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(54) Title: ADJUSTABLE HAT

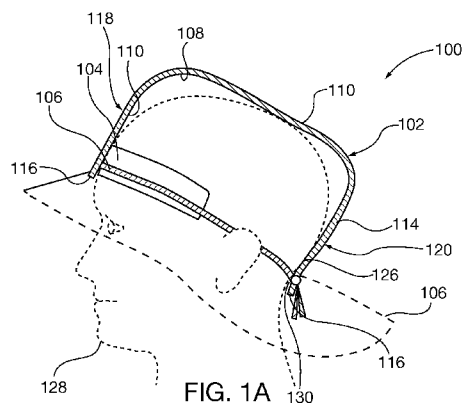


FIG. 1A

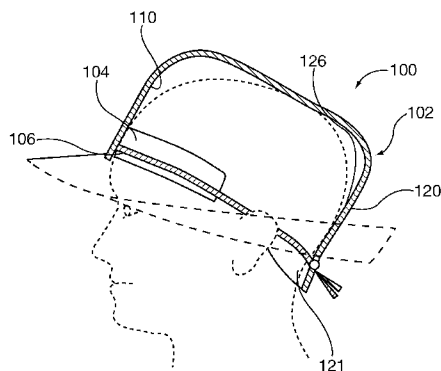


FIG. 1B

(57) Abstract: A fitting system for a hat includes a band configured to be coupled to the hat; and a resilient member disposed within at least a portion of the band. The resilient member includes a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends. A system and method are provided.





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An International Patent Application for an:

ADJUSTABLE HAT

Invented by:

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Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 12/609,895 filed October 30, 2009 and U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 12/916,079 filed October 29, 2010.

Technical Field

This application relates generally to hats and more particularly to adjustable hats.

Background Art

This application discloses a hat and more specifically an adjustable hat, allowing it to be used by different people with various head sizes. Along with adjustability, the hat provides the user with protection, comfort, and a variety of ornamental aspects for various stylist tastes.

Disclosure of Invention

Hats are popular outerwear. Hats are frequently used to provide cover from the sun, rain and other elements. Given the numerous sized heads among the population, hats come in different preset sizes or are adjustable to accommodate a variety of users. Furthermore, hats not only provide protection, but are also frequently used as fashion accessories. This application discloses an adjustable hat that is comfortable, provides protection and optionally includes a variety of ornamental aspects for a user to selectively incorporate in the hat.

In particular, this application discloses a hat comprising: a crown comprising: a front having a first height; a rear having a second height wherein the second height is greater than the first height; an interior including a forward portion; an exterior including a rearward portion; and a circumferential bottom edge separating the interior and exterior; a band coupled to the interior of the crown; and a resilient member having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends, wherein the first end extends through the exterior rearward portion of the crown, and wherein the second end extends through the exterior rearward portion of the crown, and wherein the intermediate portion is positioned between the band and the interior of the crown.

This application also discloses a hat comprising: a crown comprising: an interior including a front portion; an exterior including a rear portion; a circumferential bottom edge separating the interior and exterior; and wherein the crown is sized so that the bottom edge rests below the external occipital protuberance of a user; a band coupled to the interior of the crown; and a resilient member having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends, wherein the first end extends through the exterior rear portion of the crown, and wherein the second end extends through the exterior rear portion of the crown, and wherein the intermediate portion is positioned between the band and the interior of the crown.

This application further discloses a fitting system for a hat, the fitting system comprising: a band configured to be coupled to the hat; and a resilient member disposed within at least a portion of the band, the resilient member comprising a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends.

This application also discloses a method for creating an adjustable hat comprising:

providing a hat comprising a crown and a circumferential bottom edge; providing a fitting system, the fitting system comprising: a band configured to be coupled to the hat; and a resilient member disposed within at least a portion of the band, the resilient member comprising a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends; and coupling the band to one or more of the hat crown and hat bottom edge.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The drawings, when considered in connection with the following description, are presented for the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the subject matter sought to be protected.

FIG. 1a is a schematic side view of a first embodiment of a hat;

FIG. 1b is a schematic side view of a second embodiment of a hat;

FIG. 2 is a schematic, cross-sectional view of a crown;

FIG. 3 is a bottom view of a hat;

FIG. 4a is a front environmental view of a hat;

FIG. 4b is a rear environmental view of the hat of FIG. 4a;

FIG. 5a is a side environmental view of a hat;

FIG. 5b is the hat of FIG. 5a with the brim in a brim second position;

FIG. 5c is an alternative embodiment of the hat of FIG. 5a with the brim in a brim second position;

FIG. 6 is a schematic, partial side-view of a hat with an ornament;

FIG. 7A is a side view of a hat having a fitting system;

FIG. 7B is a rear view of the hat of FIG. 7A;

FIG. 7C is a bottom view of the hat of FIG. 7A;

FIG. 7D is a schematic view of a fitting system for a hat;

FIG. 8A is a side view of a hat having a fitting system;

FIG. 8B is a rear view of the hat of FIG. 8A; and

FIG. 8C is a schematic perspective bottom view of the hat of FIG. 8A.

Modes For Carrying Out the Invention

Referring now to FIGS. 1-6, an illustrative hat 100 is shown. The hat 100 generally includes a crown 102, a band 104 and a resilient member 106. While the illustrative hat 100 is shown as a bucket-style hat, it will be appreciated that the hat 100 may have any suitable style configuration and remain within the scope of the present disclosure, including, but not limited to, derby, akubra, cowboy, fedora, gatsby, hardee, panama, beret, slouch, sombrero, trilby, etc. The hat 100 may be formed from any suitable material. In one embodiment, the hat 100 is formed from a material having a UV 50+ rating that is also wicking and breathable. Additionally, in one embodiment, at least a portion of the hat 100 may be formed from a reflective material.

The crown 102 includes an interior 108 having a forward portion 110. The crown 102 also includes an exterior 112 having a rearward portion 114. A circumferential bottom edge 116 separates the interior 108 and exterior 112. Furthermore, in one embodiment, the front 118 of the crown 102 has a first height 122 and the rear 120 of the crown 102 has a second height 124 wherein the second height 124 is greater than the first height 122. In one embodiment, the crown 102 is shaped, or otherwise sized, such that the rear of the bottom edge 116 rests below the occipital protuberance 126 of a user 128 when the user 128 is wearing the hat 100. Alternatively, the rear of the bottom edge 116 of the crown 102 may rest at the top of the nape of

the neck 130 of the user 128. In an alternative embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1b, the rear 120 of the crown 102 may include a crown extension 121 that may rest below the occipital protuberance 126 of a user 128. The crown extension 121 may be added to an existing hat or be an integral part of an initial construction.

The band 104 is coupled to the interior 108 of the crown 102. The band 104 may be configured to absorb perspiration from the user 128. The band 104 may be positioned near the bottom edge of the crown 102. Additionally, the band 104 may be a circumferential piece that spans the entire circumference of the crown 102 or may be a smaller piece that does not span the entire circumference of the crown 102. In one embodiment, the band 104 is at least coupled adjacent to the forward portion 110 of the interior 108 of the crown 102.

The resilient member 106 includes a first end 132, a second end 134 and an intermediate portion 136 between the first and second ends 132, 134. The resilient member 106 may be formed from any suitable resilient material, including, but not limited to, rubber, an elastomer, Nylon®, any other suitable polymer, composite or the like. The intermediate portion 136 of the resilient member 106 is positioned between the band 104 and interior 108 of the crown 102. In one embodiment, the intermediate portion 136 is positioned between the forward portion 110 of the interior 108 of the crown 102 and the band 104. The first end 132 and second end 134 of the resilient member 106 extend through the exterior 112 of the crown 102. The resilient member 106 may be selectively tightened and loosened to accommodate users having different cranium sizes and/or adjust for a user's comfort. In one embodiment, once the resilient member 106 is tightened about the user's head, a gap 138 is formed between the resilient member 106 and the side portion of the bottom edge 116 of the crown 102 so that the gap 138 may provide increased

ventilation to the interior 108 of the crown 102. The gap 138 also provides an area for the top portion of a user's ears such that the hat 100 can sit lower on the head without impinging on the ears. See FIG. 4a. The hat 100 may also include a toggle 140 releasably coupled to the resilient member 106 near at least one of the first and second ends 132, 134 wherein the resilient member 106 is operable to selectively tighten or loosen the resilient member 106. It will, however, be appreciated that the resilient member 106 may be tightened or loosened by any suitable means known in the art and such means are contemplated herein and considered part of the present disclosure. Once the hat 100 is disposed about the user's head, the resilient member 106 may be tightened such that the resilient member 106 engages the rear of the user's head below the occipital protuberance 126 to secure the hat 100 to the user's head.

