Feb. 12, 1952 S. G. HOFFMAN 2,585,896

SWEATBAND

Filed May 25, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1

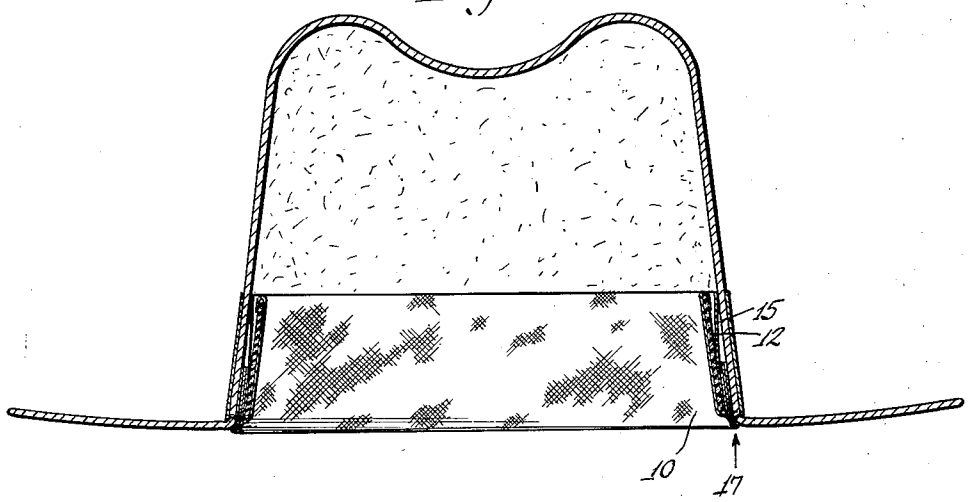


Fig. 2

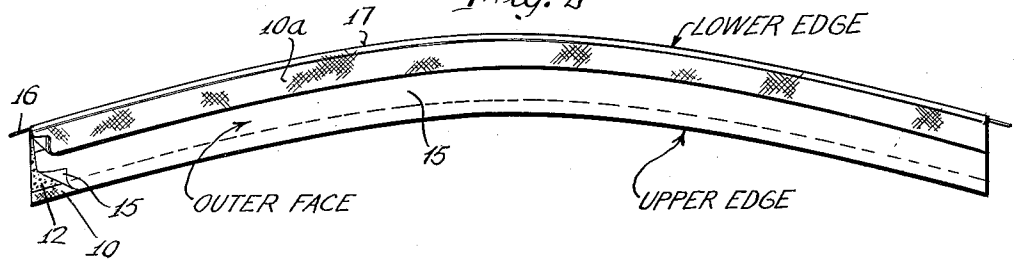


Fig. 3

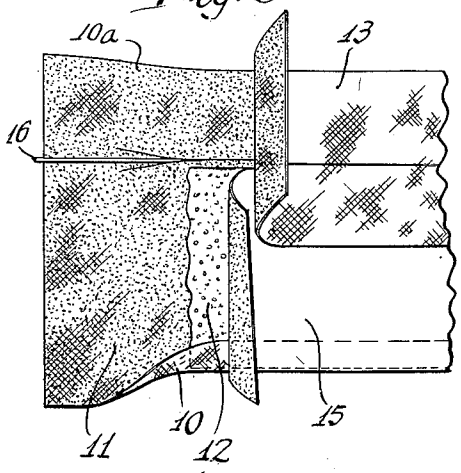
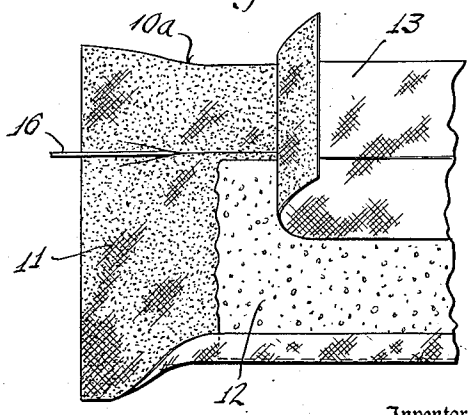


