

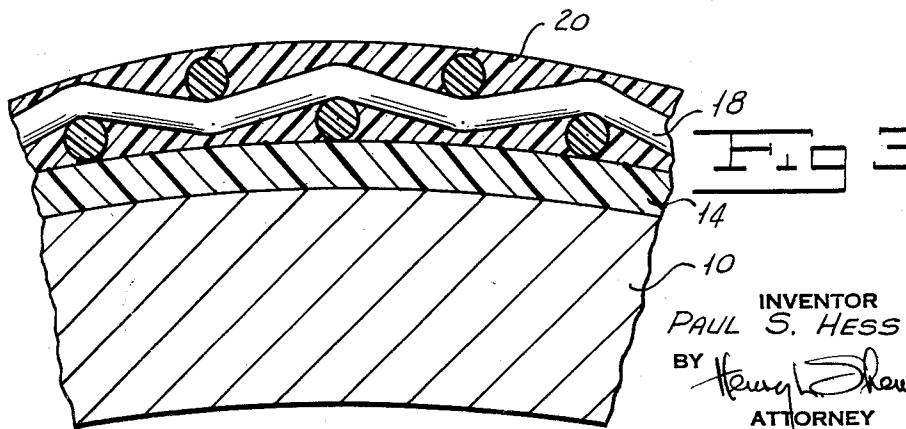
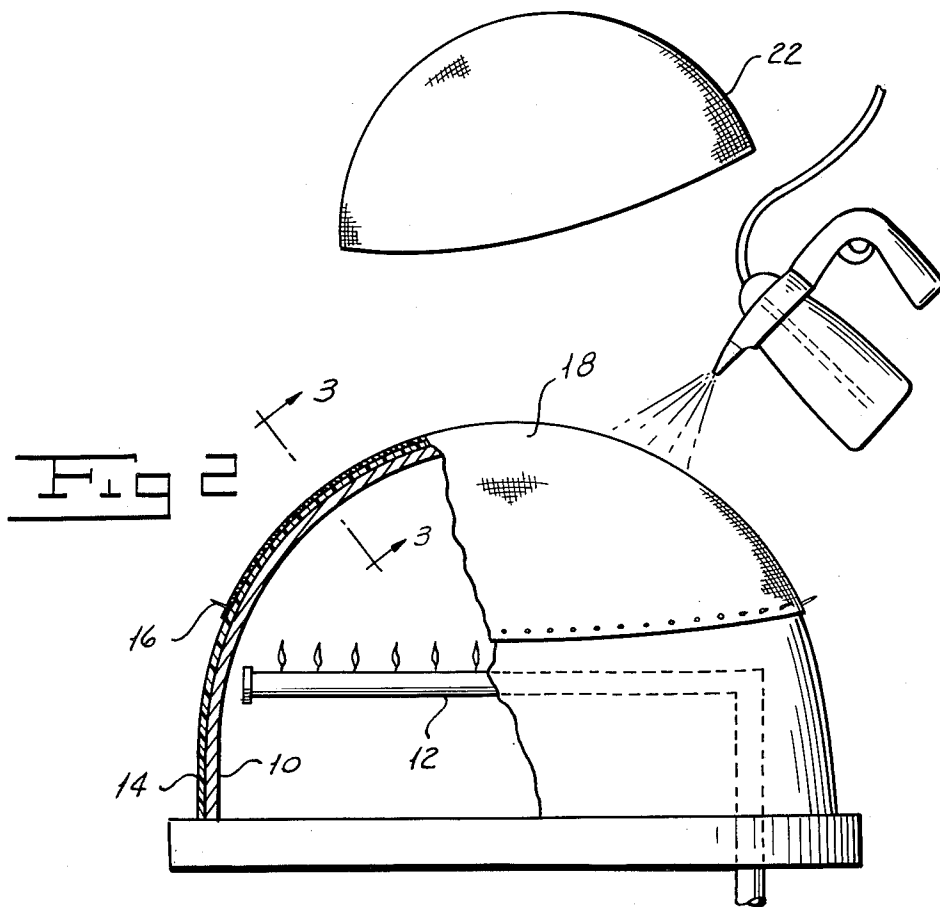
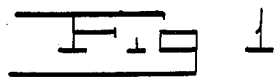
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3,037,261

METHOD OF MAKING FOUNDATIONS FOR TOUPEES

Filed Aug. 22, 1957



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3,037,261

METHOD OF MAKING FOUNDATIONS FOR
TOUPEESPaul S. Hess, West Orange, N.J., assignor to General
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4 Claims. (Cl. 28—74)

My invention relates to a method of making founda-
tions for toupees.

Many individuals in the entertainment world are, like
other persons in more prosaic callings, subject to the loss
of their hair. The occurrence of baldness in persons in
the business world will not interfere with their livelihood.
Such persons may wear toupees for aesthetic reasons or
for reasons of personal vanity. Young men may con-
sider that they are less attractive to young ladies and
for this reason wear toupees.

In the entertainment field, however, baldness may
cause a real economic loss and for this reason entertainers
must frequently wear toupees if they are to retain their
popularity.

Toupees are made by using human hair as a sewing
thread and carefully stretching hair onto a foundation
of fabric. In order to retain the toupee in place use is
usually made of an adhesive. After a while toupees be-
come soiled and they must be subjected to cleaning. Fre-
quent cleaning destroys the natural appearance of a
toupee and causes comparatively rapid deterioration re-
quiring replacement of the restoration.