In one embodiment, a circumjacent brim 142 is coupled to the crown 102. The brim 142 may be integral with the crown 102. Alternatively, the brim 102 may be sewn to the crown 102, or coupled to the crown 102 via any suitable means, including, but not limited to, adhesive, fasteners, mechanical fasteners, bonding, sonic welding or any other suitable coupling means. At least a portion of the brim 142 may be movable between a first position and a second position so that the hat 100 may have one or more configurations selectable by the user. With particular reference to FIGS. 5a-5c, one or more attachment devices 144 may be coupled to at least one of the brim 142 and crown exterior 112 wherein each attachment device 144 is configured to releasably secure the brim 142 in the brim second position. In one embodiment, the attachment device 144 is operable to couple the brim 142 to the crown exterior 112 so that the brim 142 may be secured in the brim second position. Suitable attachment device(s) 144 include, without limitation, a button assembly, a Velcro assembly, a buckle assembly, a clip assembly, a hook and

loop assembly, a hook and catch assembly, a magnet assembly, an adhesive assembly, or any other suitable device, assembly or configuration operable to releasably couple the brim 142 in the brim second position to the crown 102. As shown in FIG. 5b, one or both sides of the brim 142 may be releasably coupled to the crown 102. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 5c, the front and/or rear of the brim 142 may be releasably coupled to the crown 102. It will, however, be appreciated that any portion of the brim 142 may be releasably coupled in the brim second position to any suitable portion of the crown 102 and remain within the scope of the present disclosure.

The hat 100 may also include one or more ornaments 146 capable of being selectively and releasably coupled to the crown 102 and/or brim 142. The ornaments 146 may have any suitable configuration for selectively adding one or more ornamental aspects to the hat 100. At least one of each ornament 146 and crown 102 (and/or brim 142) may include an attachment device 148 for releasably coupling each ornament 146 to the hat 100. In one embodiment, at least one of the attachment device(s) 144 for securing the brim 142 in the brim second position to the crown 102 may be also employed to couple each ornament 146 to the hat 100. Alternatively, the attachment device(s) 148 for coupling each ornament 146 to the hat 100 may be separate from the attachment device(s) 144 for securing the brim 142 in the brim second position to the crown 102. The ornament or ornaments may be attached directly to the crown via attachment devices or, alternatively, attached via attachment devices to a loop portion 152. See Fig. 4a. Suitable attachment device(s) 144 include, without limitation, a button assembly, a Velcro assembly, a buckle assembly, a clip assembly, a hook and loop assembly, a hook and catch assembly, a magnet assembly, an adhesive assembly, or any other suitable device, assembly or

configuration operable to releasably couple each ornament to the hat 100.

The hat 100 may also include one or more ornamental belts 150 for selectively encompassing at least a portion of the crown 102. Each belt 150 may be formed from any suitable material for adding an ornamental aspect to the hat 100. In one embodiment, each belt 150 has two sides and is selectively reversable by a user such that one belt 150 may provide at least two different ornamental aspects to the hat 100. In one embodiment, the crown 102 includes at least one loop 152 for releasably receiving at least one belt 150 whereby each belt may be releasably secured to the hat 100. The belt 150 may be releasably coupled to itself at the rear of the hat 100 to assist in releasably securing the belt 150 to the hat 100. Alternatively, each belt 150 may be secured to the crown 102 with one or more attachment device(s) the same, or substantially similar, to those previously mentioned.

Referring now to FIGS. 7A-7D, an alternative fitting system 200 for a hat 202 is shown. The hat 202 includes a crown 204 and a circumferential bottom edge 206 separating the interior of the crown 204 from the exterior 206 of the hat 202. The hat 202 may have any suitable style configuration, including, but not limited to bucket-style, derby, akubra, cowboy, fedora, gatsby, hardee, panama, beret, slouch, sombrero, trilby, etc.

The fitting system generally includes a band 208 configured to be coupled to the hat 202 and a resilient member 210. In one embodiment, as best shown in FIG. 7D, the band 208 includes a channel 212 for receiving a portion of the resilient member 210 therein. It will, however, be appreciated that the resilient member 210 may be retained by the band 208 via any suitable arrangement or configuration and remain within the scope of the present disclosure.

In one embodiment, the band 208 includes an outer portion 214 and an inner portion 216.

The outer portion 214 is configured to be coupled to the hat 202. The inner portion 216 is configured to abut the user's head 233 whilst the user is wearing the hat 202. In an alternative embodiment, the inner portion may also be configured to be coupled to the hat 202 as well as abut the user's head 233 whilst the user is wearing the hat 202. It will be appreciated that the band 208 may have any suitable configuration, e.g., a single layer or any other suitable configuration, and remain within the scope of the present disclosure. The band 208 may be coupled to the hat 202 via any suitable means or device, including but not limited to sewing, stitching, bonding, adhesive or any other suitable coupling means or device(s). Also, the band 208, or any portion thereof, may be coupled to one or both of the hat crown 204 and hat bottom peripheral edge 206. It will, however, be appreciated that the band 208 or any other portion of the fitting system 200 may be coupled to the hat 200 via any suitable means or device and remain within the scope of the present disclosure.

The band 208 may be a single piece or may be formed from any suitable number of band portions. For example, and without limitation, in one embodiment, the band is formed from a front band portion 218 and a rear band portion 220. The band 208 may also include one or more side portions 221 (e.g., a left-side portion and a right-side portion). The band 208 may also include portions that may be trimmed off and/or overlapped thereby permitting a better fit of the fitting system 200 to the hat 202.

The band 208 may be formed from any suitable material, including, but not limited to, a synthetic material, a textile, a composite material or any other suitable material. The band 208, or portions thereof, may include additional padding to provide additional comfort to the user.

The resilient member 210 includes a first end 222, a second end 224 and an intermediate

portion 226. In an alternative embodiment, the resilient member 210 may be formed from a plurality of resilient member sections. The plurality of resilient member sections may be coupled to one another or merely coupled to adjacent band portions. The resilient member 210 may be formed from any suitable resilient material as previously discussed.

The ends 222, 224 of the resilient member 210 may be coupled together in an end cap (see, e.g., FIG. 8B and 8C for an illustrative end cap 335). The end cap may be configured to be selectively coupled to the hat 202. For example, the end cap may include one or more hook members, magnet, clip or other fasteners that are releasably coupleable to a corresponding fastener member on the hat 202. In an alternative embodiment, the ends 222, 224 of the resilient member 210 may be secured together by any other suitable means such as sewing, adhesive, fastener(s) or any other suitable means. In yet another alternative, the ends 222, 224 of the resilient member 210 may not be coupled together and merely finished off with individual end caps 235. The individual end caps 235 may have fastening members that are selectively coupleable to corresponding fastener members on the hat 202 as previously discussed.

The fitting system 200 may also include a cord lock 228 releasably secured near at least one end of the resilient member 210. The cord lock 228 may be configured to permit a user to adjust the tightness of the fitting system 200 by adjusting the length of the resilient member ends protruding through the cord lock 228.

The fitting system 200 may be configured such that the resilient member 210 and at least a portion of the band 208 rests below the occipital protuberance 230 of the user's head 233. The fitting system 200 may also be configured such that the resilient member 210 and at least a portion of the band 208 follows the contours of the user's head 233 to secure the hat 202 to the

user's head 233. To this end, in one embodiment, the fitting system may include side gaps 232 adjacent to the sides of the user's head 233 and between the fitting system 200 and portions of the hat crown 204.

The fitting system 200 may be coupled to any suitable hat 202. At least a portion of the band 208 is coupled to one or both of the hat crown 204 and bottom edge 206. The hat 202 may then be placed about a user's head 233. The user may adjust the fit of the hat 202 by drawing one or both ends 222, 224 of the resilient member 208 through the cord lock 228 and secure the ends 222, 224 in place therewith.

Referring now to FIGS. 8A-8C, an alternative fitting system 300 is shown. The fitting system 300 is substantially similar to the fitting system 200 of FIGS. 7A-7D and a correlation of parts is generally indicated in this embodiment by indexing the numerals in FIGS 7A-7D by 100.

The illustrative embodiment, the band 308 includes a crown extension 323 that extends from the rear of the crown 304 past the hat circumferential bottom edge 306. The crown extension 323 also positions a portion of the resilient member 310 below the hat circumferential bottom edge 306. The crown extension 323 is coupled to one or both of the hat crown 304 and bottom edge 306.

In one embodiment, the crown extension 323 is formed from a first flexible material, such as, but not limited to, a breathable knit or woven fabric, webbing, elastic, or mesh. In one embodiment, the crown extension 323 further includes a second flexible material, such as, but not limited to textiles, woven paper, straw, bamboo, leather, felt, natural fabrics, or synthetic fabrics that cover the first flexible material, flexible support members 334, and the band 308. In one embodiment, the second flexible material is the same as the material that forms the crown

and/or brim of the hat. Alternatively, the second flexible material is different from the hat material.

One or more flexible support members 334 extend from the center portion 336 of the crown extension 323. In one embodiment, the flexible support members 334 radiate downwardly and outwardly from the center portion 336 of the crown extension 323. In one embodiment, the flexible support members 334 are adjustable such that the height and angle of each flexible support member 334 relative to one another as well as their relative positions on the crown extension 323 may be adjusted to accommodate various sizes of hats and user's heads. In one embodiment, one or more of the flexible support members 334 include a looped portion 350 for receiving a portion of the resilient member 310 therein. In an alternative embodiment, a plurality of flexible support members are used in lieu of a crown extension.

