United States Patent [19]

Wall

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[54] **BARBER'S GLOVE AND METHOD**

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[51] **Int. Cl.²** **A41D 19/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 132/45 R, 45 A, 144, 37 R; 7/1 C, 3 R, 6.1; 2/16, 17, 20, 21, 158, 159, 161 R, 161 A, 162

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A glove to be worn by a barber upon two adjacent fingers for controlling the hair being cut includes a pair of fingers receiving coverings adapted to enclose the adjacent fingers. The finger coverings have side surfaces disposed in confronting relation to be moved by their supporting fingers into and out of engagement with each other so as to engage and hold strands of hair therebetween. Means forming the coverings cause the confronting surfaces of the coverings to meet substantially uniformly throughout the length of the confronting surfaces so as to substantially uniformly engage all hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when the surfaces are moved into engagement. Means for lifting in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of the hair disposed between the two fingers include embodiments employing various protrusions disposed in predetermined arrangements for purposes of engaging the hair and lifting some strands more than others in a predetermined pattern. The last named means includes embodiments disclosing recesses formed in a finger covering and adapted to receive arcuate protruding detents carried by the other finger covering. In addition, arcuately protruding detents are arranged to engage and press into a cushion carried by the finger covering of the other finger. Two additional embodiments show other means providing a lifting of the hair in a predetermined varying amount to provide a predetermined preselected cut of the distal ends of the hair. The foregoing arrangement carries out an appropriate method also disclosed.

