

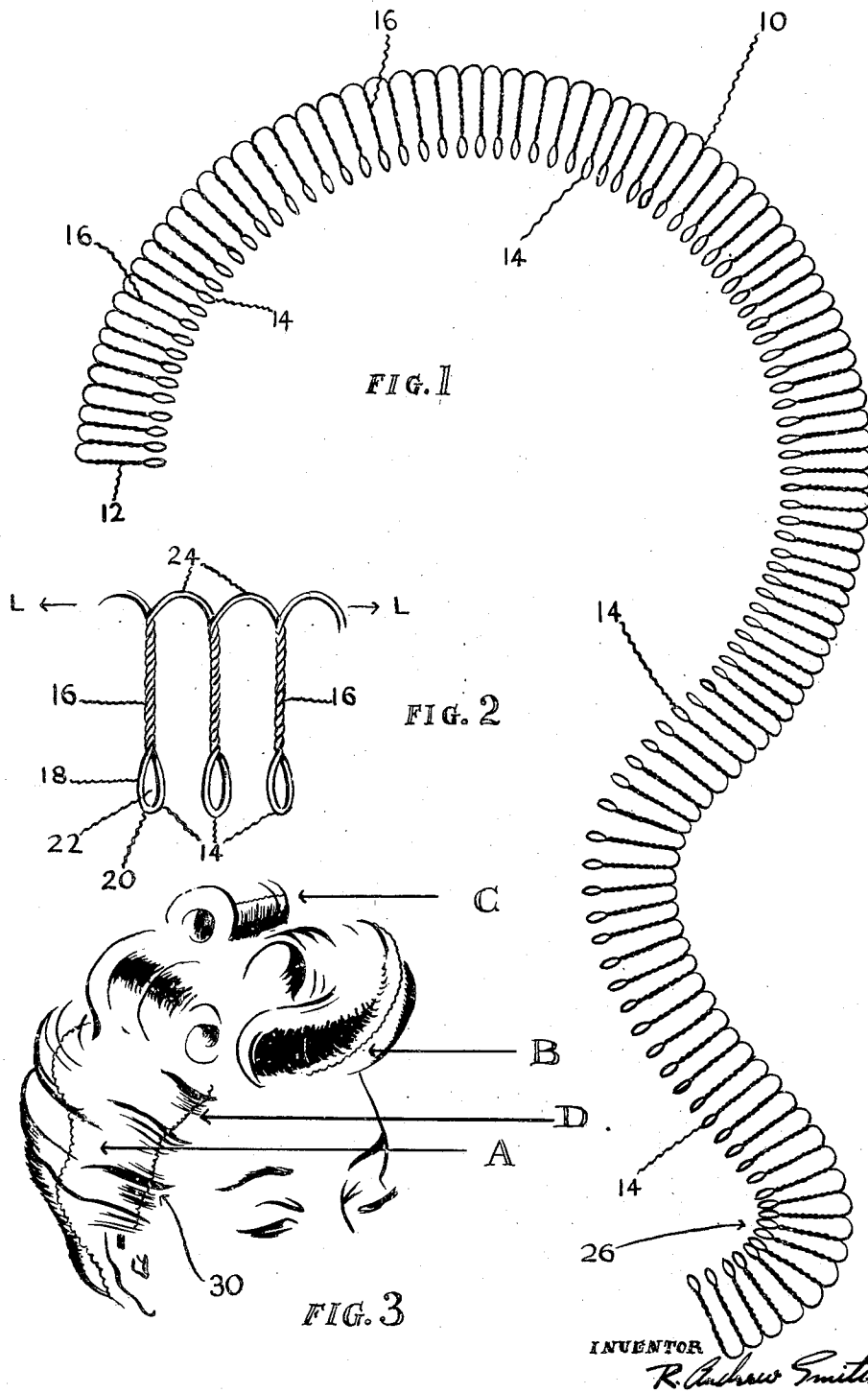
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HAIR RETAINER

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HAIR RETAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 132-20)

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This invention relates to hair retainers and more particularly to a hair retainer which combines the advantageous features of a hair pin and a hair comb without the disadvantages of either.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a hair retaining material in undefined lengths from which can be formed hair retainers of any desired lengths to suit the particular requirements of each individual hair style and head.

Other objects of my invention are to provide a hair retainer which covers an extended area of the head surface, which will retain the hair in any set position, which is easy to apply and which will bend to conform to the desired curvature of the head or hairdress.

Other objects are to provide a hair retainer which eliminates the use of hair pins or other hair retaining means, which is light in weight and invisible when set in the hair and which stays in position until removed.

Another object is to provide a hair retainer which can be used as a wave maker or hair setter.

Other objects will become apparent as this description progresses.

The hair pins or hair combs of the prior art or present day manufacture are all subject to the disadvantage that it requires a large number of them placed throughout the hair to set same. Such pins or retainers become easily removed from the hair, are lost and the hair loses its set position. The combs are objectionable because of the length of the teeth and because they are not pliable and do not lend themselves to the various curvatures of the head or hair. Furthermore these are readily visible. With my invention these objectionable features are eliminated and I provide a hair retainer which has greater gripping qualities than the conventional hair or bobby pin, and which will cover a substantial area of the head surface similar to a comb but which is sufficiently pliable to conform to the curvature of the head or hair and which is virtually invisible. The teeth of my retainer are of such length that it may be inserted in the hair at right angles to the head or at any other angle and may also be inserted to lie substantially flat at the sides of the head at the hair line to retain short strands of hair. My hair retainer will maintain the hair in its set position and will not be accidentally removed or lost from the hair.

