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BALLOON HAT

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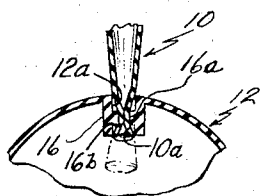


Fig. 3

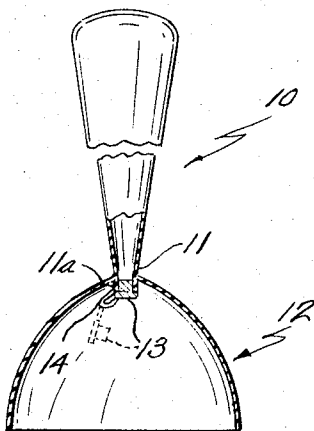


Fig. 1

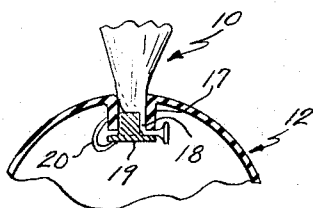


Fig. 4

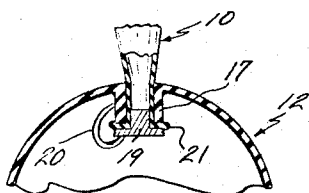


Fig. 5

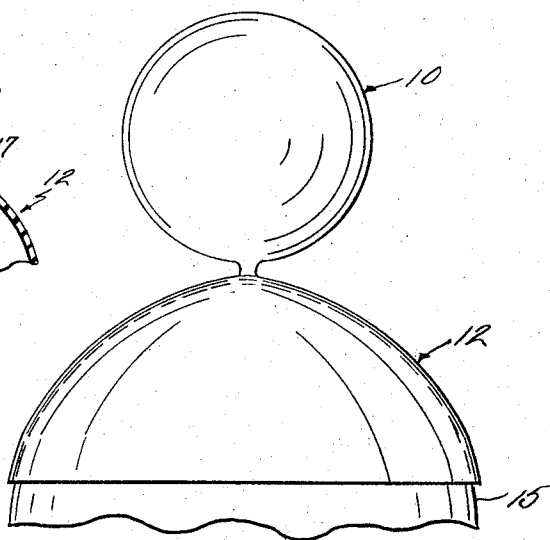


Fig. 2

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BALLOON HAT

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cap for supporting a balloon having a neck is made of soft rubber-like material and has a plug extension of the same material projecting radially inwardly in the polar region of the cap, this plug having a central through opening extending from top to bottom of the plug and having upper and lower portions of said opening of a diameter allowing looseness of the material of a balloon passing through the opening, and there being an intermediate portion of the opening restricted by an annular radially inwardly extending projection leaving a restricted opening at the intermediate zone of the plug having a dimension which in unstressed condition of the rubberlike material is less than the neck material of a balloon passing therethrough so that this projection compresses the neck of a balloon when passed through the opening sufficiently to seal the balloon and retain the air therein. At the same time, the annular inwardly extending projection of the plug permits stretching of the neck of an uninflated balloon in this intermediate portion of the plug opening sufficiently to permit balloon inflation.

This invention relates to improvements in a cap-supported balloon and more particularly to a cap portion of the device generally hemispherical in shape adapted to fit an average human head and preferably of rubberlike material stretchable to be frictionally retained on the head of a wearer, and with the cap portion having a through opening at its polar region adapted to receive the neck portion of a balloon.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device as defined in the preceding paragraph including a plug of the rubberlike material adapted to close the neck of the balloon and preferably integrally connected to the entire device near the balloon neck.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the type described, such a device having a balloon of thin rubberlike material having a neck insertable through a polar opening in a neck portion of the cap normally adapted to squeeze and seal the neck of an inflated balloon, said balloon being capable of being inflated by the lungs of the user when the balloon neck is stretched in the cap neck portion.

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the device in unstressed condition with the lower portion thereof broken away in central section to more clearly show the construction;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the same with the balloon inflated and with the cap portion stretched over the head of the wearer; while

FIGS. 3, 4 and 5 are fragmental sectional views similar to FIG. 1 showing other ways of attaching the balloon to the cap.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, it should be understood that the entire device as herein described is of unitary construction of soft rubberlike material having certain inflatable and stretchable characteristics as will presently be described.

