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(54) **KNIT HAT HAVING INTEGRATED SWEATBAND**

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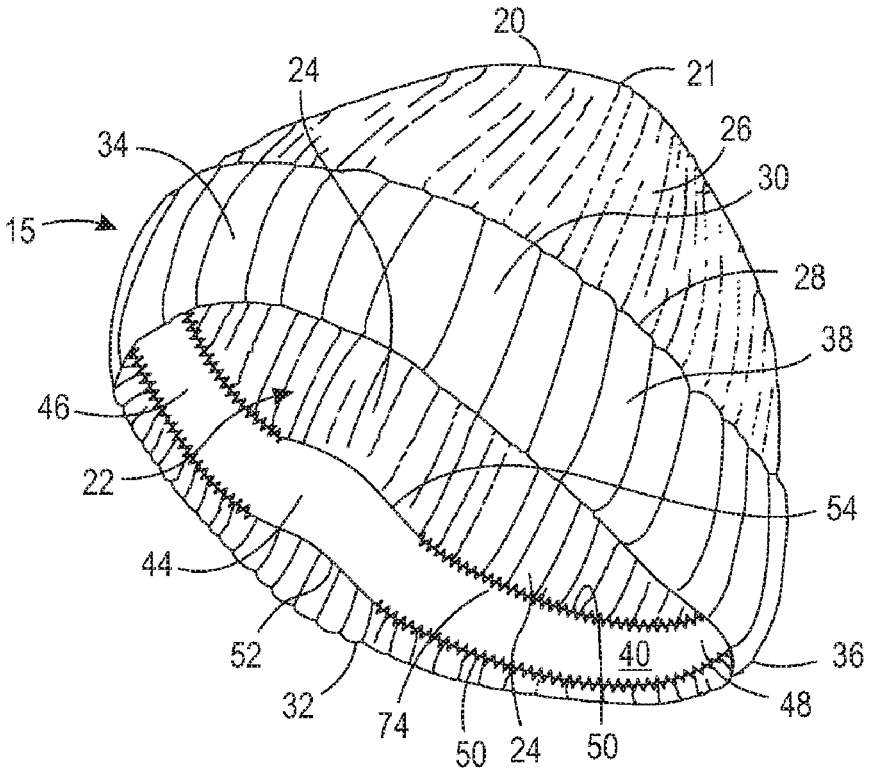
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A42B 1/041*** (2013.01); ***A42B 1/069*** (2013.01); ***A41D 20/00*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A knit cap having a generally domed knitted crown and a sweatband having front and back arcuate portions attached to an interior surface of the knitted cap by stitching the front arcuate portion of the sweatband to a front portion of the crown, and by further stitching the back arcuate portion of the sweatband to a back portion of the crown, the sweatband having no stitching or other attachment to the crown at first and second side portions of the knitted cap.



