March 15, 1955 H. M. SMITH 2,704,176

CAP DRIER

Filed Oct. 31, 1952

Fig. 1

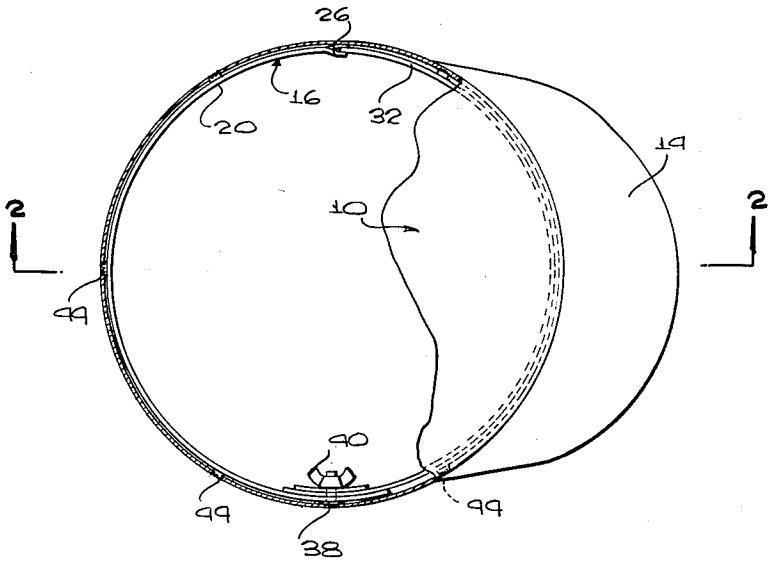
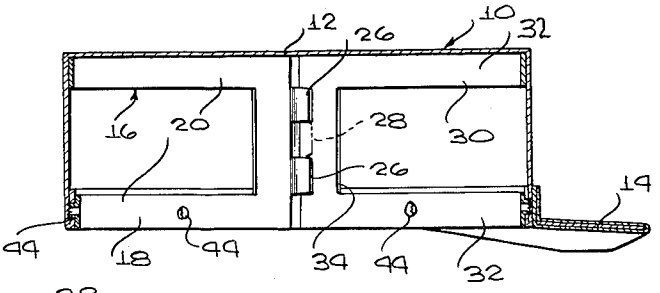


Fig. 2



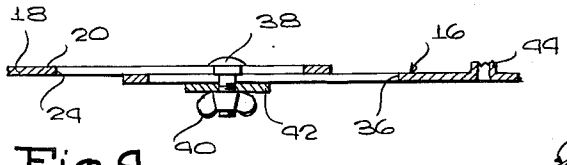


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

INVENTOR.
HAROLD M. SMITH

BY

McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 2,704,176 Patented Mar. 15, 1955

2,704,176

CAP DRIER

Harold M. Smith, Palestine, Tex.

Application October 31, 1952, Serial No. 318,024

1 Claim. (Cl. 223—25)

This invention relates to a cap drier, and more particularly has reference to a drying frame adapted to support a cap such as a shop cap, after said cap has been washed and is to be dried.

Unless a cap of the type stated is properly supported upon a drying frame, it will not be dried in a proper shape. Additionally, it is desirable that a shop cap be dried in a suitable frame, to assure the prevention of shrinkage of the material of which the cap is formed.

It is the main object of the present invention to provide a generally improved drying frame for caps of the character referred to.

Another object of importance is to provide a drier as stated which can be manufactured at a low cost, thus to justify its commercial production.

Another object is to provide a cap drier which will make it unnecessary to iron a cap stretched thereover.

Another object of importance is to provide a drier which will be readily adjustable as to size, thus to permit the drier to be used as a frame for any one of a number of differently sized caps.

Yet another object is to provide a drier of the character referred to which can be positioned within a cap speedily and easily.

Yet another object is to provide a drier for shop caps which will have means embodied therein that will be adapted to grip the material of the cap, thus to prevent relative slippage between the drier and cap.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claim appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a drier formed in accordance with the present invention, a cap supported on said drier being illustrated partly in top plan and partly in horizontal section;

Figure 2 is a section taken diametrically through the drier and cap, substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the drier per se; and

Figure 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

The reference numeral **10** has been applied generally to a conventionally formed shop cap. The cap **10**, in this connection, is provided with a head piece **12** and a bill **14**.

The drier constituting the present invention has been designated generally at **16**, and is proportioned for insertion in the head piece, thus to assure the proper stretching and shaping of the head piece during the drying operation.

