July 3, 1962 A. K. FISH ET AL 3,041,628

NOVELTY CAP

Filed Feb. 8, 1961

FIG. 1

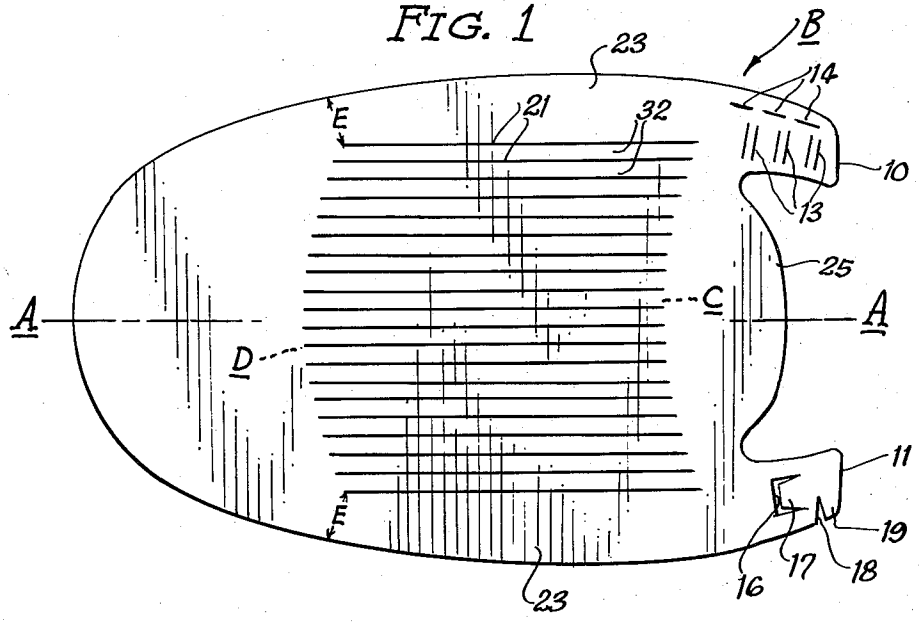


FIG. 2

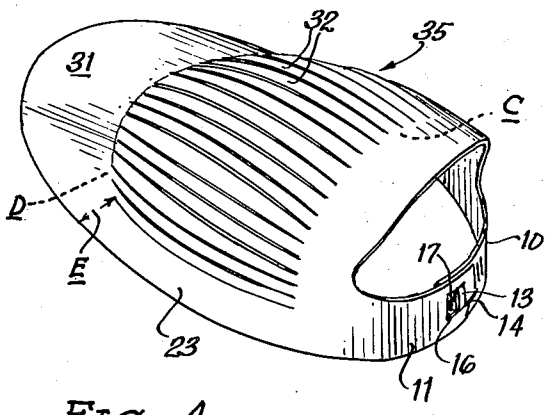


FIG. 3

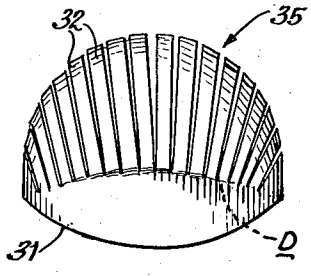
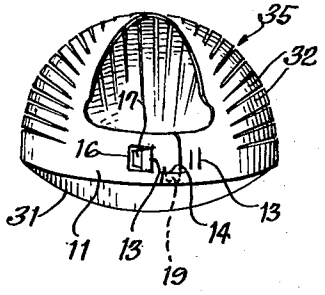


FIG. 4



INVENTORS
Alvin K. Fish
BY Harry R. Block
Leonard S. Knox
Atty

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NOVELTY CAP

Alvin K. Fish, Winnetka, and Harry R. Block, Highland Park, Ill., assignors to Slack Manufacturing Co., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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This invention relates to a novelty cap, initially formed as a punched and slit cardboard blank which may be bent and assembled into the form of a visored cap, and there maintained during a period of more or less transient use.

A principal object of the invention is to provide a cap generally characterized as aforesaid which may be produced at extremely low cost to encourage ready sale thereof to a user and its free distribution by an advertiser or sponsor.

Another object is to provide a cap as aforesaid which, although initially a flat blank may, when suitably bent, conform closely to the crown of the wearer's head.

A further object is to provide a cap in accordance with the foregoing which may be readily adapted to a wide range of head sizes from children's to adult's.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the ensuing description which, taken with the accompanying drawing, discloses a preferred mode of carrying the invention into practice.