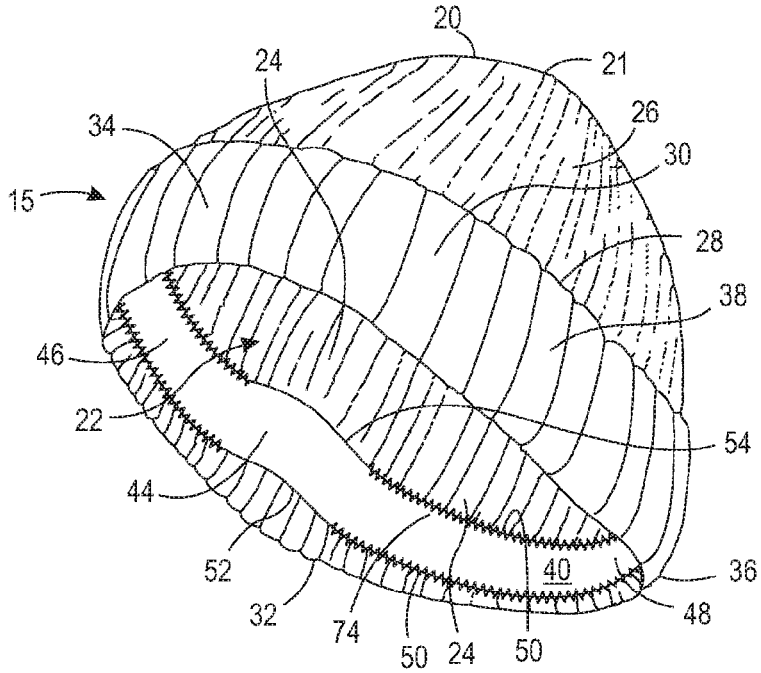

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FIG. 1

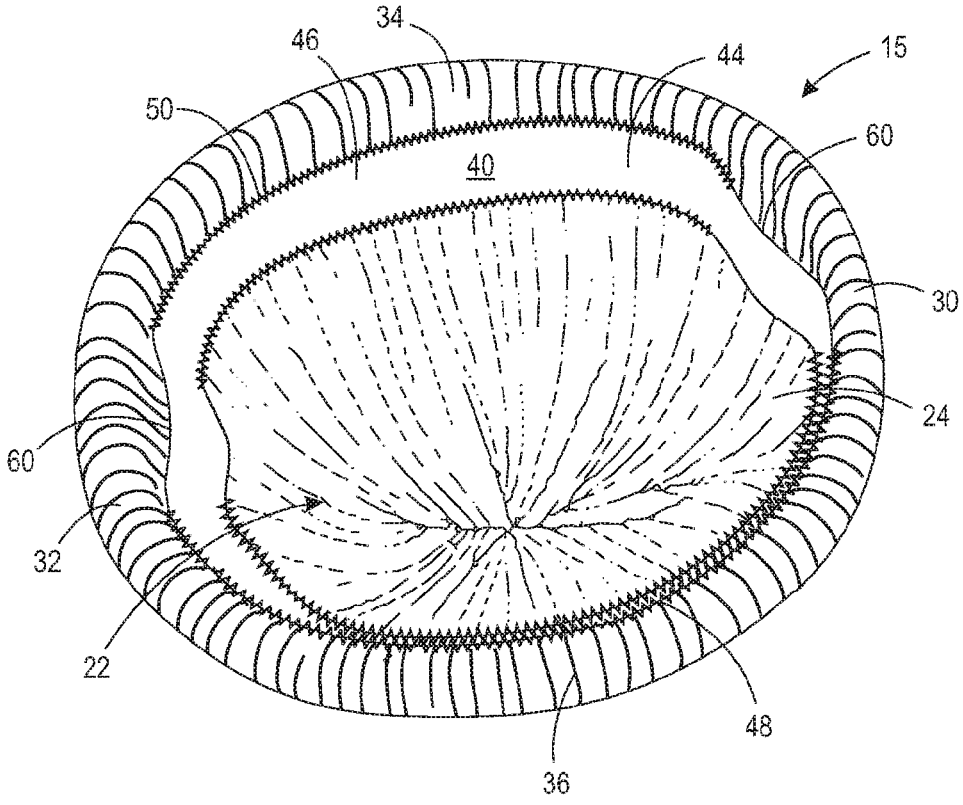

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FIG. 2

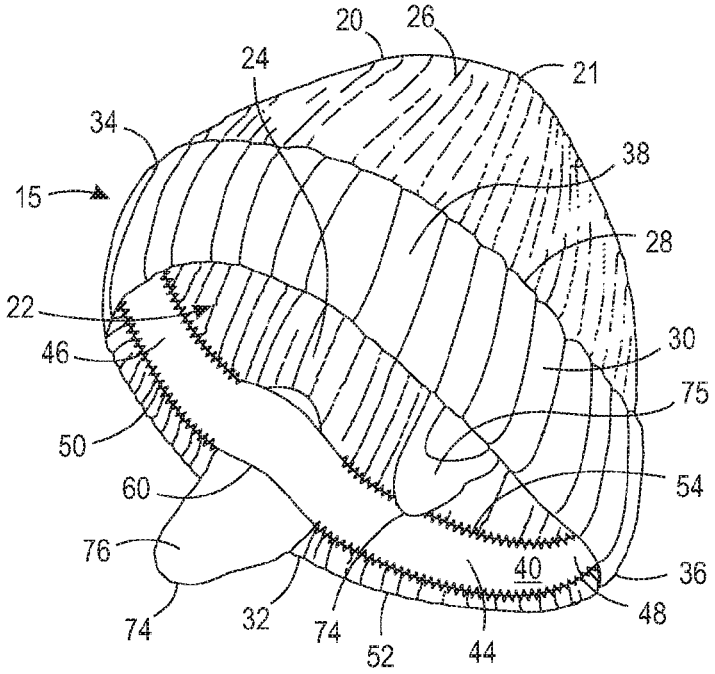

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FIG. 3

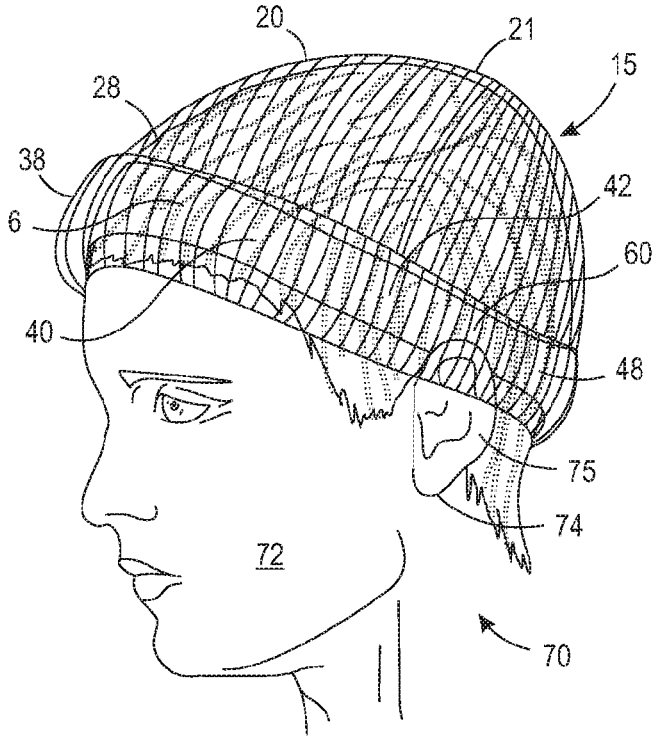

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FIG. 4

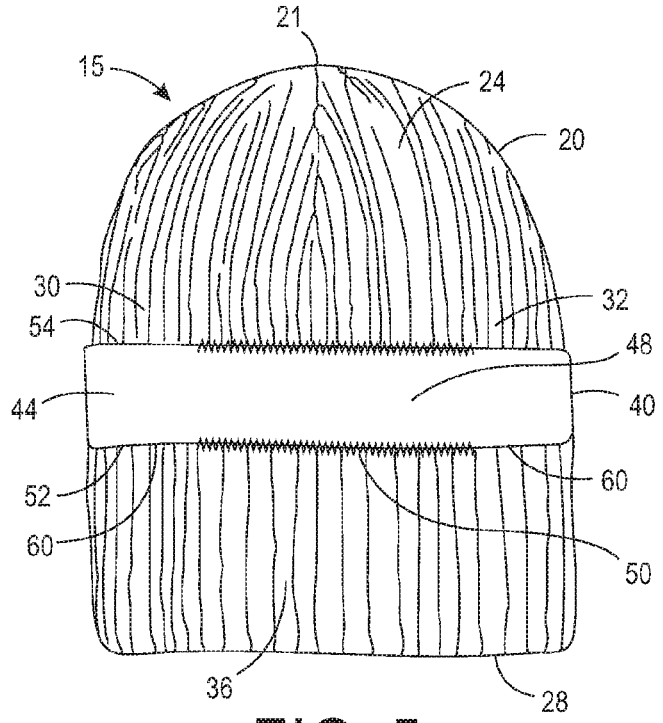

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FIG. 5

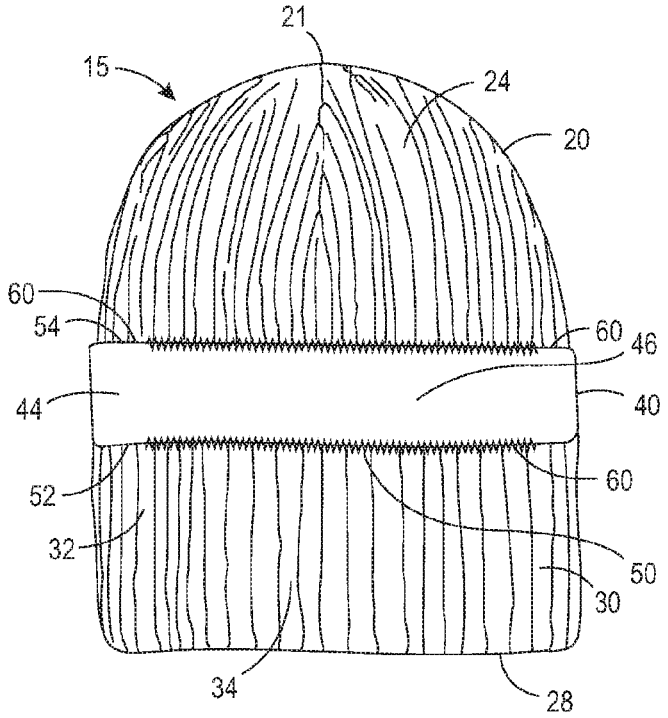

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FIG. 6

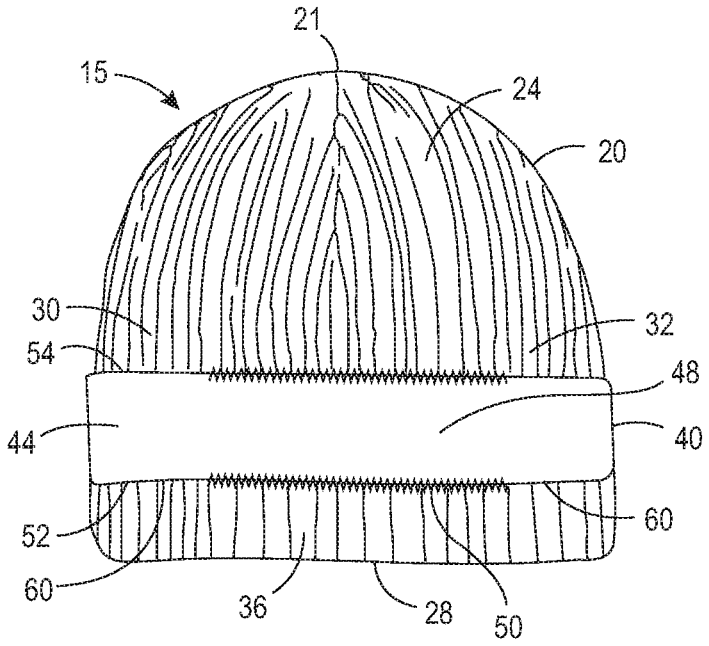

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FIG. 7

