Jan. 3, 1950 E. H. RANKIN 2,493,500

COLLAPSIBLE HAT

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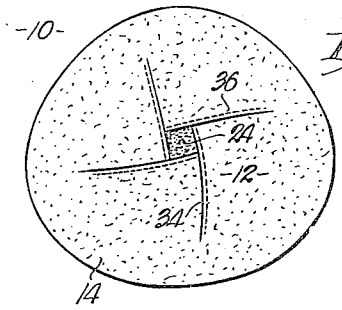


Fig. 3.

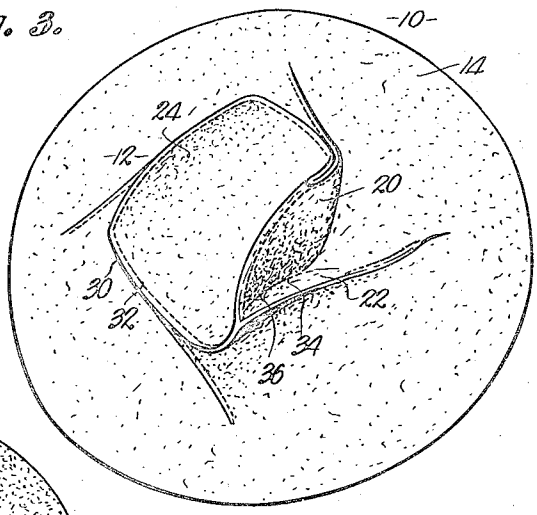


Fig. 2.

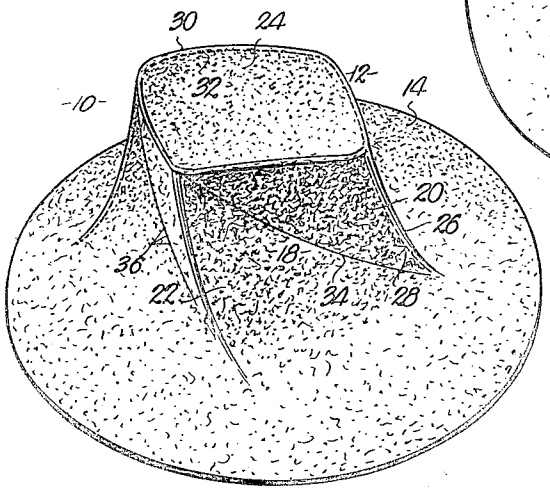


Fig. 1.

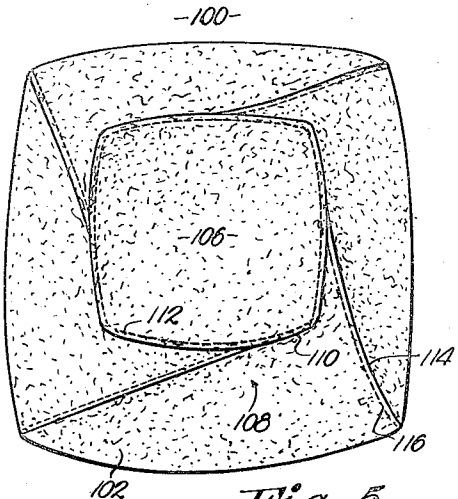


Fig. 5.

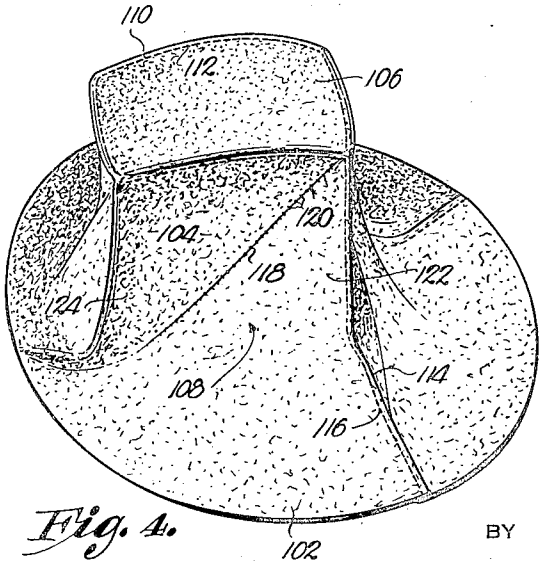


Fig. 4.

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COLLAPSIBLE HAT

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2—175)

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My present invention concerns the art of hat making and relates more specifically to a collapsible hat, the primary object being to provide a basic structure capable of folding to a flat condition for shipment prior to formation into the final designs desired.

The most important object of this invention is to provide a collapsible hat having a cubical crown, the side walls and tip whereof are defined by lines of bend so disposed as to permit folding of the crown into a flat condition.

Another important object is the provision of a collapsible hat having the aforesaid lines of bend set off by distinct creases formed in the material from which the hat is made, which creases are outlined and held by lines of stitching, blocking or pressing.

Other objects lie in the peculiar disposition of the lines of bend setting off distinct side walls in the crown, which side walls are again subdivided into a pair of sections; the manner in which a polygonal tip joins the side walls by lines of flex; and the way in which the hat brim merges with the crown, to the end that the entire hat body is formed from shaped bodies, hoods and a single piece of initially flat material.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of a collapsible hat made in accordance with one form of my invention, showing the same in the open condition.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view showing the hat in collapsed condition, with a portion of the crown turned back to more clearly disclose the construction of the hat.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view showing the hat collapsed.

