

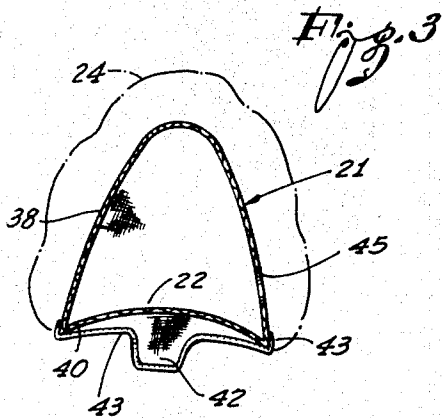
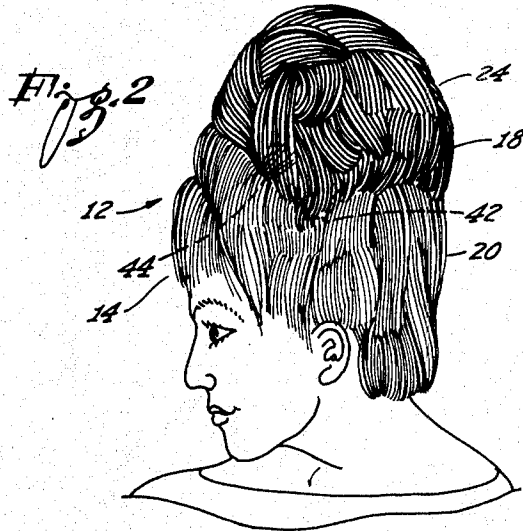
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ELEVATED WIG FOR FORMING AN ENLARGED HAIRDO

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**ELEVATED WIG FOR FORMING AN
 ENLARGED HAIRDO**

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The present invention relates to means for facilitating the preparation of hairdos and more particularly to a wig for being combined with a person's natural hair to assist in the creation of a hairdo or coiffure.

At the present time, it is fashionable for women to arrange their hair into "bulky" coiffures with a major portion of the hair arranged on top of the head so as to extend a considerable distance above the actual top of the woman's head. Due to the complex nature of such coiffures, it has frequently been necessary to employ the assistance of an additional person and/or to spend a considerable amount of time arranging the hair in the required manner. In addition, such coiffures normally employ a considerably greater volume of hair than the average woman possesses. In order to overcome the latter difficulty, it has been customary to work additional "bats" of hair into the natural hair in an effort to create a coiffure of the desired size or bulk.

Highly fashionable hairdos of the foregoing variety are suitable for special limited occasions and are not generally suitable for normal or every day functions. As a consequence, heretofore, many women that would have preferred to wear their hair in a special coiffure for particular occasions have failed to do so because of the difficulty and expense in creating the coiffure and of the limited usefulness thereof.

The present invention overcomes the foregoing difficulties and permits a wider choice of coiffures that may be employed on limited or special occasions. More particularly, the present invention provides means that permit a woman to prepare a hairdo or coiffure of any desired variety with a minimum amount of time and effort and at a minimum expense. The present invention also permits a woman to wear her hair in any desired coiffure even though the woman does not possess an adequate volume of natural hair for such a coiffure.

The present invention accomplishes this by providing a wig having a light weight support that is adapted to be mounted on a small portion of the head such as in the region of the crown. A volume of hair is mounted on the support in an essentially permanent configuration that forms a central part of the desired hairdo. In order to prepare a coiffure, a wig is selected that has the hair arranged thereon so as to correspond to the central portion of a desired coiffure. The wig is then placed on the woman's head and fastened in position with the support disposed over the region of the crown. The woman's natural hair is then arranged around the wig so as to form a peripheral portion of the hairdo that complements the central portion formed by the wig to thereby complete the desired hairdo or coiffure.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become readily apparent from the following detailed description of a single embodiment of the present invention, particularly when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a view of a woman and a wig about to be mounted on the woman's head for preparing a hairdo or coiffure;

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIGURE 1, but showing the woman having a completed coiffure employing the wig of FIGURE 1; and

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FIGURE 3 is a cross section view of the wig of FIGURES 1 and 2.

Referring to the drawings in more detail, the present invention is especially adapted to be employed in a wig 10 for use in assisting a woman in the preparation of a hairdo or coiffure 12. The wig 10 is normally employed by a woman having a sufficiently large volume of natural hair 14 to permit her to arrange the natural hair into a hairdo suitable for every day wear. The wig 10 is particularly useful for women who do not have an adequate supply of hair to produce a highly styled or bulky coiffure. However, it is also useful for women who do have an adequate volume of hair for producing bulky coiffures.

Although any type of coiffure may be created, in the present instance for illustrative purposes, the coiffure 12 is shown as being of a type which extends a considerable distance above the woman's head 16 and has a very bulky or large appearance. A coiffure 12 of this type normally includes a center portion 18 having a substantial volume of hair that extends a considerable distance above the woman's head 16.

