Nov. 26, 1957 J. H. SCHMITZ 2,814,301

ARTIFICIAL HAIR PIECES AND METHODS OF MAKING THE SAME

Filed July 1, 1953

FIG. 1

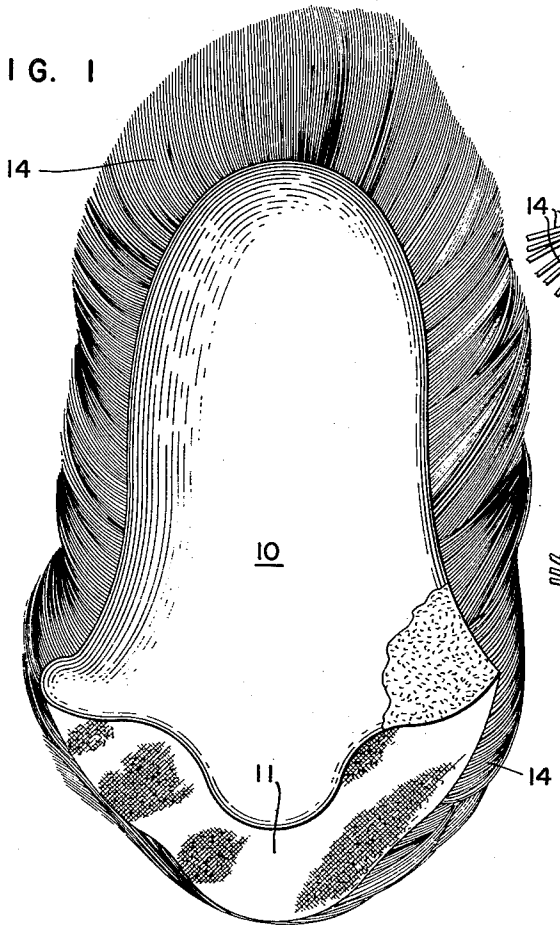


FIG. 2

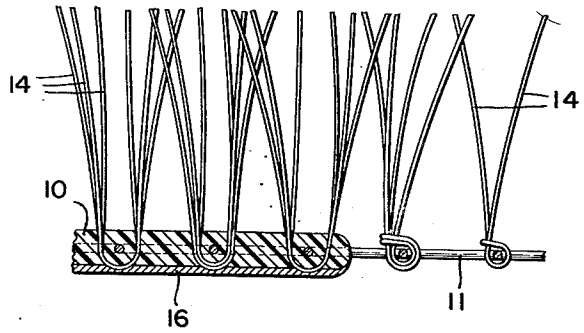


FIG. 3

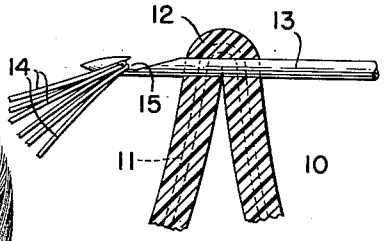


FIG. 4

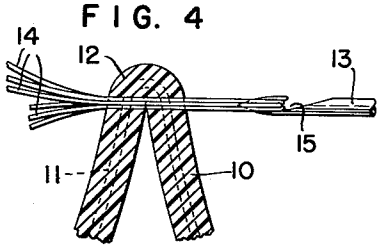
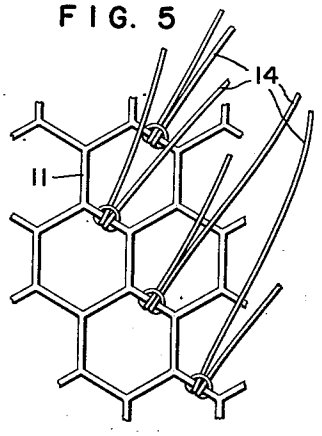


FIG. 5



INVENTOR.
JOSEPH H. SCHMITZ
BY
Jas. C. Wobensmith
ATTORNEY.

United States Patent Office

2,814,301

Patented Nov. 26, 1957

2,814,301

ARTIFICIAL HAIR PIECES AND METHODS OF MAKING THE SAME

Joseph H. Schmitz, Glenside, Pa.

Application July 1, 1953, Serial No. 365,381

7 Claims. (Cl. 132—5)

This invention relates to artificial hair pieces and to methods of making the same, and it relates more particularly to hair pieces of the type commonly called toupees used by partially bald persons, although it is equally applicable to full wigs and the like.

