Oct. 23, 1951 M. W. MOUGEL 2,572,746

EAR MUFF ARANGEMENT FOR CAPS

Filed July 25, 1950

FIG. 1

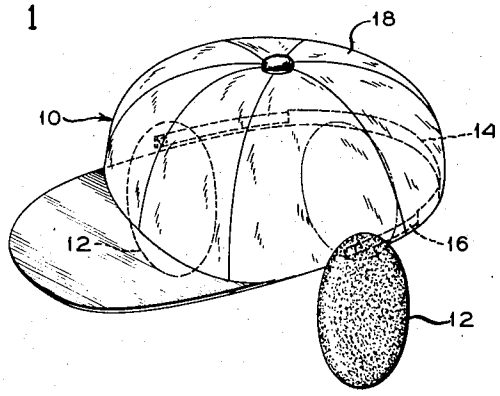
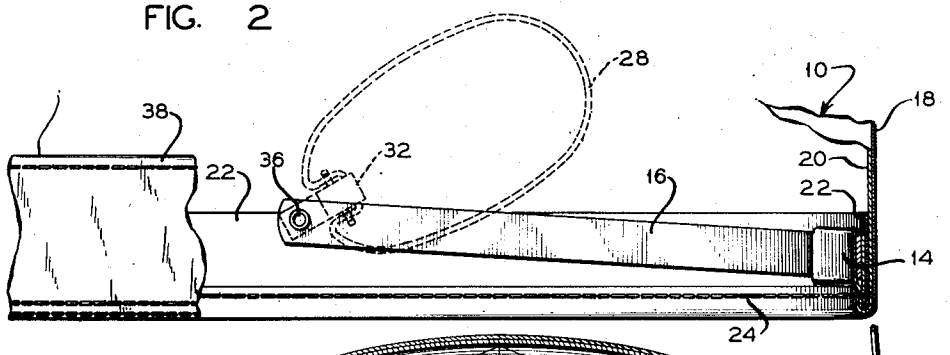


FIG. 2



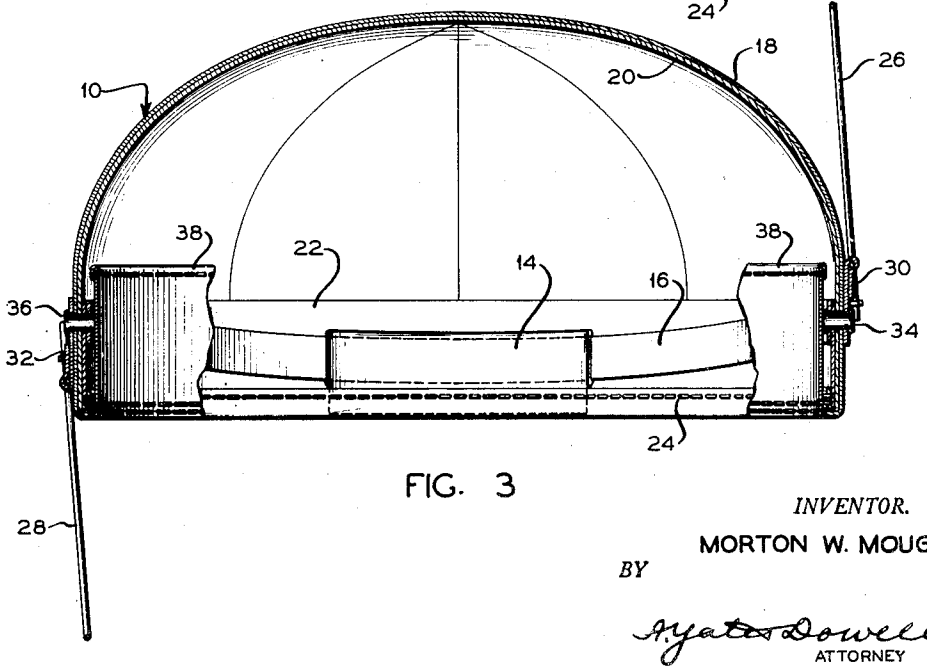


FIG. 3

INVENTOR.

MORTON W. MOUGEL

BY

A. Yates Dowell

ATTORNEY

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EAR MUFF ARRANGEMENT FOR CAPS

Morton W. Mougel, Middletown, N. Y.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—209)

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This invention relates to headwear and more particularly to an improved ear muff arrangement for caps.

Heretofore, ear muffs or protectors have been associated with caps of various kinds but in some of these arrangements the ear muffs were not fixed in relation to the cap and were not firmly attached thereto. Furthermore, the stitching utilized was exposed and visible on the exterior of the cap thus detracting from the general appearance of the same. In other arrangements the ear muffs were fixed to one portion of the cap, but were not provided with a firm resilient support for holding the muffs snugly against the ears of the wearer.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to overcome the disadvantages enumerated above and to provide a simple and inexpensive construction for attaching ear muffs to a cap.