In one embodiment, a central flexible support member 334a serves as an attachment point of the crown extension first flexible material. In another embodiment, a central flexible support member 334a serves as an attachment point for the crown extension second flexible material. In yet another embodiment, a secondary central vertical support member may be layered in front of a primary central vertical support member, effectively enclosing the finished edges and attachment of the first or second flexible material between the primary central vertical support member and the secondary central vertical support member.

The flexible support members 334 may be formed from any suitable material, including, but not limited to boning, webbing, polymer, interfacing or any other suitable material. Additionally, one or more flexible support member 334 may serve as an attachment for the cord lock 328. One or more of the flexible support members 334 may also serve as an attachment

point for a fastener member for receiving one or more end caps at the ends of the resilient member.

While the present disclosure has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this disclosure is not limited to the disclosed embodiments, but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.

Industrial Applicability

The disclosed invention would be valuable in the headwear industry, specifically hats. Because the population has various head sizes, the hat's adjustability allows for a variety of users. The hat's adjustability provides the user with comfort, as the user is free to adjust the hat's fit to his or her satisfaction. The hat allows provides users protection from the elements, such as rain or UV rays from the sun. Various ornamental aspects can be optionally provided with the hat benefitting the user such that the hat can be used for fashion and style.

What is claimed is:

1. A hat comprising:
 - a crown comprising:
 - a front having a first height;
 - a rear having a second height wherein the second height is greater than the first height;
 - an interior including a forward portion;
 - an exterior including a rearward portion; and
 - a circumferential bottom edge separating the interior and exterior;
 - a band coupled to the interior of the crown; and
 - a resilient member having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends, wherein the first end extends through the exterior rearward portion of the crown, and wherein the second end extends through the exterior rearward portion of the crown, and wherein the intermediate portion is positioned between the band and the interior of the crown.
2. The hat of claim 1, wherein the band is coupled to the forward portion of the interior of the crown.
3. The hat of claim 1, wherein the resilient member intermediate portion is positioned between the interior forward portion and the band.
4. The hat of claim 1, further comprising a toggle for selectively tightening and loosening the resilient member, the toggle releasably coupled to at least one of the first and second ends of the resilient member.

5. The hat of claim 1, further comprising a circumjacent brim coupled to the crown.
6. The hat of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the brim is movable between a first position and a second position.
7. The hat of claim 6, further comprising at least one attachment device coupled to at least one of the brim and the crown, the at least one attachment device for selectively coupling the brim to the crown when the brim is in the brim second position.
8. The hat of claim 1, further comprising an ornament for releasably coupling to the crown.
9. The hat of claim 1, further comprising an ornament and at least one attachment device coupled to at least one of the ornament and crown exterior whereby the ornament is capable of being releasably coupled to the crown exterior.
10. The hat of claim 1, further comprising an ornamental belt for selectively surrounding the crown.
11. The hat of claim 10, wherein the crown includes one or more loops for receiving the ornamental belt.
12. The hat of claim 1, wherein crown includes a gap between the resilient member and the crown bottom edge when the hat is placed atop a user's head and the resilient member tightened.
13. The hat of claim 1, wherein the crown is sized so that the bottom edge rests below the external occipital protuberance of a user and wherein the resilient member is configured to releasably engage the rear of the user's head below the occipital protuberance of the user.
14. A hat comprising:
 - a crown comprising:
 - an interior including a front portion;

an exterior including a rear portion;

a circumferential bottom edge separating the interior and exterior; and

wherein the crown is sized so that the bottom edge rests below the external occipital protuberance of a user;

a band coupled to the interior of the crown; and

a resilient member having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends, wherein the first end extends through the exterior rear portion of the crown, and wherein the second end extends through the exterior rear portion of the crown, and wherein the intermediate portion is positioned between the band and the interior of the crown, and wherein the resilient member is configured to releasably engage the rear of a user's head below the occipital protuberance of the user.

15. The hat of claim 14, wherein the band is coupled to the front portion of the interior of the crown.

16. The hat of claim 14, wherein the resilient member intermediate portion is positioned between the interior front portion and the band.

17. The hat of claim 14, further comprising a toggle for selectively tightening and loosening the resilient member, the toggle releasably coupled to at least one of the first and second ends of the resilient member.

18. The hat of claim 14, further comprising an ornament and at least one attachment device coupled to at least one of the ornament and crown exterior whereby the ornament is capable of being releasably coupled to the crown exterior.

19. The hat of claim 18, wherein the attachment device is a button assembly, a Velcro

assembly, a buckle assembly, a clip assembly, a hook and loop assembly, a hook and catch assembly, a magnet assembly, or an adhesive assembly.

20. The hat of claim 14, wherein crown includes a gap between the resilient member and the crown bottom edge when the hat is placed atop a user's head and the resilient member tightened.

21. A fitting system for a hat, the fitting system comprising:

a band configured to be coupled to the hat; and

a resilient member disposed within at least a portion of the band, the resilient member comprising a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the band includes a channel for receiving at least the intermediate portion of the resilient member.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the band includes a front band portion and a rear band portion.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the band is further includes a first side band portion and a second side band portion.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the band is configured such that the resilient member is positioned below the occipital protuberance of a user when the hat is positioned the user.

26. The system of claim 21, wherein the band includes an inner portion and an outer portion, wherein the outer portion is configured to be coupled to the hat and wherein the inner portion is configured to abut a user's head.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the band includes a crown extension configured to extend from the rear of the hat and configured such that the resilient member is positioned below

the occipital protuberance of a user when hat is positioned thereon.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising at least one flexible support member coupled to the crown extension.

29. The system of claim 21, further comprising at least one flexible support member operable to be coupled to the back of the hat.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein each flexible support member includes a looped section configured to receive a portion of the resilient member.

31. The system of claim 21, wherein the band is configured to be coupled to at least one of the crown of the hat and the circumferential bottom edge of the hat.

32. The system of claim 21, wherein the resilient member is formed from a plurality of resilient member sections.

33. The system of claim 21, further comprising at least one cord lock releasably secured near at least one of the first and second ends of the resilient member.

