July 10, 1951 C. J. GAROFALO 2,559,867

SHEATHED HAIR COMB

Filed Aug. 18, 1947

FIG. 1

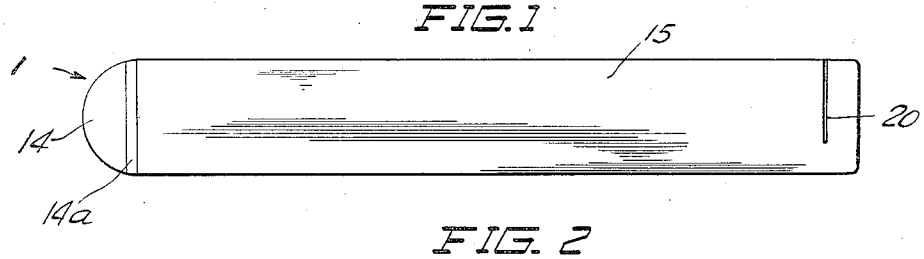



FIG. 2

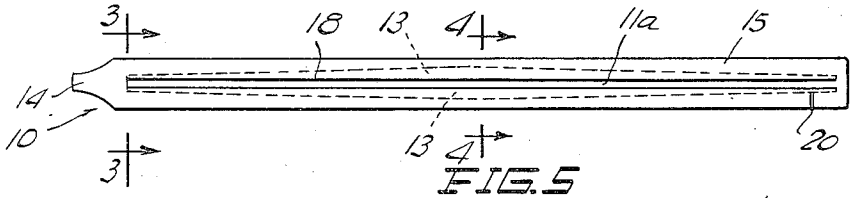



FIG. 5

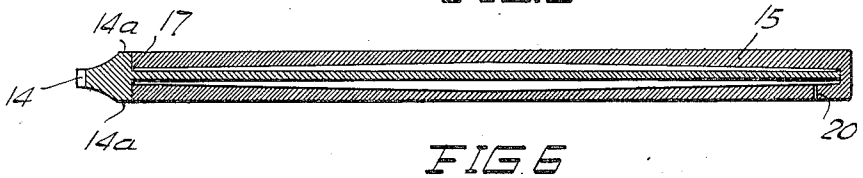



FIG. 6

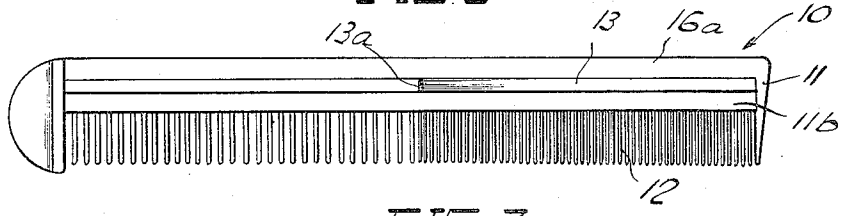



FIG. 7

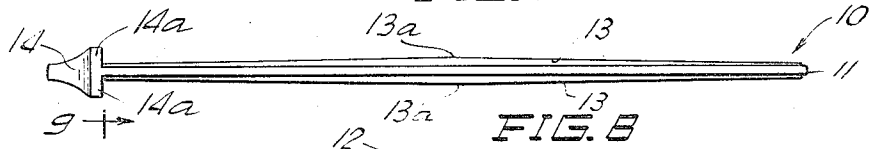



FIG. 8

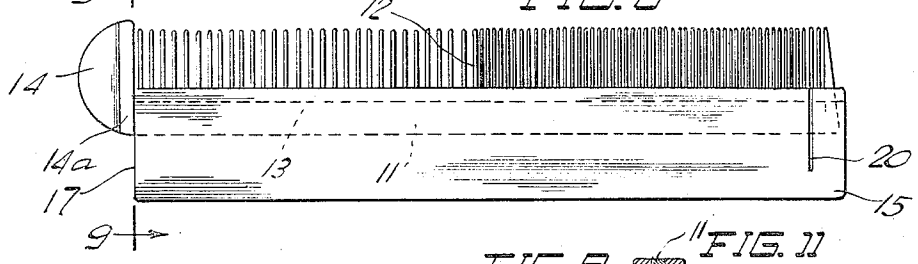



FIG. 3 FIG. 4 FIG 10

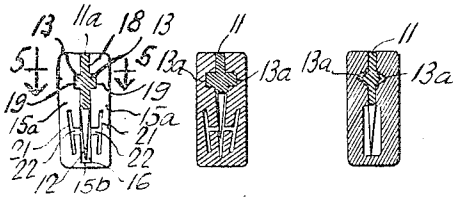



FIG. 9

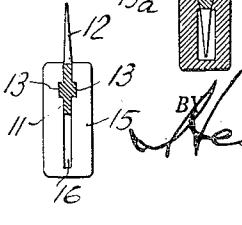



FIG. 11




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## SHEATHED HAIR COMB

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6 Claims. (Cl. 132—15)

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This invention relates to sheathed hair combs, that is to say, to hair comb and sheath or case combinations.

