Aug. 30, 1966 W. W. COX 3,268,911

COMBINATION HAT AND VENTILATED PROTECTIVE SHELL

Filed Sept. 29, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

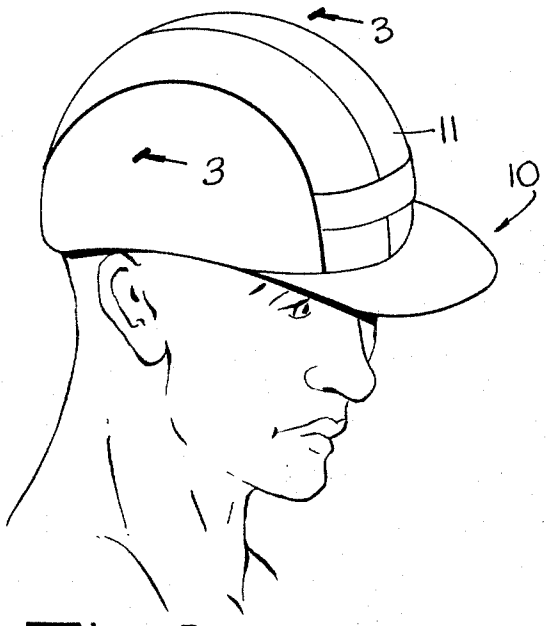


Fig. 1

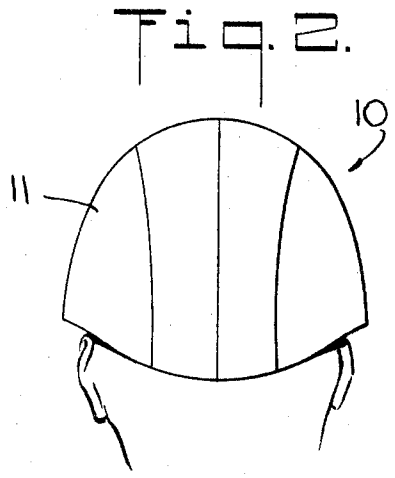


Fig. 2.

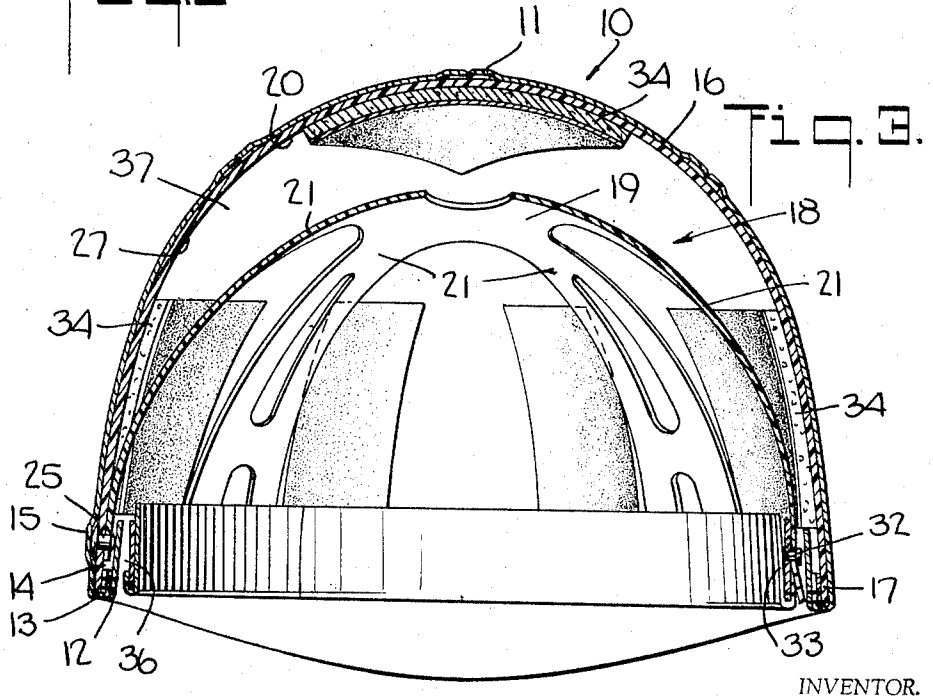


Fig. 3.

