To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Joseph L. Warner, a citizen of the United States, residing at Phoenix, in the county of Maricopa and State of Arizona, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match Holders for Hats, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification.

This invention relates to match holders, and has for its object to provide such a holder as may be conveniently carried in a hat so that matches will always be at hand when needed, and there will be no necessity of adding them to various other articles carried in the pockets.

Another object is to provide the holder with a striking or scratching surface, whereby the flame may be shielded within the hat after being struck. A further object is to provide means for holding the matches individually in separate compartments so that there will be no danger of ignition by contact with one another. Still other objects are to protect the matches from moisture, and to facilitate their removal from the holder when required for use. Means are provided, however, for effectively retaining the matches in the holder against accidental displacement.

The invention will be first hereinafter described in connection with the accompanying drawings, which constitute part of this specification, and then more specifically defined in the claims at the end of the description.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein similar reference characters are used to designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hat showing a holder embodying this invention arranged therein.

Figure 2 is a detailed view of the holder removed from the hat, and

Figure 3 is a vertical section through one of the match holders as shown in Figure 2, showing more clearly how the unsilt upper end portions of the rubber tubes are expanded by the heads of the matches when they are inserted therein.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in Figure 1, the crown of a hat is indicated at 1 and the brim thereof at 2, said hat being of a common form. The sweat band of the hat is indicated at 3, and behind said sweat band and extending substantially the full distance between the brim and top of the crown, and partially around within the latter, is mounted a match holder comprising a card 4 having a layer 5 of non-inflammable material, such as asbestos, between it and the match holders proper which are shown at 7. A series of individual match holders are shown at either side of a striking surface 6 which is secured by any suitable means to said asbestos layer 5, preferably in such a way that it may be readily removed and replaced by a new one when worn out. As shown better in Figure 2, the asbestos layer preferably does not cover the entire surface of the card, and the match holders and striking surface do not cover the entire surface of the asbestos layer, the vacant or unoccupied portions of the surfaces of the card and layer, as well as the outside surface of the match holders themselves being designed to receive suitable advertisements (not shown).

Each of the individual match holders consists of a tube of rubber or other suitable elastic material 7 of slightly smaller diameter internally than the head 10 of the match 9, so that when the match is inserted into the tube said head will expand the same, as shown somewhat in exaggerated form at 11 in all three figures of the drawing. The frictional engagement of this expanded portion of the tube will firmly retain the match in place in the tube against accidental displacement. The matches are designed to be inserted into the tubular holders through the bottom ends of the latter, and said bottom end portions are slit longitudinally, as at 8, to facilitate the removal of the matches which may be swung outwardly through said slits before being moved longitudinally to withdraw the heads from the unsilt portions of the tubes. The upper ends of the tubes are closed, as at 12, in any suitable manner, so as to prevent moisture from reaching the heads of the matches even though the hat should become wet.

While the individual match holders are shown arranged in groups, side by side in each group, it is obvious that they may be arranged in various other ways with respect to each other and to the striking surface without departing from this invention.

Having thus described my invention, what
I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. The combination with a card to fit in the crown of a hat behind the sweat band, of a match holder mounted on said card and comprising a tube of elastic material somewhat smaller in internal diameter than the head of the match, whereby said head will expand the tube when inserted therein and thus be retained in place.

2. The combination with a card to fit in the crown of a hat, of a match holder mounted on said card and comprising a tube of elastic material somewhat smaller in internal diameter than the head of the match, whereby said head will expand the tube when inserted therein and thus be retained in place, a portion of said tube being slit longitudinally to facilitate the removal of the match therefrom.

3. The combination with a card to fit in the crown of a hat, of a match holder mounted on said card and comprising a tube of elastic material somewhat smaller in internal diameter than the head of the match, whereby said head will expand the tube when inserted therein and thus be retained in place, and means for closing the end of the tube adjacent the head of the match.

4. The combination with a card to fit in the crown of a hat, of a match holder mounted on said card and comprising a tube of elastic material somewhat smaller in internal diameter than the head of the match, whereby said head will expand the tube when inserted therein and thus be retained in place, and means for closing the end of the tube adjacent the head of the match, the other end portion of said tube being slit longitudinally to facilitate the removal of the match.

5. The combination with a card to fit in the crown of a hat, of a match holder mounted on said card and comprising a series of tubes of elastic material for receiving individual matches, each tube having one end closed and the other end slit longitudinally for the purposes specified, and a striking surface also mounted on said card.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

JOSEPH L. WARNER.