The drier **16** comprises a pair of adjustably connected frames, each of which will be described in turn. One frame has been designated by the reference numeral **18**, and is integrally formed from resilient material such as plastic or spring metal. The frame **18** is formed to include a pair of parallel side portions **20** integrally connected at one end by a bight **22**. At their other ends, the side portions **20** have closed longitudinal slots **24**.

Integrally formed upon the bight **22**, and projecting beyond the free end of the frame **18**, are gripping lugs **26, 28**. A pair of lugs **26** is provided, said lugs being disposed at opposite sides of a single lug **28**. The lugs **26** are inclined in one direction relative to the normal plane of the frame **18**, the lug **28** being inclined in an opposite direction. Preferably, the lugs **26, 28** are quite

short, so that they will not represent any undesirable projections upon the drier.

A second frame has been designated by the reference numeral **30**, and is integrally formed to include a pair of relatively elongated, parallel side portions **32**. The side portions **32** are integrally connected, at one end, by a bight **34**, the other ends of the side portions **32** having longitudinal slots **36** registering with the slots **24** (Figure 4).

The slotted ends of the frames **18, 30** are overlapped as shown in Figure 3, and extending through the registering slots are connecting bolts **38** provided with wing nuts **40**.

It will be seen that the overall length of the drier can be adjusted, by loosening of the wing nuts **40**. After the wing nuts have been loosened, the drier frames can be adjusted toward or away from one another, as necessary, after which the wing nuts **40** are again tightened. This adjustment permits the drier to be used as a support for caps of different sizes.

As will be seen from Figures 3 and 4, the bolts **38** are not only passed through the slots **24, 36**, but also extend through openings formed in the opposite ends of a tie piece **42**, said tie piece extending transversely between the overlapping ends of the drier frames.

Formed in one side of each frame is a series of perforations **44**, said perforations being roughened to provide means adapted to engage in the material of the head piece **12**, when the drier is inserted in a cap **10**.

In use of the drier, the drier is first adjusted to permit the same to be accommodated to the size of the particular cap to be positioned thereover. Thereafter, the drier is inserted in the head piece of the cap, in the manner shown in Figures 1 and 2, and the lugs **26, 28** are placed in engagement with the bight **34** in the manner shown in Figure 2.

The drier is thus formed into a circular member adapted to be resiliently engaged with the head piece **12**, thus to hold said head piece in a stretched condition that will facilitate the drying thereof in a proper shape. The head piece will not slip relative to the drier, during the drying operation, due to the roughened means **44** provided upon the respective drier frames.

After the head piece has been fully dried, it is merely necessary that the lugs **26, 28** be disengaged from the bight **34**, after which the drier can be readily removed from the shop cap. Ironing of the cap is unnecessary.

It will be seen that a drier formed in accordance with the present invention can be readily manufactured at a comparatively low expense, the drier still having some desirable functional characteristics, despite the low cost of construction thereof. Among these characteristics is the ready adjustability of the drier, to accommodate the same to caps of different sizes. Another characteristic of importance resides in the capability of the drier for exerting a continuous yielding pressure against the head piece throughout the circumference of said head piece, this characteristic being obtained by reason of the resilient material of which the drier frames are formed.

Still another characteristic of importance is the means provided upon the drier for preventing relative slippage between the drier and the head piece of the cap.

It should also be apparent that the drier embodying the present invention provides a pair of U-shaped frames in which the free ends of the sides of the frames are arranged in overlapping relation to define an open area between the sides and the bight of each of the frames permitting a circulation of air through this open area so that the cap to be dried will attain that desired state of dryness more quickly and with greater efficiency.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described above, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention

comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A cap drier comprising a pair of resilient elongated U-shaped frames, each of said frames having spaced parallel sides connected together at one end by a bight to define an open area between said sides, said sides having their free ends remote from said bight in overlapping relation, means carried adjacent said free overlapping ends and operatively connected thereto to permit longitudinal adjustment of one of said frames with respect to the other of said frames, a plurality of lugs carried on the bight of one of said frames to releasably

secure the bight of said other frame therein to define a continuous band adapted to engage against the band of a cap to be dried thereon and permitting a circulation of air through the area defined between said sides of said frames.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,090,083	O'Hare et al.	Mar. 10, 1914
1,577,183	Dowiarz	Mar. 16, 1926
1,639,331	Diamond	Aug. 16, 1927