Besides this, it is difficult to properly clean most
toupees without deleteriously affecting the fabric to which
the hair is sewn. Fabrics are tinted to match the skin
color. After cleaning the color begins to fade and the
foundation upon which the hair is sewn becomes discol-
ored. This destroys the illusion of naturalness which is
so desirable in a toupee.

One object of my invention is a method of making
foundations for toupees which are strong and substan-
tially invisible, thus forming a firm foundation for the
hair.

Another object of my invention is to provide a meth-
od of making contoured foundations for toupees.

Other and further objects of my invention will appear
from the following description.

In general my invention contemplates the provision of
a fabric net formed of filaments of nylon, (a polyamide
resin made by the polymerisation of hexamethyl-enedia-
mine salt and adipic acid), or "Dacron," (a brand of
synthetic fiber made by the condensation of dimethyl
terephthalate and ethylene glycol, made by E. I. du Pont
de Nemours & Co.) or glass fibers woven either in a
basket weave or as a jersey fabric. A very light fabric
weighing .30 ounce per yard or more may be employed.
If glass fibers are used the average fiber diameter should
not exceed 10 microns.

The fabric net is stretched over a form contoured gen-
erally to the shape of a human head thereby opening the
interstices of the net and exposing the surface of the form
at the interstices. This form may be made of wood, but
is preferably made of metal. It is heated to above the
boiling point of water. After the fabric net has been
stretched over the heated form it is sprayed with an
aqueous dispersion of nylon. After the film of nylon is
air-dried it is subjected to baking. The finished founda-
tion is then removed, cut into the desired shape and is
ready for the application of the hair to form the toupee.

In the accompanying drawings which form part of the
instant specification and which are to be read in conjunc-

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tion therewith and in which like reference numerals are
used to indicate like parts in the various views:

FIGURE 1 shows a finished toupee foundation made
in accordance with my invention.

FIGURE 2 shows one form of apparatus capable of
carrying out the method of my invention during the spray-
ing stage.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view drawn on an enlarged
scale taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

Referring now to the drawings, the form 10 is gen-
erally hemispherical in shape and may be contoured gen-
erally to the shape of a human head. While the form
may be made of wood and heated by a current of hot
air, I prefer to make it out of metal and heat it posi-
tively by means of a gas flame issuing from burner 12.
The exterior surface of form 10 is preferably coated
with a layer 14 of "Teflon," (a plastic made by E. I. du
Pont de Nemours & Co. consisting of tetrafluoroethylene
copolymer). This has the advantage of enabling the
ready removal of the finished toupee foundation as noth-
ing sticks to "Teflon." The temperature of the metal is
maintained between 212° F. to 350° F. I provide a
plurality of spikes 16 similar to curtain stretcher pins to
enable me to stretch the net 18 over the form 10.

I form an aqueous dispersion of nylon preferably by
the process described in my copending application Serial
No. 547,095 for "Method of Making Aqueous Dispersions
of Nylon," filed November 16, 1955, now Patent
2,951,054. Any appropriate concentration of nylon may
be employed. Generally I do not use more than 10%
of nylon in the dispersion. This will form a coat 20
of considerable thickness. I may, if desired, use a disper-
sion having a nylon content as small as 1% by weight or
less. The lower the concentration of nylon the thinner
will be the film of nylon formed. The higher the con-
centration of nylon the thicker will be the film of nylon
formed.

The nylon dispersion may contain a flesh-colored dye
so as to render the toupee less noticeable. The contin-
uous film thus formed, however, will generally be suffi-
ciently thin so as to be translucent or transparent. The pur-
pose of heating the mold above 212° F. is to enable the
water in the nylon dispersion to flash off. I prefer to
have a coating in the neighborhood of 4 mils in thick-
ness. After the dispersion has been sprayed over the
nylon net it is allowed to dry for a short time, usually 5
to 10 minutes. The elevated temperature prevents the
film from becoming tacky. The foundation may then be
baked in an oven at any appropriate temperature from
say 15 minutes to one hour, depending upon the tem-
perature to complete the thorough evaporation of any
residual moisture.

The toupee foundation 22 is removed and is then ready
for the sewing onto it of the hair. It is to be understood,
of course, that the toupee foundation is generally sterilized
by steaming before the sewing operation commences. It
will form a strong anchor which is not affected by ad-
hesives. It can be cleaned and subjected to germicides
without injury. It may even be sterilized by steaming
without changing its shape or contour. In place on the
head its translucency or transparency is such that the skin
shows through and it is extremely difficult to detect its
presence. Properly secured to the head by an adhesive
the wearer may go swimming and even dive with a toupee
without revealing that it is being worn.

It will be seen that I have accomplished the objects of
my invention.

My method of making foundations for toupees provides
a toupee which is substantially invisible and is contoured
to fit the head of the wearer.

My method of making foundations for toupees provides

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a toupee which is not affected by adhesives and which can be cleaned and sterilized without harm.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of my claims. It is further obvious that various changes may be made in details within the scope of my claims without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is therefore to be understood that my invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A method of making foundations for toupees including the steps of stretching a fabric net over a form having a curved surface to open the interstices of the net, heating the surface to a temperature between 212° F. and 350° F., spraying an aqueous dispersion of nylon over the net and heated surface in sufficient quantity to bridge said interstices while simultaneously evaporating the moisture from the dispersion and then further drying the same to form a

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substantially continuous layer of nylon over the fabric net.

2. A method as in claim 1 in which said fabric net is formed of nylon fibers.

3. A method as in claim 1 in which said aqueous dispersion of nylon has a solids content of between 1% by weight and 10% by weight.

4. A method as in claim 1 in which said nylon coated net is baked after the further drying to remove any residual moisture therefrom.

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