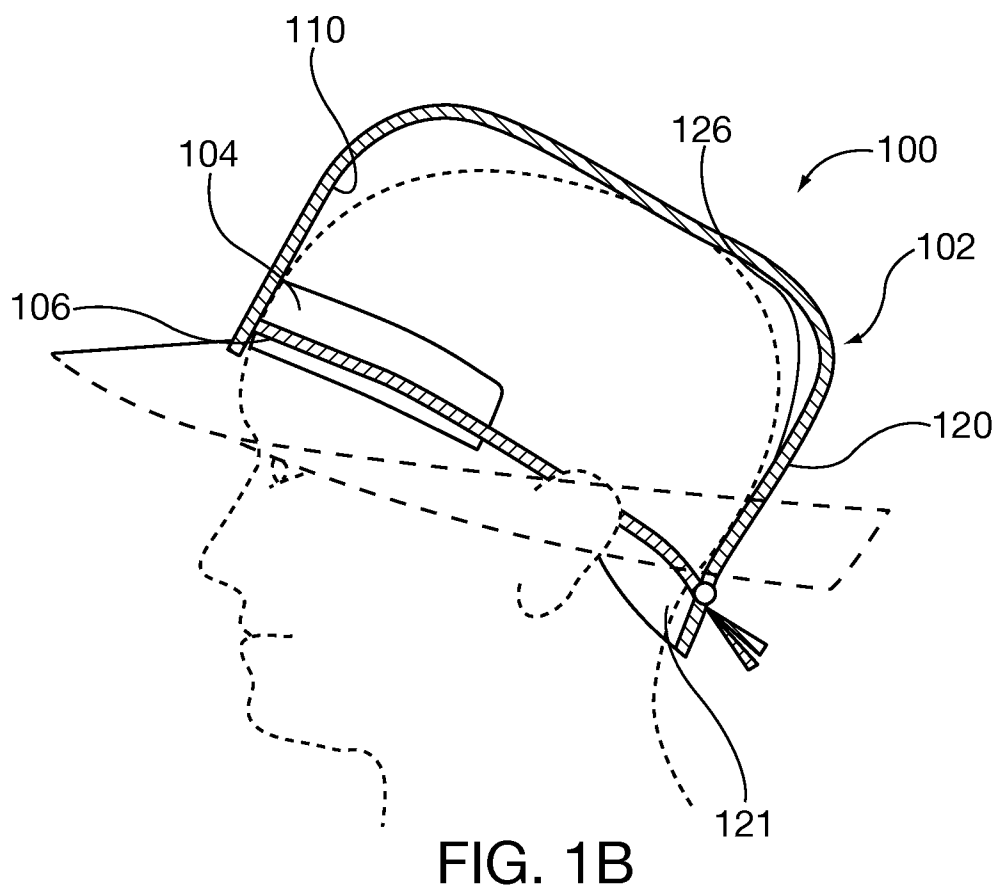
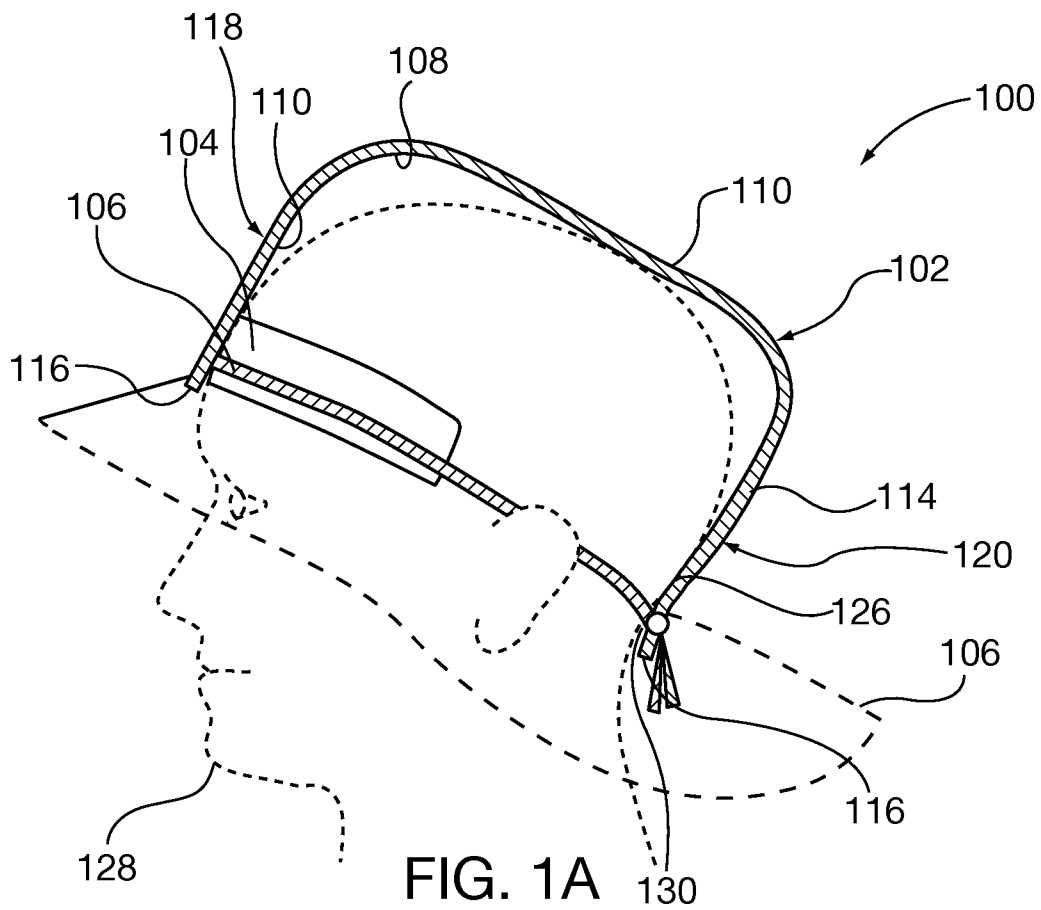
34. The system of claim 21, further comprising at least one cord lock releasably secured near at least one of the first and second ends of the resilient member, and wherein the band includes a crown extension configured to extend from the rear of the hat and configured such that the resilient member is positioned below the occipital protuberance of a user when hat is positioned thereon, and wherein the cord lock is releasably coupleable to the crown extension.

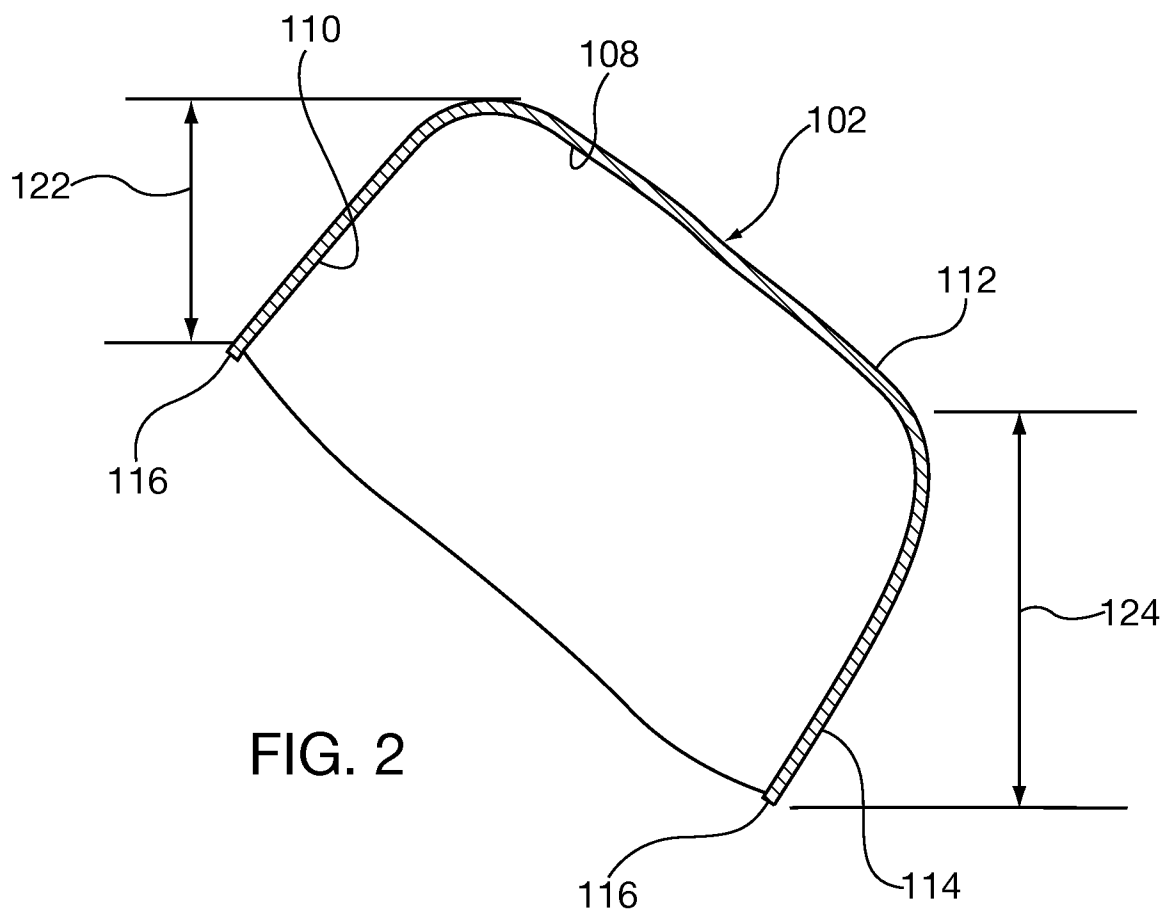
35. The system of claim 21, further comprising an endcap, wherein the resilient cord first end and resilient cord second end are coupled to the end cap.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the endcap is releasably coupleable to one of the hat and band.

37. A method for creating an adjustable hat comprising:
- providing a hat comprising a crown and a circumferential bottom edge;
 - providing a fitting system, the fitting system comprising:
 - a band configured to be coupled to the hat; and
 - a resilient member disposed within at least a portion of the band, the resilient member comprising a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends; and
 - coupling the band to one or more of the hat crown and hat bottom edge.
38. The method of claim 37, wherein the band includes a channel for receiving at least the intermediate portion of the resilient member.
39. The method of claim 37, wherein the band includes a front band portion and a rear band portion.
40. The method of claim 37, wherein the band includes a crown extension configured to extend from the rear of the hat and configured such that the resilient member is positioned below the occipital protuberance of a user when hat is positioned thereon.