14 Claims, 12 Drawing Figures

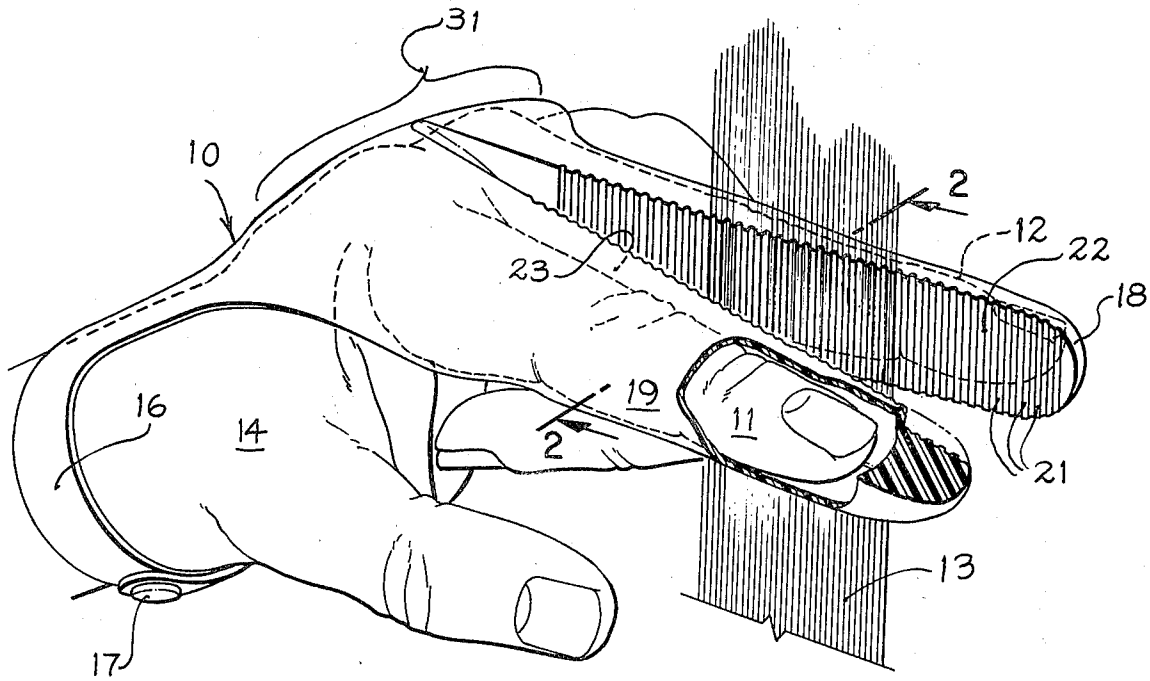


FIG_2

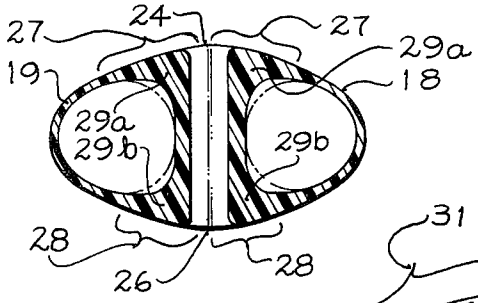


FIG_1

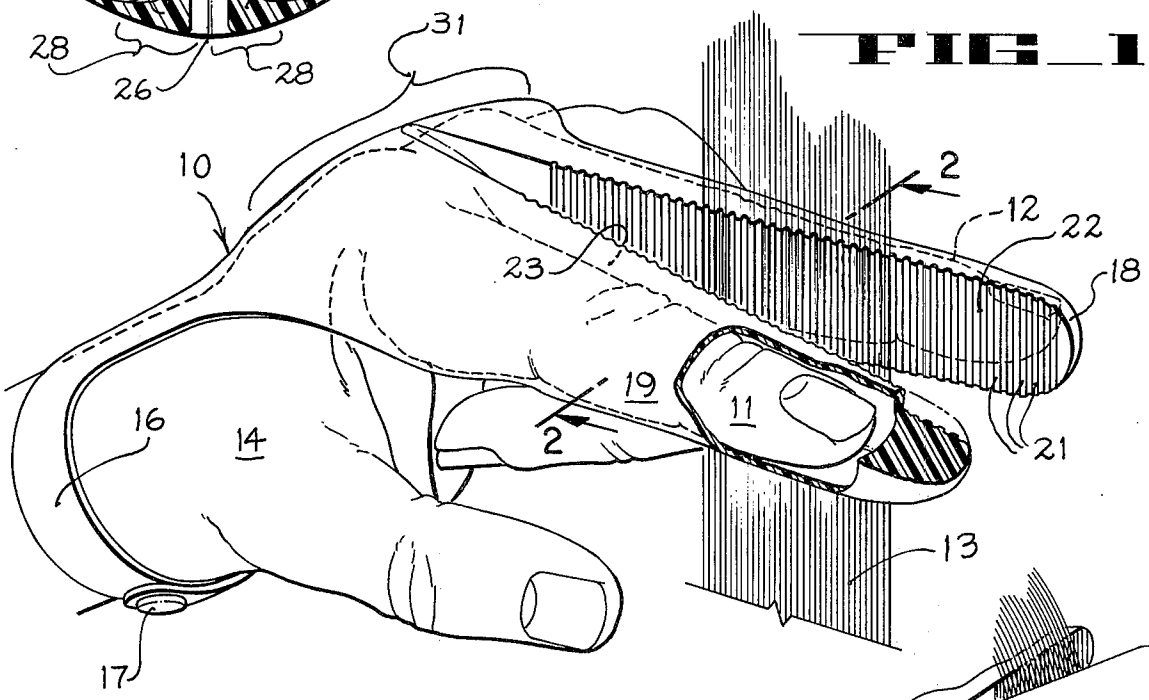


