Aug. 20, 1957 M. B. STEVENS 2,803,016

STAY MOUNT FOR HEAD COVERING

Filed July 20, 1955



FIG. 3.

FIG. 1.

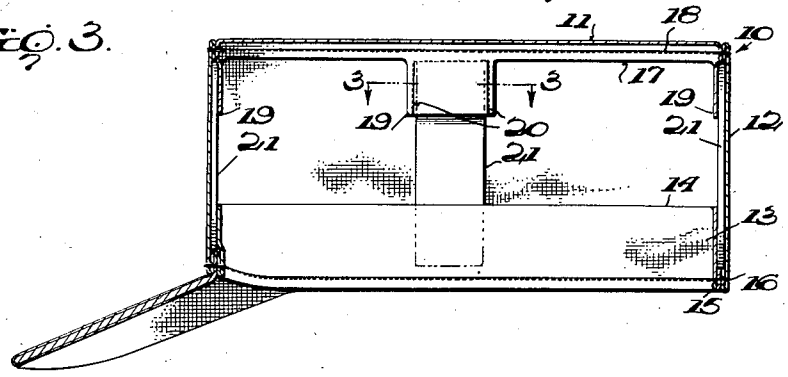


FIG. 2.

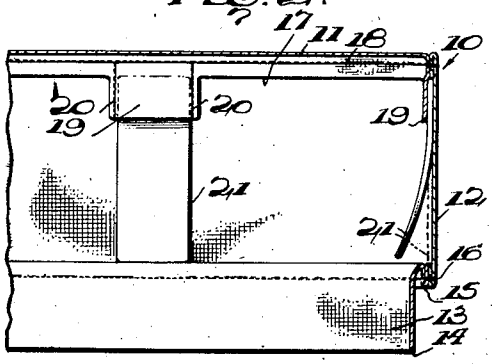
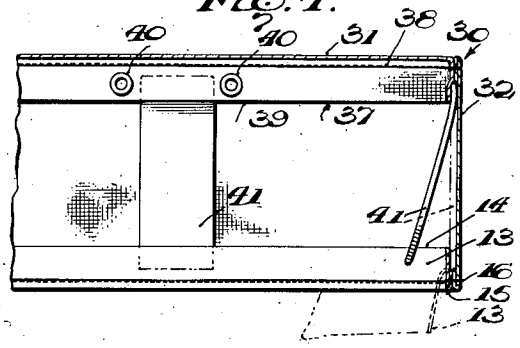


FIG. 4.



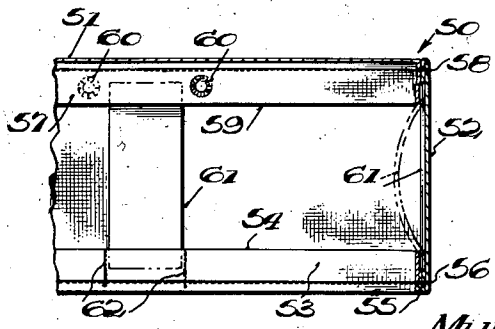


FIG. 5.

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STAY MOUNT FOR HEAD COVERING

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Application July 20, 1955, Serial No. 523,393

16 Claims. (Cl. 2—195)

(Granted under Title 35, U. S. Code (1952), sec. 266)

The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

My invention relates to head coverings and more particularly to lightweight coverings which are intended to be worn in warm weather and which include stays to space the crown of the covering from the head of the wearer. A typical head covering of this general type is disclosed in the patent to Oberrender, No. 2,701,366, dated February 8, 1955. There, as in most devices of this type, the stays are permanently secured in place and cannot readily be removed for replacement. Also, although the stays normally will outwear the head covering material they are doomed to destruction whenever the head covering wears out. Likewise, if the wearer has several replacement head coverings for wear while one is being laundered, each must have its own stays. Hence, it is clear that it is highly desirable to provide readily removable stays and the simplest manner of so doing is to provide stay pockets which are open at the upper end as in the points of lightweight shirt collars. However, if such pockets are formed in the side piece of a head covering and extend the entire height thereof, there is real difficulty in applying and removing the stays without distorting or even damaging the head covering, the stays, the pockets, or all three. If the pockets are of less height than the side piece so as to permit substantial portions to project outwardly thereof they are too readily removable and tend to fall out accidentally.

The device is intended as an improvement over the invention of Joseph DeGrazia filed concurrently herewith, Serial No. 523,394.

With the foregoing in view, it is an object of my invention to provide an improved head covering of the class described.

A further object is to provide improved stay pocket-providing means for such a head covering.

A further object is to provide an improved stay pocket-providing means which is secured to the head covering for "staying" use in an upside down position.

A further object is to provide an improved stay pocket-providing means which is located in an inverted position on a side panel of a head covering adjacent the crown panel and wherein holding means adjacent the lower edge of the side panel retains one or more stays in the inverted pocket-providing means.

A further object is to provide novel means for forming such an inverted pocket, which means provides spaced vents for the head covering.