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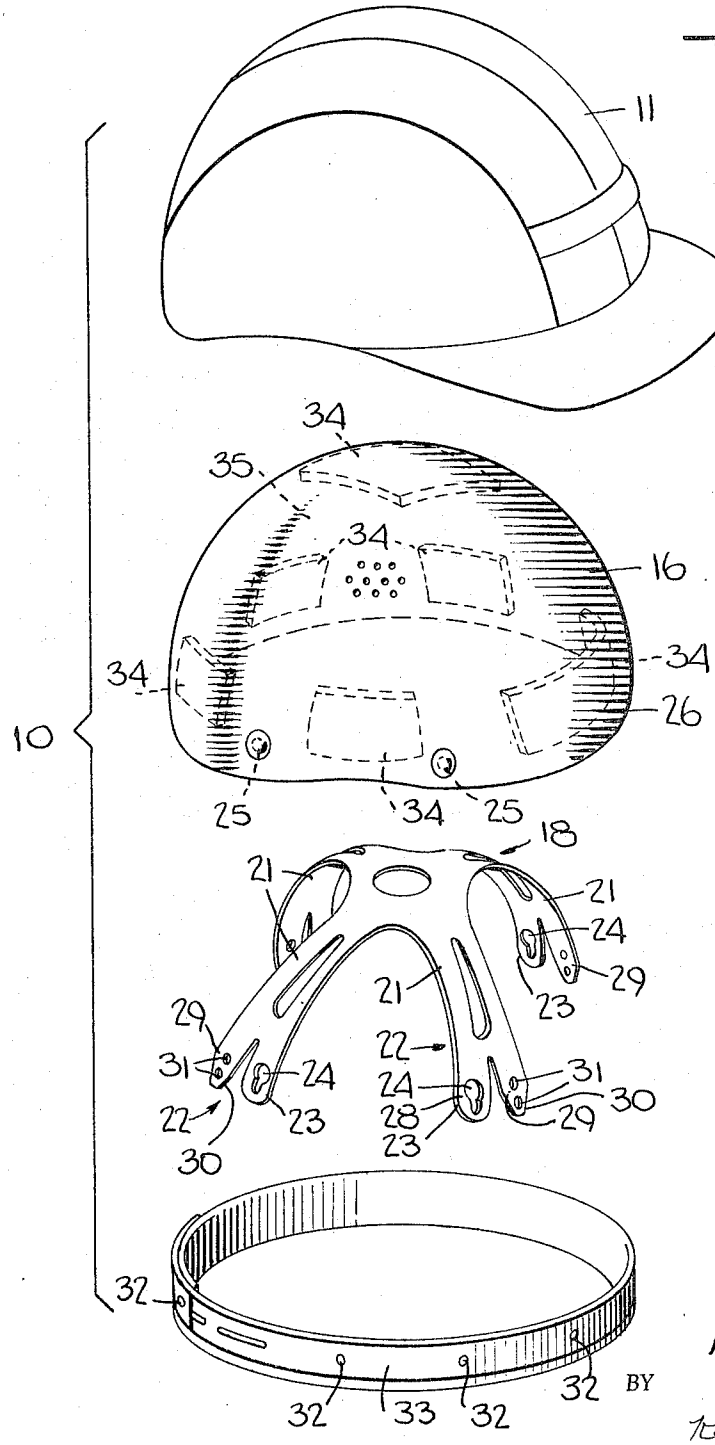
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Fig. 4.



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COMBINATION HAT AND VENTILATED PROTECTIVE SHELL

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This invention relates to protective hat coverings and more particularly to a head covering including a conventional hat and an inner protective shell.