FIG_3

FIG_4

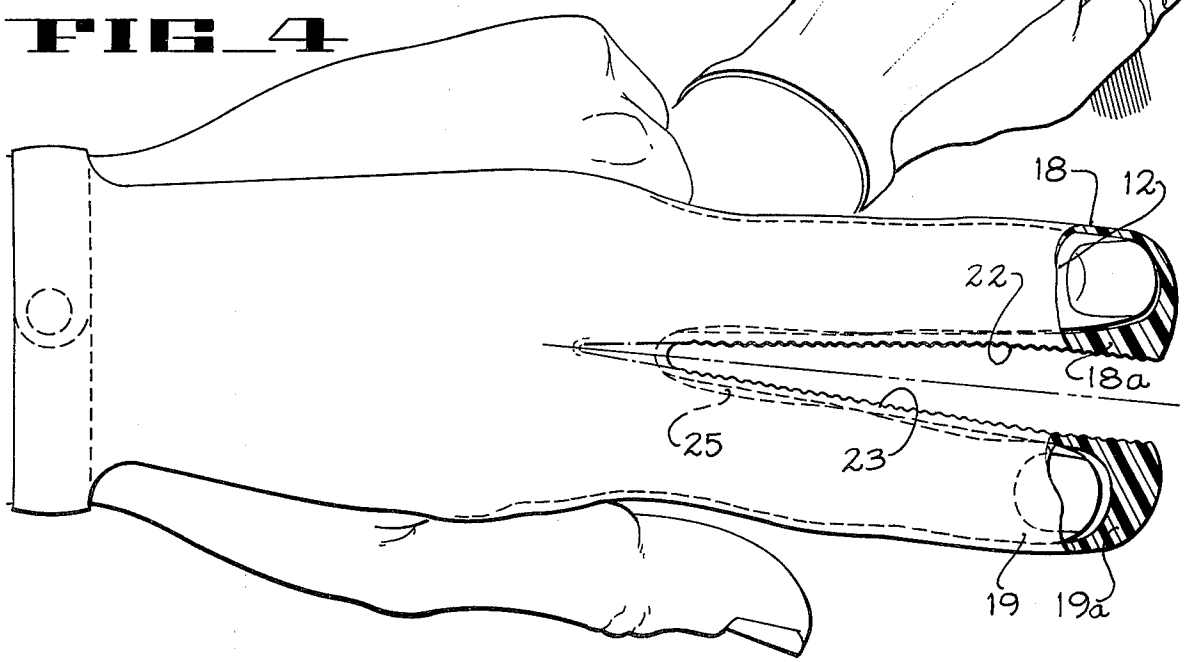


FIG_5

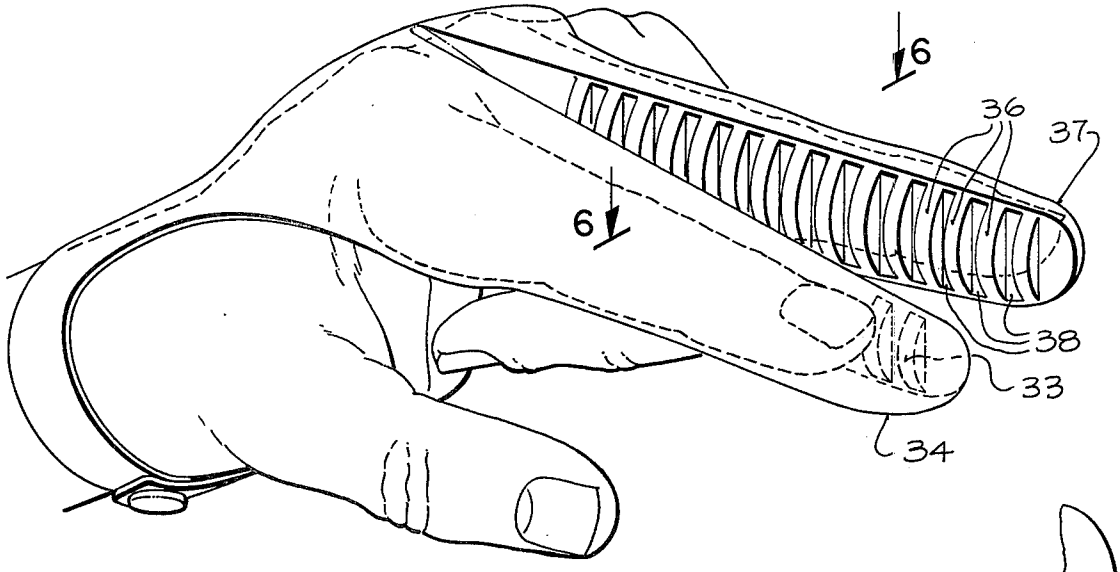
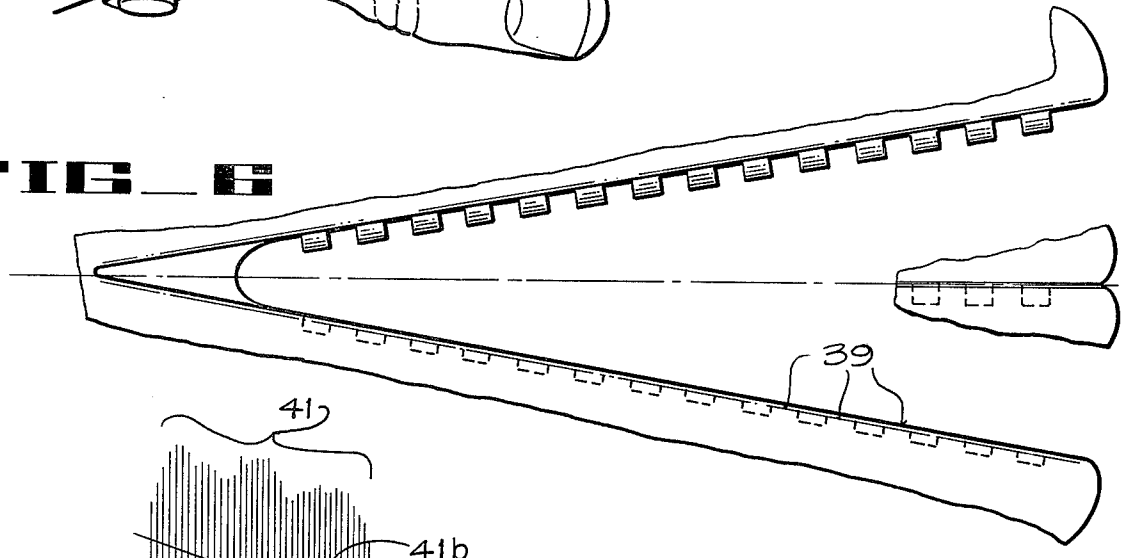


