

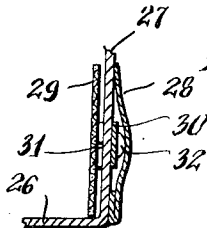
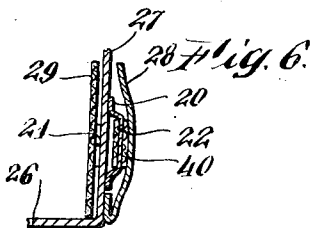
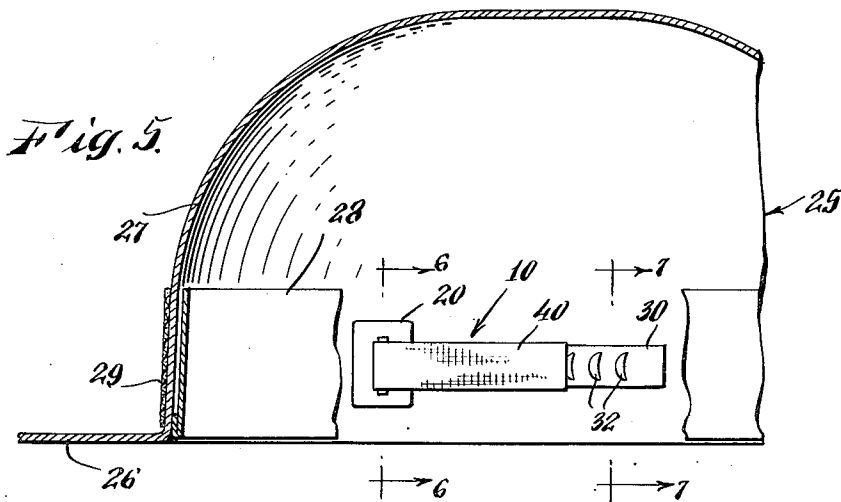
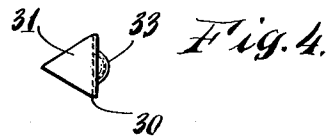
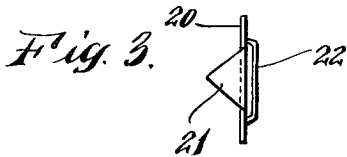
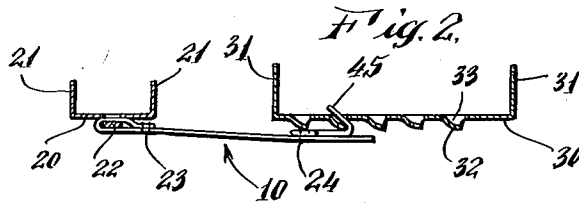
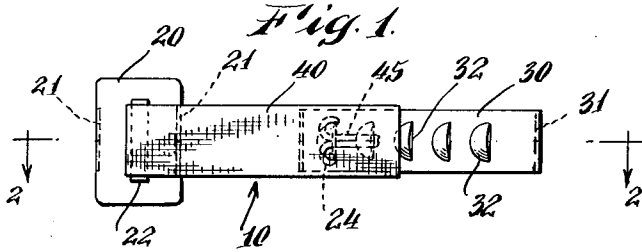
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HAT SIZE ADJUSTER

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HAT SIZE ADJUSTER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—183)

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This invention relates to take-up or adjustment devices and more particularly to such devices as used to provide for closer fitting of men's felt hats, for example.

Men's hats of the felt or fedora type are generally sold in sizes varying by eighths. However, the difference in circumferential length of the hatband for each $\frac{1}{8}$ change in size is equal to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. In quite a few cases, this difference between two adjacent sizes is of sufficient magnitude that a close fit is not obtainable by a wearer having a head size between two hat sizes. Additionally, and as is readily observable, a fresh hair cut makes considerable difference in the fit of a hat.

For this purpose, it has been proposed to sew adjustment means within the hat for shortening the length of the hatband so that a wearer having an "in-between" head size can purchase a hat having the larger size and shorten the hatband length to fit his head. While such adjustment means as hitherto used provided for incremental reduction of the effective hatband length, they have been unsatisfactory for other reasons such as bulk, inconvenient location, etc. Furthermore, it has been necessary to permanently secure such adjustment devices to the hat, which may be inconvenient in many cases, as when the hat has shrunk, for example. The devices cannot be readily removed or replaced, and must be very carefully secured to the hat, frequently requiring the services of a tailor.

To obviate these difficulties, the present invention provides a simple and inexpensive hat adjuster which may be readily and easily secured to a hatband and disengaged therefrom. The adjustment is quickly and easily made and can be speedily changed.

Specifically, a first small plate of flexible metal is provided, and has a bendable, pointed clip at each end. Intermediate the clips, a loop is struck from the plate to serve as an anchor for an elastic band having a hook secured to its free end. This hook is adapted to engage in any one of a number of longitudinally spaced struck-outs in a second elongated plate of flexible metal, likewise having bendable pointed clips at its ends. The struck-outs are evenly spaced to provide incremental changes in length and, in effect comprise hook pockets overlying apertures in the second plate.