Fig. 4



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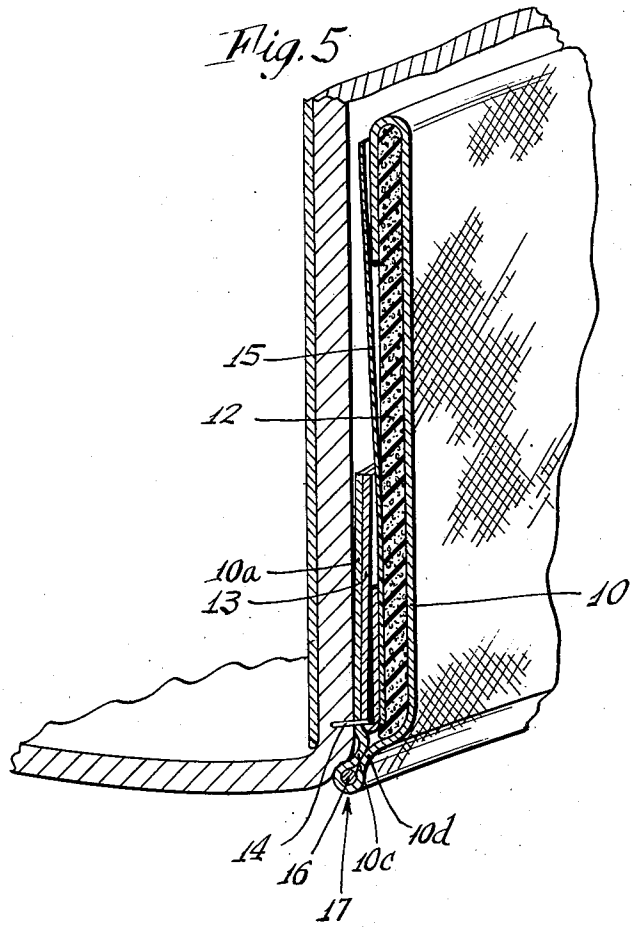
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Fig. 5



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SWEATBAND

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2—181)

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The present invention relates to a novel sweatband construction for hats.

An object of the invention is to provide a sweatband which is soft and comfortable to wear, readily conforming to the shape of the head to fit thereon without undue pressure and which is not permanently stretched in so conforming to the shape of the head.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sweatband in which no stitching is involved in the manufacture thereof so that perspiration cannot be transferred by the stitching as was heretofore present.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sweatband embodying a textile fabric cover on a pad of material having air pockets therein which produces a cool and dry band.

If desired the pad can be absorbent to take up perspiration and is so arranged that if the fabric becomes wet the perspiration can be quickly evaporated so as to dry it out and avoid the clammy feeling attendant to wet leather bands.

A feature of the invention resides in the use of heat-sensitive thermoplastic adhesive materials to adhere textile fabric covering to the absorbent pad of the sweatband, which heat-sensitive adhesive when activated does not close the pores of the fabric and permits perspiration to be transmitted through the fabric to the pad.

A further object of the invention is to provide a sweatband which is sturdy and dependable and can be easily and quickly made without requiring any sewing or other similar operations requiring highly skilled help.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the specification and claims when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a sectional view of a hat with the sweatband in place.

Fig. 2 shows a side view of the sweatband before installation in a hat.

Fig. 3 shows a fragmentary view of a sweatband in accordance with one form of the invention with a portion laid back to show the underlying layers.

Fig. 4 is similar to Fig. 3 showing another form of the invention.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view of the sweatband secured to a hat.

For the purpose of describing the present invention, the terms "inner face" will be used to describe that surface of the sweatband which is directed toward the head of the wearer when the band is in place, the "outer face" is that surface of the band which is adjacent the crown of the hat, the "lower edge" of the band will be considered that edge of the band adjacent the brim, while the "upper edge" of the band will be the edge of the band away from the brim.

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In making the sweatband of the present invention a cover of woven fabric 10, such as acetate rayon or other similar material, is cut to the required size and shape and is coated on the back with a thermoplastic adhesive indicated at 11. A soft pad 12 having a length and width sufficient to form a head-encircling band is then positioned on the fabric with its inner face engaging the adhesive side of the fabric and the edge of the fabric folded over the upper edge of the pad. As shown in Fig. 3, the other edge of the fabric extends beyond the lower edge of the pad. When the fabric is folded around the lower edge and secured thereto the said edge portion of the fabric projects upwardly to form a flexible attaching portion or flange 10a overlying the outer face.

In the preferred form of the invention, the soft pad is made from thin strips of neoprene in the form of a foam or sponge which is resistant to the action of perspiration and oil. If desired, however, natural or other synthetic rubber compositions may be used. This pad material is soft, resilient, porous and full of air pockets and is absorbent. This latter attribute is of particular advantage in that it will absorb a greater quantity of perspiration and will tend to make a cooler and drier band than in the case of those made of leather which, it is well known, retain the moisture and have a clammy feeling when wet. For example, in one test the neoprene pad had a 300% absorption as compared to an 18% absorption for leather. The structure of the present sweatband also enables the bands to dry out more quickly through evaporation of the perspiration should the band become wet with perspiration.

While it is presently preferred to use foam or sponge material for the pad other porous and absorbent materials may be used depending upon the quality of band desired.