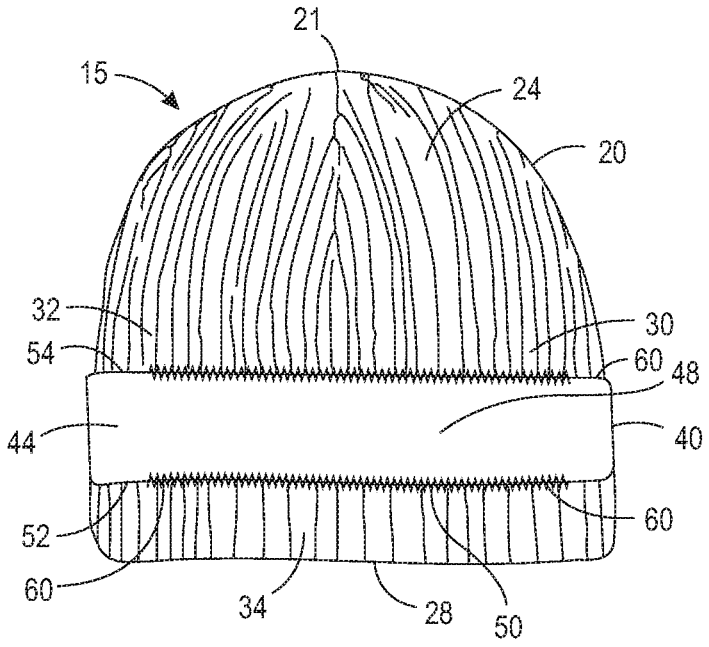

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FIG. 8

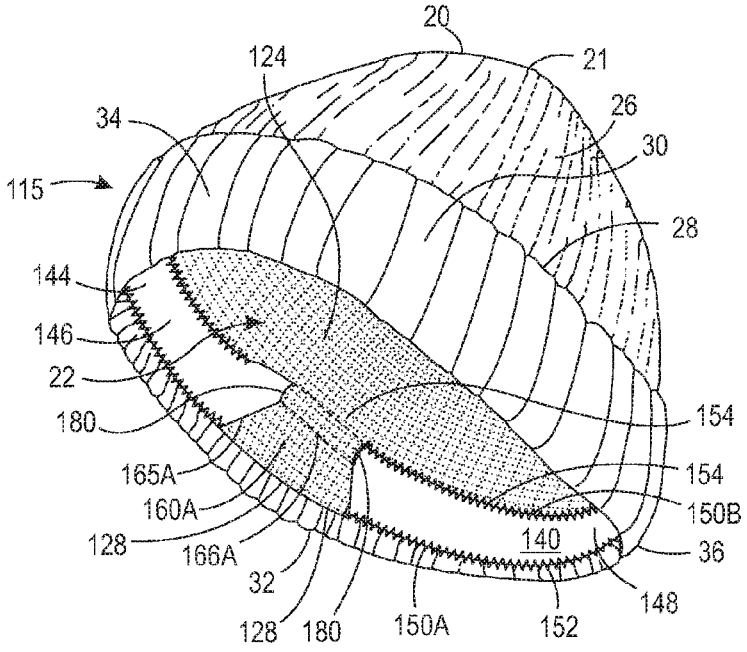

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124
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165A
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160A
150B
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166A
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150A
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FIG. 9

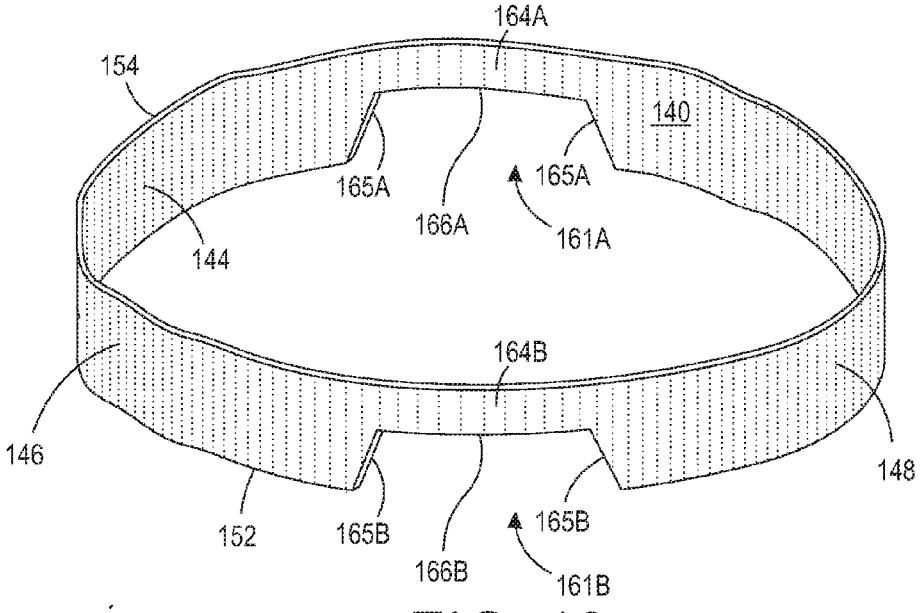

164A
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165A
165A
166A
161A
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164B
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148
152
165B
165B
166B
161B