In this drawing:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the blank;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view, as seen from above and the rear, showing the cap conformed for wear;

FIG. 3 is a front elevation view of the assembled cap; and

FIG. 4 is a rear elevational view thereof.

Before proceeding to a statement of the overall concept it is pointed out that sellers of merchandise and services are eager to display their advertising on items which the prospective customer can utilize to practical advantage. For example, at public sporting events such as baseball games a cap in simulation of those worn by the players would be welcomed by the spectators, not only to shade the crown of the head and the eyes from the sun but to serve as a boosting medium for the team favored by the individual wearer by reason of printed matter which may be readily applied to the cap. To this end the invention is initially a punched and slit blank of cardboard lending itself to a straightforward printing operation. In the case of a so-called "give-a-way" the cap will bear the name, etc., of the advertiser or sponsor and any other desired subject matter, e.g. the name of one or the other of the competing teams, in an ink or inks of a color identified with the respective teams as utilized in their playing uniforms. Thus, caps in accordance with the principles of the invention represent an inexpensive, yet beneficial, form of advertising. If the caps are sold, as by a concessionaire, the price can be made sufficiently low as to encourage their mass purchase.

Broadly regarded the invention comprises the formation, as by punching and slitting raw cardboard stock, of a flat blank ready for use without the need for adjuncts facilitating the deformation and/or assembly of the blank into wearable form. The blank may, before or after punching, be imprinted or colored overall, as desired, depending upon the end sought to be served. The cap desirably includes a visor. At the rear the blank is provided with a pair of tabs including male and female elements whereby the tabs may be grasped, overlapped and engaged to provide a wearable article. Also desirably, the said elements may be in multiple and so spaced that the cap may be assembled into any of several sizes of what may be termed "head band." Moreover these elements are preferably so disposed that permanent positioning of the interlocked joint is assured notwithstanding inherent or exteriorly-applied, circumferential and vertical forces tending to unlock the same. To enable ready and comfortable substantial fit of the cap on the crown of the head a central area of the blank is multiply slit in an anterior-posterior direction to define a plurality of individual bands which separate when the article is deformed upon assembly to yield a substantially dome-shaped configuration. The termination of the slits forwardly is so delineated on a common line as to provide a line of weakness whereat a fold will occur to mark the necessary angle of junction between the visor and crown.

Thus, turning to the drawing there is illustrated, FIG. 1, by way of example, a flat blank B of cardboard or other sheet material of low cost having the combination of rigidity and deformability dictated by the end use. Desirably, at least one face thereof is finished in a manner to accept printed or other matter either directly or by affixation, e.g. advertising or sponsoring information.

The peripheral configuration of the blank conforms substantially to an ellipse over the major extent thereof, or at least is so configured that the visor and head band are as usually formed in like shapes of caps constructed by conventional cutting and sewing. For convenience of exposition and claiming the general configuration of the blank may sometimes be referred to as comprising an elliptical segment substantially more than a semi-ellipse regarded along the major axis A—A thereof.

At what corresponds to the right hand terminus, or rear, of the blank (as seen in FIG. 1) the same is provided with a pair of tabs **10** and **11** disposed mutually oppositely and symmetrically with respect to the major axis A—A of the blank.

The tab **10** is provided with a plurality of pairs of transverse, parallel slits **13** and a like plurality of longitudinal, aligned slits **14**. The tab **10** is provided with a cutout **16** defining a first tongue **17** and with a notch **18** defining a second tongue **19**. Accordingly if the two tabs are grasped and drawn into overlapping relation the tongue **17** may be passed through a selected pair of the slits **13** to maintain overlapping relation of the tabs in a transverse sense while the tongue **19** is inserted in a companion one of the slits **14** to maintain circumferential relation of the tabs (FIG. 4). Selection of the proper set of slits **13** and **14** will depend on the head size of the wearer. Such variation desirably lies in a range of from size 6 to 7½.

