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HAIR FASHIONING IMPLEMENT

Filed Sept. 12, 1963

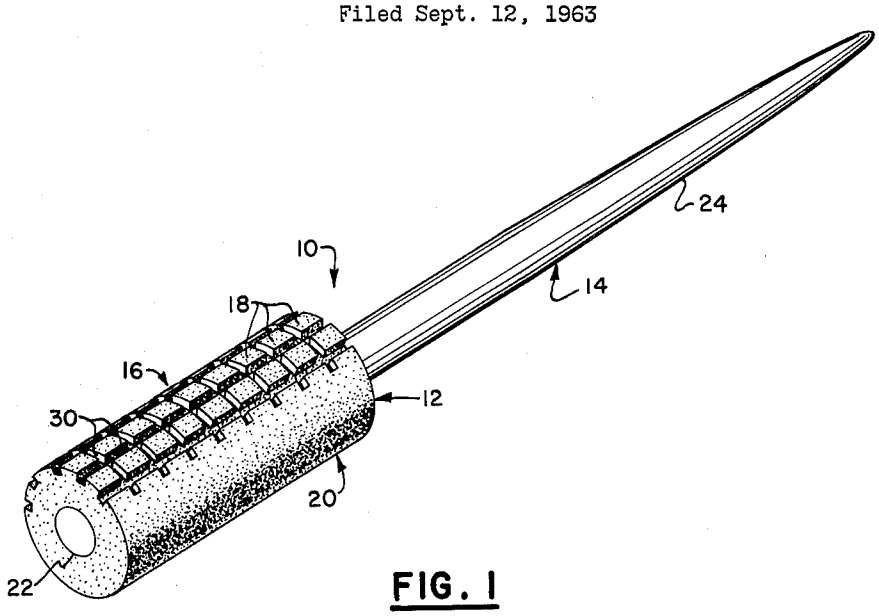

FIG. 1

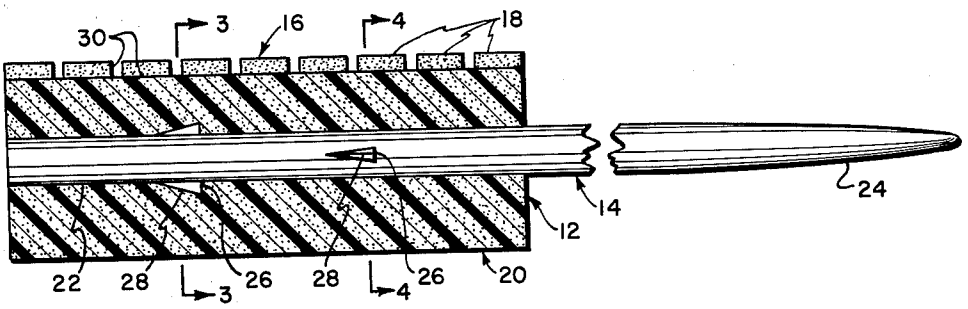

FIG. 2

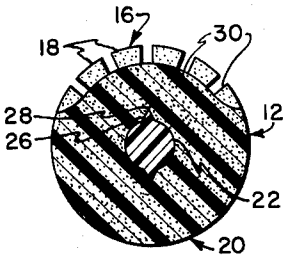

FIG. 3

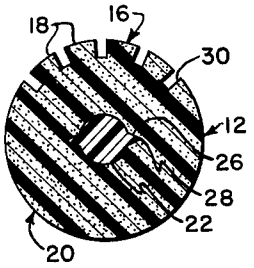

FIG. 4

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HAIR FASHIONING IMPLEMENT

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The present invention relates generally to devices for grooming the hair and pertains more specifically to an implement devised to fashion women's hair into any one of a variety of hair styles.

Currently, many hair styles for women are enjoying a great deal of popularity. These hair styles often require a variety of operations in order to fashion the hair into the desired arrangement. One such operation is known as "teasing" and consists of vigorously combing or brushing portions of the hair in a direction opposite to that in which the hair naturally grows in order to attain an expanded or "puffed-up" effect in the particular style. Because of the nature of the operation and the implements available for its performance, teasing has been known to damage the hair by tearing or breaking individual hair filaments to the detriment of the hair in general.

I have developed an implement which may be employed in teasing as well as other operations in fashioning hair into a desired style with a minimum of damage to the hair filaments. The operation of the implement relies to a large extent upon my discovery that the surface properties of foamed plastics of the flexible variety are such that these materials may be successfully employed in manipulating the hair in an effective, yet gentle manner.

An important object of the invention is to provide an implement for fashioning hair into a desired style with a minimum of damage to the hair filaments.

Another object of the invention is to provide an implement capable of easy manipulation to effectively fashion hair into a variety of styles.

A further object of the invention is to provide an implement for fashioning hair into a desired style, which implement is relatively simple in design and construction and easily fabricated of relatively inexpensive materials.

