Oct. 23, 1923. 1,471,724

L. H. ENSTEN

HEADWEAR

Filed Feb. 15, 1921

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

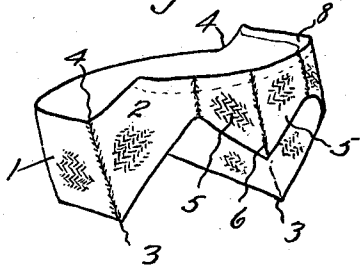


Fig. 3

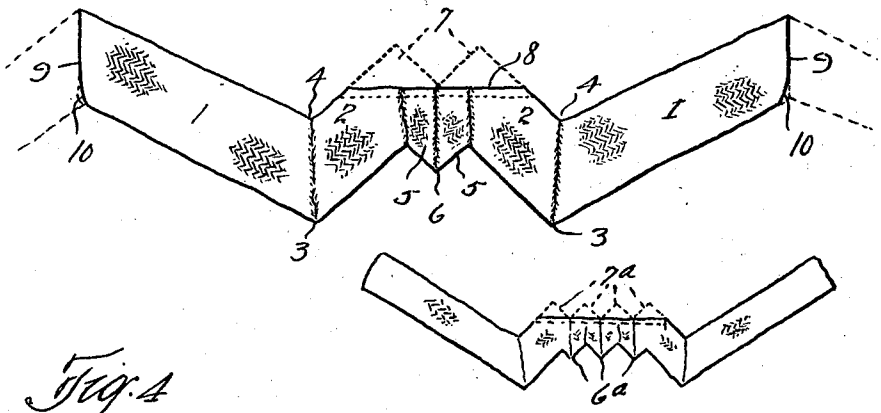


Fig. 4

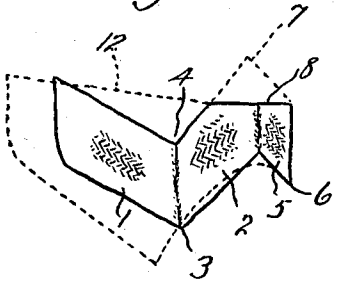


Fig. 5

Inventor
Louis H. Ensten
By Harold Elus Smith
Atty.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS H. ENSTEN, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

HEADWEAR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS H. ENSTEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Headwear, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to headwear and has for its general object the provision of an ear covering which shall be attractive in appearance and which can be worn in connection with the usual hat or cap. Such officers as firemen, policemen, railway men and members of other disciplined forces are required to wear a prescribed kind of head gear which is seldom or never provided with ear protective arrangements. The objects of this invention are the provision of an ear lap of which no portion need extend beneath the hat-band; which shall be snug and comfortable; which shall be free from all rubber or metal attachments; which shall protect the back of the neck as well as the ears; which can be rapidly and cheaply made by standard commercial machinery; the provision of a band of knitted material adapted to fit a separately made crown-part and having angular portions at each side adapted to cover the wearer's ears and an upwardly displaced portion in front adapted to bridge the wearer's eyes; and further objects and advantages will appear as the description proceeds.

In the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this application I have shown certain preferred embodiments of my invention although it will be understood that these views are illustrative only and not limiting upon me. Fig. 1 illustrates my improved ear-lap in place on the wearer's head; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device removed; Fig. 3 illustrates a development of the device, the outlines of the original blank being shown in dotted lines; Fig. 4 represents a side elevation of the device, the full lines showing it in contracted position and the dotted lines showing it in expanded position; and Fig. 5 illustrates a slightly modified blank.

My improved headwear article is knitted or netted and preferably from a good quality of worsted or like elastic material. I have shown and shall describe a knitted article but do not restrict myself to any kind of stitch or definition of process inasmuch as I do not exclude any netting or crocheting stitch or other weave which affords the requisite elasticity. The fabric is produced in a single elongated ribbon which is afterward cut into the blanks or patterns shown in Fig. 3. Each blank or pattern is bilaterally symmetrical, having at its extremities the elongated portions 1—1 whose inner ends merge with shorter portions 2—2 which are angularly related thereto so as to form on the one side the cusps 3—3 and at the other side the notches 4—4. That side of the blank and resultant article which has the cusps 3—3 will hereafter be called the lower side or edge. The adjacent ends of the portions 2—2 are joined by still shorter, angularly related portions, which may be few or great in number. In Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive I have shown two such intermediate portions 5—5 defining a single depending point 6, and in Fig. 5 I have shown a larger number of such portions, defining a plurality of smaller points 6^a—6^a.

The middle part of this blank has at its upper edge a number of points 7, or 7^a and intermediate notches depending upon the number of points 6 or 6^a, but in case the article is to be worn in combination with a crown part having a brim or visor these are cut off and the raw edge turned over and hemmed as shown at 8. Also the extreme ends 9—9 of the blank are sewed together, the lower corners being first preferably trimmed away as shown at 10—10.