Fig. 4 is a top perspective view of a modified form of collapsible hat; and

Fig. 5 is a top plan view showing the hat of Fig. 4 collapsed.

The component parts of the hat shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive constitute a body broadly designated by the number 10, having a crown 12 and a brim 14.

The crown 12 is divided into a number of side walls 18, there being four shown to present a cubical interior. Side walls 18 are further divided into a pair of sections 20 and 22 and crown 12 also has a tip portion 24.

The body 10 is initially formed from a flat piece of flexible and preferably highly pliable material such as felt. The first steps of blocking, stretching the crown and brim and forming

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generally is well-known in the art and need not be detailed. Conventional hoods and shaped forms may be employed in making body 10.

The four side walls 18 of the crown 12 are set off by substantially vertical lines of fold 26, there being a pair of these lines 26 along each side of each wall 18. Lines of fold 26 are each formed by creating an exterior crease in the material from which body 10 is made and then pressing, blocking or applying a line of stitching 28 throughout the length of the crease to hold the same in place. It is to be noted that the lowermost ends of all the side walls 18 merge into the brim 14 and that the creases 26 all terminate at their lowermost ends at such point of merger.

The tip 24 of crown 12 is four-sided to agree with the four side walls 18, there being lines of flex 30 formed in the body 10 to set off tip 24 from walls 18. These lines of flex 30 are creased outwardly in the same manner as creases 26 and a line of stitching 32 maintains such lines 30 in a creased condition.

The two sections 20 and 22 of each side wall 18 are defined by the lines 26 and 30 and by a diagonal line of bend 34 formed in the body 10. These lines of bend 34 are creased inwardly as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and are maintained in a creased condition by stitching 36. Lines 34 extend from the uppermost end of one line of fold 26 across the respective side wall 18 to the lowermost end of the opposite line of fold 26 as clearly indicated in Fig. 1. It is also notable that the lines of fold 26, on each side of the side walls 18, diverge as the brim 14 is approached, the width of each side of the tip 24 of crown 12, being less than the width of side walls 18 at the lowermost edges thereof.

When the hat just described is in the open or operative position illustrated in Fig. 1, the tip 24 is substantially flat as are the side walls 18. Tip 24 being flexible, however, a dome shape may well be formed therein depending on the type of ornamental attachments used. Similarly, the hat need not be fully opened, in which event the side walls 18 will be slightly indented along lines 34 and present an unique appearance.

During folding of the hat to a collapsed condition, the tip 24 rotates on a central vertical axis and the section 20 of side wall 18 will overlap the section 22. The innermost face of the tip superimposes on a portion of the innermost faces of the sections 20 when the hat is collapsed, all as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

The form of collapsible hat shown in Figs. 4

and 5 comprises a body 100 having a brim 102, and a crown 104 defined by a polygonal tip 106, and side walls 108. Lines of flex 110, stitches as at 112 set off tip portion 106 from side walls 108 and lines of fold 114, having stitching 116, divide side walls 108 one from the other. Diagonal lines of bend 118, stitched as at 120 segregate each wall 108 into a pair of sections 122 and 124. The creases for lines 110 and 114 are along the outermost face of body 100 while the creases forming lines 118 are disposed inwardly.

In the form now being described, the downwardly diverging lines 114 extend entirely through the brim 102, terminating at the periphery of brim 102. Also the diagonal lines 118 extend from the junction point of one line 114 and lines 110 to the opposite line 114 at the periphery of brim 102.

It is apparent from the foregoing that the hat forming the subject matter of this invention is truly collapsible and that when so collapsed, a flat article is presented that is easily packed for shipment without damage thereto in any way. While only two modifications have been shown and described, obviously many changes may be made to satisfy particular tastes without departing from the scope of this invention as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown and a brim, said crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, there being a pair of said lines of fold along each side respectively of each side wall, the lines of fold of each pair thereof diverging as said brim of the body is approached.

2. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, said sections of the side walls extending in opposite directions from said line of bend in substantially the same plane.

3. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown and a brim, said crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, said side walls merging at one edge thereof with said brim.

4. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown and a brim, said crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, said line of bend of each side wall being diagonally disposed between pairs of said lines of fold.

5. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown and a brim, said crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, said lines of fold extending from the crown through the brim of said body and terminating at one end thereof at a point on the periphery of said brim.

6. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from flexible material to present a crown and a brim, said crown having a plurality of side walls set off one from the other by lines of fold, said side walls each having a line of bend dividing the same into a pair of sections, said line of bend being disposed to render the said crown collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded on said lines of fold and said lines of bend, said lines of fold extending from the crown through the brim of said body and terminating at one end thereof at a point on the periphery of said brim, said lines of bend extending diagonally from one edge of the respective side walls of said body and terminating at said point on the brim periphery.

7. In a hat of the character described, a body formed from a single piece of flexible material to present a brim and a crown having a tip, said crown being substantially cubical and having one open end opposite to said tip; a number of side walls forming a part of said crown, said tip being polygonal and set off from the side walls by lines of flex, said side walls being defined by spaced apart lines of fold extending from said lines of flex toward said brim of the body; and a substantially diagonal line of bend formed in said material along each side wall of said crown to present a pair of sections for each side wall, whereby said crown is rendered collapsible to a substantially flat condition when the crown is folded along said lines of fold, lines of bend and lines of flex.

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