If desired, the attaching portion 10a of the sweatband can be reenforced. While this can be accomplished by folding over the edge of the strip 10 to produce a double thickness flange, it is at present preferred to employ a separate fabric strip 13 having a coating of heat-sensitive or thermoplastic adhesive on the surface which is laid over and adhered to the face of the attaching flange and adjacent outer face of the pad as shown in Figs. 3 or 4. This provides an attaching flange of double thickness as shown in Fig. 5 through which stitching 14 can pass into the hat to secure it in place. The stitching when so arranged will be completely isolated from the inner surface of the sweatband so that no moisture can be transferred through the same to the hat.

If it is unnecessary to provide any material to overlie the outer face of the sweatband to

prevent perspiration which might stain the hat from being transferred from the band to the hat, a structure such as shown in Fig. 4 is provided. However, in such cases where there is a danger of profuse perspiration by the wearer which will so saturate the pad so as to produce a possible danger of perspiration being transferred to the hat, a strip of impervious material 15 such as polyethylene, vinyl chloride, oiled silk or the like material, may be applied to overlie the outer surface of the pad and may be adhered thereto at least along the lower edge portion thereof as shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

When the required elements of the sweatband have been assembled as shown in Figs. 3 or 4, it is merely necessary to apply heat and pressure to the assembly to activate the heat-sensitive adhesive and cause all of the parts thereof to be securely fastened together in a single operation and without the use of any stitches. I have found vinyl-type adhesive compositions having a low melting point to be particularly satisfactory for this purpose as they do not close the pores of the fabric, when activated, and prevent passage of the perspiration therethrough.

In sweatbands where a reed 16 is to be employed for retaining the shape of the installed band, a tube 17 for carrying the reed is preferably formed on the cover prior to the assembly of the pad and fabric by extending the fabric 10 of the cover into a loop below the lower edge so that when the parts 10c, 10d of the fabric, Fig. 5, are adhered together, there will be produced automatically the reed-receiving tube in which the reed of wire, gut, silk or the like may be slidably positioned.

The sweatband, when secured within the crown of the hat, can have its ends joined together by stitching or any other suitable means.

It will be seen, therefore, that the soft porous band of the present invention will provide a cool dry surface for contact with the head. Further, because of the resiliency of the rubber and the fabric which may be bias cut, the band can be made to fit snugly against the head without undue pressure so as to conform to the shape of the head and yet rebound to its normal position when the hat is removed.

Further, because the porous cover is adhered throughout to the absorbent pad in such a manner that the passage of perspiration therethrough is not impaired, a highly satisfactory and sturdy sweatband is produced in accordance with the present invention.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft pad; and a unitary flexible cover for the pad adhering to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and freely projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie at least a portion of an outer face of the pad to form a flexible attaching flange for the sweatband whereby the sweatband can be attached to a hat.

2. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft absorbent pad; a porous textile cover extending around and adhered to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie an outer face of the pad to form an attaching flange for said band; and a reenforcing member having a portion secured to the back of the flange and to at least a portion of the outer face of the pad.

3. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft absorbent pad; a porous textile cover extending around and adhered to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie an outer face of the pad to form an attaching flange for said band; a reenforcing member having a portion secured to the back of the flange and to at least a portion of the outer face of the pad; and an impervious member secured to and overlying substantially the entire outer face of the pad.

4. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft absorbent porous pad of neoprene; a porous textile cover extending around and adhered by heat-sensitive adhesive to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie an outer face of the pad to form an attaching flange for said band; and a fabric reenforcing strip having a portion adhered by heat-sensitive adhesive to the back of the flange and to a portion of the outer face of the pad.

5. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft pad; a textile cover adhered to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and having a looped portion extending below the lower edge of the pad to form a tubular reed receiving member, said cover having a sweatband attaching portion projecting upwardly from the lower edge of the pad to overlie at least a portion of an outer face of said pad whereby said sweatband can be attached to a hat; and a reed positioned in said tubular member.

6. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft absorbent pad; a porous textile cover adhered to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad, said cover having a looped portion projecting below the lower edge of the pad to form a tubular reed receiving member, and having a sweatband attaching portion projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie an outer face of the pad; a reed in said tubular portion; and a backing strip having a portion secured to the back of said sweatband attaching portion of the band and to the outer face of the pad.

7. A sweatband for hats comprising a soft absorbent pad of porous neoprene; a porous textile cover extending around and adhered by heat-sensitive adhesive to the upper edge, the inner face, the lower edge of the pad and having a looped portion projecting below the lower edge to form a tubular reed receiving member, said cover having a sweatband attaching portion projecting upwardly from the lower edge to overlie the outer face of the pad; a fabric reenforcing strip having a portion adhesively secured to the back of said attaching portion of the band and to the outer face of the pad; an impervious strip secured to the pad to overlie the outer face of the pad; and a reed in said tubular member.

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