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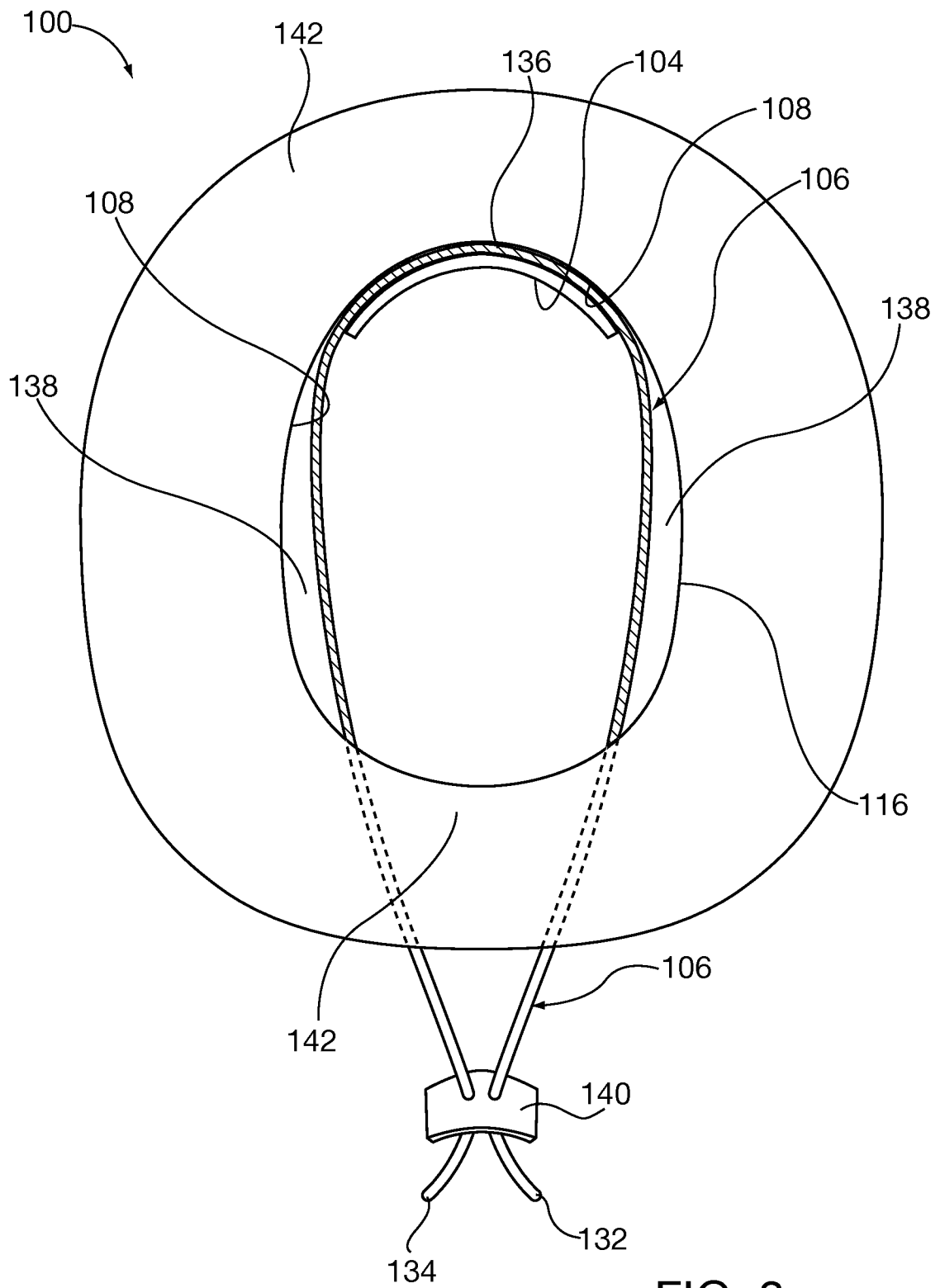


FIG. 3

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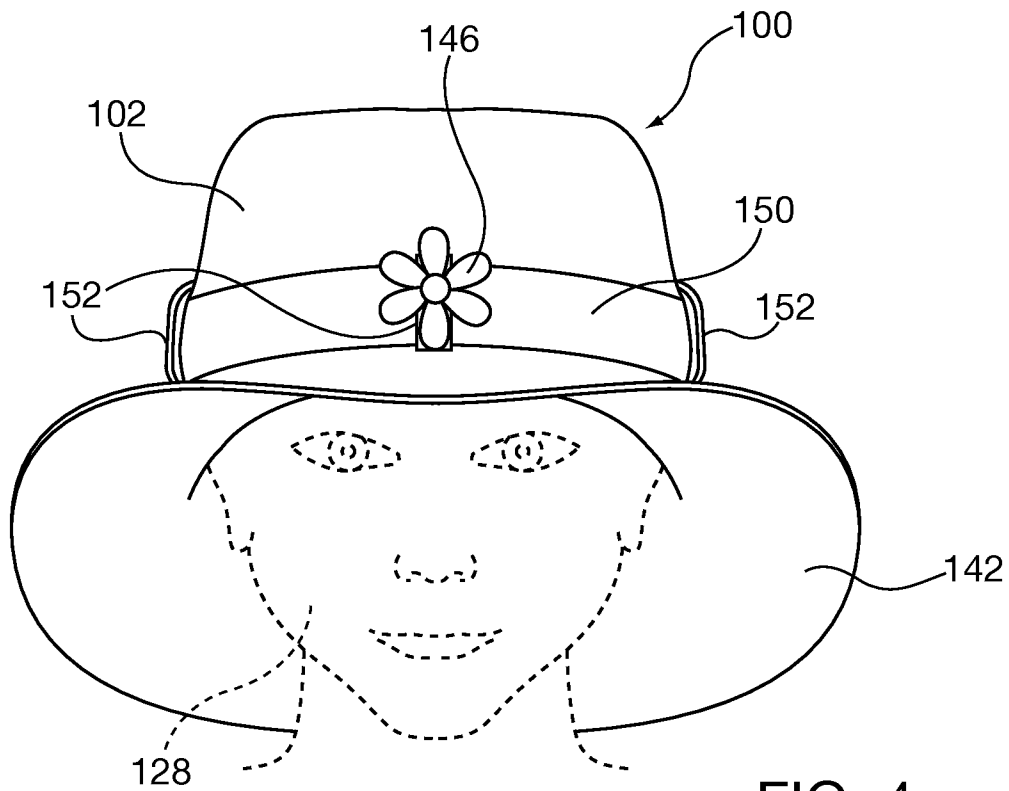


