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Pollack et al.

[11] **3,714,670**

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[54] HAND SHAPABLE CAP WITH ADJUSTABLE HEADBAND

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **2/197**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A42b 1/02**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 2/174, 197, 195, 68, DIG. 6, 2/237, 221

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

3,019,444	2/1962	Pollack et al.	2/68
1,652,933	12/1927	Gaskell	2/198 X

FOREIGN PATENTS OR APPLICATIONS

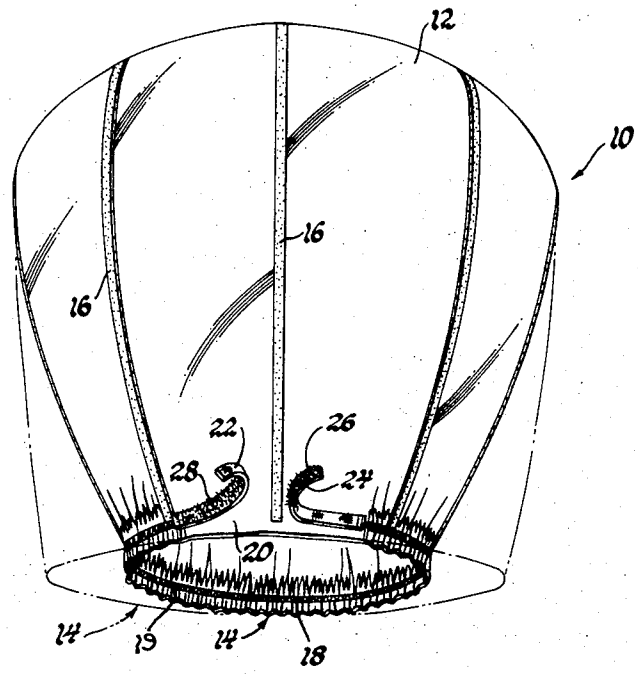
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A hand shapable cap including a large bulbous body of flexible material for enclosing the hair of the wearer with a headband portion at the rim of the bulbous body for supporting the body on the head of the wearer, and a plurality of nonresilient, hand formable stiffening elements secured to the flexible material of the body permitting the body to be hand formed into a desired free shape according to the coiffure of the wearer so that the body can enclose the hair but at the same time remain substantially out of contact therewith when the cap is supported on the head of the wearer, the headband portion having elastic and nonelastic segments permitting the headband to be extended to its maximum circumference so as not to disturb the coiffure as the cap is placed on the head of the wearer, and adjustable means on the headband for selectively adjusting the length of the nonelastic segment and hence the tension of the elastic segment to secure the headband to the head of the wearer.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Figures