FIG. 10

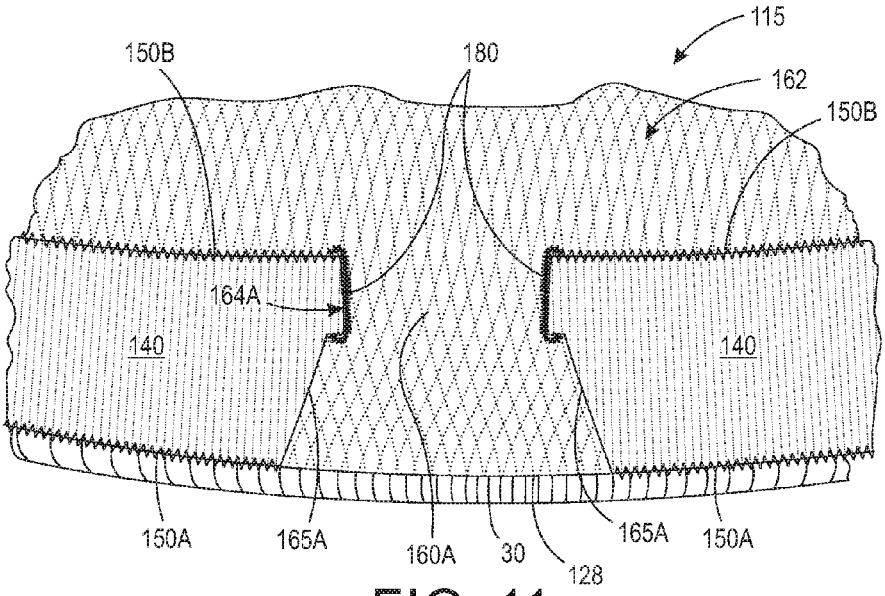

115
150B
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162
150B
164A
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150A
165A
160A
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165A
150A
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FIG. 11

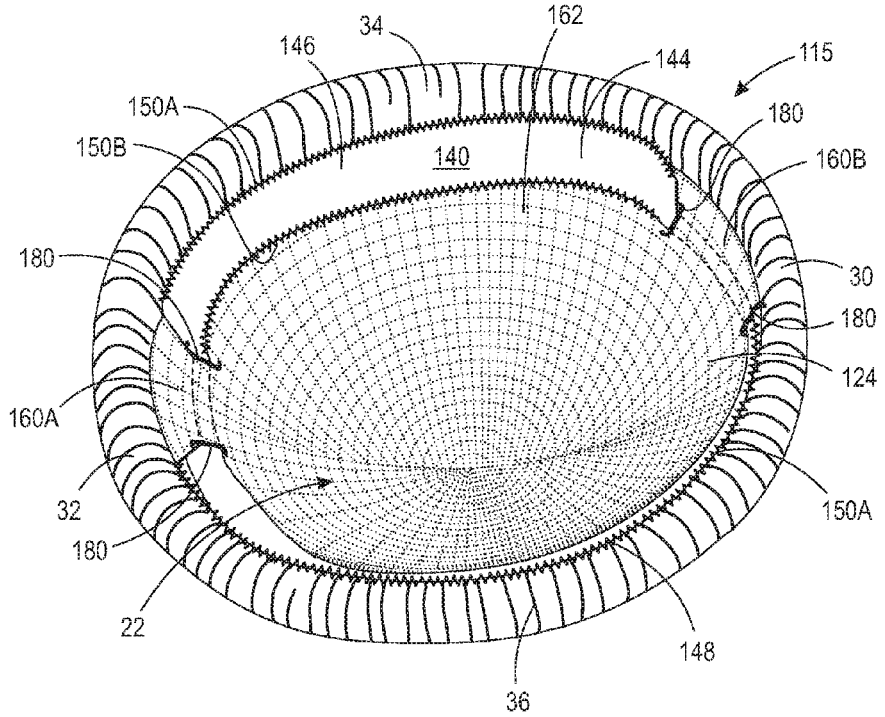

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160B
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FIG. 12

KNIT HAT HAVING INTEGRATED SWEATBAND

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This disclosure relates to knit caps, and particularly to a knit beanie style hat with a specially formed integrated sweatband.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

[0002] The design and use of classic knitted beanie-style caps is well known. Such caps are generally worn in colder conditions to cover a user's ears and top of head, thus providing the head and ears with warmth and protection from the elements. In certain cases, such knitted beanie-style caps are constructed from an elastic material, and are designed to closely fit the wearer's head.

[0003] U.S. Pat. No. 1,675,864 is directed to a cloth hat with a sweatband made of a knitted webbing. The cloth hat has an expandable zone at the juncture of the crown and brim that permits the hat to expand to a larger size if required by a user.

[0004] U.S. Pat. No. 7,055,179 is directed a substantially circular hat body with an integrated elastic sweatband. The sweatband further comprises an integrated tail piece configured to drape over the neck and shoulders of a wearer.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 8,769,723 is directed to a knit hat with an ear warmer. The ear warmer portion has a frame with an inward bias causing the knit hat to hug the bottom back of the head of a user when worn. The knit hat may also have an integrated interior pocket for housing a Bluetooth wireless accessory.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0006] With parenthetical reference to the corresponding parts, portions or surfaces of the disclosed embodiment, merely for the purposes of illustration and not by way of limitation, the present disclosure provides a knitted cap (**15**) having a generally domed knitted crown (**20**). The crown has an interior surface (**24**), an exterior surface (**26**), a bottom peripheral edge (**28**) between the interior surface and the exterior surface, first and second side portions (**30**, **32**), and front and back portions (**34**, **36**). The interior surface of the crown defines an interior cavity (**22**) for receiving the head (**72**) of a user (**70**) when worn. The knitted cap further comprises a sweatband (**40**) having opposite outer and inner surfaces (**42**, **44**), along with front and back arcuate portions (**46**, **48**). The sweatband is preferably attached to the interior surface of the knitted cap by stitching the front arcuate portion of the sweatband to the front portion of the crown, and by further stitching the back arcuate portion of the sweatband to the back portion of the crown. The present disclosure provides the sweatband having no stitching or other attachment to the crown at the first and second side portions of the knitted cap. The lack of attachment of the sweatband to the side portions may form first and second gaps (**60**) between the interior surface of the knitted cap and the outer surface of the sweatband.