In recent years increasing attention has been given to the utilization of various types of protective coverings for the head in sports and other recreational activities whereas in the past such protective coverings were almost entirely involved in industrial and commercial activities. Recently professional baseball leagues adopted requirements for hard shell hats to be worn by all players at least while taking their turn at bat. In all known respects such hard shell hats have not had the identical external appearance as the normal playing cap of the baseball player and consequently have lacked the preferred attributes thereof at least from an aesthetic standpoint. In addition, prior protective devices of the latter general type have been found to be relatively uncomfortable for the wearer due to the fact that the shell member is non-porous and additionally to the fact that the shell fits closely about the head. Consequently, wearing of such a device for any substantial period of time, or even for a short time under certain circumstances, increases the tendency to perspire which in addition to the discomfort, increases the likelihood that the hat will slide off the wearer's head thereby removing the protection.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a hat, more particularly a sports cap or the like, having the conventional external appearance of such a hat, and having retained within it by the normal sweatband of the hat, a protective shell which provides a shaping form for the hat and has an inner head harness assembly carrying a second sweatband for engagement with the head of the wearer to provide a ventilated space between the head of the wearer and the inner shell throughout the inner contour thereof.

Another object is to provide a hat with an easily insertable and removable inner protective shell.

Another object is to provide a device of the above type in which the inner shell has, in addition to the inner harness, a resilient lining for the shell to provide protection against severe blows.

Briefly the present invention comprises in combination a cap having a peripheral sweatband therein, the cap and the sweatband being joined at their lower edges and the sweatband extending upwardly within the cap to provide a shell receiving pocket therebetween. A head protective shell dimensioned to be received within the cap is disposed therein in close conformity with the interior surface of the cap and has a lower peripheral edge disposed within said pocket to retain the shell in the cap. A head harness assembly is disposed within the shell having a crown portion spaced from the shell and circumferentially spaced depending strap members each having a lower pair of fastening tabs. The first tab of each pair is releasably affixed to the shell adjacent the lower edge thereof and lies within said pocket at its lower end portion. The second tab of each strap member lies inwardly of the sweatband, outside of the pocket, and a second sweatband is releasably affixed to said second tabs near their lower ends and is carried thereby at an inwardly spaced position from the first named sweatband providing a peripheral ventilated space between said sweatband communicating with the space between the shell and the crown portion of the harness. Resilient pad means are affixed to the inner surface of the shell at least on those portions at the inner top thereof and between adjacent strap members of the harness.

Other objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and in the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a hat according to the present invention shown in use;

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged section taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an exploded assembly view.

Referring to the drawings, a hat and protective shell combination according to the present invention is designated generally by reference numeral **10**. It is comprised of a conventional hat of any desired type such as the sports cap **11** shown having the conventional sweatband **12**. The hat **11** and sweatband **12** are joined together at a common bottom edge **13** by any conventional means and the sweatband **12** extends upwardly as viewed in FIG. 3 to provide a pocket or interstitial space **14** between the sweatband **12** and the lower peripheral portion **15** of the hat **11**.

Disposed within said hat is protective shell member **16** fabricated from any conventional hard plastic or other material used in conventional protective shells. Shell member **16** is dimensioned to fit snugly within hat **11** and provides a shaping contour therefor. The shell **16** is retained in place within hat **11** by means of its lower peripheral edge portion **17** which is received within pocket **14** of the hat and is easily insertable and removable therefrom.

Disposed within shell **16** is a head harness assembly designated generally by reference numeral **18** which is fabricated of any desired material such as a flexible plastic or the like and has a crown portion **19** disposed at a spaced position from the inner top portion **20** of the shell **16** and has a plurality of depending strap members **21** at circumferentially spaced positions each having at its lower end a pair of tab portions designated generally by reference numeral **22**, one tab **23** of each pair having a hole configuration **24** adapted for releasable interconnection with button fastener members **25** affixed to the lower portion **26** of the shell at corresponding circumferentially spaced positions and extending inwardly from the inner surface **27** of the shell **16**. The lower portion **26** of shell **16** including the button fasteners **25** and the lower end portions **28** of the tabs **23** are disposed within the circumferential pocket **14**.