Another object of the invention is to provide a firm, resilient support for the ear muffs which is securely attached to the cap and which will hold the muff snugly against the wearer's ear.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a resilient support for the ear muffs in which the position of the muffs is fixed with relation to the cap so that there is no relative movement therebetween.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a construction of the nature described wherein no stitching or other extraneous structure is visible on the outside of the cap.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2, a fragmentary sectional view showing certain details of construction in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention; and Fig. 3, a transverse sectional view taken through the cap shown in Fig. 1 with front and rear portions of the sweat band broken away.

Briefly stated, one of the preferred embodiments of the present invention for attaching ear muffs to a cap consists of an elongated casing of flexible material having its contiguous edge portions secured to the rear edge of the crown of the cap which preferably consists of an outer fabric, lining and stiffening member. A resilient U-shaped band, preferably of metal such as spring steel, is inserted through the casing and its end portions are positioned within and adjacent to

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the side portions of the crown. The ear muff supporting frames are positioned outwardly of the side portions of the crown, and a fastening element such as a rivet is extended through the ends of the resilient U-shaped band, through the material of the crown, and thence through the usual attaching clip provided on the ear muff supporting frame for pivotally mounting the frame for movement from an upward position to a lower position where the ear muffs will snugly engage the ears of the wearer.

A sweatband is usually provided which is attached to the peripheral edge of the crown and is turned inwardly to cover the casing, resilient U-shaped band, and the fastening elements.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, a cap 10 of conventional construction, as best shown in Fig. 1, is provided with fabric ear muffs 12 supported along the side edges thereof. The supporting structure for the ear muffs is shown in dotted lines and consists primarily of a fabric loop 14 and a relatively rigid resilient U-shaped band 16, preferably formed of some metallic material such as spring steel.

The details of construction are best shown in Figs. 2 and 3 wherein the crown of the cap 10 preferably consists of an outer fabric 18, such as wool, with a lining 20 of soft flexible material and the stiffening member 22, which is usually some relatively stiff and inelastic material, such as buchram, canvas or paper. The casing 14 is preferably formed of a strong flexible fabric and has its contiguous edges secured by stitching to the peripheral edge portions of the outer fabric, lining, and stiffening member by stitching 24. The resilient U-shaped band is extended through the casing, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, with its end portions within and adjacent the side portions of the crown. Frames or wire loops 26 and 28 which support the ear muffs are provided with apertured attaching clips 30 and 32 which are positioned outwardly of the crown.

Rivets or other suitable fastening means 34 and 36 are extended through the apertures in the attaching clips, through openings formed in the crown, as well as through apertures formed in the end portions of the resilient U-shaped band 16. A sweatband 38 has one edge secured to the peripheral edge portions of the outer fabric, lining and stiffening member and is turned inwardly, as shown, to cover the loop 14, the resilient U-shaped band 16 and the fastening elements 34 and 36 for pivotally mounting the frames 26 and 28.

It will be obvious that the rivets 34 and 36

form a pivotal mounting for the ear muff supporting frames 26 and 28 so that they may be moved from the upper portion 51 in which frame 26 is shown in Fig. 3 to the lower portion 51 in which frame 28 is shown in Fig. 3.

By the present construction the resilient U-shaped band 16 is securely held within the cap in fixed position relative thereto by means of the casing 14 and the rivets 34 and 36. The resiliency of the U-shaped band 16 holds the ear muffs in snug engagement with the ears of the wearer.

It should be particularly noted in the present structure that while the ear muffs are attached in fixed position relative to the cap and the resilient U-shaped band is firmly secured within the crown, that there is no visible stitching on the outside of the cap in the preferred form disclosed herein which would detract from the appearance and the clips 30 and 32 as well as the rivets 34 and 36 will be covered by the fabric which is normally extended over the supporting frames 26 and 28.

However, in a somewhat less expensive construction than that shown, the sweatband 38 may be eliminated and a conventional finishing stitch utilized along the lower edge of the crown which would be visible to a slight extent. This type of cap would still incorporate the most advantageous structural features and fulfill the primary objects of the invention.

It will be obvious to those skilled in this art that various changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof and, therefore, this invention is not limited by that which is shown in the drawings or by that which is described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In a head covering a crown, a sweat band within said crown, a relatively rigid resilient U-shaped member located beneath said sweat band and having its end portions terminating at opposite sides of the crown, rivets attaching said end portions to said crown, the outer ends of said rivets being located exteriorly of said crown and forming pivotal supports for ear muffs, and encasing means secured beneath said sweat band to said crown intermediate said rivets encircling said resilient U-shaped member and preventing pivotal movement of said U-shaped resilient member about said rivets.

MORTON WM. MOUGEL.

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