FIG_6



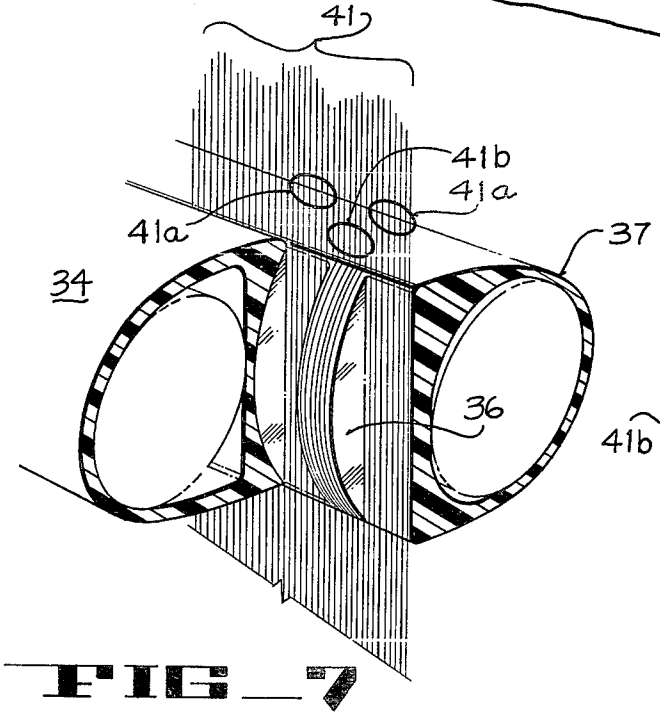


FIG_7

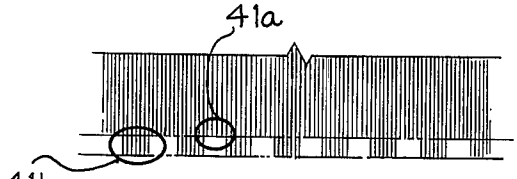


FIG_8

FIG_9

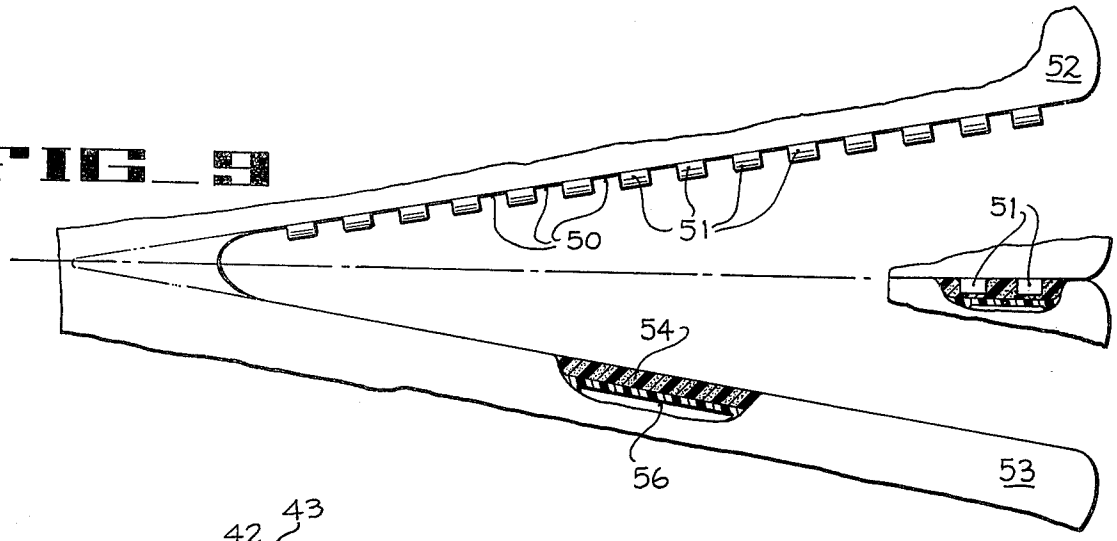


FIG_10

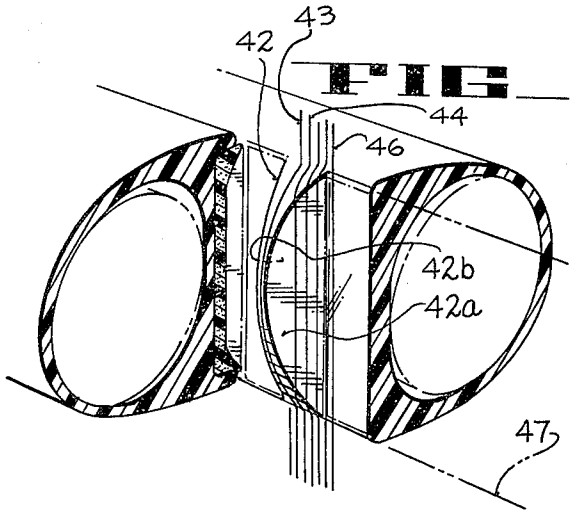
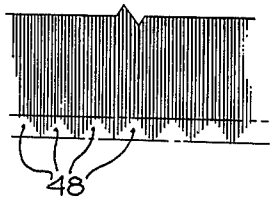


FIG_11



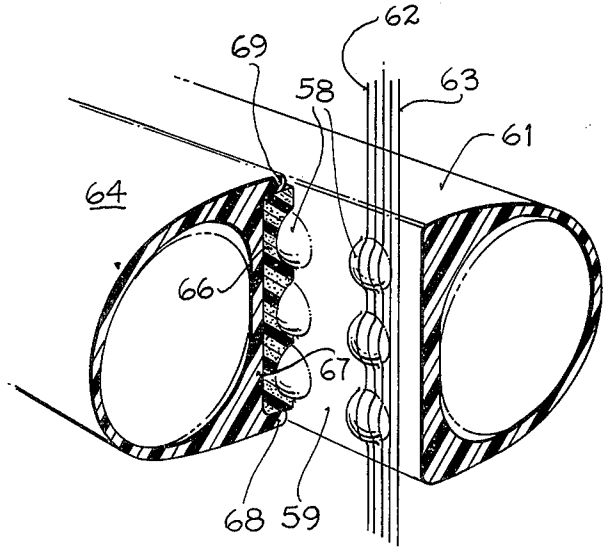


FIG_12

BARBER'S GLOVE AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention pertains to a barber's glove for use in conjunction with manipulating and handling hair during cutting, styling, etc. and more particularly to a barber's glove which serves to make it easier to trim the distal ends of hair in a consistently accurate manner.