Other objects and advantages reside in the particular structure of the invention, the structure and design of the several elements thereof, combinations and sub-combination of said elements with each other and with a head covering—all of which will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to the attached drawing

in connection with the following specification wherein the invention is shown, described and claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view through a head covering to which one form of the invention has been applied, the parts being disclosed in the stay-retaining position;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view like Fig. 1 but showing the parts in the stay-removing position;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken on the plane of the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view like Figure 1 but showing a modification of the invention; and

Figure 5 is a view like Figure 4 but showing a further modification.

Referring specifically to the drawing, wherein like reference characters designate like parts in all views and referring at first to the species of invention illustrated in Figures 1–3 inclusive, **10** designates generally any suitable head covering such as a cap which includes a crown **11** and an endles side wall **12**. A sweatband **13** includes a free upper edge **14** and a lower edge **15** which is hinged to the side wall **12** by any suitable hinge-providing means such as the line of stitching **16**. Thus, the sweatband **13** is readily swingable from the upright position of Figure 1 to the downwardly extending position of Figure 2. As so far described, the structure is conventional and forms no part of my invention.

In this form of the invention, the crown **11** is provided with the usual depending hem **17** by which the crown is attached to the side wall **12** by any suitable means such as the line of stitching **18**. Circumferentially spaced tabs **19** which may be integral with the hem **17** extend downwardly along side wall **12** inwardly of the latter. Any suitable laterally spaced means such as the vertical lines of stitching **20** connect the side edges of the tabs **19** to the side wall **12** to provide inverted pockets which slidably seat the upper ends of stiffening stays **21**. Each of the stays **21** has a length corresponding substantially to the distance between the crown **10** and the hinge means **16**. Thus, the lower ends of the stays **21** bear on the hinge-providing means **16** between the sweatband **13** and the side wall **12** whereby sweatband **13** and hinge **16** comprise holding means detachably securing the lower ends of stays **21**. Such holding means is operative to retain the upper ends of the stays **21** in the inverted pockets of the tabs **19** so as to support the crown **11**.

When the head covering **10** is to be laundered, the sweatband is turned to the depending position of Figure 2. When the slightly flexible stays **21** may be bent outwardly to clear the sweatband and thereafter are slid outwardly of the pockets. They are replaced, of course, by a reversed operation.

Figure 4 illustrates a modified species of the invention. In this species, the cap **30** has a crown **31**, side wall **32** and a sweatband **13**. The crown **31** includes an integral annular flange **37** which replaces the hem **17** and which is secured near its upper margin to the side wall **32** by a line of stitching **38** so as to provide a free lower edge **39**. Inverted pockets are formed in the flange **37** by securing laterally spaced portions thereof to the side wall **32** by any suitable means such as the metal or plastic eyelets **40** which provide a series of spaced vents in the upper area of the head covering. Stays **41** are applied to, secured in and removed from such inverted pockets in the same manner as in the first described form of the invention. It should be understood that the eyelets or like vent-providing means **40** may, if desired, be substituted for the stitching **20** of the species of Figs. 1–3.

Figure 5 illustrates a further species of the invention wherein the head covering **50** includes a crown **51**, side

wall 52 and a sweatband 53. The sweatband 53 has a generally free upper edge 54 and a lower edge 55 which is secured to the side wall 52 in any suitable manner as by the stitching 56. As in the species of Fig. 4, the crown 51 has an annular depending flange 57 lying along the inner face of side wall 52 and secured thereto at its upper edge by stitching or the like 58. Flange 57 has a free lower edge 59 and pockets for stays 61 are formed therein by circumferentially spaced pairs of laterally spaced, vent-providing sewn eyelets 60 the stitches of which extend through the side wall 52. Also, in this form of the invention, upright pockets are formed in the sweatband 53 by circumferentially spaced pairs of laterally spaced lines of stitching 62 securing the sweatband to the side wall 52. The pockets thus formed are vertically aligned with the inverted pockets of the flange 57 and receive the lower ends of the stays 61 therein.

The operation of this form of the invention differs from those previously described in that the sweatband is not free to be swung to the depending position because of the pocket forming lines of stitching 62. Hence, to remove or apply the slightly flexible stays 61 it is necessary to bow them as illustrated in broken lines in Fig. 5 to bring the upper and lower ends close enough together to clear the free edges of the flange 57 and sweatband 53.

It is obvious from the foregoing that in any form of the invention the stays are secured in position against accidental displacement yet are readily removable and replaceable when the need arises without the use of separate fasteners or stitching. Likewise, it is apparent that the lightest cap material may be used and still be maintained in a proper shape.

In each of the forms illustrated, four stays have been used, one centrally of each side (only one being illustrated) and one centrally of the front and rear. Obviously, the exact number and location of the stays is not critical and the use of more or less stays at different locations is contemplated.

