Z. ŽÁK.

METHOD OF MAKING WIGS.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 2, 1916.

1,199,144. Patented Sept. 26, 1916.

Fig. 1.

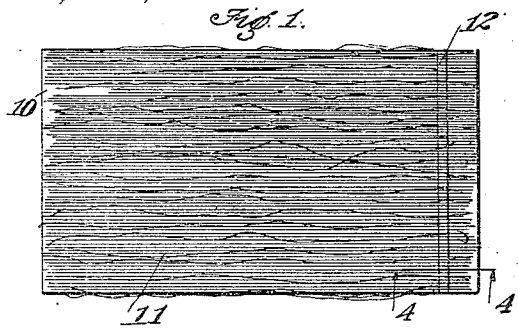


Fig. 2.

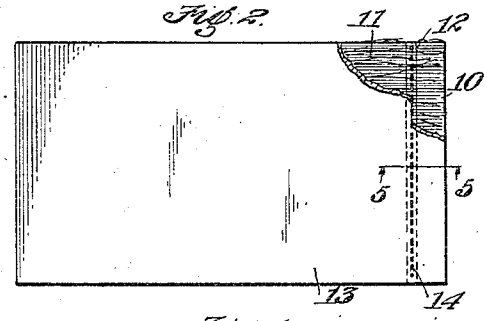


Fig. 3.

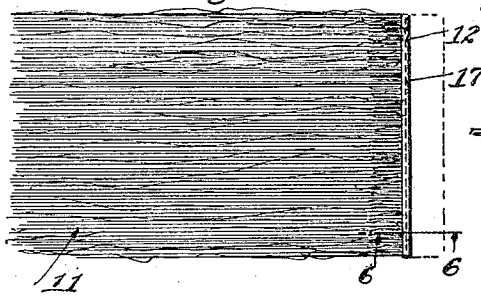


Fig. 4.

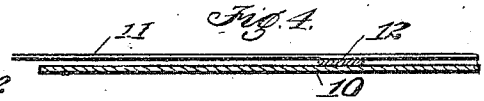


Fig. 5.

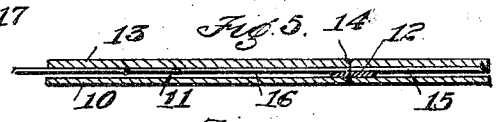


Fig. 6.

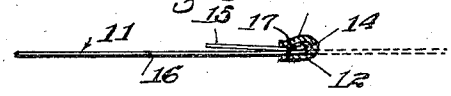


Fig. 7.

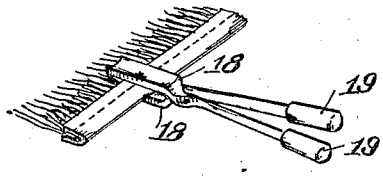


Fig. 8.

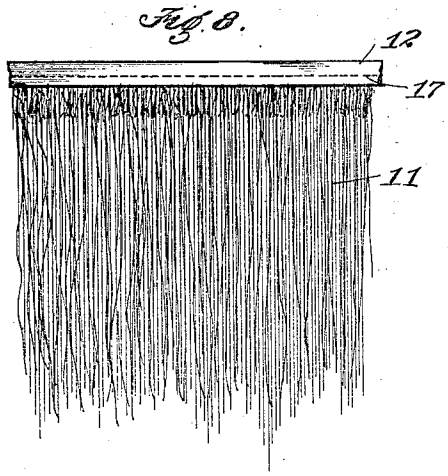
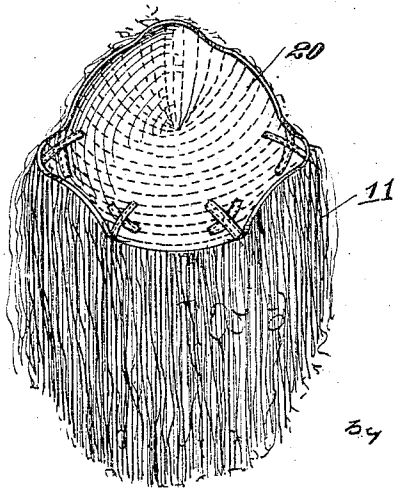


Fig. 9.