Heretofore, when attempting to cut the distal ends of hair controlled between two fingers of one hand, barbers have had a problem with respect to their ability to trim the ends of the hair consistently evenly or in other predetermined configuration such as when forming a serrated or sawtooth edge. One reason for this lack of consistency stems from the fact that a person's hand in plan view with the fingers closed together, frequently discloses gaps defined between the fleshy portions of the fingers (as distinguished from the knuckles). These gaps are caused by contact by the knuckles of the two adjacent fingers, such as the index finger of the left hand and the middle finger of the left hand (for a right-handed person).

Many people have hands of this configuration, and, accordingly, are only able to grip the hair at those portions where contact is made between the two adjacent fingers. Where contact is not made, the hair obviously is permitted to fall freely. If the hair is being cut while wet, which is not unusual, the portion of the hair which is cut while hanging through an opening in the hand will ultimately be shorter than the other portions in view of the fact that while the hair is wet it tends to stretch under the weight of the water. Hence, the hair is cut at a higher position than desired so that after the hair dries, the clipped end of that portion of the hair will move to a higher position than the remainder of the same clipping of hair.

Another objectionable problem is to be found in the difficulty encountered in consistently and simply providing a uniform, serrated edge to the distal ends of the hair. Where it has been desired to provide a serrated or sawtooth edge to the ends of the hair (so as to permit the hair ends to blend in with the remaining hair), it has been a rather tedious and somewhat difficult job to cut a full line of hair at alternately occurring angles so as to form the sawtooth configuration at the distal ends of the hair.

The alternative to serrating the bottom ends of the hair is simply to make a direct cut across the ends of the hair, but this leaves the hair with relatively obvious undesirable scissor marks.

Yet another problem involved with haircutting and styling of the foregoing type pertains to the fact that where hair is being cut along the top of the index finger and middle finger while they are held together, a barber sometimes becomes more interested in cutting the hair than safety, and, accordingly, it is not unusual to find that barbers frequently cut themselves with their own shears. One particular location for cutting is the top surface of the hand and especially the larger rear knuckle portions.

Yet another problem encountered in the prior art has been the fact that, since the middle finger is usually longer than the index finger, the amount of hair which can be cut at any one particular time is limited by the length of the shorter index finger, thereby slowing down the process of being able to cut the hair.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND OBJECTS

In general, there has been provided a glove to be worn by a barber over two adjacent fingers of that hand which controls the hair. The glove includes an improvement comprising a pair of finger-receiving coverings, normally referred to as the glove's "fingers," adapted to enclose adjacent fingers of the hand of the barber. The finger coverings have side surfaces disposed in confronting relation to each other to be moved by their supporting fingers into and out of engagement with each other so as to engage and hold strands of hair therebetween. Further, means are provided to form the coverings in a manner serving to cause the confronting side surfaces to meet substantially uniformly throughout the length thereof so as to substantially uniformly engage all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when said surfaces are moved into engagement.

According to preferred embodiments, the glove includes means carried by at least one of the coverings serving to lift in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of hair in response to substantially uniform engagement between said confronting side surfaces to permit a linear cut by the scissors to form a serrated end edge to a given layer of hair for obscuring scissor marks.

According to a preferred method as disclosed herein, the distal ends of a length of hair can be trimmed pursuing the steps of disposing protrusions along a confronting side face of one of the barber's fingers, disposing the distal ends of the hair between the barber's fingers, closing the barber's fingers together for engaging the hair, disposing a covering upon one of the two control fingers of the barber's hand in confronting relation to the protrusions for receiving the protrusions therein when closing the fingers together so as to engage and lift in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces, and cutting the distal ends of the hair along a straight line while the hair remains engaged between the fingers.

In general, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved barber's glove and method of holding and cutting the distal ends of hair engaged between two control fingers on the hand of a barber.

A further object is to provide an improved barber's glove so as to hold with uniform pressure along the length of the interface defined between the two adjacent fingers.

Another object of the invention is to provide a glove for lifting the distal ends of the hair in predetermined varying degree in response to engagement of the confronting side faces of the finger coverings so as to permit a linear cut to be made by scissors while forming a serrated end edge to a layer of hair trapped between the two fingers.