[0007] The front arcuate portion of the sweatband may be longer than the rear arcuate portion of the sweatband in order to properly align the gaps with the ears of a user when worn. The gaps may be configured and arranged to receive at least a portion of the ears of the user when worn, such that the interior surface of the knitted cap will cover an outer area (**75**) of the ears (**74**) of the user. Further, the sweatband may extend between the inner areas (**76**) of each of the user's respective ears and the head of the user when worn. Alternatively, and based on user preference, the crown and the sweatband may be configured such that outer areas of the user's ears may be covered by both the sweatband and the crown when worn by the user. In an additional embodiment, the gaps for receiving the ears may be fastened to the crown along respective upper portions, thus forming enclosed ear pockets configured to receive the user's ears when worn.

[0008] The sweatband may be attached to the knitted cap such that a bottom perimeter edge (**52**) of the sweatband is generally adjacent to a bottom peripheral edge (**28**) of the crown. Alternatively, the sweatband may be positioned apart from and parallel to the bottom peripheral edge of the crown such that the bottom peripheral edge can be rolled over upon itself to provide a double thickness (**38**) along a lower portion of the knitted cap without also rolling the sweatband. The double thickness may extend up along the exterior surface of the crown such that the bottom peripheral edge of the crown overlaps a top perimeter edge (**54**) of the sweatband. Such a configuration can be aesthetically pleasing as well as provide extra warmth to the user's ears.

[0009] The front and back arcuate portions of the sweatband may be fixedly attached to the respective front and back portions of the interior surface of the crown by elastic stitching (**50**), configured such that the sweatband will be allowed to stretch and flex along with the rest of the knitted cap. More specifically, the stitching may be sewn using a zigzag stitch that runs along a top perimeter edge and a bottom perimeter edge of the sweatband, securing the front and back arcuate portions of the sweatband to the respective front and back portions of the knitted cap, while leaving floating portions of the sweatband unstitched, thus forming gaps at the sides of the knitted beanie.

[0010] The sweatband may be made from an elastic and moisture-wicking material, and may additionally comprise a layer of silicone dots running along the inner surface of the sweatband. The silicone dots may be configured such that slippage of the sweatband, both when worn and when handled by the user, is greatly reduced.

[0011] In an additional embodiment, the crown may comprise an inner liner (**162**) having an interior surface (**124**), an exterior surface and a bottom peripheral edge (**128**) between the interior and the exterior surface, the first and second side portions (**164**A, **164**B) of the sweatband (**140**) may have a narrower width than a width of the front and back portions (**146**, **148**) of the sweatband, and the sweatband may have no attachment to either the knitted crown or the liner at the first and second side portions. The first and second side portions may extend between the interior surface of the crown and the exterior surface of the liner. The first and second side portions may be configured and arranged to align with ears of the user when worn, and an ear overlaying portion (**160**A, **160**B) of the interior surface of the liner may cover an outer area of the ears of the user when worn.

[0012] The bottom perimeter edge (**152**) of the front and back portions of the sweatband may be fastened to the crown and a top perimeter edge (**154**) of the front and back portions of the sweatband may be fastened the liner and not fastened to the crown. The bottom perimeter edge of the front and back portions of the sweatband may be fastened to the crown by elastic stitching (**150**A) and the top perimeter edge of the front and back portions of the sweatband may be fastened to

the liner by elastic stitching (**150**B), and the stitching may be sewn using a zigzag stitch. The sweatband may be attached such that a bottom perimeter edge of the front and back portions of the sweatband is generally adjacent to the bottom peripheral edge of the liner. The sweatband may be attached parallel to and spaced from the bottom peripheral edge (**28**) of the crown such that the bottom peripheral edge can be rolled over upon itself to provide a double thickness along a lower portion of the cap without rolling either the sweatband or the liner. The first and second side portions of the sweatband may comprise a notch (**161**A, **161**B) in a bottom perimeter edge of the sweatband. The crown, the sweatband and the liner may be configured such that outer areas of first and second ears of the user may be covered by layers of all of the liner, the sweatband and the crown when worn by the user. The liner may comprise a moisture-wicking material.

[0013] In an alternative embodiment of the disclosure, provided is an article for wearing on a head of a user having a generally domed crown with an interior surface defining an interior cavity for receiving the head of a user when worn. The crown additionally has an exterior surface, a bottom peripheral edge between the interior surface and the exterior surface, first and second side portions, and front and back portions. The headwear article also has a sweatband with opposite outer and inner surfaces, which is attached to the interior surface of the headwear article such that first and second gaps are formed between the interior surface of the headwear article and the outer surface of the sweatband at the side portions of the headwear article. In such an alternative embodiment, the article of headwear can be a knitted beanie, or may alternatively be a baseball-style cap having a bill connected to and extending away from the generally domed crown.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] FIG. **1** is a side perspective view of a first embodiment of the knitted cap.

[0015] FIG. **2** is a bottom perspective view of the embodiment of the knitted cap of FIG. **1**.

[0016] FIG. **3** is a side perspective view of the embodiment of the knitted cap of FIG. **1** showing the positioning of a user's ears within the side gap portions.

[0017] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of a user wearing the knitted cap of FIG. **1**, with the knitted crown transparent to show the positioning of the sweatband relative to the user's ears and head.

[0018] FIG. **5** is a view of the back portion of the knitted cap of FIG. **1** turned inside out.

[0019] FIG. **6** is a view of the front portion of the knitted cap of FIG. **1** turned inside out.

[0020] FIG. **8** is a view of the front portion of an alternative embodiment of a knitted cap turned inside out.

[0021] FIG. **9** is a side perspective view of a second alternative embodiment of a knitted cap.

[0022] FIG. **10** is a perspective view of the sweatband of the knitted cap of FIG. **9**.