In addition to the vertically extending center portion 18, the coiffure 12 includes a peripheral portion 20. The peripheral portion 20 is formed primarily around the bottom of the center portion 18. The peripheral portion 20 may be blended into the center portion 18 so as to form a single or monolithic arrangement of hair. However, as will become apparent, the hair may be arranged to provide a demarcation between the center portion 18 and the peripheral portion 20 whereby the two portions 18 and 20 will be conspicuously different. For example, the two portions 18 and 20 may be of different textures and/or colors.

Although the wig 10 may be constructed in a wide variety of manners, in the present instance, it concludes a support structure 21 that is effective to carry the other portions of the wig 10. The support structure 21 is preferably rigid or at least semi-rigid whereby the entire wig 10 will have a substantially permanent predetermined shape. The support structure 21 may be fabricated from any suitable material but it has been found desirable to employ a mesh material that can be easily formed into any desired shape but still has sufficient strength to be relatively rigid and self-supporting. By way of example, the support structure 21 may be fabricated from a mesh of buckram, nylon, etc.

The support structure 21 includes a base 22 and a vertical support or core 38. The base 22 preferably has a relatively small size compared to the area of the scalp actually covered with the natural hair 14. Normally, the base 22 may be only sufficiently large to cover a very limited area on the top of the head or a region that is immediately adjacent to the crown of the head 16.

After the base 22 is cut to the correct size to just cover the desired area of the head 16, the base 22 is formed so as to have a shape that is substantially identical to the contour of the head 16 in this area. It will thus be seen that the base 22 will form a rigid or semi-rigid structure that will act as a skull cap or a coil that closely fits on top of the head 16. Since the base 22 so closely fits the contour of the head 16, it may be readily secured thereto.

In addition to the base 22, the structure 21 may include a support 38. The support 38 projects upwardly from the base 22 a substantial distance. As will become apparent subsequently, the size and shape of the support 38 is determined primarily by the type and size of the desired coiffure 12. However, normally the support 38 may have a somewhat conical shape similar to that shown in FIGURE 3. The support 38 may be fabricated in any desired manner and may be made of any desired

material. For example, a mandrel or form may be provided so that a mesh of a material such as buckram, rice nette, nylon, etc. may be formed thereover. The base 22 and support 38 are effective to provide a strong structure 21 that is very light and comfortable to wear.

The edges 40 of the base 22 and/or the support 38 may be provided with one or more tabs 42. The tabs 42 extend beyond the edges 40 on the opposite sides thereof. When the base 22 is properly positioned on the wearer's head 16, the tabs 42 will extend over the natural hair 14 and toward the wearer's ears. These tabs 42 will facilitate securing the support structure 21 in position by means of hair pins, etc. In addition, one or more tie strings 32 may be provided. These strings 32 may be tied to pins or combs 30 embedded in the natural hair 14 so as to maintain the structure 21 properly positioned. A strip 43 of material such as grosgrain ribbon may be secured to the edges 40 so as to provide a smooth, snag-free surface and to facilitate securing the support 38 to the base 22.

After the base 22 and support 38 are properly formed to give the structure 21 the desired shape and strength, the structure 21 may be treated such as by spraying with laquer to permanently increase the rigidity thereof. Although the structure 21 has a sufficient amount of strength to retain its shape, it is preferably sufficiently resilient to allow some distortion from its free state. This is particularly true of the base 22 whereby the base 22 may be made to conform to the shape of the head 16 in the exact position selected.

The wig 10 also includes a large volume of hair 24 that is mounted on the base 22. Any suitable type of hair 24 may be employed. For example, it may be natural human hair. In addition, it may be a simulated hair that is produced from a material such as a synthetic fiber. By way of example, it has been found that spun fiberglass or the relatively rigid simulated hair commonly employed in the manufacture of wigs for use on mannequins is well suited for this purpose. It is desirable for the hair 24 to be relatively rigid and/or to have a permanent predetermined shape. This will be effective to insure the hair 24 always remaining in a fixed position once it has been properly arranged.

The hair 24 is secured in position on the base 22 and the support 38. The simulated hair 24 is arranged into a configuration that completely covers and conceals the support 38 and the base 22. This hair 24 is also arranged into a configuration that corresponds to the center portion 18 of the desired hairdo or coiffure 12.

The arrangement of the hair 24 is preferably self-supporting particularly when it is disposed around the support 38. It is contemplated that once the hair 24 has been properly arranged, it will not be materially rearranged. Accordingly, the hair 24 that is employed in preparing the arrangement may be semi-rigid or else it may be treated as by spraying with a stiffener, either prior to or after the formation of the arrangement to have sufficient rigidity to make the arrangement or configuration 26 of the hair 24 a self-supporting structure which will maintain its shape indefinitely.

It may thus be seen that the wig 10 will form an essentially rigid or semi-rigid structure which will maintain its shape and general arrangement of the hair 24 at all times. As a result, the shape of hair will always correspond to the central portion of the coiffure 12 it is desired to create.

