Oct. 24, 1944. P. E. YOUNG 2,361,345

METHOD OF MAKING HATS

Filed Nov. 4, 1940

Fig. 1.

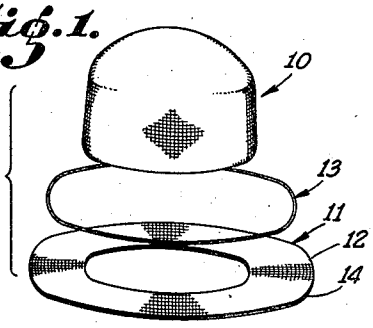


Fig. 2.

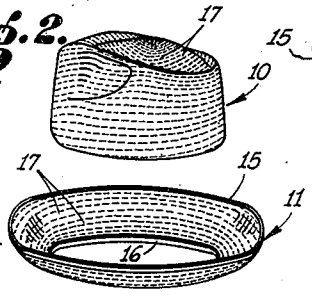


Fig. 3.

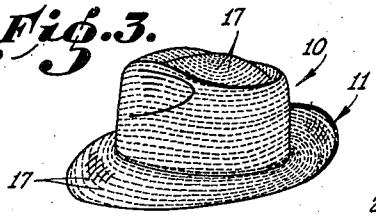


Fig. 4.

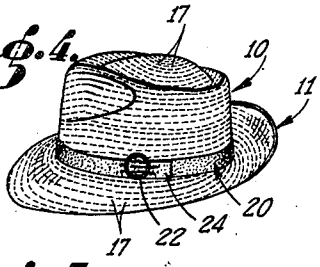


Fig. 5.

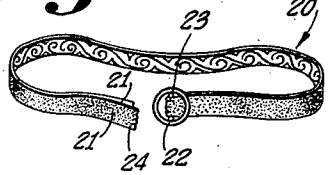


Fig. 6.

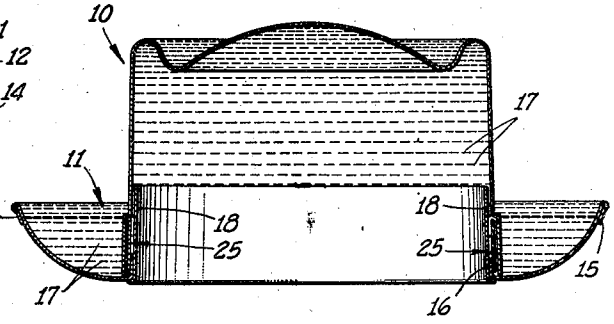
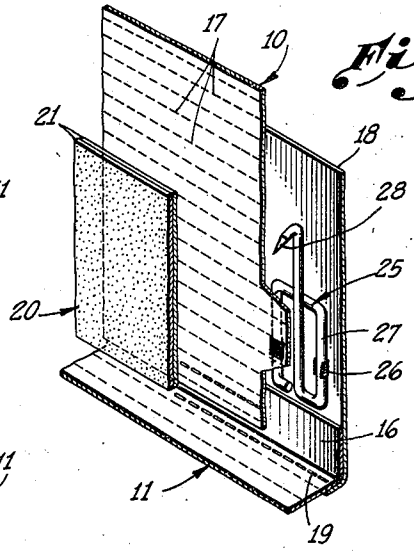


Fig. 7.



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2,361,345

METHOD OF MAKING HATS

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Application November 4, 1940, Serial No. 364,188

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—192)

This invention relates to hats, particularly those of cloth composition, and methods of making the same, wherein the crown and brim are composed of single separate pieces of material, preformed and reinforced to insure permanence in the desired form and shape, in combination with novel means for releasably maintaining a reversible band for the crown, comprising another feature of my invention, in properly adjusted position.

Cloth of woven mesh material, such, for example, as cotton, flax, or rayon has been found to be suitable for the manufacture of men's summer hats, and to have many exclusive advantages. For example hats of cloth may be made to resemble straw, yet avoid the objections to the latter material in that they will not sunburn or discolor nor will they tend to dry out and become brittle as will straw.

Cloth hats of the prior art have been usually constructed of a plurality of pieces. Heretofore it has been deemed necessary to make the crown of several pieces because of the lack of means or a method for maintaining the shape of a crown prepared from a single piece. While it is customary to size the material of which the hat is composed by the application of a stiffening solution, a hat having a crown of a single piece will tend to "blow out" i. e. the fabric will spread or stretch, when moist, and is easily distorted by repeated handling.

