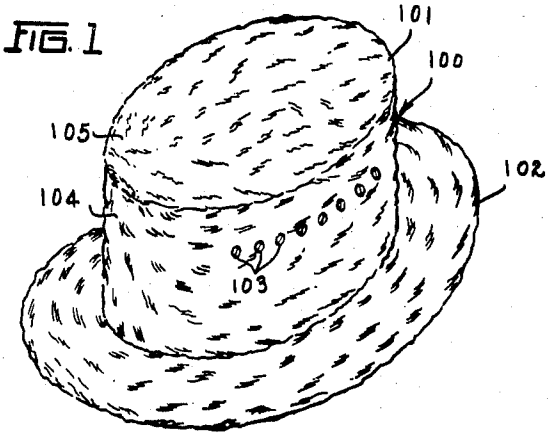
March 21 1944. R. J. WEIKERT 2,344,927

HAT COVER

Original Filed May 22, 1939

FIG. 1



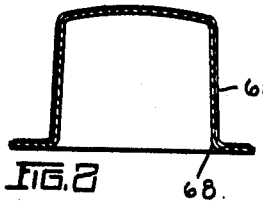


FIG. 2

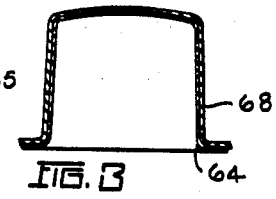


FIG. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HAT COVER

Roy J. Weikert, Covington, Ohio

Original application May 22, 1939, Serial No. 274,867. Divided and this application July 21, 1941, Serial No. 403,318

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—187)

This invention relates to a protecting cover for a hat or like article which is formed as a seamless article from a sheet of rubber hydrochloride.

An object of the invention is to provide a seamless hat covering or like article formed from a sheet of rubber hydrochloride by stretching certain areas of the sheet to cause the same to conform to the shape of a forming element producing the stretching.

Another object of the invention is to provide a seamless hat cap or covering device which has a smooth crown portion adapted to fit closely and smoothly over the crown of a hat and having an integral smooth rim portion adapted to rest upon the brim of a hat whereby hats can be stacked one upon the other without damage to the crown or brim.

Another object of the invention is to provide a seamless hat cap or protective covering in accordance with the foregoing object wherein the covering device is constructed from a very thin sheet of rubber hydrochloride which is stretched over a form to produce a seamless smooth surfaced article.

Another object of the invention is to provide a seamless smooth surfaced hat cap or covering device which will cover the surface of a hat and eliminate "stay" or "ring marks" caused by stacking of hats during shipping or storage.

The invention relates more particularly to the formation of a hat cap or covering device from a sheet of rubber hydrochloride of the type known as "Pliofilm" which is manufactured by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. In a preferred embodiment, the invention is applied to the formation of an upstanding crown in a sheet of "Pliofilm," whereby to provide a protecting cover or liner for a hat. However, it is to be understood that the invention is adaptable to the manufacture of any type of article from "Pliofilm" by stretching the same while it is in a conditioned state. In a still more particular aspect, the invention involves first conditioning the "Pliofilm" by subjecting it to the action of moist heat, as, for example in the form of steam, for a sufficient period of time to render the "Pliofilm" readily stretchable; the "Pliofilm" is stretched after it has been thus conditioned and is then allowed to cool to such an extent that it again assumes its relatively nonstretchable condition whereupon the article is ready for use.

Yet another object is to produce a hat cap for protecting a hat during storage or shipping from a sheet of rubber hydrochloride wherein the sheet is shaped by stretching a central portion thereof so as to form a hat cover or a hat liner; this forming is accomplished by the insertion of a suitable mold member into the central conditioned portion of the blank, the deformed portion of the blank forming the crown and the annular portion surrounding the same being utilized for clamping the material whereby effective forming is obtained; this annular peripheral portion is substantially unstretched during the process and retains its original state after the process of formation is completed; thus the central portion is stretched into the desired crown form, while the brim portion is left substantially unchanged thereby producing a hat cover or lining member which is seamless and has a smooth surface which contacts the surface of the hat.

Still other objects will more fully hereinafter appear.

This application is a division of my copending application, Serial No. 274,867, filed May 22, 1939.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective of a hat cap or a hat liner prepared in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 2 and 3 are sectional views showing a hat cover and a hat liner, respectively, applied to a hat to protect the same.