[0023] FIG. **11** is an enlarged view of the knitted cap of FIG. **9** showing the sweatband extending between the crown and liner.

[0024] FIG. **12** is a bottom perspective view of the knitted cap of FIG. **9**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0025] At the outset, it should be clearly understood that like reference numerals are intended to identify the same structural elements, portions or surfaces consistently throughout the several drawing figures, as such elements, portions or surfaces may be further described or explained by the entire written specification, of which this detailed description is an integral part. Unless otherwise indicated, the drawings are intended to be read together with the specification, and are to be considered a portion of the entire written description of this invention. As used in the following description, the terms "horizontal", "vertical", "left", "right", "up" and "down", as well as adjectival and adverbial derivatives thereof (e.g., "horizontally", "rightwardly", "upwardly", etc.), simply refer to the orientation of the illustrated structure as the particular drawing figure faces the reader. Similarly, the terms "inwardly" and "outwardly" generally refer to the orientation of a surface relative to its axis of elongation, or axis of rotation, as appropriate.

[0026] The present disclosure has been made in view of the above-mentioned circumstances, and has an object to provide a knitted beanie-style cap that is generally tight-fitting and includes an integrated sweatband. The sweatband may be made of a performance, moisture-wicking, stretchable material. Further, the sweatband is configured such that it is sewn to the knitted cap around the front and back portions, but is left unstitched and floating at the sides of the beanie where the cap is worn over the ears of a user. Accordingly, the sweatband of a first embodiment can be positioned either to the outside of the ears or to the inside/behind the ears, depending on the user's preference and different activities and/or weather conditions. In a second embodiment, the knitted beanie-style cap may further comprise an inner liner and the sweatband may include a narrowed portion that extends behind the liner.

[0027] Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGS. **1** and **2** thereof, a novel knitted cap with integrated sweatband is provided, of which an embodiment is generally indicated at **15**. In this embodiment, knitted cap **15** is comprised of a generally domed knitted crown **20** and an integrated sweatband **40**. Generally domed crown **20** comes to a peak **21**, has an interior surface **24** and an exterior surface **26**, and is shaped such that interior surface **24** defines an interior cavity **22** configured to snugly receive the head of a user.

[0028] Knitted crown **20** is preferably made in a conventional knitting process in which the fabric is formed by stitching together a number of consecutive rows of interlocking loops. Alternatively, it is appreciated that crown **20** could be made using other methods of textile production such as weaving, felting, or plaiting. The material used to construct knitted crown **20** is preferably a yarn such as wool, cotton, or synthetic yarn, which is threaded in a loose knit pattern such that knitted crown **20** may stretch in one or more directions when worn by a user, while returning to its original shape when removed. In the preferred embodiments, knitted cap **15** is a beanie style cap, and thus does not include a bill or a visor extending outwardly from crown **20**.

[0029] While the shape of crown **20** is generally rounded and symmetrical, for descriptive and illustrative purposes, generally domed crown **20** is further shown as having a front portion **34**, a back portion **36**, as well as first and second side portions **30**, **32**. Crown **20** is further illustrated having a

double thickness portion **38**, which is formed by folding the circumferential opening defined by a bottom peripheral edge **28** of crown **20** first outwards from interior cavity **22** and then upwards towards peak **21** such that a layer of doubly thick material **38** extends around the bottom portion of generally domed crown **20**. Crown **20** is preferably constructed with a length of material such that the size of double thickness portion **38** will cover the length of a user's ears when worn, thus providing the user with added warmth around the ear area. It is also appreciated that knitted beanie **15** may be constructed such that there is no extra material of crown **20** available to create double thickness portion **38**, as will be further discussed below.

[0030] Sweatband **40** is positioned circumferentially around interior surface **24** of generally domed crown **20** and substantially parallel to bottom peripheral edge **28**. Sweatband **40** is fixedly attached to crown **20** along two distinct sections. A front arcuate portion **46** of sweatband **40** is attached to front portion **34** of crown **20**, while a back arcuate portion **48** of sweatband **40** is attached to back portion **36** of crown **20**.

[0031] Front and back arcuate portions **46**, **48** can be attached to crown **20** via stitching **50**. In this embodiment, stitching **50** is a zigzag stitch that runs over inner surface **44** and along both a bottom perimeter edge **52** and a top perimeter edge **54** of the front and back arcuate portions **46**, **48** of sweatband **40**. It is preferred that stitching **50** be comprised of a strong and elastic material, such that the stretching and flexibility of the combined sweatband **40** with generally domed crown **20** is improved. However, it is anticipated that other forms of stitching, adhesive, or any other suitable means of securing sweatband **40** to crown **20** may be used.

[0032] Between front arcuate portion **46** and back arcuate portion **48**, located generally at first and second side portions **30**, **32** of crown **20**, are two areas of sweatband **40** where there is no attachment (stitching or otherwise) to crown **20**, whereby sweatband **40** is allowed to float freely. Accordingly, there are formed two gaps **60** between crown **20** and sweatband **40** at first and second side portions **30**, **32**. In this embodiment, gaps **60** are sized, spaced, and otherwise configured to receive the ears of a user when beanie **15** is worn, as is now discussed in further detail.

[0033] Turning now to FIG. **3**, illustrated is a knitted beanie **15** similar to that of FIGS. **1** and **2**, with the addition of a user's ears positioned according to one embodiment of the disclosure. The use of gaps **60** within knitted beanie **15** allow a user to position his/her ears **74** such that outer surface **75** of ears **74** rests flush with interior surface **24** of crown **20**, while sweatband **40** is able to rest alongside an inner surface **76** of ears **74**. Accordingly, inner surface **44** of sweatband **40** can sit directly adjacent to the head and behind the ears of a user.

[0034] With reference now to FIG. **4**, user **70** is depicted wearing knitted beanie **15** on his head **72** according to one embodiment of the disclosure. Here, crown **20** is shown as being transparent for illustrative purposes only, so as to provide further details as to the internal structure of knitted beanie **15**. It can be seen that knitted beanie **15** is positioned such that outer surface **42** of sweatband **40** rests directly adjacent to an inner surface of ear **74** of user **70** at gaps **60**, while at the same time crown **20** of knitted beanie **15** rests directly adjacent to outer surface **75** of ear **74**.