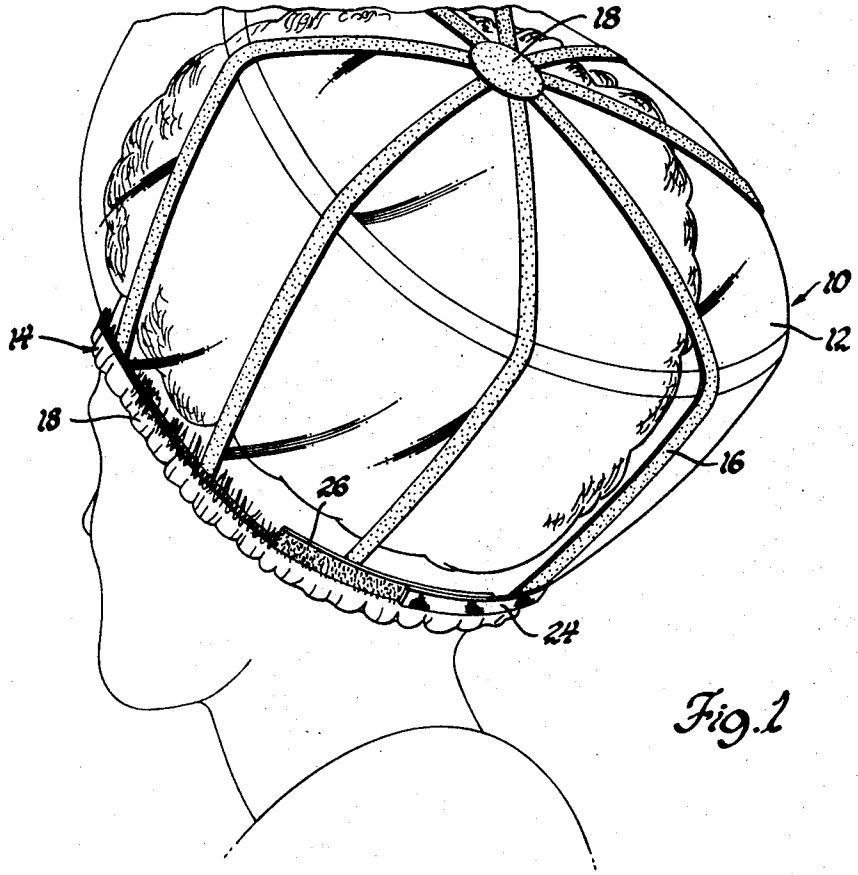


Fig. 1

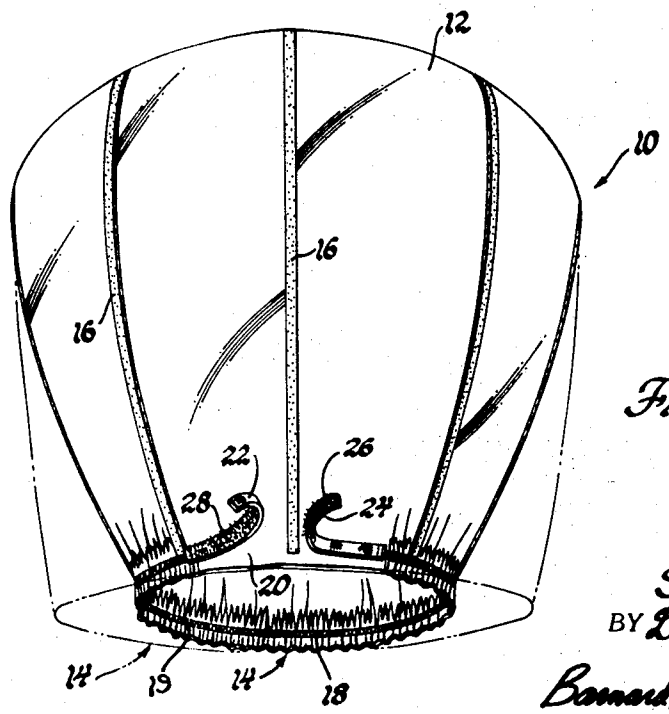


Fig. 2

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HAND SHAPABLE CAP WITH ADJUSTABLE HEADBAND

This invention relates generally to head coverings and is particularly concerned with caps or hats for protecting the coiffure of the wearer from water and wind while showering, bathing, riding in an open vehicle, and similar activities

Many fashionable hairdos or coiffures are large and elaborate and are difficult to repair when disturbed by wind or water. Some elaborate coiffures or hairdos will collapse if subjected to even moderately disturbing forces or pressures. This type of hairdo is particularly susceptible to being disturbed when taking a shower, swimming, riding in an open vehicle or other activities wherein the hairdo is subjected to water or high winds.

Our prior U.S. Pat. No. 3,019,444 of Feb. 6, 1962 discloses a head covering wherein a plurality of nonresilient, hand deformable stiffening members are secured to flexible material so that the flexible material can be hand formed into any desired free shape to enclose the hair of the wearer without contacting the hair. The cap disclosed in the latter patent includes an elastic free edge or headband for supporting the cap on the head of the wearer. In order to provide the elastic headband, it is necessary to gather the flexible material making up the cap at its free end, after which the elastic member is stitched, stapled, or otherwise secured to the gathered material. The elastic headband can thus be stretched only to a length determined by the spacing and arrangement of the stitches which secure the elastic to the gathered material, which length is of course less than the fully extended, non-gathered length of the free end of the flexible material. Consequently, in order to provide a headband that can be stretched over extremely wide hairdos or coiffures so as not to disturb the hairdo when the cap is placed on the head of the wearer, the unstretched length of the headband must be large compared with the maximum, stretched length thereof. Accordingly, there frequently is insufficient tension applied to the elastic headband when it is placed on the head of the wearer to provide a proper support for the cap or hat. On the other hand, if sufficient tension is provided by the elastic headband to support the cap, it is difficult, if not impossible, to stretch the headband sufficiently to clear extremely wide hairdos as the cap is placed on or removed from the head of the wearer.

An object of this invention is to provide an improved hand shapable cap for accommodating a variety of hair styles or coiffures wherein the headband can be extended to a circumferential length capable of receiving the maximum sized coiffure or hairdo to be received in the cap when the cap is placed on or removed from the head of the wearer, but which headband can be adjusted to any desired length in order to secure the cap to the head of the wearer.

In carrying out the foregoing, and other objects, a cap according to the present invention includes a large bulbous body of flexible material for enclosing the hair of the wearer with a headband portion at the rim of the bulbous body for supporting the body on the head of the wearer. A plurality of nonresilient, hand formable stiffening elements are secured to the flexible material of the body to permit the body to be hand formed into any desired free shape according to the coiffure of the wearer so that the bulbous body can enclose the hair

but at the same time remain substantially out of contact therewith when the cap is supported on the head of the wearer. In accordance with the invention, the headband portion of the cap has elastic and nonelastic segments permitting the headband to be extended to the maximum circumference of the cap so as not to disturb the coiffure as the cap is placed on or removed from the head of the wearer. Adjustable mean are provided on the headband for selectively adjusting the length of the nonelastic segment and hence the tension of the elastic segment to secure the headband to the head of the wearer.