To employ the present wig 10 to assist in the creation of a particular hairdo or coiffure 12, normally the first step is to arrange the woman's natural hair in a pattern somewhat similar to that shown in FIGURE 1. More particularly, in this step, the hair 14 may be brushed or combed away from the top of the head and particularly in the vicinity of the crown where the base 22 is to be placed. When this operation is completed, the hair 14 will be arranged so as to provide an area on the top of the head 16 in the region of the crown where there

is a minimum amount of hair disposed over the scalp. The size of this area will be at least as large as the size of the base 22 and will be located at the point where the wig 10 is to be placed.

After the hair 14 has been arranged in the foregoing manner, the wig 10 is placed on the head 16. This is accomplished by placing the base 22 on top of the head 16 and over the region from which the natural hair 14 has been brushed. Since the base 22 has previously given a rigid or semi-rigid configuration corresponding to the contour of the head 16, the base 22 will be disposed in intimate and close lying contact with the head 16.

After the wig 10 has been properly positioned, the base 22 is secured in position on the head 16 by any suitable means. By way of example, one or more combs 30 may be embedded or anchored into the natural hair 14 and the strings or elastic member 32 tied thereto. At the same time or as an alternative, a plurality of hair pins or similar devices may be passed through the tabs 42 and anchored into the natural hair 14.

After the base 22 has been properly secured to the natural hair 14, the arrangement 26 of the hair 24 on the wig 10 will be properly positioned to form the central portion 18 of the finished hairdo or coiffure 12. When the wig 10 is properly positioned, the natural hair 14 may be arranged to form the peripheral portion 20 of the coiffure 12. The natural hair 14 may be merely arranged around the edges of the wig 10. However, normally at least a few locks 44 of the natural hair 14 are worked into and around the hair 24 on the wig 10. After the natural hair 14 has been rearranged in this manner, it will form a peripheral portion 20 that will surround and blend into or contrast with the central portion 18 provided by the wig 10. This will cause the hair 24 on the wig 10 and the natural hair 14 on the woman to be arranged into a single coiffure 12.

It will thus be seen that a wig has been provided which will be of great assistance in the preparation and wearing of special hairdos or coiffures, particularly coiffures that extend substantial distances above the person's head and/or are of a bulky nature. The base of the wig is especially adapted to fit onto a person's head in a close, intimate relationship therewith. In addition, the wig 10 includes an arrangement of hair 24 which projects upwardly from the base 22 and is carried by the support 38. The hair, in turn, is arranged to form the central portion 18 of the hairdo 12. Since both the supporting structure 21 and the hair 24 arranged thereon form a rigid or semi-rigid structure, they will permanently maintain their shape. As a consequence, after the wig 10 has been completed, the hair on the wig 10 will never need to be rearranged. Thus, in order to prepare a hairdo, the wig may be placed on the head and the natural hair worked up into the wig with a minimum amount of time and effort.

It should be noted that it is contemplated that the hair 24 on the wig 10 will be of a synthetic fiber having a relatively rigid shape. Although such hair may be made to closely resemble the natural hair 14 of the wearer, it is further contemplated that the hair 14 be of an entirely different texture and/or color so as to contrast with the natural hair and thereby produce a "two-toned" effect.

The wig 10 may permit a very large or bulky coiffure 12 to be prepared and worn. However, due to the very light weight nature of the support structure 21, the wig 10 will not be uncomfortably heavy or annoying to wear. The wig 10 is particularly useful to women who do not have an adequate volume of hair to create a coiffure that is very large or bulky such as illustrated in the present embodiment or such as a so-called Marie Antoinette wherein the coiffure extends a considerable distance above the woman's head. However, the wig 10 is also useful to women who do have a large volume of hair 14 as it will permit the expert preparation of the coiffure 12 with a minimum time and effort. In the event the wig 10 is to

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be worn by a woman having a large volume of natural hair 14, it has been found desirable to provide an opening 45 in the support 38. This will permit any surplus hair to be stuffed inside of the support 38 and thereby not detract from the overall coiffure 12. It is also contemplated that the present wig may be employed in combination with a conventional hairpiece or wig worn by the woman.

While only a single embodiment of the present invention has been disclosed and described herein, it will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the art that numerous changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the foregoing disclosure and description thereof are for illustrative purposes only and do not in any way limit the invention which is defined only by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. An inset wig for use on a human head having an area covered with natural hair to form an enlarged coiffure, said wig including:

a base of a size just large enough to cover a limited portion of said area adjacent the crown of the head, said base including a mesh having a sufficient rigidity to normally retain the base in a natural shape corresponding to the covered portion of the head,

a support core secured to the base, said support core including a mesh having a sufficient rigidity to support at least a portion of a coiffure,

the shape in plan of said base matching the shape in plan of said support core and the periphery of the base is united with the periphery of the support core to form a unitary hollow structure,

said support core being of the general configuration of

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an axially elongated dome with the height of the dome greater than the width of the base of the dome, hair mounted on said support core, said hair being arranged in a configuration corresponding to the center portion of the coiffure,

means for fastening the base to the natural hair to secure the wig in position on the head, said configuration being adapted to have the natural hair positioned therearound to form the peripheral portion of the coiffure.

2. An inset wig as set forth in claim 1 in which said support core has an opening in its side to permit the natural hair of the wearer to be stuffed through the opening into the interior of the hollow structure.

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