It is a principal object of the present invention to provide a method of maintaining the preformed shape of a crown composed of a single piece of woven mesh fabric and of a brim of like material, in accordance with which the crown and brim, after shaping on suitable form, are separately stitched in a decorative manner, so as to resist subsequent stretching or distortion of the fabric.

Another object is to provide, in hats adapted to have a curved brim, a cord, of a length less than the circumference of the brim, sewed or otherwise incorporated in the peripheral edge of the brim so as to retain said edge within the circle described by the cord, and, accordingly with the brim curved either upwardly or downwardly or with the portions of the brim at opposite sides of the crown turned in opposite directions.

Another and highly important object is the provision of a hatband or ribbon of different colors or carrying different designs, on its opposite sides for attachment by means of a decorative buckle, around the base of the crown with, selectively, either side of the band visible so as to adapt the hat to different color combinations of the clothing of the wearer, as well as to enable a substitution by an entirely different band more pleasing to a particular customer.

Still another object is to provide a series of retaining devices to engage the band when arranged on the crown and thereby maintain the band in a position contiguous with the brim, as well as to prevent circular motion of the band with respect to the crown which would tend to dislodge the buckle or other ornamentation, e. g., a feather, from its desired location.

Other objects and salient features of my invention, as, for example, simplicity and greater economy of manufacture, ease of assembly of the brim and crown, a wide application of the principal features hereof to different styles of hats, and susceptibility of attractive appearance of the mechanically advantageous feature of the stitching, will be apparent from the following description read in the light of the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the crown, cord and brim comprising principal parts of my invention before assembly, illustrating particularly these parts after the first step in the manufacture of partially shaping the crown;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the crown and brim after incorporating the cord in the peripheral edge of the brim, the steps of stitching the crown and brim, and of further shaping the crown;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the preformed crown and brim after assembly;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the complete hat with the band attached.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a reversible band having different designs on opposite sides adapted for selective arrangement on the hat by the wearer with either side of the band visible;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the completed hat illustrating the cord in the brim and a pair of retaining devices for the band carried by the crown under the sweatband;

Fig. 7 is a broken sectional view of the base of the crown depicting particularly one form of hatband retaining device in detail.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the numerals of which indicate similar parts throughout the several views, 10 designates generally the crown of the hat incorporating my invention, which may be composed of any suitable material well known in the art. My invention is particularly adapted to summer light-weight men's hats composed of loosely-woven fabric of cotton, flax, or rayon. The crown 10 is first shaped on a suitable

form and cut as shown in Fig. 1 i. e., with the top thereof convex. The brim made of the same material as the crown 10, is woven or cut in the form of a flat annulus 12 (Fig. 1) and is subsequently shaped, as about to be described.

A cord 13, preferably of cotton or like material, and of a length less than the outer periphery of the flat annulus of fabric, having its ends attached together, is provided to curve the brim 11 radially from edge to edge. To this end and to reinforce the outer edge of the brim, said edge 14 is turned upon itself as at 15, enveloping the cord 13, and is stitched to an adjacent portion of brim 11. Cord 13 serves to retain outer edge 14 of the brim within the circle described by the cord and causes the brim to assume a transverse arc extending either upwardly or downwardly from its inner edge or with opposite sides turned in different directions. The inner edge of the brim is then turned upwardly to form a flange 16 for subsequent attachment to crown 10. In order to assist handling of the crown and brim during later steps in the manufacture, both parts are treated with a sizing solution and pressed, the top of the crown being pressed during this initial sizing, in its original form with the top convex.

In order to prevent the woven fabric of which the crown 10 and brim 11 are composed, from subsequently stretching or spreading, these parts are stitched, as indicated at 17, in a decorative manner which reinforces the woven threads. The stitching of the crown 10 is started at the center of the top and is spiraled outwardly in an unbroken line to the base of the crown, the adjacent convolutions of stitching ranging preferably from one-quarter to one-half inch apart. It will be understood that separate concentric circles of stitching may be employed as a reinforcement if desired, as well as stitching in any direction transverse to a line perpendicular to the lower edge of the crown. The brim 11 is similarly stitched from the base of the flange spirally outward to the peripheral hemmed edge in which the cord 10 is secured.