Over a central zone of the blank the same is provided with a plurality of parallel slits **21** beginning inwardly from the longer edges by an amount sufficient to define headband portions **23—23** which are essentially continuations of the overlapped tabs **10** and **11**. Preferably the common line of termination C of the rearward ends of the slits **21** is set forwardly sufficiently to avoid risk of tearing through to the rear margin **25** of the blank intermediate the tabs **10** and **11**. At this juncture it will be observed that the margin **25** is desirably convex outwardly not only to increase the space between the margin and slits **21** but to present, when the cap is assembled, a somewhat esthetic and sportive appearance (FIG. 2). The forward common line of termination D of the slits **21** is arcuate convexly outwardly to define a line of weakness whereat the blank will, upon deformation, fold to define a visor **31** at an angle to the crown and arcuate laterally (FIG. 2) substantially as would be the case in a conventional cut and sewed visored cap. It will be noted that the width of the headband sections **23—23** at the lines E—E is made somewhat narrower than elsewhere in order that, when the blank is assembled, these headband sections will merge into the visor in smoothly-flowing, skew planes while permitting the visor to occupy its angular position with respect to the crown.

As the blank is assembled as aforesaid the narrow bands **32** of cardboard defined by the slits **21** will separate (FIGS. 2, 3 and 4) to conform severally to the general curvature induced in the blank by the assembly of the tabs **10** and **11**, and as controlled by the generally larger area of the blank forming the visor. The net result is the transmutation of the originally, flat juxtaposed strips **32** into a substantially dome-shaped crown **35** providing practically total coverage of the head of the wearer as clearly shown in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4. In one form of cap according to the invention the bands **32** were ⅜" in width.

An important advantage of the crown construction disclosed is that, while virtually total coverage of the head is achieved for protection against the sun's rays there is ample venting from beneath the crown.

It will have become apparent that the invention lends itself also to minimum packing and shipping expense as compared to the packaging and shipment of caps as conventionally manufactured; moreover, that the tabs may be disengaged and the article put away in flat form pending further use. To assure such more or less permanent character the blank may be punched from a flexible, plastic sheet material.

While we have shown a particular embodiment of our invention, it will be understood, of course, that we do not wish to be limited thereto since many modifications may be made and we, therefore, contemplate by the appended claims to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of our invention.

We claim:

1. A novelty cap comprising a flat blank of thin, flexible material, said blank having a configuration which is substantially an elliptical segment greater than a semi-ellipse regarded along the major axis of the ellipse, the truncated end of the blank being provided with a pair of opposed tabs adjacent the periphery of the blank, said tabs respectively having male and female interlocking elements whereby, the blank, upon deformation of the tabs may be brought into mutually overlapping relation and said elements interlocked to retain the tabs in said relation to form, with the outer side edge portions of the blank, a headband, the opposite end of the blank providing a continuously, upwardly convex visor transversely of the blank, the area of the blank intermediate said tabs and visor extending from the headband forming portions of the blank being provided with a plurality of closely-spaced slits in the direction of said major axis and defining a plurality of narrow bands whereby overlapping and skewing of the tabs at substantially 90° to their flat position separates and urges said bands into individual arches, to define a crown said tabs and the unslit truncated end portion of the blank merging together, said slits terminating along a common line adjacent said truncated end and along a common arcuate line at the visor end which is convex toward the outer margin of the visor to provide a line of weakness whereat the blank, upon assembly, will fold to cause the visor to assume said convex upward configuration at an obtuse angle to the crown and the outermost ones of the slits defining the inner margin of the head-band at each side.

2. A cap in accordance with claim 1 wherein said female elements comprise a plurality of slits and said male element comprises a tongue adapted to be interlocked with a selected slit.

3. A cap in accordance with claim 2 further characterized by a plurality of aligned slits substantially at right angles to said first mentioned slits and a second tongue adapted to be interlocked with a selected one of said second mentioned slits.

4. A cap in accordance with claim 1 wherein the margin of the blank intermediates said tabs is arcuate convexly outwardly to define, when said blank is formed up, an outwardly protruding portion overhanging the wearer's head.

5. A novelty cap comprising a flat blank of thin material capable of being punched and deformed for assembly into a shape-retaining wearable cap, said blank having a substantially ovate area truncated at the basal end and a pair of laterally opposite tabs extending outwardly from said end substantially parallel to the axis of symmetry of the blank, said tabs being respectively provided with male and female elements adapted to be interengaged when the tabs are brought together by deformation of the blank, said blank also being provided with a plurality of closely-spaced slits extending substantially in the direction of said axis to define a plurality of narrow bands adapted, upon said deformation of the blank, to separate and transmute into skew curved planes disposed on a substantially semi-ellipsoidal common surface, to constitute a crown and a headband forming an essentially smooth continuation of said crown.

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