Heretofore, in the making of artificial hair pieces, the method of securing the hair in the foundation which was commonly used was to first pass the "ventilator" needle through the foundation material adjacent an edge provided by bending over the foundation material at the location where the hair is to be inserted. The desired number of hairs were then caught in the hook of the needle and a loop of the hairs was pulled through the foundation material. The "ventilator" needle was then manipulated to pull all of the hairs engaged by the needle through the hair loop after which the loop was pulled tight against the foundation material. This resulted in sharp bends in the individual hairs, and also caused all of the hairs which were passed through the loop to be bunched together at the place where the same emerged from the foundation material.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a toupee or similar hair piece in such manner that a more natural appearance may be obtained, and which will be much more durable in use by reason of the novel manner of securing the hairs in the foundation.

The nature and characteristic features of the present invention will be more readily understood from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing forming part hereof, in which:

Figure 1 is an underneath plan view of a toupee embodying the main features of and made according to the method of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view illustrating the manner in which the hairs are mounted in the foundation material, and in which certain of the hairs are secured to an extending lace fabric provided at certain places as, for example, along the front edge of the toupee for the purpose of obtaining a more natural appearance at that location;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view illustrating one of the steps in the manipulation of the needle in carrying out the novel method of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a similar view illustrating another step; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged plan view showing the manner in which certain of the hairs are secured to the projecting lace fabric at the front of the toupee.

It should, of course, be understood that the description and drawing herein are illustrative merely, and that various modifications and changes may be made in the structure and method without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring to the drawing, the toupee, of the particular embodiment of the invention therein shown, comprises a foundation member **10** to which the hairs are attached. This foundation member **10** consists of a suitably shaped sheet of plastic material, of the color and appearance of the skin, in which there is disposed, between the two surfaces thereof, a piece **11** of bobbinet lace, preferably made of nylon or silk, which extends out in front, beyond the front edge of the foundation member. The extending lace is colored in conformity with the skin so that, when the toupee is applied to the head of the wearer, and said extending lace is disposed over the forehead of the wearer, the portion thereof which is devoid of attached hairs will be invisible.

The portion of the lace **11** which projects beyond the front edge of the foundation member **10** may have hairs secured thereto in the usual manner, that is by looping the same to the strands of the lace.

The foundation member **10**, which preferably comprises a sheet of plastic material, is shaped to conform to the head of the wearer, by being shaped over a block similar in shape to that of the head of the person for whom the hair piece is to be made. In some instances a cast is made of the head of the person for whom the hair piece is to be made to provide a special form upon which to shape the foundation sheet.

The foundation sheet is preferably made of a material including rubber, either of the natural or artificial kind, but it should be understood that this is not essential as the principal novel feature of the present invention resides in the manner in which the hairs are secured to the foundation sheet, and accordingly a foundation of any other suitable material may be used.

In the making of a hair piece of the present invention, at each location where the hairs are to emerge at the outer surface thereof, the sheet of foundation material **10** is bent over on itself, and closely adjacent to the edge **12** which is thus provided, a "ventilator" needle **13**, of the usual type, is pushed through the double thickness of the foundation sheet closely adjacent to the edge formed by the fold.

The hook portion of the needle **13** then engages one or more of a bundle of hairs **14** and pulls a loop **15** of the same through the double thickness of the foundation sheet **10**, after which one set of ends of the hairs thus engaged by the needle are firmly held while at the same time the other ends of the hairs are pulled through the foundation sheet **10** until said ends thus pulled through the foundation sheet **10** extend entirely out from the outer surface thereof.

It should, of course, be understood that a plurality of the hairs, or groups of hairs, can be successively inserted in the above manner along the fold of the foundation sheet **10** before the same is released and permitted to flatten itself, whereupon each hair or the hairs of each group which will then pass through one hole in the sheet and will, in most instances, extend a short distance on the inner face of the foundation sheet, and then outwardly through another hole adjacent the first mentioned hole, each hair being of simple U-shape at the place where it is mounted in the foundation sheet.

After the hairs are thus inserted in the foundation sheet, the inner surface of the foundation sheet may have applied thereto a suitable coating of adhesive **16** which will serve to cement the bends of the hairs which extend through on the inner face of the foundation sheet.

It will be noted that when the hairs are inserted in the foundation sheet as aforesaid the usual looping arrangement of the hairs on the outer face of the foundation sheet will be eliminated and the hairs will each project outwardly in a substantially straight direction and a hair piece thus made will not only be more natural in appearance, but there will be no tendency of the hairs to break off at the loop.

It will also be noted that for each emergence of a hair or group of hairs from the foundation sheet there will be only one-half as many hairs emerging at a particular location, as compared with the hair pieces made

in the usual manner, and the hairs will thus be much better spaced on the foundation sheet.