FIG. 4a

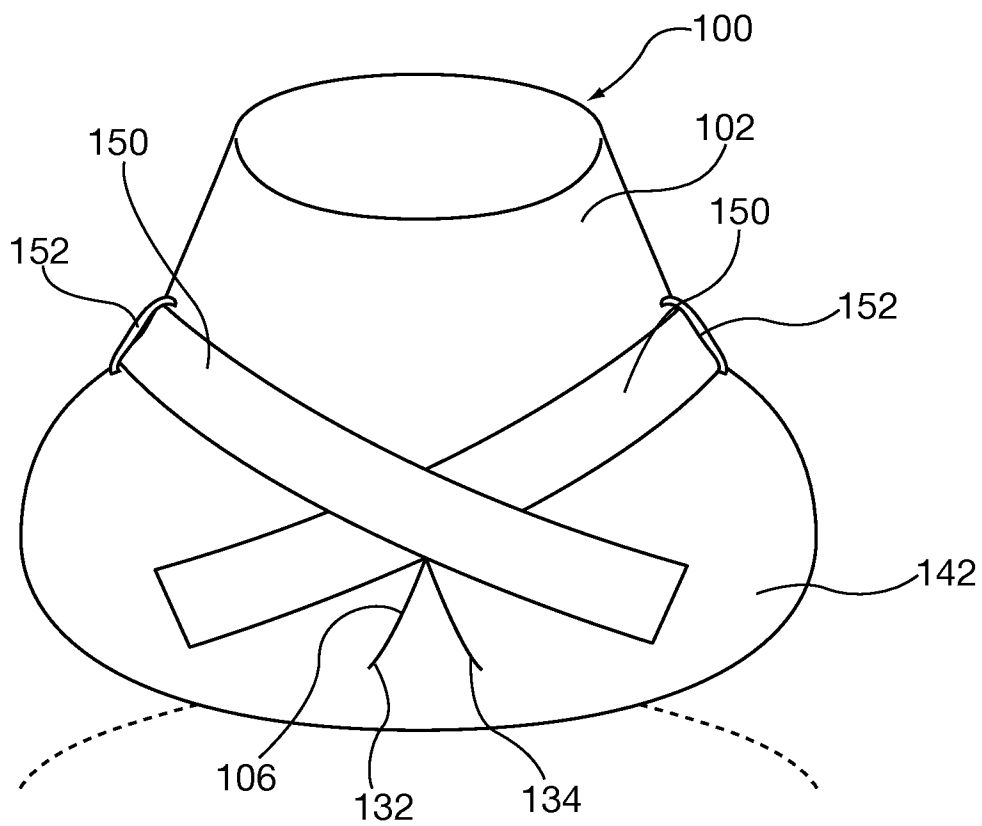
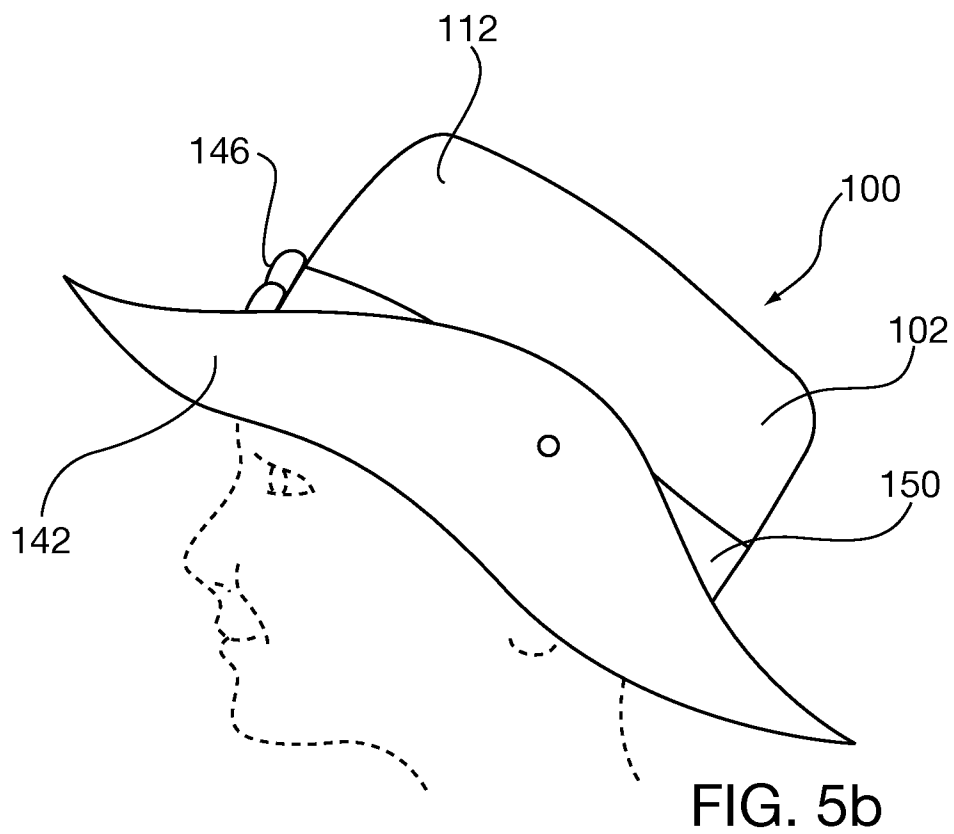
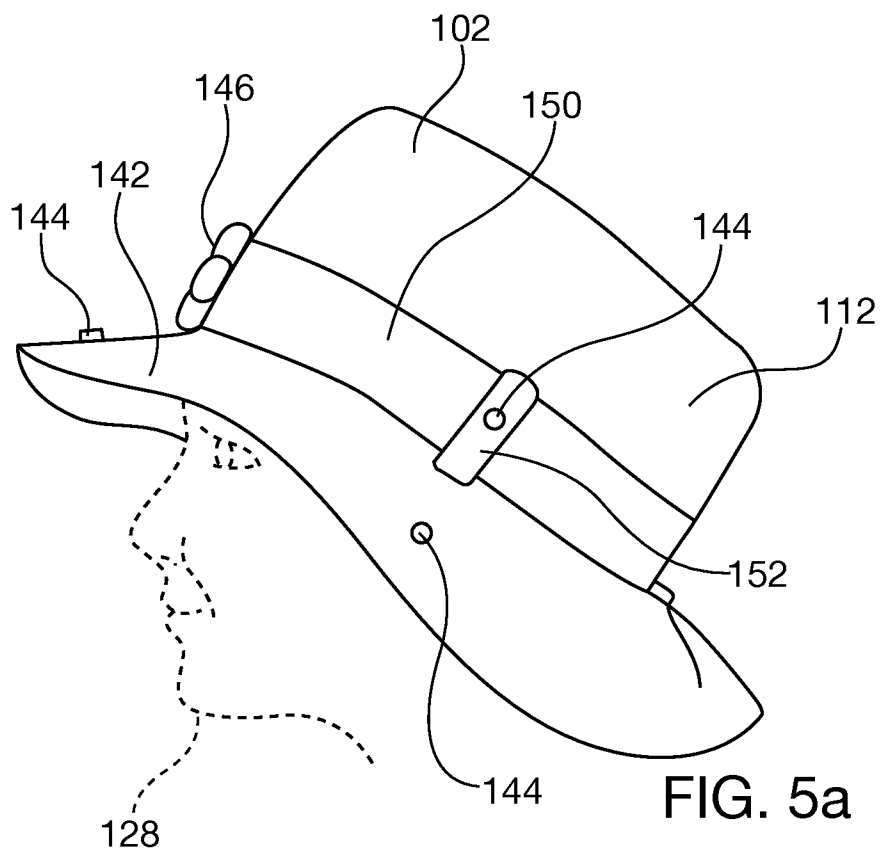
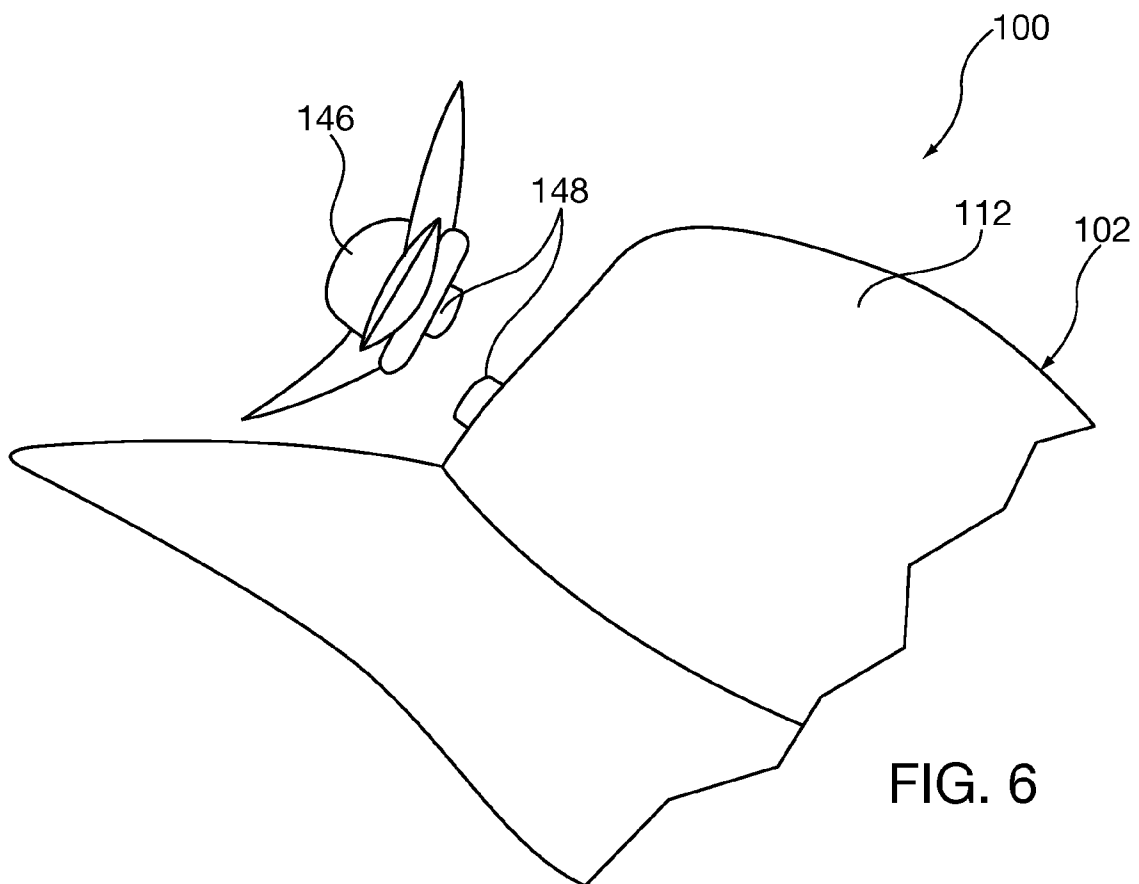
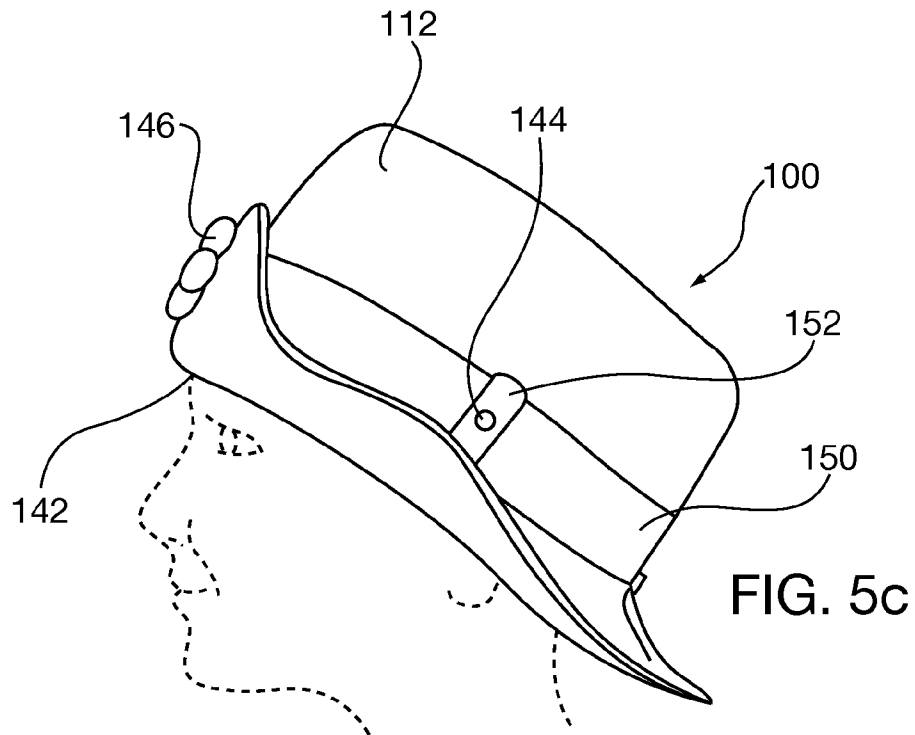


