HEAT DEFLECTOR FOR HAIR DRIERS

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1. Claim. (Cl. 2—174)

This Invention relates to appliances for use in the field of cosmetology and relates more particularly to a face and neck protector adapted for use in connection with hair dryers to deflect or prevent hot air emanating from the dryer from striking the face of the customer and thereby causing considerable discomfort.

It is the most important object of the present invention to provide a face protector of the kind just above explained, that includes a substantially bowl-shaped, open top, flexible body that is provided with a head-receiving opening in the bottom thereof together with means for supporting the same in place with respect to the wearer thereof.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a protecting device for hair dryers that has no connection whatsoever with the latter and which is universally adaptable for virtually any type of dryer and for use by all customers because of its being devoid of particular sizes and dimensions.

It is an object of this invention to provide a protecting device that is attachable to the customer to be protected not only by virtue of the relatively tight engagement thereof around the head, but because of the provision of a saddle-like frame that includes parts for engaging the chest and parts for traversing the nape of the neck, all for the purpose of presenting a comfortable support that is not likely to become displaced during use.

Other objects include the way in which a frame is provided that includes a split ring for adding rigidity to the uppermost peripheral edge of the bowl-shaped body; the way in which a saddle-like shoulder support is included in the frame having a pair of chest-engaging legs and a cross bar between the legs that engages the nape of the neck; and the way in which the flexible body is additionally provided with an apron at the rear thereof that depends into overlying or covering relationship to the nape of the neck.

Additional objects include details of construction, all of which will be made clear or become apparent as the following specifications progresses, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a rear, perspective view of a deflector for hair dryers made pursuant to our present invention, parts being broken away and in section for clearness.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the protector itself.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on line III—III of Fig. 2 looking in the direction of the arrows showing the apron thereof extended.

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view of the protector per se.

Fig. 5 is a detailed view partially in section illustrating the way in which the frame sections are interconnected; and

Fig. 6 is a front, perspective view of the protector showing the same in operative use.

Cosmetologists, and more particularly their customers, are well aware of the discomfort that accompanies drying of hair through use of conventional dryers that operate on the hot air principle. This step in the hair dressing procedure is time-consuming and obviously it is desirable to create as great a velocity of air as possible in the dryer and to heat the same to a temperature that will quickly remove the moisture from the hair.

Heretofore it has been virtually impossible to prevent the impingement of such hot air upon the face, neck and shoulders of the customer and the adverse effects upon the skin are felt for many hours after the actual hairdressing operation.

All of these disadvantages are overcome through use of a protector forming the subject matter hereof and in Figs. 1 and 6 of the drawing, there is shown a portion of one type of hair dryer in common use that includes a hood-like device provided with an open, lowermost end into which a portion of the head of a customer extends during the drying of hair.

The precise operation of the hair dryer is of no significance to the present invention except so far as the same creates artificial currents of air, heats the same and directs such hot air toward the air substantially in the direction of the arrows shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

The protector for face 18 of subject 12, as well as for the neck 20 and shoulders 22, is broadly designated by the numeral 24 and includes a substantially bowl-shaped, hollow body broadly designated by the numeral 26. Body 26 is preferably made in its entirety from a suitable flexible material such as a fabric of rather close weave and has a tubular hem 28 at its uppermost periphery provided with a pair of spaced open ends 30. Additionally, the body 26 is provided with a head-receiving opening 22 in the bottom thereof that is defined by an annular hem 34 for receiving a continuous, ring-shaped, elastic band 36, it being noted in Figs. 2 and 3 particularly that the material forming the body 26 is gathered throughout the length of the hem 34 when the protector 24 is not in use. Likewise, the hem 34, as well as the material forming the body 26 below hem 28, are gathered as is clear in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, and Fig. 6 of the drawing. Body 26 is additionally provided with a lateral projection 38 extending rearwardly and downwardly from the open ends 30 of the hem 28 to present an apron or covering for the nape of the neck 20 as will hereinafter appear.
A support and reinforcement for the body 26 includes a frame broadly designated by the numeral 40 that includes a split ring 42 of relatively rigid material and which is threaded in the hem 25 to present a substantially circular, uppermost peripheral contour to the body 25. The ring 42 is turned downwardly as at 44 adjacent each open end 30 of hem 28 and each lateral extension 44 slidably and frictionally receives the uppermost end of a corresponding tube 46 forming a part of the frame 40. A pair of chest-engaging legs 48, as well as a neck-traversing bar 50, are preferably formed from a single length of relatively rigid, wire-like material, it being noted that the ends of such length of wire are received by the tubes 46 in telescoping relationship thereto with the uppermost ends of legs 48 welded directly or otherwise affixed to the tubes 46 as at 52. The ends of the frame 40 within the tubes 46 are in abutting relationship in the manner illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawing. In forming the legs 48 and the cross member 50, the latter constitutes the height of the single stretch of material, whereupon the same is re-bent in the form of a pair of loops 54 that constitute the lowermost ends of the legs 48.