I claim:

1. A hair piece comprising a flexible foundation sheet shaped to conform to the head of the wearer, hairs secured in the foundation sheet by simple U-shaped bends, portions of bends of the hairs being disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, and the free ends of each hair extending directly outward at closely separated points from the outer surface of the foundation sheet.

2. A hair piece comprising a flexible foundation sheet shaped to conform to the head of the wearer, hairs secured in the foundation sheet by simple U-shaped bends, portions of the bends of the hairs being disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, the free ends of each hair extending directly outward at closely separated points from the outer surface of the foundation sheet, and a layer of adhesive on the inner face of the foundation sheet for securing the portions of the bends of the hairs which are disposed on said inner face of the foundation sheet.

3. A hair piece comprising a flexible foundation sheet shaped to conform to the head of the wearer, a web of lace embedded therein, said lace extending beyond the marginal edge of the foundation sheet at desired locations, hairs secured in the foundation sheet by simple U-shaped bends, portions of the bends of the hairs being disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, the free ends of each hair extending directly outward at closely separated points from the outer surface of the foundation sheet, and the outwardly extending lace portion having hairs secured thereto.

4. A hair piece comprising a flexible foundation sheet shaped to conform to the head of the wearer, a web of lace embedded therein, said lace extending beyond the marginal edge of the foundation sheet at desired locations, hairs secured in the foundation sheet by simple U-shaped bends, portions of the bends of the hairs being disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, the free ends of each hair extending directly outward at closely separated points from the outer surface of the foundation sheet, adhesive on the inner face of the foundation sheet for securing the portions of the bends of the hairs which are disposed on said inner face of the foundation sheet, and the outwardly extending lace portion having hairs secured thereto in the usual manner of passing the free ends of the hairs through loops extending through the meshes of the lace.

5. The method of making hair pieces consisting of shaping a flexible foundation sheet to conform to the head of the wearer, folding the foundation sheet and passing a ventilator needle through two thicknesses of the foundation sheet immediately adjacent the edge formed by said fold and engaging one or more hairs by said needle, and pulling one end of each of the hairs engaged by said needle through the double thickness of the foundation sheet while the other end only of each of said hairs is firmly held whereby the free ends of the hairs will extend directly outward from the outer surface of the foundation sheet at closely separated points and portions of the bends of the hairs will be disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet.

6. The method of making hair pieces consisting of shaping a flexible foundation sheet to conform to the head of the wearer, folding the foundation sheet and passing a ventilator needle through two thicknesses of the foundation sheet immediately adjacent the edge formed by said fold and engaging one or more hairs by said needle, pulling one end only of each of the hairs engaged by said needle through the double thickness of the foundation sheet while the other end of each of said hairs is firmly held whereby the free ends of the hairs will extend directly outward from the outer surface of the foundation sheet at closely separated points and the bends of the hairs will be of simple U-shaped formation, and portions of said bends will be disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, and placing a layer of adhesive on the inner face of the foundation sheet to secure the portions of the bends of the hairs which are disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet.

7. The method of making hair pieces consisting of shaping, to conform to the head of the wearer, a flexible foundation having a web of lace embedded therein and having a portion of said lace extending beyond the marginal edge of the foundation sheet at certain locations, folding the foundation sheet and passing a ventilator needle through two thicknesses of the foundation sheet immediately adjacent the edge formed by said fold and engaging one or more hairs by said needle, pulling one end only of each of the hairs engaged by said needle through the double thickness of the foundation sheet while the other end of each of said hairs is firmly held whereby the free ends of the hairs will extend directly outward from the outer surface of the foundation sheet at separated points and the bends of the hairs will be of simple U-shaped formation, and portions of said bends will be disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, placing a layer of adhesive on the inner face of the foundation sheet to secure the portions of the bends of the hairs which are disposed on the inner face of the foundation sheet, and attaching hairs to the extending lace portion in the usual manner by passing the free ends of the hairs through loops of the hairs extending through the meshes of the lace.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

513,579	Kinzly	Jan. 30, 1894
1,000,525	Kubelka	Aug. 15, 1911
1,464,089	Ernest	Aug. 7, 1923
1,740,764	Bong	Dec. 24, 1929
1,788,340	Smalley et al.	Jan. 6, 1931
1,845,380	Westmore	Feb. 16, 1932
2,253,635	Mann	Aug. 26, 1941
2,302,003	Cadwell et al.	Nov. 17, 1942
2,388,140	Hall	Oct. 30, 1945
2,636,460	Seiderman	Apr. 28, 1953

FOREIGN PATENTS

680,372	France	Jan. 18, 1930
17,044	Great Britain	Oct. 12, 1888

OTHER REFERENCES

Good Housekeeping, "Needle Craft Encyclopedia," Hurst Publishing Company, New York, New York.