Briefly, the invention may be described as the employment of a flexible foamed plastic member providing a resilient hair-engaging surface in an implement for fashioning hair into a desired style. Means are fixed to the member for facilitating manipulation of the member during fashioning operations.

The invention will be understood more fully and further objects and advantages will become apparent in the following detailed description of an embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an implement constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the implement of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 2.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to FIGURE 1, an implement **10** is shown constructed in accordance with the invention and has a member **12** fixed to a handle **14** which provides means for manipulating the member **12** through operations employed in fashioning hair into a variety of desired styles. The member **12** has a hair-engaging surface **16** and is fabricated of a foamed plastic of the flexible variety, such as for example, a urethane foam. I have found that such a material possesses surface properties which will serve to actively engage the hair filaments and direct these filaments into a desired arrangement while the inherent resiliency of the material will assure that such manipulations of the hair filaments are carried out gently and with a minimum of damage to the hair. Whereas ordinary combs and brushes rely upon the engagement of relatively stiff teeth or bristles with the hair filaments to work the hair into a desired arrangement, the member **12** employs the gentle interaction of the resilient surface **16** with the hair filaments to achieve improved results in ease of operation as well as in delicate handling of the vulnerable filaments.

In order to enhance the action of surface **16** of member **12**, the surface is divided into a plurality of protuberances **18** which provide a relatively coarse surface in comparison to surface **20** which is not divided into protuberances. The inherent resiliency of the material of member **12** assures that the protuberances will not damage the hair filaments with which the protuberances come into contact. Surface **20**, which is relatively smooth in comparison to surface **16** may be employed for smoothing the hair filaments down as necessary during the hair fashioning operations.

An important feature of the invention is the way in which the resilient member **12** is reinforced with rigid means to preclude unwanted flexing of the member without affecting the desired resilience of surface **16**. As best seen in FIGURES 2 through 4, member **12** is tubular in form and a rigid rod **22** is received within the tubular member **12** and lies along the entire length thereof to reinforce the tubular member **12** against unwanted flexing during utilization of the implement. Handle **14** is integral with rod **22** and serves as a convenient means for manipulating member **12** during fashioning operations. A taper **24** is provided to serve as a further hair manipulating means in a manner now well known in the art. Rod **22** may be fabricated of a variety of relatively rigid materials and is shown formed of a rigid synthetic resin. It is apparent that without reinforcing rod **22**, member **12** would be limply flexible and thus much more difficult to use in placing hair in a desired arrangement.

The member **12** and rod **22** are easily assembled by merely slipping the rod into the tubular member. In order to secure member **12** in place upon rod **22**, barbs **26** are provided integral with the rod and engage the member **12** to prevent the member from slipping off the rod as the implement is manipulated. It is noted that barbs **26** may proceed through the member **12** from right to left as seen in FIGURE 2 by virtue of sharp edges **28**, but not in the reverse direction. Since most of the forces exerted upon member **12** during use of the implement tend to either rotate member **12** upon rod **22** or pull the member to the left with respect to the rod, barbs **26** will preclude such movement. However, during assembly of the implement, member **12** is easily slipped to the right along rod **22**. When it becomes necessary to replace member **12** after the member has outlived its usefulness, member **12** and rod **22** are merely disassembled by slipping member **12** to the right with respect to rod **22** until the elements are separated.

The fabrication of member **12** is relatively inexpensive and well suited to manufacture in large numbers of uniform quality. The tubular form may be evolved in relatively long lengths which are then cut to the required dimensions. Protuberances **18** can be formed by merely cutting grooves **30** into a portion of the periphery of member **12** at surface **16** in a desired pattern.

Thus, it will be seen that implement **10** provides a simple and effective means for gently fashioning hair into any desired style with a minimum of damage to the hair filaments.

It is to be understood that the above detailed description of an embodiment of the invention is provided by

way of example only and is not intended to restrict the invention. Various details of design and construction may be modified without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claim.

I claim:

An implement for fashioning hair into a desired style, said implement comprising:

a tubular member of flexible foamed plastic having a longitudinally extending cylindrical surface with a generally circular lateral cross-sectional configuration;

a series of longitudinal grooves in said member spaced laterally from one another along a substantial portion of the perimeter of the cross-sectional configuration and a series of lateral grooves in said member spaced longitudinally from one another and intersecting the longitudinal grooves to establish a plurality of protuberances providing a relatively coarse, resilient hair-engaging surface, each protuberance being flexible and having a resilient surface by virtue of the flexible nature of the foamed plastic tubular member;

a relatively smooth hair-smoothing surface extending along a substantial portion of the cylindrical surface beyond the relatively coarse surface;

a rigid rod received longitudinally within the tubular member to reinforce the member and preclude unwanted flexing of the member along the length thereof without affecting the desired resilience of the cylindrical surface; and

a handle fixed to the rod and extending longitudinally beyond the tubular member for facilitating manipulation of the member during fashioning operations.

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