The hat industry has been troubled for years with damage caused to hats in shipping and in storage upon the showroom shelf. The major damage results from "stay" or "ring marks" produced by the pressure of one hat upon the other when packed in stacks or stacked upon the showroom shelves. Many expedients have been tried to eliminate stay marks but without success since a hat requires some type of support, and when supported the support member leaves marks upon the surface of the hat due to various causes, such as frictional wear or compacting of the felt at the point of support. Any device which is provided with an edge or with seams which engage the hat with greater pressure at one point than another will produce this result. Further, considerable damage has resulted to hats on the showroom shelf due to soil.

It is therefore of primary consideration to the hat industry to receive a protective covering for the hat which is a seamless smooth surfaced article which is resistant to tearing, absorption of natural oils, will not cause spot friction upon the hat surface, and will protect the hat from soil.

In this invention the hat cap or protective covering device is made from a very thin sheet of

rubber hydrochloride of the type known as "Pliofilm" having a thickness of approximately .0015 inch. Sheets of rubber hydrochloride are impervious to all natural hat enemies such as oils, acids, alkalines, water, etc., and since the sheet has a very smooth surface friction is eliminated against the felt surface of a hat. The sheet of rubber hydrochloride is stretched over a form to a thickness of approximately .0005 inch by a suitable process and apparatus which reduces the wall thickness of the crown portion over the wall thickness of the brim portion. This relative reduction in thickness is for the purpose of eliminating any substantial weight or friction from the surface of the hat. The result of the process is to form a one piece seamless article of manufacture which will closely fit the contour of a hat over which it is to be placed. This process and apparatus are disclosed in applicant's co-pending application, Serial No. 274,867, filed May 22, 1939, heretofore referred to, and which is now Patent No. 2,295,066, issued September 8, 1942.

In Figure 1 there is shown a hat cap or covering device **100** having a crown **101** and a brim **102**. The crown **101** is seamless and is of a predetermined size to fit over the crown of a hat. The brim **102** is integral with the crown **101** and is formed from the same sheet of material from which the crown **101** was stretched thereby eliminating any seam between the crown and the brim. The crown **101** can be stretched to any desired shape to fit over a hat of any particular shape, the crown shown in Figures 2 and 3 having a somewhat square shape while in Figure 4 the crown has a rounded contour. If desired, perforations **103** can be provided in the crown **101** to permit air circulation thereto.

The crown **101** is provided with a side wall **104** which is integral with the top wall **105**. The wall thickness of the crown portion over the wall thickness of the brim portion is reduced to eliminate any substantial weight or friction upon the surface of the hat. As can be readily seen in Figure 1 there are no seams between the walls **104** and **105** and no seams joining any other portion of the crown. Since there are no seams in the hat cap **100** and it is of a size to fit snugly and smoothly upon a hat, there is no possibility of frictional wear upon the surface of the hat as caused by seams and other edges which engage a hat surface as in the conventional hat packing or stacking with rings resting upon the hat brims.

In Figure 2, a hat **68** is shown with a hat cover **65**, having a relatively wide brim, applied thereover to protect it. In Figure 3, the hat **68** is lined with a hat liner **64** having a relatively narrow brim. The hat liner or cover may be permanently or temporarily combined with the hat. For example, the hat cover may be used to protect the hat from manufacture until sale, or it may be utilized by the wearer of the hat for protection against rain. Likewise, the hat liner may be worn inside the hat to protect the hat against staining and may be replaced as deemed desirable.

It is to be understood that I desire to comprehend as within my invention, such modifications as may be necessary to adapt it to varying conditions and uses.

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

A one-piece seamless hat cover for covering the crown and the upper surface of the brim of a hat that is formed from a single sheet of tissue thin infinitely flexible rubber hydrochloride that includes a crown portion formed by stretching the central area of a sheet of rubber hydrochloride over a crown shaped form to a size slightly larger than the crown of a hat and subsequently permanently setting the same in this shape whereby the crown portion can be positioned upon the crown of a hat for resting upon and engaging the same without any elastic resiliency, and an integral brim portion extending annularly from the crown portion for solely laying upon and protecting the upper brim surface of a hat; the hat cover having the general characteristics of a gossamer like thinness which is enhanced in the crown portion thereof by reducing the wall thickness of the crown portion over the wall thickness of the brim portion to eliminate any substantial weight or friction upon the surface of the hat, and a soft smooth continuous glazed inner surface having no abrading qualities.

ROY J. WEIKERT.