Referring to FIG. 1, a balloon 10 of any desired conformation extends from the upper portion of the hat or cap to which it is attached by means of the neck portion

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11 of the balloon. The balloon is made of material commonly found in toy balloons which is thin enough to be inflatable by the lung pressure of the user.

The cap portion 12 is generally hemispherical in shape and of less diameter than a human head. The rubberlike material of the cap portion is identical with the balloon except that it is somewhat thicker but adaptable to be stretchable like a stocking cap to be frictionally retained on the head of the wearer. Preferably, but not necessarily, the neck portion extends at 11a slightly on the interior side of the cap portion 12 so as to provide a portion to be contacted by the lips of the person inflating the balloon 10. A plug 13 is provided adapted to close and seal the neck portion and in a preferred form of this device this plug and a connecting strap 14 are of the same rubberlike material as the rest of the device and integral therewith so that the plug may normally hang in the dot-dash position shown in FIG. 1 when not in use so as not to be lost. After the balloon is inflated the plug is placed in the full line position of FIG. 1. Preferably, and if found desirable, the neck portion at 11a opposite the plug 13 is made sufficiently strong to receive the plug firmly.

In use of this device the balloon 10 is inflated as shown in FIG. 2 and the plug 13 is placed in the full line position as shown in FIG. 1 after the inflation process is completed. The cap portion 12 is then stretched over the head of a wearer shown at 15 and the cap material has sufficient resiliency to stretch over the head of the wearer but to be frictionally retained on the head as shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 3 shows a modification wherein the balloon 10 having a neck portion 10a and the cap 12 are like those previously described except that the cap at its polar region is provided with an inwardly projecting plug-like extension 16 integral with the balloon and of soft rubberlike material. This plug 16 has an upper central opening portion 12a and a lower central opening portion 16b each of a diameter to allow looseness of the balloon material there. An intermediate portion of the plug has an annular radially inwardly extending projection 16a, the inner dimension of which in its unstressed condition is less than the neck material 10a of the balloon, so that it compresses the neck of a balloon passing through the opening sufficiently to seal it as shown in full lines in FIG. 3. In use of this modification, the balloon 10 is inserted with its neck 10a through the opening at 16a with the balloon in its uninflated condition. The user then pulls the neck to the dot-dash position of FIG. 3 with one hand while pulling the other end of the balloon in the opposite direction so as to stretch the balloon material where it passes the projection 16a and thus provides enough opening to inflate the balloon after which the balloon may be released and will retain air in it because of the constriction at 16a.

In the modification of FIG. 4, the balloon 10 and cap 12 are the same as previously described except that the balloon at its polar region has a through opening 17 through which the neck of the balloon may be inserted at one side of the opening as seen at 18, and thereafter a plug 19 is inserted in the opening 17 holding the neck 18 tightly against the inner wall of the opening so as to retain the air in the balloon 10. Preferably, but not necessarily, the plug 19 is integrally connected by a strap 20 of the rubberlike material of the cap 12.

In the modification of FIG. 5, the balloon 10, the cap 12 and the through opening 17 are as described in connection with FIG. 4, but the neck of the balloon, after inflation is spread annularly as indicated at 21, and the plug 19 is inserted inside the neck 21 to seal it against the walls of the opening 17.

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I have thus shown a device which is cheaply and easily made, is not readily destructible, and which gives great pleasure to the young.

What is claimed is:

1. A combined cap and lung-inflatable balloon, said lung-inflatable balloon having a neck, said cap being of soft rubberlike material and generally hemispherical in shape and adapted to fit an average human head, there being a plug extension projecting radially inwardly in the polar region of said cap and of soft rubberlike material integral with said cap, said plug having a central through opening formed therein extending from top to bottom of said plug, there being upper and lower portions of said opening formed with a diameter allowing looseness of the material of the lung-inflatable balloon passing through said opening, and there being a portion of said opening intermediate said upper and lower portions having an annular radially inwardly extending projection forming a restricted opening in said plug, the restricted opening having a dimension in unstressed condition which is less than the neck material of the lung-inflatable balloon passing therethrough so that it compresses the neck

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of the lung-inflatable balloon passing through the restricted opening sufficiently to seal it, said annular inwardly extending projection permitting stretching of the neck of the lung-inflatable balloon in uninflated condition in said restricted opening sufficient to permit balloon inflation under such conditions.

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