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of my hair

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retaining material showing for illustrative purposes only a few of the unlimited shapes into which it can be shaped or formed when set in the hair, and showing the teeth in actual size.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged view showing a few of the teeth of my improved hair retainer, and

Fig. 3 shows the application of various lengths of my hair retainer as applied to one form of hair dress.

My hair retaining material generally indicated at 10 is formed of a single continuous strand of thin flexible wire 12 preferably of a .013 gauge tempered to permit the necessary pliability, resiliency and lightness of weight. A plastic strand having the same characteristics as to pliability, resiliency and weight might be used in lieu of wire. The strand is formed to provide a plurality of equally spaced teeth 14. The teeth 14 are formed by reversing the wire strand upon itself and twisting so as to provide the entwining helical strands 16 extending the major length of the tooth, with the bottom thereof forming an eyelet portion 18 and a rounded point 20. The eyelet opening 22 of each tooth is positioned transversely to the longitudinal axis L-L of the retainer. All the teeth and the circumferences of the eyelets are in the same vertical plane with the top of the retainer. The top, adjacent each pair of teeth is arched as shown at 24.

The twisted portion 16 and the eyelets 18 both serve to keep the retainer firmly in the hair after it is inserted. The twisted portion 16 extending the major length of the tooth grips the hair, and the eyelet openings 22 tend to receive the strands of hair in them as well as grip the hair between adjacent eyelets.

When the retainer is curved or arched as shown at 26 in the lower end of Fig. 1, the eyelet portions will be brought close together and also will touch each other depending on the degree of curvature. With the strands of hair in, about and between the teeth and their eyelet portions the retainer is securely positioned in the hair to hold same set position and against accidental removal.

The arched shapes 24 at the top between each pair of teeth will present a broken line when the retainer is inserted in the hair. This and the fact that the retainer is formed of a thin flexible wire with the top thereof in a single strand will make it virtually invisible to an observer. To more positively avoid any detection of the retainer, I color the retainer to match any shade of hair. Therefore I propose that

the retainers be made in various colors and shades and so marketed.

In Fig. 3 of the drawings I have shown retainers of various lengths. The retainer marked A is of a greater length than those marked B or C and is positioned in this style of hair dress substantially vertically along one side of the head and in a tortuous shape. The retainer marked B of a shorter length serves in this instance to hold the front wave in set position and due to the shape of the wave assumes a fan shape. A shorter retainer marked C maintains a straight line position to hold a roll on the top of the head in set position. The retainer marked D is positioned adjacent the hair line 30 with the teeth of the retainer lying flat adjacent the side of the head. The teeth of the retainers A, B and C will in the hairdress shown be at right angles to the head or substantially so. The pliability and flexibility of the retainer permits it to assume substantially any shape and on any plane on the head thus very easily adjusting itself to the head or the hair coiffure. It can be inserted so as to lie transversely or longitudinally of the head or any other position to suit the particular hair dress.

In Fig. 1 I have shown my hair retaining material of an undefined length. This can be broken or cut into definite lengths by the user to suit particular requirements. The shape shown in Fig. 1 is for illustrative purposes only and it is not intended that when made in undefined lengths that such shape be assumed. In packaging such lengths it most likely will be in a continuous fan shape, similar to the shape shown in the top of Fig. 1.

In addition to a strip of undefined length, my hair retainers can be made into definite lengths, similar to the lengths used in Fig. 3 or other lengths which will meet the greatest requirements and sold in sets. In such instances the wearer would use the length or lengths to fit her style of hair dress. By providing retainers of different lengths it is readily possible to set any style of hair and two retainers are usually sufficient to cover a complete head of hair. The length of the retainer can vary. I have found that teeth approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length are the most satisfactory.

While the retainer when inserted in the hair will assume any shape depending upon the head or the waves or rolls of the hair, it will when removed from the hair resume its originally formed shape, whether that be in a fan shape or straight line if so originally formed.

The light weight of the retainer will permit it to be worn without the wearer being conscious of it and the positive set position will permit

the wearer to be at ease knowing that the hairdress is as originally set. The retainer can be readily removed but will not become accidentally disengaged from the hair.

The use of my hair retainer has additional advantages in that it can serve as a wave maker. In practice when the hair is set in a wave, or when the hair is washed, pins or hair retainers are inserted, which the wearer removes as soon as possible because they are visible and present an unattractive appearance. With my hair retainer, the hair can be set as long a period as desired for the retainer is invisible and the wearer can make a public appearance without the disadvantages inherent in the use of present day retainers.

The use of a few of my retainers in the hair is as effective as a hairnet in retaining the hair in its set position. The fact that each retainer covers an extended area eliminates the necessity of several settings at different points on the head and one adjustment will suffice. The hair can be set without the aid of mirrors and settings by a professional hair dresser are eliminated.

It will be understood that various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. A flexible hair retainer formed of a continuous elastic strand having a plurality of teeth of substantially equal length, adjacent teeth being joined by a connecting part, said strand being fine and elastic and of such flexibility that the connecting part yields substantially to torsional and bending forces while being inserted in the hair without going beyond its elastic limit and having insufficient rigidity to deform the hair when inserted, said retainer being sufficiently flexible so that it may be bent into any shape within and into any plane and which may be inserted anywhere and at any angle in a coiffure, said retainer having so little body that when inserted in the hair it assumes the shape of the wave or curls desired.

2. The structure of claim 1, wherein said retainer has an indefinite length and is readily severable at any desired length for providing any desired retainer length unit.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
448,562	Great Britain	June 11, 1936