The top of crown 10 is then indented in a manner depending on the style or shape desired, and both crown and brim are again sized by the application of a stiffening solution of any well-known composition and thereafter pressed. If found desirable the first step of sizing and pressing, i. e., before the crown and brim are stitched may be omitted. The crown and brim are assembled by telescoping the crown over flange 16 of the brim, the two being then sewed together.

A conventional sweatband 18, preferably composed of leather or the like, is arranged in crown 10 so as to line the base thereof and flange 16 of the brim. The lower edge of sweatband 18 is sewed as at 19 to the brim adjacent the angle formed between the upstanding flange 16 and the laterally extending outwardly curved portion of the brim.

A hatband 20, provided to encircle the base of the crown adjacent the brim, is preferably made of two strips 21—21 of material of equal length and of different color and/or design which are sewed, glued, or otherwise secured together back to back. Adjacent ends of the two strips of materials are sewed onto a suitable buckle 22, as at 23, which is adapted to retain the opposite end of the composite band by friction. Any well known type of buckle may be substituted for the one shown and may incorporate a tongue, teeth or the like, for securing the free end of the band when the latter is arranged on the hat. Thus, with the band encircling the crown only one of the strips 21 will be visible, and, in order to adapt the hat to a different ensemble, the wearer need only to disengage the end of the band from the buckle and rearrange the same with the other strip thereof visible, the free end 24 being again secured by the wearer in buckle 22. It will be obvious that the band may be removed and an entirely different band substituted if desired.

It is common practice to stitch the hatband to the crown at intervals in order to obviate its shifting or creeping on the crown of the hat. Such a method precludes, from a practical standpoint, the reversal of the band so attached, as well as its substitution by the wearer. In order to releasably secure the band or ribbon 20 of my invention in a proper position I provide a series of retaining devices 25 which comprise generally elements adapted for attachment by sewing or the like, as indicated at 26, to the inner surface of the base of crown 10 at spaced distances apart, carrying sharpened ends or hooks adapted to protrude laterally through the crown base and into different reaches of the hatband. In the embodiment of my invention illustrated, these retaining devices 25 each comprise a single piece of wire bent to form a wide flat base 27 which is adapted, when attached as above-described to the crown, to maintain a laterally extending sharpened end 28 protruding through the crown and into the hatband. It will be expressly understood that the retaining devices shown are merely illustrative of the various means which may, in different forms, be utilized to prevent either a circular motion of the band on the crown which would tend to displace buckle 22 or other ornamentation from its desired location, or a creeping of the band toward the narrower upper part of the crown, yet from which the band may be easily disengaged to facilitate its reversal.

It will be observed that while in a completed hat the stitching 17 appears to have merely a decorative function (though it may be made almost invisible, if desired) its mechanical advantage is of the greatest importance in that by its reinforcement of the woven threads it enables the manufacture of the crown of a single piece of fabric and maintains distortion to which the fabric has been subjected in the process of shaping.

While I have illustrated and described but one embodiment of my invention, it will be apparent to those of skill in the art from the foregoing that the emphasized features of my invention may be incorporated in hats of various styles as well as of those of any materials of which hats are commonly made; that said inventive features are not restricted to men's hats; that tape binding of the same length as the cord relative to the original circumference of the brim, may be substituted for the cord; and that numerous changes in size, design, shape and proportion of the various parts may be made without departing from the scope of my invention as defined by the appended claims.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a method of making hats, the steps of: shaping the crown from a single piece of material, reinforcing the crown to maintain the predetermined diameter of the crown by stitching on a line substantially parallel to the lower edge of the crown and intermediate the top and base

thereof, cutting an annular brim of a single piece of material, securing a cord of an inelastic material of a length less than the circumference of the brim in the outer edge of the latter so as to curve the brim from edge to edge thereof, and securing the crown and brim together.

2. In a method of making hats, the steps of: shaping the crown from a single piece of material, reinforcing the crown to maintain the predetermined diameter of the crown by stitching on a line transverse to a line perpendicular to the lower edge of the crown and intermediate the top and base thereof, forming an annular brim of a single piece of material, securing an endless cord of an inelastic material having a circumference of a length less than the circumference of the brim in the outer edge of the latter so as to curve the brim from edge to edge thereof, and securing the crown and brim together.

PHILIP E. YOUNG.