FIG. 4b

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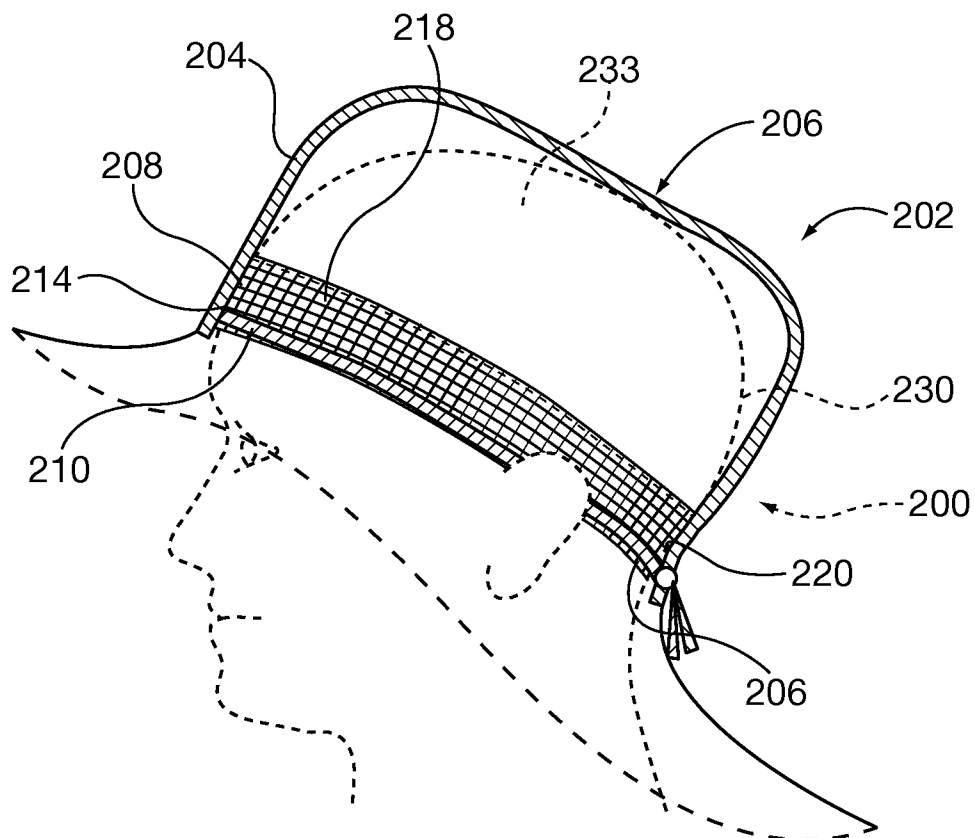


FIG. 7A

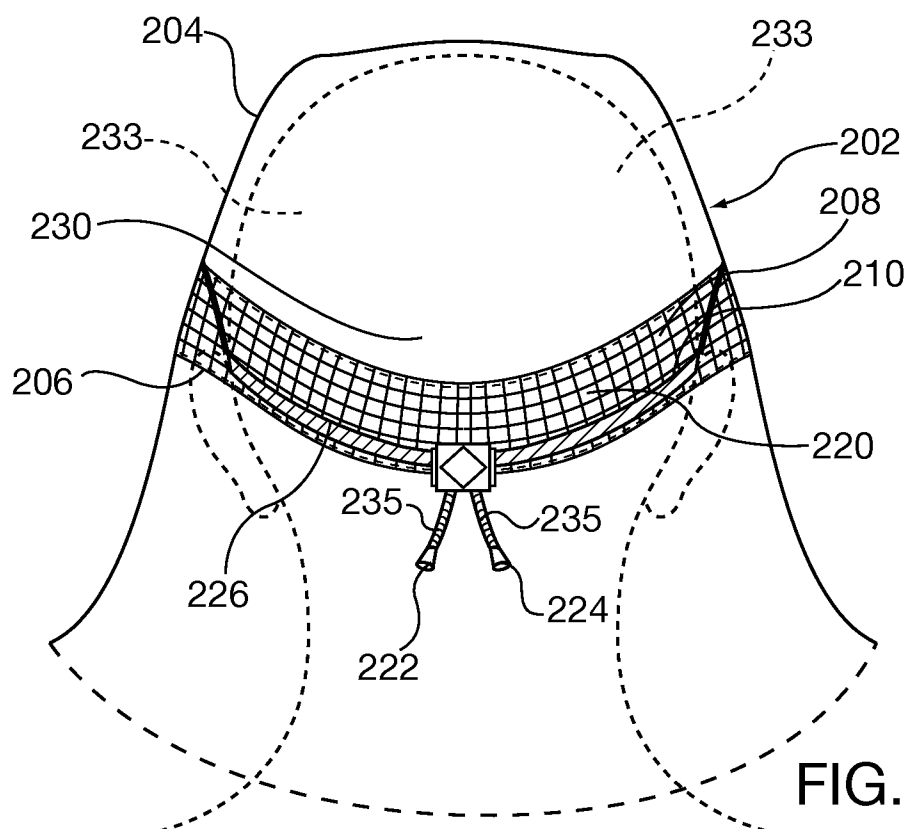


FIG. 7B

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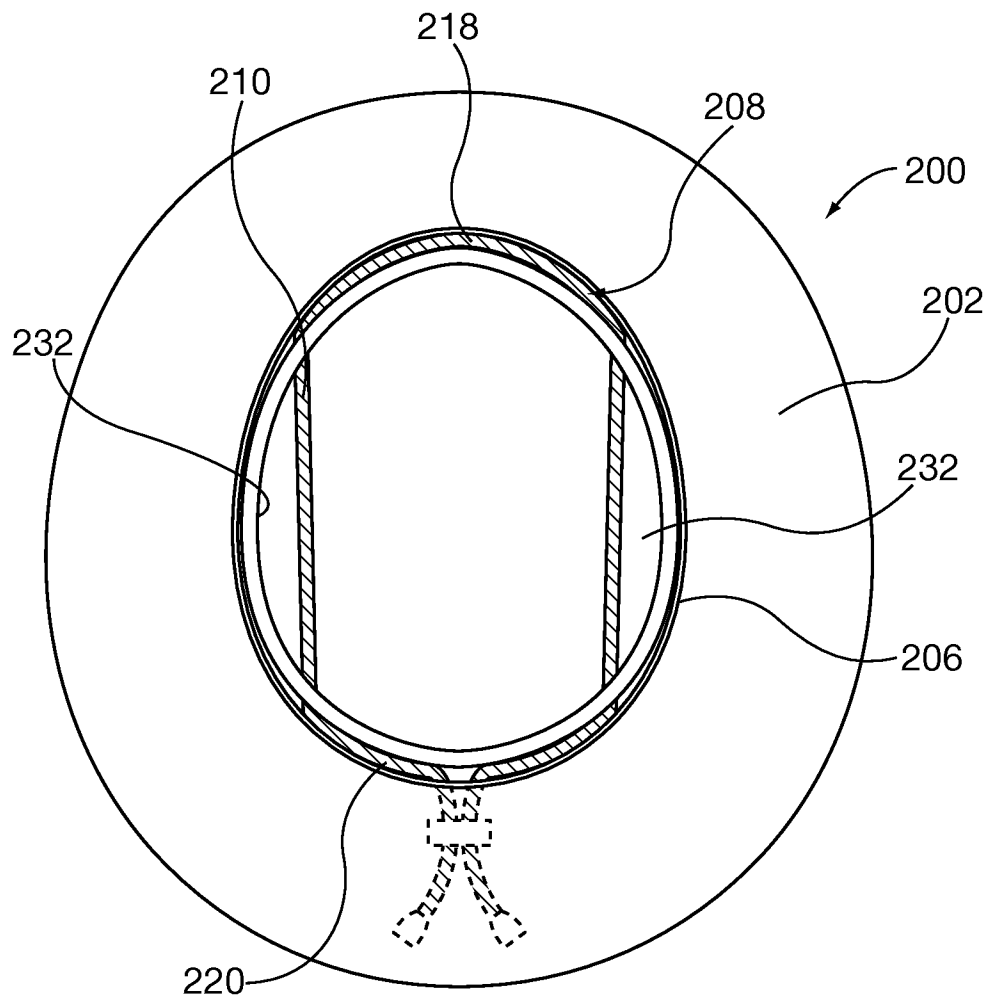


