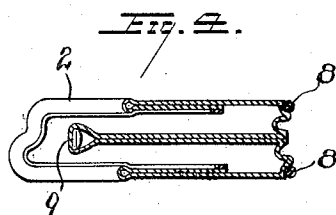
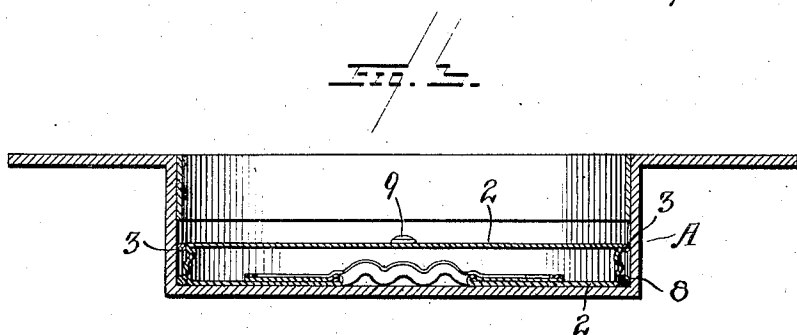
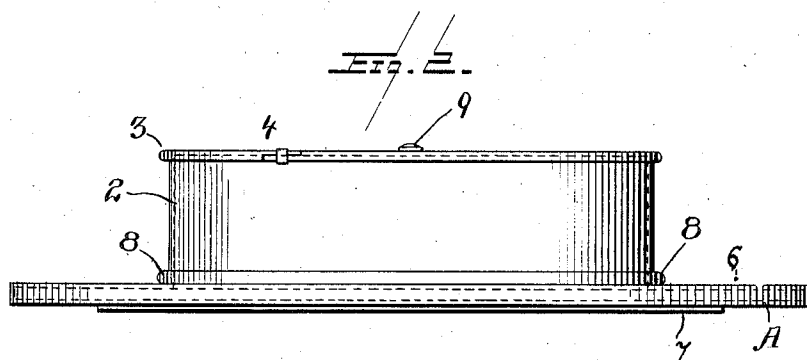
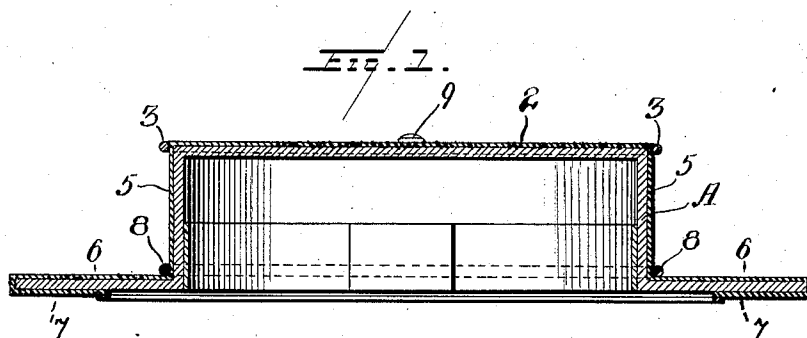


No. 865,926.

PATENTED SEPT. 10, 1907.

J. S. MILLS.  
HAT PROTECTOR.

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WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. MILLS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## HAT-PROTECTOR.

No. 865,926.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 10, 1907.

Application filed December 6, 1905, Serial No. 290,575. Renewed August 15, 1907. Serial No. 388,669.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES S. MILLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented  
5 new and useful Improvements in Hat-Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has relation to improvements in hat protectors; and the objects are to provide a protective covering and envelop for a hat which will exclude all  
10 moisture from direct contact with the outer surface of the hat; to construct a protector for the purpose indicated which is neat in appearance and durable in use; and to provide a device which is easily placed in position, readily removed from the hat, and which may  
15 be conveniently folded and deposited within the hat, or folded and placed in a pocket or other convenient receptacle when not in use.

It will be stated that the device is particularly applicable to straw hats of a well known and common  
20 shape and style, such as are indicated in the drawings; but it is readily perceived that the protector may be changed to apply to hats of other shapes without departing from the general design or construction.

With the objects in view, the invention embodies a  
25 new and improved article of manufacture, as herein-after fully specified, and the asserted novelty then particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed.

I have fully and clearly illustrated the improvements in the accompanying drawings, to be taken as  
30 a part of this specification, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a central sectional view of a hat having the improved protector applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a view in elevation of a hat covered and shielded by the protector, the contour of the hat being indicated  
35 by the dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a central vertical sectional view of a hat, showing the protector collapsed and disposed in the crown of the hat. Fig. 4 is a view, partly in section, showing the protector folded into a shape for carrying in a pocket or other receptacle; the cord or crown cord being removed to produce greater  
40 flexibility to the whole.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a straw hat of well known shape, having a straight crown, vertical sides, and straight brim, substantially as indicated;  
45 but it is apparent that since the protector is made of flexible and foldable material it may be applied to hats having curled or curved brims and serve the purposes intended.

2 designates my improved protector, made of any  
50 suitable flexible material impervious to moisture and

dust. The crown or top is formed and defined by a band of suitable material having some flexibility, which is secured thereto and so positioned that, when the protective covering or shield is disposed on the hat, it will be just below the top or crown of the hat,  
55 as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. The band 3 is made preferably with a slip connection at its meeting ends to provide for expansion or contraction, as indicated at 4 in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

The sides of the protector from the band 3 are continued straight downwards, as at 5, for the height of the crown, as shown, to the union of the crown with the brim, whence it is continued in alinement with the upper face of the brim, as at 6, to the edge thereof, whence it is down and back under the brim, as at 7,  
65 forming an annular turned-in flange, so that by this turned-in engagement the protector will be held securely in place, yet detachable from the hat.

The band or strip 3 is illustrated in the accompanying drawings as attached to the outer surface of the  
70 fabric constituting the protector. This band is preferably made of some light material having the proper degree of elasticity and bamboo strips having been found satisfactory for this purpose.

To shape the protector to the contour of the hat and  
75 to aid in holding it in place, a rubber or elastic band or ring 8 is drawn over the crown until it lodges in the angle at the union of the crown and brim, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

The device may be collapsed and placed in the  
80 crown of the hat, simply by compressing the sides between the top and the elastic ring 8, and then placing it in the hat, where it is held by the frictional contact of the band 3 and the ring 8 with the walls of the crown, as seen in Fig. 3; or should the device be carried in a pocket it may be folded as indicated in Fig.  
85 4 of the drawings.

For convenient manipulation a button 9 is secured to the center of the crown.

To utilize the protector, all that is necessary is to  
90 stretch it down on the crown to the intended position, the contraction of the elastic 8 holding it in place, then the brim position is carried outwards, and then the annular turned-in portion 7 is stretched outwards and turned under the hat brim, as indicated in Figs.  
95 1 and 2 of the drawings.

To remove the device from the hat, the button is grasped by the fingers and sufficient tension applied to withdraw the protector from the hat. Should the resistance be stronger than desired, the turned-in  
100

brim portion 7 may be stretched free from the hat  
brim, when the device can be lifted from the hat.

What I claim is:

In a hat protector, the combination with crown and  
5 brim parts made of material impervious to moisture and  
an elastic band co-acting with the protector at the juncture  
of the crown and brim parts, of an expansible strip  
associated with the upper edge of the crown constituting  
a ring which defines the top of the crown and which

co-acts with the inner wall of the crown for frictionally 10  
holding the protector in collapsed position within the  
crown of the hat.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence  
of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES S. MILLS.

Witnesses:

FREDRICK V. WINTERS,  
WILLIAM TOUNE.