[0035] While FIG. **4** depicts user **70** wearing sweatband **40** behind ears **74** via the placement of ears **74** within gaps **60**, it is anticipated that user **70** may alternatively choose to place sweatband **40** over ears **74**, such that inner surface **44** of sweatband **40** rests directly adjacent to outer surface **75** of ears **74**. Accordingly, this embodiment affords individuals with an option to wear sweatband **40** of knitted beanie **15** behind the ears, or an option to wear sweatband **40** of knitted beanie **15** over the ears.

[0036] Turning now to FIGS. **5** and **6**, there is depicted an embodiment of knitted beanie **15** unfolded and turned inside-out such that interior surface **24** of generally domed crown **20** is exposed. FIG. **5** illustrates back arcuate portion **48** of sweatband **40** attached to back portion **36** of crown **20**, while FIG. **6** illustrates front arcuate portion **46** of sweatband **40** attached to front portion **34** of crown **20**. In each figure, stitching **50** is depicted along top perimeter edge **54** and bottom perimeter edge **52** of sweatband **40**, with no stitching **50** provided at gaps **60**, where sweatband **40** freely floats. While sweatband **40** runs parallel to bottom peripheral edge **28** of generally domed crown **20**, it is spaced far enough away from bottom peripheral edge **28** such that there is enough material for a user to fold and create a double thickness layer, as discussed above.

[0037] In an embodiment of knitted beanie **15**, it is noted that stitching **50** across back arcuate portion **48** (see FIG. **5**) is of shorter length than stitching **50** across front arcuate portion **46** (see FIG. **6**). The reason for this disparity in stitching lengths is to accommodate the general positioning of the ears of an average individual, which tend to be closer together at the back of the head than at the front of the head. For instance, the length of stitching **50** along back arcuate portion **48** corresponding to FIG. **5** may be approximately 120 mm wide (for instance, within a range of 100 mm to 140 mm), while the length of stitching **50** along front arcuate portion **46** corresponding to FIG. **6** may be approximately 230 mm wide (for instance, within a range of 210 mm to 250 mm). Further, each gap **60** separating front arcuate portion **46** from back arcuate portion **48** may be approximately 70 mm wide (for instance, within a range of 60 mm to 80 mm). The disclosed dimensions are preferred for the construction of a "one-size-fits-all" type of knitted beanie **15**. However, it is appreciated that such dimensions can be modified and tailored to the needs of any individual user or group of users.

[0038] Now referring to FIGS. **7** and **8**, there is depicted an alternative embodiment of knitted beanie **15**. Similar to the embodiment disclosed with reference to FIGS. **6** and **7**, sweatband **40** of FIGS. **7** and **8** runs parallel to bottom peripheral edge **28** of generally domed crown **20**. However, in this embodiment sweatband **40** runs generally adjacent to bottom peripheral edge **28**. The spacing and amount of material available between sweatband **40** and bottom peripheral edge **28** is configured such that knitted beanie **15** is not meant to have a folded double thickness layer or cuff along its bottom portion. Instead, when knitted beanie **15** is worn by a user, bottom peripheral edge **28** is preferably configured to extend approximately to the bottom of the user's ears, while sweatband **40** sits either behind or over the sides of the user's ears, whichever is preferred.

[0039] Turning now to FIG. **9**, there is depicted a second alternative embodiment **115** of a knitted beanie. Knitted beanie **115** is similar to the first embodiment disclosed with reference to FIG. **1-5**, having a generally domed knitted crown **20**, with crown **20** coming to a peak **21**, and having

an interior surface **24** and an exterior surface **26**, and being shaped such that the interior surface **24** defines an inner cavity **22** configured to snugly receive the head of a user. However, this embodiment differs from the first embodiment in that integrated sweatband **140** is specially configured with narrowed side portions **164**A and **164**B that extend behind an inner liner **162** in crown **20**.

[0040] As in the first embodiment, crown **20** has a double thickness portion **38**, which is formed by folding the circumferential opening defined by the bottom peripheral edge **28** of crown **20** outwards from the interior cavity **22** and then upwards towards peak **21** such that a layer of doubly thick material **38** extends around the bottom portion of the generally domed crown **20**.

[0041] In this embodiment, crown **20** includes an interior lining **162** facing that portion of inner surface **24** of crown **20** above the fold of cuff **38**. Lining **162** has an inner surface **124** that contacts the head of the user and is a moisture wicking fabric. Liner **162** may comprise a stretch hex mesh, although it is contemplated that other materials may be used as the interior lining. As shown, the bottom perimeter edge **128** of lining **162** is fastened with stitching to the interior of crown **20** together with the bottom perimeter edge **152** of sweatband **140**. Thus, liner **162** extends at its bottom peripheral circumference generally between crown **20** and sweatband **140**. However, as shown, sweatband **140** extends behind liner overlaying side portions **160**A and **160**B of liner **162**.

[0042] As shown in FIG. **10**, sweatband **140** is specially configured such that it includes side cutouts **161**A and **161**B that form narrowed side portions **164**A and **164**B, respectively, positioned circumferentially approximately to be adjacent to the wearer's ears. Cutouts **161**A and **161**B are laser cut into the bottom perimeter edge **152** of sweatband **140** to provide narrowed side portions **164**A and **164**B, respectively, which bear, through liner overlays **160**A and **160**B, against the wearer's ears when properly positioned on the wearer's head. As shown, side portions **164**A and **164**B of sweatband **140** have a narrower width than the width of front and back arcuate portions **146** and **148**. Notches **161**A and **161**B have opposed tapered edges **165**A and **165**B to narrowed lower edges **166**A and **166**B, respectively. These narrowed side portions **164**A and **164**B comprise a floating stretch part of sweatband **140** that is not sewn down. Such specially configured sweatband is not as heavy and thick or wide adjacent the ears of the user and exerts less pressure against the ears of the user, making the hat more comfortable to wear over periods of time. Liner **162** adds an additional level of comfort, particularly with respect to the overlaying portions **160**A and **160**B that rest against the ears of the user, respectively.

[0043] Narrowed stretch portions **164**A and **164**B extend through small buttonholes **180** in lining **162**. As shown in FIG. **11**, slits **180** in lining **162**, through which narrowed portions **164**A and **164**B of sweatband **140** extend, are each finished off with button stitching so they do not tear. Alternatively, such slits **180** may be laser-cut. Similarly, cut edges **165**A, **166**A, **165**A and **166**B may be finished with stitching so that they do not tear or become unraveled.

[0044] As shown in FIG. **11**, sweatband **140** is positioned circumferentially around the interior surface of liner **162** and crown **20** and substantially parallel to bottom peripheral edge **28** of crown **20**. Sweatband **140** is fixedly attached to crown **20** and liner **162** along two distinct sections. The front arcuate portion **146** of sweatband **140** is attached to front portion **34** of crown **20**, while back arcuate portion **148** of sweatband **140** is attached the back portion **36** of crown **20**.