An additional object of the invention is to provide an improved method for consistently and accurately trimming the distal ends of a layer of hair.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention will become more readily evident from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments when considered in conjunction with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of a barber's glove with portions broken away according to the invention;

FIG. 2 shows an elevation section view taken along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1 after the fingers have been moved into contact and showing in enlarged exaggerated detail the built up portions lying between the fingers and also the depth of the ribs formed on each of the confronting side faces of the fingers of the glove;

FIG. 3 shows a rear perspective view of a glove according to the invention;

FIG. 4 shows a plan view of a barber's glove according to FIG. 1 with a portion broken away for clarity;

FIG. 5 shows another embodiment of the invention in perspective featuring a number of protruding detents adapted to engage similarly shaped recesses in the index finger of the glove;

FIG. 6 shows a plan view of the embodiment of FIG. 5 with portions broken away and with a secondary portion showing the manner of engagement of the protruding detents with their associated arcuate recesses and flanking flat surfaces adjacent each;

FIG. 7 shows an enlarged detail perspective section view with hair captured between the two glove finger portions for explanation;

FIG. 8 shows in diagrammatic form the end edges of a number of strands of hair after having been cut using the embodiment according to FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 shows a plan view of portions of a barber's glove according to another embodiment of the invention with portions broken away and with a secondary view showing portions engaged in a closed position;

FIG. 10 shows an enlarged detail perspective section view according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 11 shows a diagrammatic view of serrated end edges of a number of strands of hair after having been cut in accordance with the embodiment shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 shows an enlarged detail section perspective view according to another embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Briefly, as shown in FIG. 1, a glove **10** has been provided to be worn by a barber over the two fingers **11, 12** on that hand which controls the hair **13** (as opposed to the hand which carries the scissors in normal practice). As shown herein, it has been assumed that the barber is right-handed. Accordingly, his left hand will be the hand used for purposes of controlling the hair and handling the hair in order to place it in proper position for cutting.

In general, the glove is formed of a pliant resilient material and attached to the hand **14** by a simple wrist strap **16** arranged to be coupled together by means of a snap **17.**

As now to be described, glove **10** is formed in a manner so as to eliminate the usual gap defined between portions of a person's fingers when laid side-by-side as caused by contact between the high point, such as the knuckles. Accordingly, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, glove **10** includes a pair of adjacent finger coverings **18, 19** formed of pliant plastic or other resilient material and arranged to include confronting surfaces **22, 23** formed in a manner to provide relatively coextensive confronting surfaces for engagement therebetween. The interior of the glove "fingers" or coverings is thus built up by means of adding material to the interior portions of the finger coverings, as for example, at **25.** Thus, as the fingers are moved into engagement with each other substantially no gaps remain between the adjacent fingers **11, 12** of the barber.

Means are provided on the confronting faces **22, 23** of the finger coverings **18, 19** serving to assist in mutually aligning the hair and straightening it. Thus, an uninterrupted series of grooves **21** have been formed in at least one of the side surfaces **22, 23** and extending transversely of the axis of finger **12** which supports finger covering **18.**

In view of the fact that the index finger is typically shorter than the middle finger of a person's hand, glove **10** has been arranged whereby finger coverings **18** and **19** are built up at their outer tip to extend the confronting side faces **22, 23** to make them of equal length. This extension of the index finger permits each grasp of hair **13** to hold more hair whereby more cutting can occur per stroke.

The tips of finger coverings **18, 19** include built-up end portions **18*a*, 19*a*** of semi-rigid material serving to make the two fingers coextensive and to provide support to the extended fingers of the glove. Accordingly, the fingers of the barber with the glove placed on the hand will have substantially uniform contacting surfaces from one end to the other. The surface of the glove provides an excellent engagement of the hair throughout the entire length of the fingers since the hair is frequently cut while wet. Under such circumstances, the hair will not be permitted to stretch under its own weight.

As shown best in FIG. 2, cutting ridges **24, 26** are defined on the top and bottom of the interface defined by closing the gap between the two finger coverings **18, 19.** Accordingly, means such as the body portions **29*a*, 29*b*** serve to build up the top and bottom of the finger coverings **18, 19** to provide inclined surfaces **27, 28** on the top and bottom. Engagement of side surfaces **22, 23,** forms ridges **24, 26** to extend along the top and bottom of the interface defined between the coverings.

Ridges **24, 26** permit scissors to be guided accurately and consistently when laid upon same and operated while lying on the ridges. Thus, the bodies of material **29*a*, 29*b*** form the ridges **24, 26** defined between the two inclined surfaces **27** (on the top) and **28** (on the bottom).

That portion of glove **10** overlying the rear knuckles on hand **14** includes additional padding underneath in order to raise the surface **31** sufficiently to provide a relatively smooth rounded surface at that location across the rearmost knuckles of fingers **11, 12** so as to minimize the possibility of nicking the knuckles with the scissors being used by the barber.

According to the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, a glove is provided with means carried by at least one of the finger coverings for lifting in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of hair engaged between the confronting side surfaces of the finger coverings so as to permit a linear cut by the scissors to be made along one or the other of ridges **24, 26** and yet form a serrated end edge to a layer of hair.

The foregoing arrangement is achieved by means comprising a series of protrusions spaced along the side surface of one finger covering for engaging the hair between the confronting side surfaces and urging the hair engaged by the protrusions into portions of the other one of the side surfaces so as to lift the distal ends of the hair thus engaged.