Such combinations are usually of sufficiently small dimensions to conveniently fit within a pocket of clothing or within a hand bag, and are popularly known as "pocket combs and cases." They are widely used, being carried by both men and women for the purpose of combing the hair at odd moments during the day.

A disadvantage of such combinations is that the comb is likely to slip partially or entirely out of the sheath or case while being carried. This is often overcome in sheaths or cases made of leather or similar material by providing a closure flap at the insert opening of the sheath or case. Yet leather and similar soft and yieldable materials do not adequately protect the comb teeth from breakage even when fully sheathing the comb.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a rigid sheath or case which will prevent breakage of the comb teeth and which, in correlation with the comb, is so constructed as to positively retain the comb at all times when not in use.

An object is to provide a comb and sheath combination as above, wherein the sheath may be quickly and conveniently attached to the back of the comb, giving greater depth thereto for use as a handle during a combing operation.

An object is to provide such a combination wherein the teeth of the comb do not contact the sheath, thereby fully protecting the comb against contamination.

An object is to provide all the above in such manner as will permit low-cost mass production.

In accomplishing these objects I form the sheath or case from a rigid material which has a limited degree of resiliency in sheet form. Examples of such material are the thermoplastics and certain metals such as aluminum. By providing the back of the comb intermediate its depth with laterally projecting and longitudinally extending ribs of oppositely tapering longitudinal wedge formation and by forming the sheath or case of mating formation, bordering an open longitudinal receiving slot for the comb-back, the comb snaps into place in the sheath and is held against accidental displacement. Furthermore, the open receiving slot for the comb-back, extending as a slideway along the length of one of the narrow sides of the sheath, permits insertion of the comb-back, as a slide, not only with the teeth extending inwardly of the sheath, which

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is the sheathed and protected position of the comb, but also with the teeth extending outwardly, which is the position wherein the sheath adds depth to the comb-back and serves as a handle during a combing operation.

The walls of the sheath may be and preferably are thick enough to be slotted longitudinally, in communication with the comb-receiving recess, to provide pockets for the reception of sanitizing or deodorizing agents, or if desired, auxiliary implements such as nail files.

Further objects and features of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of the particular preferred embodiment illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the comb and sheath combination, showing the comb fully sheathed;

Fig. 2 is a top elevation;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3, Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a similar section taken on the line 4—4, Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal section taken on the line 5—5, Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the comb per se;

Fig. 7 is a similar top plan view;

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the comb fitted into the sheath so the latter adds depth to the comb back and serves as a handle;

Fig. 9 is a vertical section taken on the line 9—9, Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a section similar to that of Fig. 4 illustrating a somewhat modified form; and

Fig. 11 is a similar section illustrating another modified form.

Referring now to the drawing; as illustrated in Figs. 1 through 9, the sheathed comb, or comb and case combination, of the invention comprises a comb 10 elongated in customary style and embodying a comb-back 11 and teeth 12, see particularly Figs. 6 and 7.

Intermediate the depth of the comb-back 11 and extending longitudinally at opposite sides thereof are laterally projecting ribs 13. The ribs 13 are symmetrically disposed on opposite sides of the comb-back 11, as will be obvious from Figs. 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11. The ribs 13 are also symmetrically disposed with respect to a plane into right angles to the plane of the comb, whether the ribs are in the form illustrated in Figs. 3, 4, and 9, or the form illustrated in Fig. 11. Such ribs are of oppositely tapering longitudinal wedge formation, as shown, extending, in the present instance, substantially the entire length of the comb and having their

respective wedge peaks or apices 13*a* disposed substantially centrally of the comb. As illustrated, such ribs are rectangular in cross section, see Figs. 3 and 4. They may however be otherwise formed so as to have, for instance, the triangular cross section of Fig. 10 or a semi-circular cross section. Furthermore, such ribs 13 need not extend the entire length of the comb-back, but may be restricted to considerably lesser portions of the length for example one-half or one-quarter of the length. The longer the ribs are, however, the smoother will be the action upon inserting the comb in its case.

The entire comb-back 11 is formed as a slide for insertion in a corresponding slideway of the case or sheath. To this end, in the present embodiment, the portions 11*a* and 11*b* of the comb-back, above and below the ribs 13, respectively, may be rectilinear and of uniform thickness so as to, in effect, serve as guides. However, the ribs themselves may comprehend substantially the entire depth of the comb-back, as illustrated in Fig. 11.

One end of the comb 10 is provided with preferably a stubby handle member 14 having lateral flange portions 14*a* for a purpose hereinafter made clear.

The sheathed comb, or comb and case combination, comprises, in addition to the comb 10, a sheath or case 15 which is formed and dimensioned to receive the comb 10.

Such sheath or case 15 is deeply and narrowly recessed longitudinally, as indicated at 16, Fig. 9, and has one open end 17 through which the comb is inserted. One of its narrow longitudinal sides is slotted along its length, see 18, providing a longitudinal open mouth for the comb-receiving recess 16. Such open mouth 18 is formed as a slideway for the reception of the comb-back 11, whether the teeth 12 of the comb be directed inwardly of the sheath or case, as in Figs. 3 and 4, or outwardly, as in Figs. 8 and 9. For this purpose the defining walls of open mouth 18 are recessed, as at 19, to mate with the ribs 13 of the comb-back.