[0045] In this embodiment, such arcuate portions are attached to crown **20** via stitching **150**A at the bottom perimeter edge **152** of sweatband **140**. However, unlike the first embodiment, such arcuate portions are attached only to liner **162** via stitching **150**B at the top perimeter edge **154** of sweatband **140**. Thus, stitching **150**B is used to attach the top perimeter edge **154** of front and back arcuate portions **146** and **148** of sweatband **140** just to liner **162** to hold sweatband **140** in position circumferentially in cavity **22** of crown **20**. While sweatband **140** runs parallel to bottom peripheral edge **28** of generally domed crown **20**, it is spaced far enough away from bottom peripheral edge **28** such that there is enough material for a user to fold and create a double thickness layer, as discussed above. Also, the bottom peripheral edge **128** of generally domed liner **162** is aligned with the bottom perimeter edge **152** of sweatband **140**, and therefore is also spaced the same distance away from bottom peripheral edge **28** such that there is enough material for a user to fold and create a double thickness layer, as discussed above.

[0046] Similar to the first embodiment, narrowed side portions **164**A and **164**B between front arcuate portion **146** and back arcuate portion **148**, located generally at first and second side portions **30**, **32** of crown **20**, are two areas of sweatband **140** where there is no attachment, stitching or otherwise, to crown **20** or liner **162**, whereby sweatband **140** is allowed to float freely behind lining **162**, and more specifically between the outside surface of lining **162** and the opposed inside surface of crown **20**. Sweatband over-lining portions **160**A and **160**B are sized, spaced, and otherwise configured to align and cover the ears of a user when the beanie **115** is worn. Accordingly, inner surface **124** of liner **162** at over-portions **160**A and **160**B rests directly adjacent to the ears of the user while the inner surface **144** of sweatband **140** rests directly adjacent to the head of the user at other circumferential positions.

[0047] The present invention contemplates that many changes and modifications may be made. Therefore, while the presently preferred form of the hat has been shown and described, and several modifications and alternatives discussed, persons skilled in this art will readily appreciate that various additional changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention, as defined and differentiated by the following claims.

1. A knitted cap, comprising:

a generally domed knitted crown defining an interior cavity for receiving the head of a user when worn and having an interior surface, an exterior surface, a bottom peripheral edge between said interior surface and said exterior surfaces, and front and back portions;

a sweatband attached to said crown and having opposite outer and inner surfaces, first and second side portions, and front and back portions; and

said front portion of said sweatband fastened to said front portion of said crown and said back portion of said sweatband fastened to said back portion of said crown; and

said sweatband having no attachment to said crown at said first and second side portions.

2. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said front portion of said sweatband is longer than said back portion of said sweatband.

3. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein first and second gaps are formed between said interior surface of said crown and said outer surface of said sweatband at said first and second side portions, said gaps are configured and arranged to receive at least a portion of ears of said user when worn, and said interior surface of said crown covers an outer area of said ears of said user and said sweatband extends between each of said respective ears and said head of said user when worn.

4. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein first and second gaps are formed between said interior surface of said cap and said outer surface of said sweatband at said first and second side portions, and said first and second gaps are fastened to said crown along respective upper portions, thus forming first and second pockets configured to receive first and second ears of said user when worn.

5. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said crown and said sweatband are configured such that outer areas of first and second ears of said user may be covered by both said sweatband and said crown when worn by said user.

6. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said sweatband is attached such that a bottom perimeter edge of said sweatband is generally adjacent to said bottom peripheral edge of said crown.

7. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said sweatband is attached parallel to and spaced from said bottom peripheral edge of said crown such that said bottom peripheral edge can be rolled over upon itself to provide a double thickness along a lower portion of said cap without rolling said sweatband.

8. The knitted cap of claim 7, wherein said double thickness extends up along said exterior surface of said crown such that said bottom peripheral edge of said crown overlaps a top perimeter edge of said sweatband.

9. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said sweatband is fixedly attached to said front and back portions of said interior surface of said crown by elastic stitching.

10. The knitted cap of claim 9, wherein said stitching is sewn using a zigzag stitch, and wherein said stitching runs along a top perimeter edge and a bottom perimeter edge of said sweatband.

11. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said sweatband comprises an elastic and moisture-wicking material.

12. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein said sweatband comprises a layer of silicone dots along said inner surface configured such that slippage of said sweatband is reduced.

13. The knitted cap of claim 1, wherein:

said crown comprises an inner liner having an interior surface, an exterior surface and a bottom peripheral edge between said interior and said exterior surfaces;

said first and second side portions of said sweatband have a narrower width than a width of said front and back portions of said sweatband; and

said sweatband has no attachment to either said knitted crown or said liner at said first and second side portions.

14. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein said first and second side portions extend between said interior surface of said crown and said exterior surface of said liner.

15. The knitted cap of claim 14, wherein said first and second side portions are configured and arranged to align with ears of said user when worn, and an ear overlaying portion of said interior surface of said liner will cover an outer area of said ears of said user when worn.

16. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein a bottom perimeter edge of said front and back portions of said sweatband is fastened to said crown and a top perimeter edge of said front and back portions of said sweatband is fastened said liner and not fastened to said crown.

17. The knitted cap of claim 16, wherein said bottom perimeter edge of said front and back portions of said sweatband are fastened to said crown by elastic stitching and said top perimeter edge of said front and back portions of said sweatband are fastened to said liner by elastic stitching.

18. The knitted cap of claim 17, wherein said stitching is sewn using a zigzag stitch.

19. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein said sweatband is attached such that a bottom perimeter edge of said front and back portions of said sweatband is generally adjacent to said bottom peripheral edge of said liner.

20. The knitted cap of claim 19, wherein said sweatband is attached parallel to and spaced from said bottom peripheral edge of said crown such that said bottom peripheral edge can be rolled over upon itself to provide a double thickness along a lower portion of said cap without rolling either said sweatband or said liner.

21. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein said first and second side portions of said sweatband comprise a notch in a bottom perimeter edge of said sweatband.

22. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein said crown, said sweatband and said liner are configured such that outer areas of first and second ears of said user may be covered by layers of said liner, said sweatband and said crown when worn by said user.

23. The knitted cap of claim 13, wherein said liner comprises a moisture-wicking material.

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