The result is an endless band whose lower edge presents two depending points of considerable size at its two sides adapted to cover the wearer's ears, a vertical seam at the rear, and an upwardly disposed portion midway in front adapted to bridge the wearer's eyes; the upper edge of the neck-encircling portion is adapted to fit closely to the crown-part, and in case the upper edge of the forehead-encircling portion be cut and hemmed the notches 4—4 and the sides are generally not eradicated completely. The band is made slightly smaller than the wearer's head with the result that the stretching consequent upon applying it draws inwardly the points of the cusps 3—3 and causes them to cover the ears snugly without any uncomfortable and unsightly flapping. This effect is especially marked when the corners 10 are cut away as shown, but the upward displacement of the front

of the band conduces to this result regardless of such cutting. It will be noted that this displacement is approximately equal to the width of the band itself. The original selvage is preferably retained in unmodified form throughout the largest possible proportion of the band in order that its elasticity may not be impaired. The device is designed for use with a separately fashioned crown-part, here shown as a uniform cap, the width at the rear being so chosen as to cover the head about to the collar of the overcoat. When made on a knitting machine the original width of the strip measured transversely of its general length is everywhere the same and the peculiar conformation here described can be secured by "racking" the machine after a certain number of stitches, which the machine can be set to accomplish automatically. It will be seen that the amount of waste produced in making these articles is very small.

It will be understood that changes in design, appearance, and mode of manufacture and use can be made within my invention and that I do not restrict my device to use with a crown part having a brim or visor. Also I claim my improved blank and article for every use of which they may be susceptible, whether fastened to the crown-part or not and in general I limit myself only as specifically recited in my claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. An article of headwear comprising a narrow band adapted to encircle the head comprising a substantially straight main portion, and an intermediate portion rack-knitted diagonally in two directions, said rack-knitted portion being positioned at the front of the wearer's head so as to bridge his eyes, the junction of said straight portion and of said rack knitted portions forming a pair of angular ear-laps and the edge of said straight portion opposite said ear laps adapted to fit a separately formed crown-part.

2. In headwear, a longitudinally-elastic, narrow knitted earlap-band, adapted to encircle the wearer's head, said band comprising two substantially straight main portions, two intermediate portions rack-knitted diagonally toward one side of said main portion and defining a pair of salients, adapted to cover the wearer's ears, and a short central portion connecting said intermediate portions and adapted to bridge the wearer's eyes, said main portions being sewed together end to end to form a neck encircling portion the upper margin of which is adapted to fit a separately formed crown part.

3. An article of headwear consisting of a strip of zig zag knitted material having at one side two larger depending points and one or more smaller depending points located between them, the two ends of said strip being sewed together, and the other side of said strip having a hemmed portion opposite said smaller point or points.

4. An article of the character described, comprising a strip of flat knitted material having selvages of angular form at each side, the ends of said strip being sewed together and one edge of the strip having a pair of spaced angular projections adapted to cover the ears when the article is placed about the head and at least a part of the opposite edge presenting an original selvage adapted to encircle the head below the hat band.

5. An article of the character described, comprising a strip of flat knitted material having selvages of angular form at each side, one edge of said strip having a pair of comparatively large projections of equal size separated by one or more smaller projections, the end edges of said strip being cut on transverse lines which incline toward said larger projections at each side, such cut edges being sewed together and the margin of said strip opposite such smaller projections being folded inwardly.

6. An article of the character described comprising an endless band of knitted material adapted to encircle the head of the wearer and having selvages at each edge and said selvages being of angular configuration, one edge of said band having a pair of spaced angular projections of equal size adapted to cover the wearer's ears and also having one or more smaller projections between said first projections adapted to fall above the wearer's eyes, the upper edge of said band being folded downwardly throughout the portion defined by said smaller projection or projections so that the entire band may come below the wearer's hat band.

7. A blank for the purpose described, consisting of a narrow flat strip of knitted material having selvages of angular form at each side, one edge of said strip having a pair of comparatively large projections of equal size separated by one or more smaller projections, the end edges of said strip adapted to be sewed together to encircle the wearer's neck, and the edge of said strip opposite said first projections adapted to meet a separately made crown part whereby said large projections may cover the wearer's ears and such smaller projection or projections may cover the wearer's forehead above the eyes.

8. A blank for the purpose described, consisting of a narrow flat strip of knitted material having selvages of angular form at each side, one edge of said strip having a pair of comparatively large projections of equal size spaced apart and the opposite edge of said strip having one or more intermediate pro-

jections, the end edges of said strip adapted to be sewed together to encircle the wearer's neck, the first named projections adapted to cover the wearer's ears, the edge of said strip which is opposite said first projections adapted to meet a separately made crown part and the portion of said strip defined by such intermediate projection or projections adapted to bridge the wearer's eyes.

9. In an article of headwear, a narrow flat strip of knitted material having the stitches racked laterally at equal distances from the ends of the strip to produce an oblique projection at the one margin and a corresponding notch at the opposite margin, the middle part of said strip consisting of a portion which is out of line with the end portions thereof, the end portions being sewed together forming a neck covering, the notched margin of such end portion being fitted to the edge of a separately formed crown, and one margin of the middle part forming a straight portion which matches the edge of said crown part where it encircles the wearer's forehead.

10. In an article of headwear a narrow longitudinally elastic band of knitted material adapted to surround the wearer's head and to fit a separately made crown-part, said band having at each side an angular depending portion adapted to cover the wearer's ears, and having at the front an upwardly displaced portion adapted to bridge the wearer's eyes, such front portion being displaced approximately the width of said band and the upper edge of said band having a notch at each side opposite the corresponding ear-covering portion.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

LOUIS H. ENSTEN.