In FIG. 5 a series of arcuately formed recesses 33 are disposed in spaced relation along finger covering 34 and disposed in confronting relation to a corresponding series of arcuately formed and protruding detents 36 also disposed in predetermined spaced relation along the side face of finger covering 37 in position for entry into recesses 33 upon closure of the two side faces against each other when so moved by the fingers carried within the finger coverings. Mating surface portions 38 flank detents 36 and mating surface portions 39 also flank recesses 33 so as to substantially uniformly engage the distal ends of all the hair 41 disposed between the confronting surfaces of both finger covers when the finger surfaces are moved into engagement. Thus, movement of the protrusions into the recesses serves to lift the distal ends of the hair engaged between the side surfaces in predetermined varying amounts.

For example and by way of explanation, the group of hair 41 hanging downwardly through the interface formed between the two finger coverings 34, 37 includes groups of strands 41*a* which are permitted to hand directly downwardly between the interface. On the other hand, other groups of strands 41b ride across the arcuate surface of a detent 36 so that, if a straight cut were to be made by a scissors resting against bottom surfaces of coverings 34, 37, the tip ends of the groups of strands 41*b* would later extend downwardly farther than the tip ends of the groups of strands 41*a*. The resulting configuration of the tip ends of a layer of hair is, therefore, provided with a serrated edge in which the serrations are small rectangular portions removed from the otherwise straight marginal area of a layer of hair. Referring to FIG. 8, for example, the groups of strands 41*b* form the longer tips shown whereas strands 41a have been cut off.

Accordingly, it should be readily evident that the embodiment shown in FIGS. 5 through 7 carries with it the advantage of not only being able to apply a uniform pressure to the collection of strands of hair disposed between the two confronting side faces, but also provides a readily available and consistently accurate means for easily serrating the distal ends of a layer of hair.

As noted above, the embodiment shown in FIGS. 5 through 8 includes the features in which the interior of the finger coverings 34, 37 in each instance is built up sufficiently to provide a relatively standard size covering or "finger" so as not to leave gaps and to overcome the problem of laterally protruding knuckles which would otherwise preclude the complete closure of the fleshy portions of the two fingers upon themselves.

Means have been provided for cutting a triangularly shaped or sawtooth type serrated edge as shown in FIG. 11 as shown by the glove construction in FIG. 10 in which the arcuately formed and protruding detents 42 are formed to include opposite side faces 42*a*, 42*b* lying in intersecting planes so as to taper the sides of each detent 42 to cause lifting of the distal ends of the hair in a predetermined varying amount serving to provide a serrated edge of substantially triangular configuration.

With reference to FIGS. 10 and 11, it is to be observed that the strand of hair 43 rides across the crest of the narrow outer surface of detent 42 and, hence, this single strand or possibly two will be the longest after the hair has been cut. Strand 44 as shown will be the next longest, and strand 46 will be the shortest. The reasons for the foregoing is the distance that each hair is required to travel in arriving at the lower ridge line 47 thereby leaving the triangular serrations 48.

According to another embodiment as shown in FIG. 9, protruding detents 51 are carried on one finger covering 52 in the manner as described above. The other finger covering 53 includes a conforming cushion 54 arranged and disposed to receive and conform about the protrusions, such as detents 51, so as to form mating surfaces completely therearound, thereby substantially uniformly engaging all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces of the finger coverings 52, 53.

Thus, as shown in FIG. 9, the cushion 54 is comprised of a relatively thick layer of soft foam material carried upon an interior liner 56 of a plastic or elastomeric material conventionally employed in the making of gloves of the kind described.

While a thick layer of foam has been shown, it is evident that other types of cushions, such as provided by capturing a pocket of air within the inner lining of the glove, can serve equally to provide the function of receiving into the cushion the surfaces of protrusions carried on the other finger cover so as to substantially uniformly engage all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when the confronting surfaces are moved into engagement. Thus, lifting of the distal ends of the strands of hair is accomplished in response to closure of the two confronting surfaces.

Yet another embodiment is shown in FIG. 12 in enlarged detail in which the protrusions (which were referred to above in the form of arcuately protruding detents 51 flanked by flat surfaces 50) are provided by means of a series of dimples 58 carried on one of the confronting side faces 59 of a finger covering 61. Dimples 58 are arranged in a predetermined pattern so as to achieve any desired predetermined serrated edge appearance in the manner described above, i.e., by requiring that some strands, such as strand 62, shall follow a longer path in reaching the point where the scissors will intercept its depending ends whereas strand 63 will follow the shortest distance.

Finger covering 64 carries a foam cushion 66 disposed in a shallow channel 67 bounded on its external edges by means of slight flanges 68, 69 and forming a portion of the interior of finger covering 64.

The thickness of cushion or pads 54 and 66 is indicated by the depth of the serrations desired. Also, it has been observed that pads 54 or 66 can be little more than the thickness of the resilient glove material which, without more, can reasonably provide the cooperative relation to protrusions on the other finger covering.

From the foregoing, it should be readily evident that there has been provided an improved barber's glove in which a predetermined preselected cut can be assured including straight cuts and serrated edges.