Second tabs **29** of each pair **22** lie outside of pocket **14**, i.e. inwardly from sweatband **12**, and have at their lower ends **30** fastener holes **31** to releasably interconnect by manual pressure with fastener buttons **32** extending outwardly from the periphery of inner sweatband **33** to mount the latter sweatband to the head harness assembly **18**.

Resilient pad means **34** of any desired material, providing any preselected degree of resilience and compression strength, are secured by adhesion or other conventional means, to the inner surface **27** of shell **16** to provide secondary protection from more severe blows and such pad means **34** are located at the inner crown portion **20** and at spaced temple positions located at circumferential positions between the depending strap members **21**. Optionally the shell **16** may include ventilation holes **35** at any desired locations.

By the above arrangement it is seen that the peripheral interstitial space **36** between the hat sweatband **12** and the inner sweatband **33** communicates with the space **37** between the harness assembly **21** and the shell **16** to provide a continuous hemispherical ventilating space for the head of the wearer and since the sweatband **33** is adjust-

able such ventilating cavity **36** can be varied as desired for greater or less ventilating characteristics. In addition to the ventilating characteristics provided by the inner sweatband **33** it is also obvious that such second sweatband also contributes to the shock absorption quality of the entire combination.

It is to be understood that changes and additions may be made to the above invention as described in the single embodiment without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In combination a sportscap having a peripheral sweatband therein, said sportscap and said sweatband being joined at their lower edges and said sweatband extending upwardly within said sportscap to provide a shell receiving pocket therebetween, a head protective shell dimensioned to be received within said sportscap and disposed therein in close conformity with the interior surface thereof, said shell having a lower peripheral edge disposed within said pocket whereby said shell is retained in said cap, a head harness disposed within said shell having a crown portion spaced from said shell and circumferentially spaced depending strap members each having a lower pair of fastener tabs, the first tab of each said pair releasably affixed to said shell adjacent the lower edge thereof and lying within said pocket, the second tab of each said pair lying inwardly of said sweatband, a second sweatband releasably affixed to said second tabs near their lower ends and carried thereby at an inwardly spaced position from said first named sweatband, providing a peripheral ventilating space between said sweatbands communicating with the space between said shell and said crown portion of said harness.

2. In combination a sportscap having a peripheral sweatband therein, said sportscap and said sweatband being joined at their lower edges and said sweatband extending upwardly within said sports cap to provide a shell receiving pocket therebetween, a head protective shell dimensioned to be received within said sportscap and disposed therein to close conformity with the interior surface thereof, said shell having a lower peripheral edge displosed within said pocket whereby said shell is retained in said cap, a head harness disposed within said shell having a crown portion spaced from said shell and circumferentially spaced depending strap members each having a lower pair of fastener tabs, the first tab of each said pair releasably affixed to said shell adjacent the lower edge thereof and lying within said pocket, the second tab

of each said pair lying inwardly of said sweatband, a second sweatband releasably affixed to said second tabs near their lower ends and carried thereby at an inwardly spaced position from said first named sweatband, providing a peripheral ventilating space between said sweatbands communicating with the space between said shell and said crown portion of said harness, and resilient pad means affixed to the inner surface of said shell.

3. In combination a sportscap having a peripheral sweatband therein, said sportscap and said sweatband being joined at their lower edges and said sweatband extending upwardly within said sportscap to provide a shell receiving pocket therebetween, a head protective shell dimensioned to be received within said sportscap and disposed therein in close conformity with the interior surface thereof, said shell having a lower peripheral edge disposed within said pocket whereby said shell is retained in said cap, a head harness disposed within said shell having a crown portion spaced from said shell and circumferentially spaced depending strap members each having a lower pair of fastener tabs, the first tab of each said pair releasably affixed to said shell adjacent the lower edge thereof and lying within said pocket, the second tab of each said pair lying inwardly of said sweatband, a second sweatband releasably affixed to said second tabs near their lower ends and carried thereby at an inwardly spaced position from said first named sweatband, providing a peripheral ventilating space between said sweatbands communicating with the space between said shell and said crown portion of said harness, and resilient pad means affixed to the inner surface of said shell at least on those portions at the inner top of said shell and between adjacent strap members of said harness.

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