June 17, 1930. J. CARLSON 1,764,505

ADJUSTABLE CAP

Filed May 7, 1928

Fig. 1

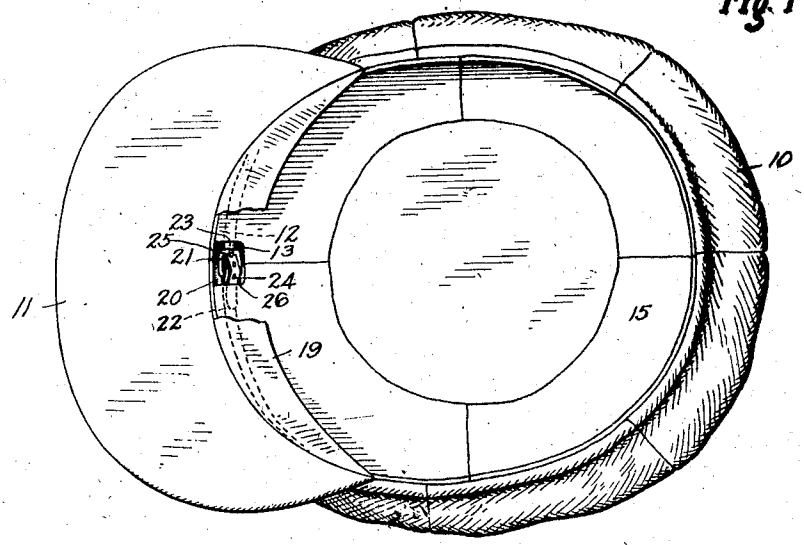


Fig. 2

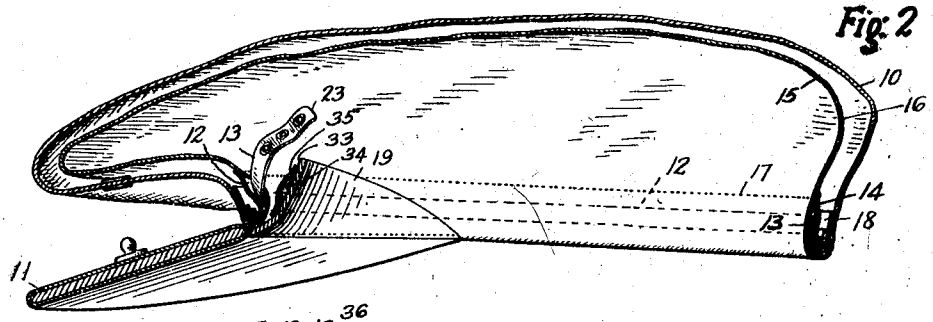
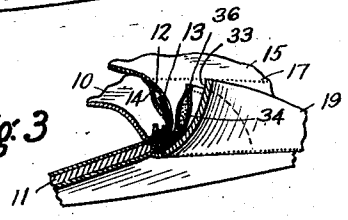


Fig. 3



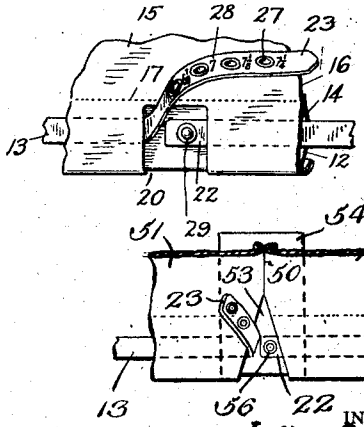


Fig. 4

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ADJUSTABLE CAP

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This invention relates to adjustable caps of the type wherein the head opening is reduced or enlarged to vary the effective head-size.

My invention contemplates the provision of an adjusting band entirely hidden from view, but arranged so that the ends which are normally hidden, are accessible for adjusting the circumferential length of the band and for consequently changing the effective head-size of the cap. My invention further contemplates the provision of means of simple and inexpensive construction for concealing the adjusted ends of the band and of means for maintaining the ends of the band in their adjusted position. Means may also be provided for protecting the forehead of the wearer against possible pressure due to the adjusting devices at the ends of the band. My invention further contemplates the provision of an adjustable cap which, to all appearances, both outside and inside, and whether the tip is lifted or fastened down, is precisely similar to the non-adjustable cap now in general use. My invention further provides a structure in which part of the adjusting means may have the additional function of ventilating the cap.

