Feb. 4, 1930. M. A. WEITZMAN 1,745,520

HAT BRIM IRONING APPARATUS

Filed May 25. 1928

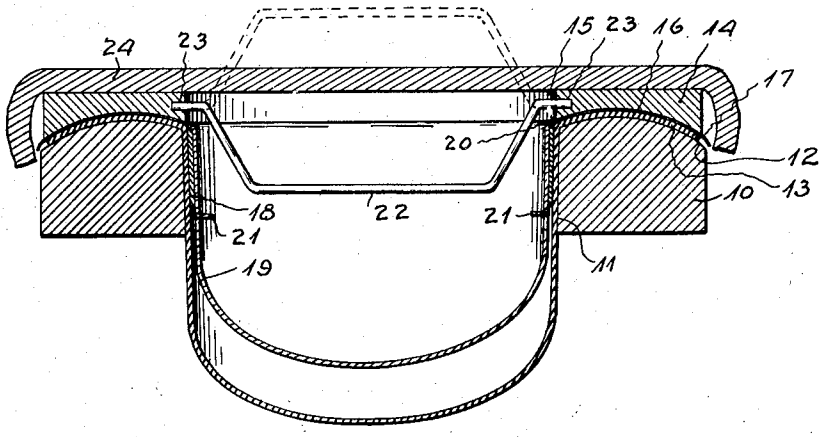

Fig. 1.

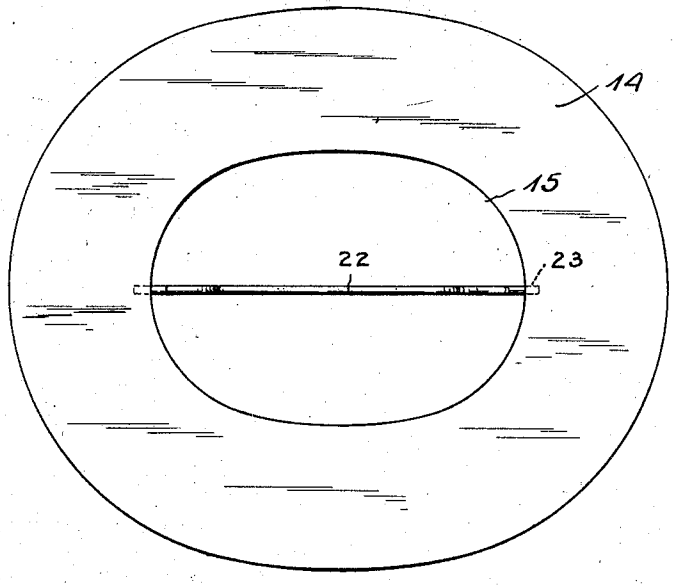

Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HAT-BRIM-IRONING APPARATUS

Application filed May 25, 1928. Serial No. 280,622.

My invention relates to apparatus particularly adaptable and useful for pressing, ironing and reshaping hat brims.

An important object of the invention is to provide a comparatively light annular iron or ironing plate whose ironing surface is shaped to fit the blocking surface of a flinch or brim block so that the heat and weight of the iron may steam, press and reshape to normal curvature the brim of a hat received in the block.

Another object is to provide an auxiliary block or guard structure to be placed inside of the hat to hold it to the block, to prevent shrinking, and to shield the leather band of the hat from the heat and steam during blocking and reshaping of the brim.

My invention is clearly illustrated on the drawing in which

Fig. 1 is a vertical section showing a hat in a brim block and my apparatus applied thereto, and

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the brim iron.

I have shown an annular brim block 10 of usual construction having the opening 11 for receiving the crown of a hat, and the transversely convexed upper surface 12 for receiving the brim 13 of the hat.

The brim iron 14 is in the form of an annular plate or block whose opening 15 is substantially of the same size and contour as the brim block opening 11, and whose under or ironing surface 16 is transversely concaved to accord and register with the convex surface of the block so that the hat brim between the surfaces will be intimately and uniformly engaged.

A damp cloth 17 is first laid on the brim and then the heated iron is applied. The effect of the heat, steam and pressure on the brim will soon restore it to its original shape and condition.

To prevent shrinking, and to shield and protect the leather hat band 18 against the heat and steam, I preferably provide an auxiliary structure or block 19. This structure, as shown, may be in the form of a sheet metal bowl of a shape and size to fit into the hat crown and against the leather band, and to accurately seat the bowl and to protect the outer edge of the band, the edge of the bowl is deflected to form the flange 20 for extending around the band edge. By suitable means, such as tongues 21 deflected from the bowl sides, the bowl may be readily withdrawn from the hat.

Suitable means, such as a bail 22 may be provided for the iron 14 to facilitate its application and removal from the hat. The bail may be of spring wire with its ends inserted into the openings 23 in the iron. When the iron is carried the bail will be up as shown by the dotted lines Fig. 1, and after application to the hat brim the bail may be swung down into the hat crown, as shown by the full lines. This arrangement will leave the top of the iron flat and unobstructed for the application of an insulating pad 24 for confining the heat and steam as long as possible to the treated brim.

Briefly repeating the procedure and operation, the hat is placed in the block 10, and the auxiliary block or bowl 19 is inserted in the hat crown until its flange 20 rests against the outer edge of the leather band 18. The bowl, being yielding and elastic, will hold the hat crown spread in the block 10 with the brim accurately alined on the blocking surface 12. The damp cloth 17 is now laid on the brim and then the heated iron is applied and its bail swung down. The pad 24 is then laid over the iron to confine the heat and the steam which will permeate the brim, and the weight of the iron will then press the brim accurately against the blocking surface 12 to soon restore it to its original shape and condition. The auxiliary block 19 will prevent shrinking of the crown and the leather band and will prevent the heat and steam from injuring the band. After the blocking operation the iron and auxiliary block may be readily removed by means of the bail and the tongues 21.

The brim irons may be of different thicknesses depending upon the weight desired and they may be stove, gas, or electrically heated. The irons need be heated only to comparatively low temperature as the heat and generated steam will be confined by the

insulating pad and thereby prevented from being uselessly dissipated.

The brim irons and auxiliary blocks will be of different sizes and shapes in accordance with the sizes and shapes of hats to be blocked. The apparatus is very simple and practical and with it blocking can be accomplished more accurately and efficiently and with less time, labor and expense than with the laborious procedure heretofore employed.

I do not desire to be limited to the exact structure and procedure disclosed and described as modifications are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim as follows:

1. A hat brim iron in the form of an annular plate having an ironing surface curved to fit the blocking surface of a brim block, and a bail extending across the opening of said plate and adapted to swing to either side thereof.

2. Hat brim ironing apparatus comprising an annular heating iron for engaging the brim of a hat, and a thin flexible sheet metal heat shield for engaging against the inner surface of the hat sweat band and having a radial flange for overlying the outer edge of the band.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 23rd day of May, 1928.

MORRIS A. WEITZMAN.