From the foregoing, it should be readily evident that a barber's glove as shown in FIGS. 5 through 12 carries out the method of trimming the distal ends of a length of hair using the steps of disposing a covering upon each of two adjacent fingers, applying a predetermined series of spaced protrusions to one of the coverings, forming the other covering to receive the protrusions, disposing the hair between the adjacent fingers to be in position for engagement therebetween, moving the fingers to carry the protrusions into engagement with the other one of the coverings, and finally cutting the distal ends of the hair along a straight line while held engaged between the coverings.

I claim:

1. In a glove to be worn by a barber over two adjacent fingers of the hand which controls the hair, the improvement comprising a pair of finger-receiving coverings adapted to enclose said adjacent fingers, said finger coverings having side surfaces disposed in confronting relation to be moved by their supporting fingers into and out of engagement with each other so as to engage and hold strands of hair therebetween, means forming said coverings to cause said surfaces to meet substantially uniformly throughout the length thereof so as to substantially uniformly engage all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when said surfaces are moved into engagement.

2. In a glove according to claim 1 comprising an uninterrupted series of grooves formed in at least one of said side surfaces to extend transversely of the axis of the finger supporting same for mutually aligning the hair disposed between said fingers.

3. In a glove according to claim 1 including means carried by at least one of said coverings and serving to form said coverings to be mutually coextensive.

4. In a glove according to claim 1 comprising means serving to build up the top and bottom of said coverings to provide upon engagement of said confronting side surfaces a ridge extending along the top and bottom of the interface defined between said side surfaces upon engagement for permitting scissors to be guided by either of said ridges when laid upon same.

5. In a glove according to claim 4 in which said means serving to build up the top and bottom of said coverings to provide said ridges serves to dispose the ridge defined at the top of said glove at a level adapted to be spaced and disposed sufficiently above the knuckles of the fingers associated with said ridge to provide protection against cutting of the barber's knuckles in the handling of scissors lodged against said ridge.

6. In a glove according to claim 1 comprising means carried by at least one of said coverings and serving to lift in a predetermined varying degree the distal ends of hair engaged between said side surfaces to permit a linear cut by scissors to form a serrated end edge to a layer of hair.

7. In a glove to be worn by a barber over two adjacent fingers of the hand which controls the hair, the improvement comprising a pair of finger-receiving coverings adapted to enclose said adjacent fingers, said finger coverings having side surfaces disposed in confronting relation to be moved by their supporting fingers into and out of engagement with each other so as to engage and hold strands of hair therebetween, and means carried by at least one of said coverings and serving to lift in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of hair engaged between said side surfaces to permit a linear cut by scissors to form a serrated end edge to a layer of hair.

8. In a glove according to claim 7 in which the last named means comprises a series of protrusions spaced along the side surface of said one covering for engaging hair between said confronting side surfaces and urging hair engaged by said protrusions into portions of the other one of said side surfaces so as to lift the distal ends of the hair engaged by said protrusions.

9. In a glove according to claim 8 further comprising a surface portion formed along said other one of said side surfaces to permit said surface portion to conform to said protrusions upon engagement therewith.

10. In a glove according to claim 8 comprising a series of arcuately formed recesses disposed in spaced relation along said other one of said side surfaces, said protrusions including arcuately formed and protruding detents disposed in predetermined spaced relation along said side surface of said one covering in position for entry into said recesses upon closure of said side surfaces, and mating surface portions flanking said detents and said recesses so as to substantially uniformly engage all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when said surfaces are moved into engagement while lifting the distal ends of hair engaged between said side surfaces in predetermined varying amounts.

11. In a cushion according to claim 8 in which said other one of said side surfaces includes a conforming cushion carried by its associated covering, said protrusions including arcuately formed and protruding portions disposed in predetermined spaced relation along the side face of said one covering in position for entry into said cushion upon closure of said side surfaces, said cushion conforming about said protrusions to form mating surface portions therearound so as to substantially uniformly engage all the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces when said surfaces are moved into engagement so as to lift the distal ends of hair engaged between said side surfaces in predetermined varying amounts.

12. In a glove according to claim 8 in which said protrusions are arcuately formed to include side surfaces lying in intersecting planes so as to taper the sides of the detents and thereby lift the distal ends of the hair in a predetermined varying amount serving to provide a serrated edge of substantially triangular configuration.

13. In the method of trimming the distal ends of a length of hair the steps comprising disposing a covering on each of two adjacent fingers, applying a predetermined series of spaced protrusions to one of said coverings, forming the other covering to receive the protrusions, disposing the hair between said adjacent fingers, moving said fingers to carry said protrusions into engagement with the other one of said coverings, and cutting the distal ends of said hair along a straight line while held engaged between said coverings.

14. In the method of trimming the distal ends of a layer of hair engaged between two adjacent fingers of a barber's hand the steps comprising disposing protrusions along a confronting side face of one of the barber's fingers, disposing the distal ends of the hair between the barber's fingers, closing the barber's fingers together for engaging the hair, disposing a covering upon one of the two control fingers of the barber's hand in confronting relation to the protrusions for receiving the protrusions therein upon closing the fingers together so as to engage and lift in predetermined varying degree the distal ends of the hair disposed between the confronting surfaces, and cutting the distal ends of said hair along a straight line while the hair remains engaged between the fingers.

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