The various objects of my invention will be clear from the description which follows and from the drawings, in which,

Fig. 1 is a bottom plan view of my improved cap, part of the usual leather sweatband being broken away to show the underlying structure.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same, showing one end of the adjusting band, and showing one type of cushioning means for protecting the forehead against undue pressure.

Fig. 3 is a similar view of part of the front of the cap showing a modified form of cushioning means.

Fig. 4 is a partial rear view of the inside of the cap at the place where the band emerges from the pocket therefor, showing a modified form of securing means for the ends of the band.

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of part of the inside of the cap at the slit through which the adjusting band is accessible showing the lining construction.

In the practical embodiment of my invention which I have illustrated herein, the crown 10 and the visor 11 may be in all respects, of the usual construction, and are in no way affected by the adjustable feature of my improved cap. The adjusting element consists of a flat and thin inelastic strap, tape or band, which is held in a suitable pocket and hidden in the inside of the cap, the ends of the band carrying adjustable connective members being normally hidden on the inside of the pocket provided therefor behind the usual sweatband.

In order to form the pocket or tube as 12, in which the inelastic adjusting band 13 is held, I prefer to use the lining of the cap as part of the pocket and to attach a strip 14 along its edges to the back of the lowermost portion of the lining 15.

This I prefer to do by seaming the upper edge of the strip 12, to the back face 16 of the lining as by means of the stitching 17. It will be understood that the strip 14 is not visible and may therefore be made of comparatively low grade material which is much less expensive than the lining material 15. The band 13 having been inserted in the pocket 12 between the strip 14 and the lining 15, the lowermost edges of said lining and said strip are turned inwardly and seamed to the bottom edge of the crown 10 in the usual manner, a strip of stiffening material 18 having first been inserted in the lower edge of the crown, if desired, to stiffen the edge of the cap and to maintain its proper shape. It will be understood that the strip 14 may be dispensed with and the lining doubled back to form the pocket, should that construction be found advantageous.

The band 13 is loose in the pocket 12 and unattached thereto. At the front of the cap, a leather sweatband as 19 of the usual type may be secured. As illustrated, the sweatband consists merely of a member adapted to contact with the forehead, the lining 15 serving as the rear sweatband in a manner which is well-known in the art. However, it will be understood that the sweatband 19 may be

continued around the entire circumference of the head opening in the cap without affecting the efficiency of the adjusting means. At the central front portion of the cap, an opening as 20 of slightly greater height than the width of the band, is provided in the lining 15, through which the ends of the band 13 may be reached and manipulated. Said opening may be in the form merely of a slit, if desired, or the opening may have substantial width as may be found convenient or desirable.

As illustrated in Fig. 5, the seam 50 securing the lining members 51 and 52 together, may terminate above the pocket, to provide the desired opening 53, and a flap as 54 may be secured in place by the seam 50. Said flap may be readily moved aside at the opening 53, so that the ends of the band are readily accessible from the interior of the cap, while a neat and finished appearance is presented at the opening after the ends of the band have been adjusted and the flap is arranged to cover and conceal said ends.

Various means may be used to secure the free ends of the adjusting band 13 in the adjusted positions thereof. I do not wish to be understood, therefore, as limiting myself to the specific devices I employ for this purpose, except as I have drawn the appended claims thereto. In Fig. 1, I have illustrated a tongued buckle 21 of the usual type, secured to the end 22 of the band 13, the other end 23 of said band being provided with spaced perforations 24, whereby the effective length of said band may be varied to change the head-size of the cap. The free end of the band 13, after being passed over the tongue 25 of the buckle, may be inserted under the edge 26 of the opening 20 and maintained out of the way and concealed thereby.

As shown in Fig. 4, the openings 24 in the end 23 of the band may be reinforced with eyelets as 27 and spaced apart the proper distance to provide head openings of predetermined size. If desired, a printed sheet or label may be held in place on the band end 23 by means of said eyelets and the indicia or numerals as 28, indicating the head-size produced by each eyelet, may be imprinted on the label adjacent the corresponding eyelet, though it will be understood that the size-indicating indicia may be printed directly on the band if found convenient or desirable.

In said modification, a snap fastener stud as 29 is secured to the end 22 of the band 13, said stud being adapted to be forced into and through an eyelet 27 to maintain the band in adjusted position.

