comprising a cup-like member shaped substantially to conform to the periphery of an ear and engageable therewith and having a flanged top portion extending inwardly from the upper portion of said member for engaging the top of the ear to prevent downward movement of the cup-like member on the ear, and a wedge-like tongue firmly united with said flanged top portion extending upwardly from the outer edge of said top portion; said tongue being thin and uninterruptedly smooth on both sides and wedgeable between a head covering and the head of the wearer, said cup-like member being provided with stiffening means adjacent its edge.

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