Thus, when apron portion 36 is permitted to fall from the extended position shown in Fig. 3 it will hang loosely from the upper edge thereof between tubes 46 and between legs 48 over the cross member 50, as in Figs. 1 and 4.

The device is placed in use in the manner illustrated in Figs. 1 and 6 of the drawing. Owing to this of subject 12 in circumscribing relationship thereto just below the hairline with all of the hair 14 to be dried within the dome 10 disposed entirely within or above the body 26. By virtue of the construction shown in Fig. 6, the material forming body 26 is held in relatively tight engagement with the head just above the ears and hot air emanating from the dome 10, can only impinge upon the hair 14 and will not reach the forehead or face of subject 12.

Body 26 is additionally supported by the frame 40 with the legs 48 therefrom engaging and resting on the chest, and with the cross bar 50 traversing the nape of the neck 20 and in engagement therewith.

In effect, the frame 40 presents a U-shaped saddle that partially surrounds the neck 20 and rests in part on the shoulders 22. With the exception of the apron portion 36 of the body 28, the latter is held in its entirety above the shoulders 22, out of the face 18 and by virtue of the split ring 30, the uppermost peripheral edge of the flexible body 28 is held in circumscribing spaced relationship to the lowest marginal edge of the dome 10 of the hair dryer. It is particularly notable in Fig. 1 of the drawing that the diameter of the split ring 30 and according to the bowl-shaped body 28, at the upper edge thereof, is substantially greater than the outside diameter of the dome 10 at its lowermost open end, to the end that the hot air emanating from the dome 10 is free to escape from the body 26 after impinging upon the hair 14 in the manner illustrated by arrows 16 as in Fig. 1.

Another significant factor and important feature to the present invention lies in the way in which apron 30 hangs downwardly between the legs 46 and particularly between the tubes 46 in covering relationship to the nape of the neck 20 over, or under if desired, the nape-engaging cross bars 50 of frame 40. By such construction the hot air flowing from the uppermost edge of the body 26, cannot possibly come into contact with the neck of the wearer, but the latter is always protected by the overhanging apron 30. It is seen further that the use of the protector hereof has no adverse effect upon the operation of the hair dryer and that an increased velocity of air, as well as a rise in temperature thereof, may be utilized for quick drying without any deleterious effect upon the customer so far as burning of the skin of the face and neck and perhaps the shoulders is concerned.

It is to be pointed out additionally, that there is no desire to be limited by the particular construction of frame 40 as illustrated, so long as a pair of chest-engaging legs, as well as a neck traversing cross bar, is provided. In other words, the formation of loop 54 is not particularly necessary nor is it vital to the proper operation of the invention to provide a continuous length of the wire-like material in forming legs 46 and cross bar 50. By making tubes 45 releasable with respect to portions 44 of the split ring 42, it is possible to disassemble the entire protector for washing of the fabric body 26 and such collapsibility is a further advantage from the standpoint of storage and packaging for sale.

The protector is easy and inexpensive to manufacture, light-weight and devoid of all features that might be deemed objectionable from the standpoint of customers patronizing beauty shops and while the single embodiment of the invention illustrated is capable of many changes and modifications, those that fairly come within the spirit of the invention as set forth by the appended claim, are manifestly contemplated hereby.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

A face protector comprising a bowl-shaped body of flexible material having an uppermost peripheral edge defining an open top and a lowermost peripheral edge defining a head-receiving opening; a frame including a split ring secured to said uppermost peripheral edge of said body and having a pair of spaced ends, a chest-engaging leg depending from each end respectively of the ring, and a nape-engaging bar interconnecting the legs; and a nape-covering apron forming a part of said body and normally hanging between a portion of said legs below the uppermost edge of the body.

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