For preventing pressure upon the forehead of the wearer due to the added thickness of the fastening means and of the ends of the band 13, I prefer to provide cushioning means between the face 33 of the sweatband and the inner face of the crown or lining.

Said cushioning means may take the form of a pad of comparatively soft material interposed between the sweatband and the lining or crown, said pad being of sufficient size to cover the fastening means completely and to bridge the opening or slit 20, and of sufficient thickness to act as a cushion and at the same time, allow the fastening members to become partly imbedded thereinto. As shown in Fig. 2, the pad may be formed of soft cushioning material 34, held on to the face 33 of the sweatband as by means of a covering sheet 35, it being understood that said pad is of sufficient area to properly protect the forehead against concentrated pressure of the hook 30 or the stud 29 or the buckle 21, or any other connective means for the band 13.

The thickness of the pad 34 is, of course, dependent on the thickness of the adjustable fastening means at the ends of the band 13, and may be entirely omitted where said fastening means is thin and flat. In that case, the sweatband 19, if of sufficiently thick and flexible material, may be sufficient to protect the forehead without the other aid. As shown in Fig. 3, the pad takes the form of a flap 36 in the interior of which is inserted the soft cushioning material 34, said flap being seamed to the lower edge of the cap between the sweatband and the lining.

It will be seen that the appearance of the cap both inside and out is precisely the same as that of a non-adjustable cap, the crown being unmutilated and imperforate, but that the adjusting means may be quickly reached and easily manipulated by merely bending the sweatband 19. When the ends 22 and 23 of the band 13 are overlapped to a greater extent, the lining 15 is constricted, thereby reducing the head-size of the cap, there being sufficient resiliency in the material of which caps are usually made to allow the contraction thereof to a limited extent without the formation of creases, pleats or puckers. Similarly, when the head-size is to be enlarged, the ends of the band are overlapped to a lesser extent, as indicated by the numerals on one end of the band, the head opening being increased in size by the operation of pulling the cap on the head of the wearer, since the material of the cap stretches sufficiently to allow this to be done without distortion, throughout a limited range of sizes.

It will be understood that if desired, the strip 14 may be dispensed with and the lining 15 lengthened at its bottom edge to provide sufficient material which may be turned upwardly and seamed by the stitching 17 to form the pocket 12. It will also be understood that where an unlined cap is desired, the lining may terminate at or about the stitching 17 so as to provide a tubular pocket for the band 13 about the lower edge of the cap. It will therefore be seen that my improved adjusting means is concealed at all

times during the normal use or handling of the cap, that it is applicable to lined or unlined caps, to caps provided with a front sweatband only, and to those provided with a complete sweatband, and that the adjustment thereof may be quickly and easily affected, even by those unskilled in the art, and that no substantial alterations are necessary in the method of making the caps now in ordinary use to make them adjustable, since my improved means may be readily secured to any such cap with a slight amount of additional labor and at only a slightly increased cost.

I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the specific construction or to the modifications herein shown and described but intend to avail myself of the entire range of equivalents permitted by the state of the prior art and the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an adjustable cap, a substantially unmutilated lining extending to the lower edge of the cap, a strip secured to the lower edge of the lining and cooperating with one face thereof for forming a pocket throughout the lower edge thereof, an inelastic band entirely enclosed in said pocket and having free overlapping ends thereon arranged at the front of the cap, said pocket being provided with an opening at the front of the cap and in the interior face of the pocket through which opening the ends of the band are accessible without removing said ends from the pocket, said band being completely detached from the pocket throughout its entire length, adjusting means in the pocket and near the end of said band, and means arranged interiorly of the ends of said band for protecting the forehead of the wearer against the pressure of the ends of the band and of the adjusting means thereon.

2. In an adjustable cap, a lining, a strip cooperating with the lining and providing a pocket of not more than two thicknesses of material about the lowermost edge of the cap and not more than two thicknesses of material in the interior of the crown, and an inelastic adjusting band completely detached from and enclosed by the pocket between the two thicknesses of material overlapping ends on the band retained in the pocket, fastening means on one of said ends, said pocket being open near the front of the cap for a short distance to provide access to the ends of the band and to said fastening means from the most interior face of the cap.

JULIUS CARLSON.