Moreover, while I have shown and described what are now thought to be the preferred embodiments of the invention, it should be understood that the same is susceptible of other forms and expressions. Consequently, it is not my intention to limit the invention to the precise structures shown and described hereinabove except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. In a head covering including a crown piece and a substantially cylindrical side wall secured thereto concentrically thereof and depending therefrom, a sweatband having a free upper edge and a lower edge, hinge-providing means hingedly securing said lower edge of said sweatband to said side wall concentrically of the latter; the improvement comprising means providing at least one inverted pocket fixed to said side wall and extending downwardly from said crown piece, said pocket having an open mouth, said mouth being located in vertically spaced relation to said crown piece and to said free upper edge of said sweatband, a stiffening stay having a length coextensive with the distance between said hinge-providing means and said crown piece, said stay having an upper end seated in said pocket and a lower end bearing on said hinge-providing means to retain said stay in said pocket.

2. A head covering according to claim 1 wherein said pocket comprises a tab integral with said crown piece and depending therefrom, and said tab having opposite side edges secured to said side wall.

3. A head covering according to claim 1, wherein said pocket comprises an integral downward extension of said crown piece.

4. A head covering according to claim 1, there being an annular flange integral with said crown piece and depending therefrom and laterally spaced means securing said flange to said side wall to form said pocket.

5. In a head covering including a crown, an endless side wall depending therefrom concentrically thereof, and a sweatband having a free upper edge and a lower edge secured to said side wall; the improvement comprising an annular flange integral with said crown and depending therefrom along said side wall inwardly of the latter, means forming circumferentially spaced inverted pockets in said flange, said pockets each having a mouth in vertically spaced relation to said crown and to said free upper edge of said sweatband, stiffening stays each having a length coextensive with the distance between said crown and said secured lower edge of said sweatband and having upper ends seated in said pockets, means forming circumferentially spaced upright pockets in said sweatband, and each of said upright pockets being vertically aligned with one of said inverted pockets and receiving said lower end of a stay therein.

6. In a head covering including a crown, an endless side wall depending therefrom concentrically thereof, and a sweatband having a free upper edge and a lower edge, hinge means hingedly securing said lower edge of said sweatband to said side wall; the improvement comprising pocket forming means providing a series of circumferentially spaced inverted pockets connected to and extending downwardly from said crown along said side wall inwardly of the latter, said pockets being vertically spaced from said upper edge of said sweatband, said pockets each having a mouth in downwardly spaced relation to said crown, a plurality of stiffening stays, said stays having upper ends seated in said pockets and said stays having lower ends bearing on said hinge means between said sweatband and said side wall whereby to releasably retain said upper ends in said pockets so as to support said crown.

7. A head covering according to claim 6, wherein said pocket-forming means comprises flexible sheet means overlying said side wall inwardly thereof in the region of said crown, and laterally spaced pairs of ventilating eyelets connecting said sheet means to said side wall.

8. A head covering according to claim 6, wherein said crown includes circumferentially spaced depending tabs comprising said means providing said pockets.

9. A head covering according to claim 6, wherein said crown includes an integral annular depending flange, said flange having laterally spaced portions, and spaced means securing said laterally spaced portions of said flange to said side wall to provide said pockets.

10. A head covering according to claim 6, wherein said sweatband is formed to provide upright pockets in vertically aligned relation to said inverted pockets, said lower ends of said stays being received in said upright pockets.

11. A head covering according to claim 9, there being laterally spaced portions of said sweatband, and spaced means securing said laterally spaced portions of said sweatband to said side wall to provide a circumferential series of spaced upright pockets, there being an upright pocket in vertical alignment with each inverted pocket, and said lower ends of said stays being slidably seated in said upright pockets.

12. In a head covering including a crown and an endless side wall depending therefrom concentrically thereof; the improvement comprising flexible sheet means extending downwardly from said crown along said side wall inwardly of the latter said sheet means including at least a pair of laterally spaced portions, laterally spaced vent-providing means securing said laterally spaced portions of said sheet means to said side wall to provide an inverted pocket, said sheet means having a free lower edge portion between said spaced portions which defines a mouth for said inverted pocket, a stiffening stay having an upper end slidably seated in said pocket, holding means on said side wall in downwardly spaced relation to said pocket, and said stay having a lower end in readily re-

leasable engagement with said holding means whereby to retain said upper end of said stay in said pocket.

13. A head covering according to claim 12, wherein said sheet means comprises a tab disposed along said side wall in the region of said crown.

14. A head covering according to claim 12, wherein said sheet means comprises a flange integral with said crown and depending therefrom.

15. A head covering according to claim 12, wherein said sheet means comprises a flange integral with said crown and depending therefrom, and wherein said holding means comprises a sweatband hinged to said side wall.

16. A head covering according to claim 12, wherein said sheet means comprises a flange integral with said

crown and depending therefrom, wherein said holding means comprises a sweatband hinged to said side wall, and therebeing an upright pocket in said sweatband in vertical alignment with said inverted pocket, said upright pocket seating said lower end of said stay.

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