The walls of the sheath or case are substantially rigid, for the purpose of protecting the comb-teeth 12 against breakage; but to permit insertion of the comb-back 11 within its slideway 18, such walls must possess a certain resiliency. Many materials will afford the desired resiliency, but for ease of fabrication it is preferred to mold the sheath or case 15 from a thermoplastic material. The broad side walls 15*a* may be fairly thick and the interconnecting narrow or back wall 15*b* relatively thin to enhance the desired resilient effect. Furthermore, a slit 20, Fig. 8, may be provided to permit freer response of the sheath or case to insertion of the comb. This may not be necessary in all instances, depending upon the material employed, the extent of "throw" caused by the ribs of the comb-back, and the location and length of the ribs.

During insertion of the comb in its sheath or case, the walls of the latter will flex outwardly to the extent required by the rib formation of the comb-back. Upon completion of the insertion, they will snap back to hug the comb-back and hold it against accidental displacement.

The lower part of the comb-receiving recess 16 is preferably configurated and dimensioned so that the walls of the sheath or case do not touch the teeth of the comb, see Figs. 3 and 4, thereby further protecting the teeth from breakage and lessening the chances of contamination.



It will be noted that, when the comb is fully inserted in the sheath or case, the lateral flange portions 14*a* of the comb handle 14 overlap the defining edges of the open end 17 of the sheath or case, thereby closing that end to the entrance of dust and dirt. The longitudinal slot or mouth 18 of the sheath or case is closed by the comb-back. If a wall slit 20 is provided it need be only a cut, not sufficiently open to admit dust or dirt.

When it is desired to include auxiliary toilet implements, such as a nail file or sand board, with the comb and case combination, and/or to provide for sanitizing or otherwise treating the teeth of the comb while within the case, one or more though preferably a pair of elongated pockets 21, Figs. 3 and 4, of suitable formation may be provided in the thick walls 15*a* of the sheath or case parallel with the comb-receiving, deep recess 16, a correspondingly elongated narrow slot 22 being provided in the partition wall between a pocket 21 and the deep recess for the purpose of intercommunication of the two. Such opening, incidentally, makes for a certain flexibility of the otherwise relatively thick and unyielding side wall in which the slot is formed, thereby permitting it to flex somewhat in itself when the comb is inserted within the sheath or case, without sacrificing the protective rigidity of such side wall.

The sanitizing material inserted within a pocket 21 may be an elongated absorbent pad impregnated with a volatile antiseptic or disinfectant, the sanitizing action taking place by way of the slot 22.

While the relative placement of ribs and mating groove recesses is preferably as illustrated, it may be reversed. That is to say, the rib formations may be provided by the sheath or case and the cooperating groove recesses by the comb-back.

Whereas this invention has been illustrated and described with respect to certain preferred forms thereof, it should be understood that the inventive concepts defined by the following claims may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A comb and case combination wherein the case may contain and protect the comb or serve as a handle therefor, said combination comprising: an elongated comb having a back formed as a slide and provided with laterally projecting longitudinally extending ribs of oppositely tapering longitudinal web formation; and a correspondingly elongated case of slightly resilient material recessed longitudinally for receiving said comb, the recess in said case being open at one end to provide entry for said comb into said case and having an open mouth extending longitudinally of said case forming a slideway in said case formed to mate with the back of said comb, whereby the walls of said case flex outwardly during insertion of said comb longitudinally therein but snap back to hold said comb firmly in place when inserted with its teeth extending within said case or outwardly thereof.

2. A comb and case combination wherein the case may contain and protect the comb or serve as a handle therefor, said combination comprising: a recessed elongated case open longitudinally and at one end; a slideway formed longitudinally of the mouth of the recess in said case; and an elongated comb having a back formed as a slide for reception by said slideway, the back of said comb possessing longitudinally extending ribs of

oppositely tapering longitudinal wedge formation and said slideway being formed to mate therewith.

3. The combination recited in claim 2 wherein the slide of the comb back is formed as a longitudinally extending rectangular guide strip along the free edge of said comb back, and said slideway is formed as a corresponding guide portion for receiving said guide strip.

4. The combination recited in claim 3 wherein the comb embodies a handle member at one end which protrudes from the open end of the case when the comb is completely inserted therein.

5. The combination recited in claim 4 wherein the handle member is flanged laterally to overlap the defining edges of the open end of the case thereby to close the end of the case to the entrance of dust and dirt.

6. In combination, a comb and a case: said comb having longitudinal ribs symmetrically disposed along opposite sides of the back thereof and also symmetrically disposed with respect to a longitudinal plane at right angles to the plane of said comb, the ribs on said comb being oppositely tapered in longitudinal wedge formation; and said case being deeply recessed to receive



said comb, said case being open at one end, and along one narrow longitudinal side thereof to provide a longitudinal open mouth for the comb-receiving recess therein; the walls defining the open mouth of said case being longitudinally and oppositely recessed to mate with the ribs on said comb to permit insertion of the comb back into said case and there to retain said comb with the teeth of said comb directed inwardly or outwardly of said case.

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