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METHOD OF MAKING WIGS.

1,199,144. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 26, 1916

Application filed March 2, 1916. Serial No. 81,689.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ZAN ŽÁK, a citizen of Austria, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Methods of Making Wigs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to wigs and method of making the same.

In the ordinary method of making wigs, wefts of hair are suitably attached to the outside of a cap shaped frame made of textile fabric, usually by sewing the wefts thereto. The greater portion of the wefts are arranged in spaced and parallel horizontal relation to each other and the hair falling downwardly covers the seams and give the appearance of one continuous body of hair, resembling the natural growth of hair on the human scalp. The method hitherto in use of making these separate wefts was to take a plurality of strands of cords, usually three in number and to interweave tufts of hair by braiding the strands of the cords upon the upper ends of said tufts of hair. This method of making the wefts is slow and laborious. I have devised a new method of making wefts which is exceedingly simply and which results not only in a great economy of time and labor, but also produces a superior article in which the hair is more uniformly distributed and firmly secured in place. The wefts of hair are then attached to the textile frame in the same or any preferred manner as the wefts produced by the old method described above.

A wig constructed with wefts made by the new method is superior in appearance and also more durable than the wigs made up of wefts produced by the old method. Furthermore the new improved wefts of hair are more durable, the ends of the hair being firmly anchored to the attaching member.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, my invention consists of the novel steps of the method of producing wefts and the wig constructed therewith, hereinafter described and claimed.

My invention will be better understood with the aid of the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification, in which I have illustrated the means used in making the weft, and the resulting weft and wig.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a sheet of tissue paper having a strip of rubber tissue and a layer of hair placed thereon. Fig. 2 is a plan view with parts broken away of the same as shown in Fig. 1, showing a second sheet of tissue paper placed on top. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the weft shown in Fig. 2, the tissue paper having been ripped off after the strip of rubber tissue has been sewed and the short ends of the hair of the weft has been turned upon itself preliminary to sewing the second seam. Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are vertical sections on an enlarged scale taken on lines 4—4, 5—5, and 6—6 of Figs. 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Fig. 7 shows the application of a hot pressing tool used for causing the folded strip of rubber tissue and the weft of hair to unite to form one solid strip in which the hair is imbedded. Fig. 8 is a front elevation of a portion of a weft with the hair hanging down. Fig. 9 is a front elevation of a wig looking into the interior of the frame.

A sheet of paper preferably tissue paper 10 of a size to correspond to the width of the weft desired and the length of the hair used is placed flat on a suitable support, such as a table. A narrow strip of rubber tissue 12 is placed transversely across the paper, about one half to one inch from the right hand side of said sheet of paper. A layer of hair 11, all of which is running in the same direction, is evenly distributed thereon as shown in Fig. 1, the root ends of the hair being on the right hand end of the tissue paper and projecting beyond the strip of rubber tissue 12. Then another sheet of tissue paper 13 of a size and shape to correspond to the sheet of tissue paper 11 is placed on top of the hair. In the practical operation of the method, one operator will arrange a number of these units consisting of two sheets of tissue paper between which a layer of hair is evenly arranged and which is provided with the strip of rubber tissue as just described, and pile them one on top of the other until a large stack is produced. Another operator will take the stack and pass each unit under the needle of a sewing machine, sewing a seam 14 along and through the strip of rubber tissue 12, the tissue paper being sufficiently translucent to enable the

operator to see the position of the rubber strip therethrough. After the seam 14 is made, the tissue paper sheets are ripped off from the strip of rubber tissue, the said sheet of tissue paper easily tearing along the seam.

The root end portion 15 of the layer of hair 11 is now folded back upon the major portion 16 of the hair, the line of folding being on the strip of rubber tissue 12 which also is folded upon itself as clearly shown in Fig. 6. The weft of hair is again passed under the needle of the sewing machine and a second seam 17 is made sewing the folded edges of said strip together.

