April 20, 1926. 1,581,445

J. E. HOOVER

HAT PROTECTOR

Original Filed April 8, 1922

Fig. 1.

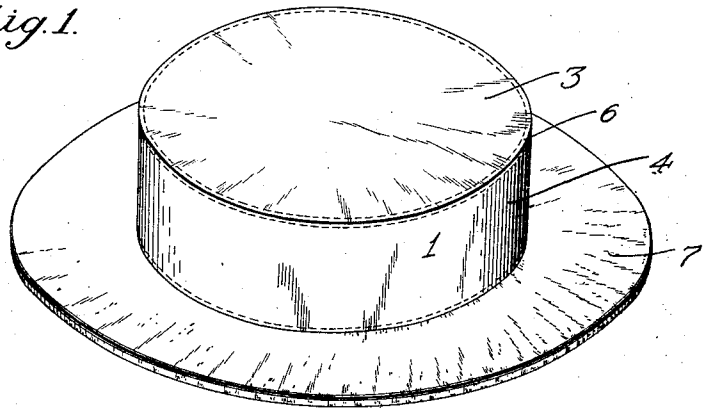
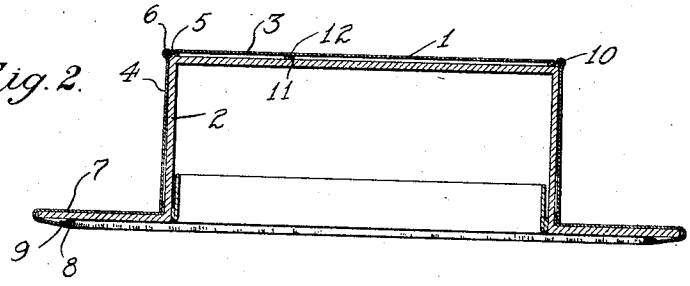


Fig. 2.



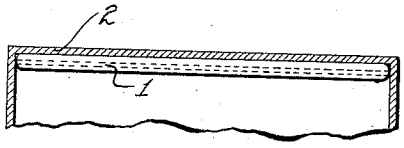


Fig. 3.

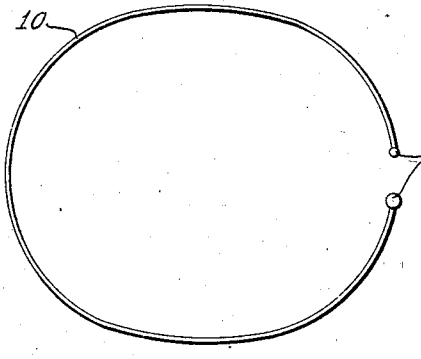


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. HOOVER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

HAT PROTECTOR.

Application filed April 8, 1922, Serial No. 550,777. Renewed March 15, 1926.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. HOOVER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates generally to improvements in that class of inventions known as apparel and more particularly has reference to hat protectors.

The invention has for its primary aim and object to provide a device of the above character formed of water-proof material and designed for removable engagement over a hat, preferably a straw, to protect the same in inclement weather, and while traveling on a train or riding in automobiles, or the like, the device also being of such a nature that it may be placed and retained within the crown of the hat when not in use and without inconveniencing the wearer.

A further object of the invention is to provide a protector to be worn over the hat and made of water-proof material, of such a nature as to permit the passage of air therethrough, so as to obviate any interference with the natural coolness of the hat when the protector is over the hat or when it is stored away within the crown.

As an additional and equally important object, the invention embraces the provision of a device of the above character wherein improved means is employed for supporting the crown of the protector, that is holding the same in an extended position, and in frictionally engaging the inner surface of the side of the crown of the hat for the retention of the protector therein, said means being preferably formed from a single piece of resilient and relatively stiff wire bent desirably into the form of an open oval shaped ring.

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a device of the above character wherein the outer edges of the top crown piece of the protector and the upper edges of the side crown piece are connected together to form a casing, while the ends of the ring are formed with knobs to prevent injury to the protector or hat.

Among the other aims and objects of the invention may be recited the provision of a device of the above mentioned character with a view to compactness and wherein the number of parts are few, the construction simple, the cost of production low, and the efficiency high.

Further objects as well as the nature, characteristic features and scope of this invention will be more readily understood from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the claim forming a part of this specification.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the invention applied about a hat,

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof,

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse sectional detail through the crown of a hat, showing the protector arranged therein when not in use, and

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the ring.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the above described views to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring now, more particularly, to the drawings there is provided the improved protector generally designated by the numeral 1 for removable engagement with a hat 2. In the present instance the protector may be said to consist of a top crown piece 3 connected with the upper edges of an annular side crown piece 4 in any suitable manner such as by stitches or the like 5, care being taken to form an annular casing or the like 6 at the time the parts are connected. This casing or passageway 6 may be formed, however, in any suitable way, either entirely in the piece 3 or entirely in the piece 4, but it is desirable to have the passage adjacent the meeting edges of the parts 3 and 4. Suitably connected to the lower edges of the side crown piece is the annular brim piece 7 which with the top and side crown pieces is formed of suitable water-proof or water-proofed material of a flexible nature, such as cotton or the like. I prefer to use water-proof fabrics treated in such a way that the cells of the fibres, through an electro-chemical reaction, are impregnated with a water-repellent substance, the spaces between the threads remaining unclogged so that air may readily pass through the fabric and ventilation be assured. Fabrics of this character and the process of making the same are disclosed in U. S. Letters Patent 933,861, September 14, 1907, and 1,208,400. December 12, 1916. Means is also provided

for contracting the outer edges of the brim piece which may consist of an elastic band 8 retained within a casing 9 formed at the outer edges of said brim piece.

With a view toward providing the improved supporting means for the crown piece 3 an open oval shaped expansible ring 10 is employed being preferably formed of relatively stiff wire. The ends of the ring desirably terminate in knobs 11 to prevent injury to the protector, when being inserted or when in the protector itself, subsequent to the insertion of the ring into the casing 6 through an opening 12 situated at any convenient point preferably on the inside thereof. By this arrangement the crown piece 3 is held extended and lies smoothly over the crown of the hat 2 while the side crown piece snugly engages the side of the hat crown and the casing 9 with the band 8 therein engages beneath the outer edge of the hat brim and holds the brim piece 7 thereover as indicated. When removed, the band 8 contracts and draws the brim piece 7 within the edges of and beneath the crown piece 3. Subsequently the ring 10 may be slightly contracted and the protector inverted and inserted within the crown of the hat 2, so that when released owing to the expansion of the ring, the protector is frictionally engaged with the inner surface of the side crown piece of the hat 2, as shown in Figure 3. The hat may be worn in this manner without inconveniencing the wearer, as is apparent. The protector, being light in weight, adds no appreciable weight to the hat, either when in use or when stored away in the crown of the hat, and being made of water-proof porous material, does not interfere with the ventilation of the hat.

In connection with the ring, it may be stated that should it lose some of its expansibility it is only necessary to remove the same from the casing and spread the same, such as by drawing the wire through the hands. As a result, when it is replaced, it maintains its usual effectiveness.

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

A hat protector including a top crown piece, a side crown piece having its upper edge connected to the outer edge of the top crown piece, an annular tubular casing arranged at the place of connection of said pieces and provided with a mouth, a resilient split ring arranged in said casing and adapted to be removed from the casing through said mouth, said ring having knobs at its ends to prevent puncturing of the casing while threading the ring into or removing the same from said casing, a brim piece connected to the lower edge of the side crown piece and provided at its edge with an elastic band.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN E. HOOVER.