To use the invention device, the sweat band of the hat is opened outwardly and the first plate is placed behind the sweat band. Its prongs are pushed outwardly through the crown of the hat

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and bent over beneath the ribbon on the outer surface of the crown. The second plate is then secured in position in the same manner at a short distance from the first plate. The effective circumference of the hat may then be easily and incrementally adjusted by securing the hook on the elastic band with a selected one of the aperture pockets in the second plate. When in position, the device is protectively concealed by the sweat band and the ribbon. It may be removed easily by re-bending the four prongs to permit release of the plates.

With the foregoing in mind, it is an object of this invention to provide a simple, easily operated hat band length adjustment device.

Another object is to provide such a device which may be readily attached to a hat in a protective position, and readily disengaged from the hat.

These, and other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the adjustment device;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Figs. 3 and 4 are end views of two plates forming part of the device;

Fig. 5 is a partial inside elevation view of a hat, with part of the sweat band broken away illustrating the device as applied to a hat;

Figs. 6 and 7 are sectional views on the corresponding lines of Fig. 5.

Referring to Figs. 1 through 4, the adjustment device 10 includes plates 20 and 30 of flexible metal and an elastic band 40 secured to plate 20 and having a hook 45 on its free end arranged to engage plate 30.

Plate 20 is substantially rectangular in shape and has pointed flexible prongs 21, 21 at either end. Intermediate its ends, plate 20 has a loop 22 struck out therefrom, and band 40 has its end folded around the loop and stitched to the band 40 as at 23. Prongs 21 are normally perpendicular to the body of plate 20, and band 40 has hook 45 stitched to its free end as indicated at 24.

Plate 30 is an elongated rectangle having normally perpendicular pointed prongs 31, 31 at either end. The plate and prongs are formed from a single piece of flexible metal. Intermediate its ends, plate 30 is formed with struck-out portions or pockets 32 each overlying an aperture 33. Portions 32 are uniformly spaced, preferably in equal increments of the difference in two successive hat sizes.

The operation of the device will be best under-

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stood from Figs. 5, 6 and 7. Referring to these figures, a hat 25 is illustrated as having a brim 26 and a crown 27. The usual sweat band 28 is secured to the interior of the hat, as by being stitched thereto and folded back on itself. As is customary, an ornamental ribbon 29 is placed around crown 27 adjacent brim 26.

To secure adjustment device 10 in position, sweat band 28 is bent down and the prongs 21, 21 of plate 20 are pierced outwardly through crown 27 and bent over beneath ribbon 29. Plate 30 is secured to the crown in a similar manner adjacent the hook end of elastic band 40. Preferably, the two elements are hooked together at their maximum setting during securement to the hat. The hat size is then incrementally reduced by selective engagement of hook 45 with a selected one of portions 32, and the device is protectively covered by sweat band 28.

It will thus be seen that a simply operated, inexpensive adjustment device is provided which is quickly and easily attached to a hat and detached therefrom. No stitching or skill is required to make the attachment. When in position, the device is fully covered, so that there is no discomfort to the wearer or unsightly disfigurement of the hat.

While a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the principles thereof, it should be understood that the invention may be otherwise embodied without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

1. A length adjuster for hats comprising, in combination with a hat crown having mounted on the exterior face thereof a ribbon and on the interior face thereof a sweat band; longitudinally spaced first and second plate members extending in the same horizontal plane and attached to the interior face of said hat crown inwardly of said sweat band, each of said plate members having a pair of spaced material piercing bendable prongs extending through said hat crown and folded beneath the ribbon, said first plate member having a loop, an elastic element secured at its one end to the loop of said first member and extending longitudinally therefrom, a hook secured to the free end of said elastic element, a series of spaced hook receiving means on said second plate member, whereby to provide, upon disposing of the hook in the respective hook receiving means, for incremental displacement of the portion of the hat crown between the respective plate members.

2. A length adjuster for hats comprising, in combination, a first member having a pair of

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spaced bendable, rearwardly extending, material piercing prongs and having a loop; an elastic element secured at its one end to the loop of said first member and extending longitudinally thereof; a hook secured to the free other end of said elastic element and extending in one direction; and a second member longitudinally spaced with respect to, and within the same horizontal plane as, said first member and having a pair of spaced bendable, rearwardly extending, material piercing prongs, said second member having a series of forwardly extending struck-out portions between its prongs and extending in a direction opposite to that of said hook to receive said hook, said portions being spaced apart increments of the length difference between successive hat sizes.

3. A length adjuster for hats comprising, in combination with a hat crown having mounted on the exterior face thereof a ribbon and on the interior face thereof a sweat band; longitudinally spaced first and second plate members attached to the interior face of said hat crown inwardly of said sweat band, each of said plate members having a pair of rearwardly extending, spaced material piercing bendable prongs passing through said hat crown and folded beneath the ribbon, said first plate member having a loop, an elastic element secured at its one end to the loop of said first plate member and extending longitudinally therefrom, a hook secured to the free end of said elastic element and extending in one direction, a series of forwardly extending struck-out portions extending in a direction opposite to that of said hook on said second plate member, said portions being spaced apart increments of the length difference between successive hat sizes whereby to provide, upon disposing of the hook in the respective struck-out portions, for incremental displacement of the portion of the hat crown between the respective plate members.

LOUIS WIDDER.

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