FIG. 7C

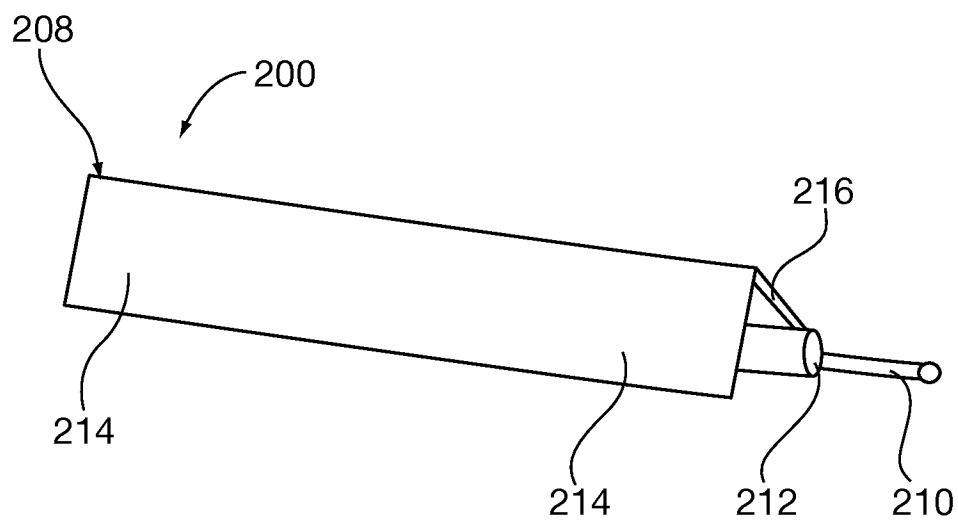
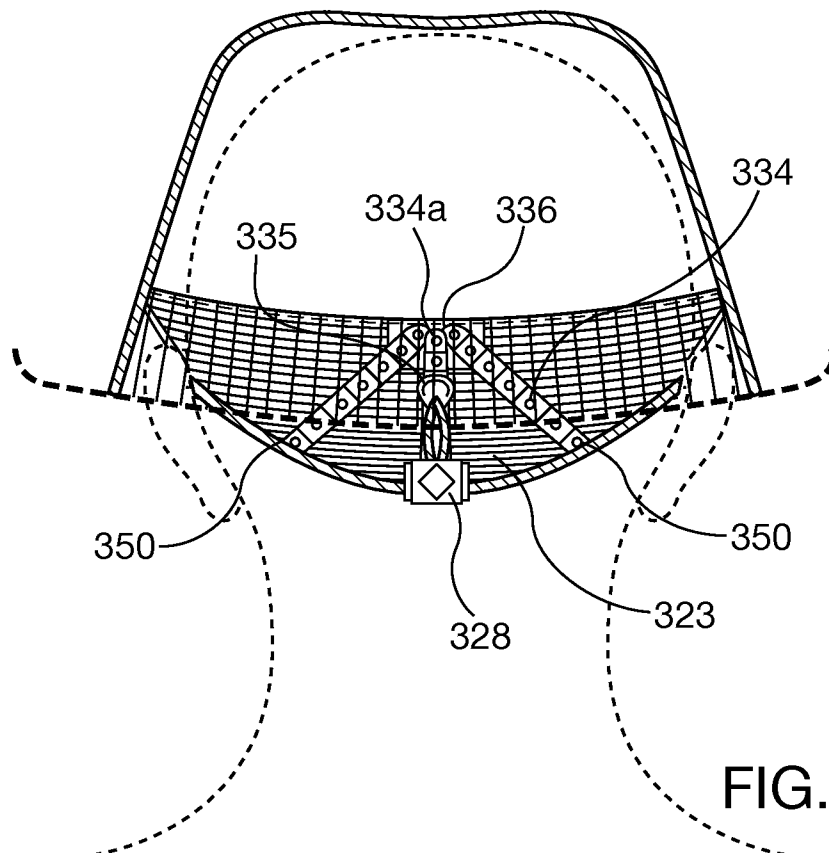
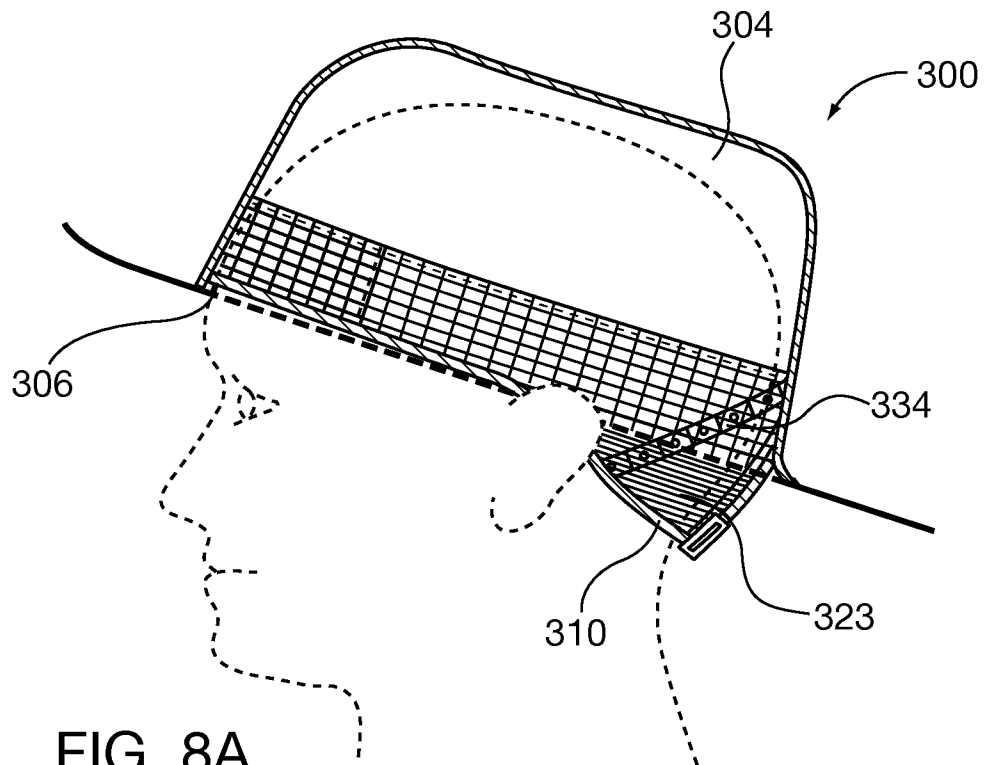


FIG. 7D

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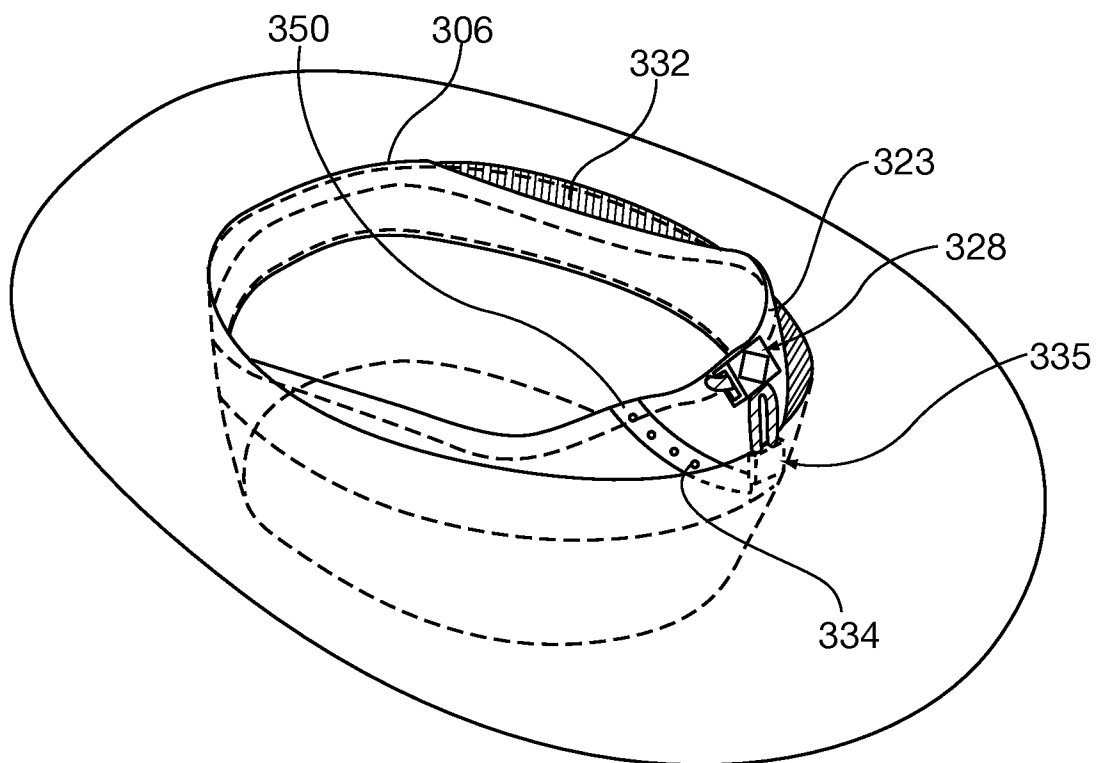


FIG. 8C