The rubber tissue used in my method is a commercial article used by tailors and dressmakers and is known under the name of rubber tissue. The same contains a large portion of rubber, and will, when heated, become soft and melt. While I use the rubber tissue described, it will be understood that any other suitable strip of material which is flexible and which may be sewed, and which has the property of fusing when heated to a suitable temperature may be employed.

The next step in the process of my method is to subject the folded and sewn strip of rubber tissue to a hot pressing operation. For that purpose, I prefer to use a hot pressing tool shown in Fig. 5, which consists of a pair of flat jaws 18 pivoted together and manually operated by means of handles 19. The jaws of said tool are heated to a suitable temperature and applied to successive portions of the rubber tissue 12 throughout its length. This hot pressing operation will cause the rubber tissue to melt or fuse and form one solid strip. By the hot pressing operation just described, the individual hairs are firmly imbedded in said strip.

The wefts of hair produced as described are now sewed on a textile frame 20 shown in Fig. 9 to form the wig. The wig thus made is superior to the wigs produced by the old method in which the wefts are made by braiding strands of cords together between which tufts or wisps of hair have been interwoven, for the reason that my improved wefts have the hair more evenly distributed. Furthermore the hairs are firmly embedded or set in the rubber tissue.

The principal object of this invention is to produce an improved weft by embedding individual hair in a strip of thin rubber-like material.

While I have shown the preferred method of producing wefts and wigs, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes in the steps of my method may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A method of making wefts for wigs comprising uniformly spreading a layer of hair on a sheet of tissue paper, said tissue paper having a strip of rubber tissue placed transversely across and under said layer of hair, the root ends of said hair being on one side and projecting for a small distance beyond said strip of rubber tissue, placing a second sheet of tissue paper over said layer of hair, sewing a seam through said sheets and hair, said seam passing longitudinally through said strip, tearing off the sheets of tissue paper, doubling the root end of the layer of hair upon the long end thereof, doubling the strip of rubber tissue upon itself, sewing the folded edges of said rubber tissue together and hot pressing said strip of rubber tissue to cause the folded portions to unite to form a solid strip in which the hair is firmly embedded.

2. A method of making wefts for wigs comprising uniformly spreading a layer of hair on a sheet of paper, said paper having a strip of rubber tissue placed transversely across and under said layer of hair, the root ends of said hair being on one side and projecting for a small distance beyond said strip of rubber tissue, placing a second sheet of paper over said layer of hair, sewing a seam through said sheets and hair, said seam passing longitudinally through said strip, removing said sheets from the weft, doubling the short end of the layer of hair upon the long end thereof, doubling the strip of rubber tissue upon itself, sewing the folded edges of said rubber tissue together and subjecting said strip to heat to form a solid strip in which the hair is firmly embedded.

3. A method of making wefts for wigs, comprising spreading a layer of hair transversely of a strip of material fusible at elevated temperatures so that the root ends of said hair project on one side for a small distance beyond said strip, sewing a seam through said hair, said seam passing longitudinally through said strip, doubling the short end of the layer of hair on the long end, doubling said strip upon itself, sewing the folded edges of said strip together, and subjecting the same to heat to cause the folded portion to unite and form a solid strip in which the hair is firmly embedded.

4. A method of making wefts for wigs, comprising uniformly spreading a layer of hair transversely over a strip of rubber tissue so that the root ends of said hair project on one side for a small distance beyond said strip, sewing a seam through said hair, said seam passing longitudinally through said strip, doubling the short end of the layer of hair upon the long end, doubling the strip of rubber tissue upon itself, sewing the folded edges of said rubber tissue

together and subjecting said strip to heat to cause the folded portion to unite and form a solid strip in which the hair is firmly embedded.

5. A wig comprising a flexible frame having a plurality of wefts in which the root ends of the hair are firmly embedded in a thin solid strip of material which is fusible at elevated temperatures.

6. A wig comprising a flexible frame having a plurality of wefts in which the root ends of the separate hairs are firmly embedded in a thin solid strip of flexible material.

7. A weft for wigs comprising a layer of hair having the root end portion thereof on one side and turned upon itself, the hair along the crease being embedded in a single solid strip of flexible material.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

ZAN ŽÁK.