Other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a cap according to the present invention supported on the head of a wearer; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the cap removed from the head of the wearer.

The cap illustrated in the drawing includes a large bulbous body **10** of flexible material **12** for enclosing the hair of the wearer with a headband portion **14** at the rim of the bulbous body **10** for supporting the cap on the head of the wearer. A plurality of nonresilient, hand deformable stiffening elements **16** are secured to the flexible material **12** of the body portion **10** to permit the body portion **10** to be hand formed into any desired free shape according to the hair style or coiffure of the wearer so that the body **10** can enclose the hair but at the same time remain substantially out of contact with the hair when the cap is supported on the head of the wearer.

The stiffening members **16** may be formed of material such as a plastic, a heavily stiffened fabric, or a metal which may be easily bent to assume a curve and which is nonresilient so that it will retain the shape that it is given. The stiffening elements **16** in the illustrated embodiment extend radially from a circular bottom **18** at the center of the body **12** to the headband portion **14** and thus define a deformable framework for supporting the flexible material **12** in any desired shape.

In order to place the cap on the head of the wearer, or to remove it from the head of the wearer, it is necessary to enlarge the headband portion from the length shown in FIG. 1. In accordance with the present invention, the headband portion **14** includes an elastic segment **18** and a nonelastic segment **20** which permits the headband portion to be extended to the maximum circumference of the body **10** as indicated in phantom lines in FIG. 2 so that the headband portion will not disturb the coiffure as the cap is placed on the head of the wearer. The free edge of the flexible material **12** is gathered at the elastic segment, and the gathered material is stitched, stapled, or otherwise secured in a conventional manner to an elongated elastic member **19** extending throughout and defining the length of the elastic segment **18**. When the elastic segment **18** is stretched to its maximum length and the nonelastic segment **20** is extended to its full length, the headband **14** will have the approximate length illustrated in phantom lines in FIG. 2. Adjustable means is provided on the headband for selectively adjusting the length of the nonelastic segment **20** after the cap has been placed on

the head of the wearer so that the tension of the elastic segment is adequate to support the cap in the proper position.

The adjustable means includes a pair of straps **22** and **24**, each having one end secured to the headband **14** near one end of the nonelastic segment **20**. Interengageable fastening means are provided on the straps **22** and **24** for securing the straps together at selected positions along the length thereof. The fastening means may be of the type sold under the trade name VELCRO and disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,009,235 of Nov. 21, 1961, including flexible hooks **28** mounted on strap **22** and flexible loops **26** mounted on strap **24** (or vice versa) which are engageably by the hooks **28**. Consequently, the straps **24** and **22** can be secured together by pressing the hooks **28** against the loops **26**. Thus, the length of the nonelastic segment **20** can be adjusted as desired to provide the proper amount of tension on the elastic segment **18** to maintain the cap in the proper position on the wearer's head by merely gathering or folding the segment **20** as the ends thereof are pulled closer together by straps **22** and **24**. The strap **28** can be stitched or glued along its entire length to the nonelastic segment **20**.

The flexible material **12** of the cap can be waterproof material such as plastic for use as a shower cap, or may of course be made of any other flexible material such as cloth or leather, etc. and can be decorated as desired. The deformable ribs or stiffening elements **16** can be hand deformed to provide any desired shape of the body portion **10** of the cap, and the headband **14** can be expanded to the full transverse dimension of the body portion **10** as illustrated in phantom line in FIG. **2**.

The drawings thus illustrate a hat or cap comprising an enclosure **10** of cloth, plastic, leather, or other flexible material **12** supported in any desired shape by a framework made up of deformable strips **16** radiating from the button **18** at the center of the flexible material **12** to the free edge thereof, and an adjustable headband portion **14** defined at the free end of the flexible material including an elastic portion **18** and a nonelastic portion **20** with interengageable straps **22** and **24** secured to the ends of the nonelastic portion for selectively adjusting the length of the nonelastic portion and the tension on the elastic portion when the hat is worn.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been disclosed in the accompanying drawings and described in the foregoing specification, it should be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact construction shown. Alterations in the construction and arrangement of parts, all falling within the scope and spirit of the invention, will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

We claim:

1. A cap including a large bulbous body of flexible material with a narrow circumferential headband at the rim of said body for engaging the head of the wearer below the hair-line, said headband being the only support for said body on the head of the wearer in such a manner that said body is adapted to completely enclose a particular style of coiffure freely, a plurality of nonresilient, hand deformable stiffening elements secured to the flexible material of said body and extending from the headband to the top of the body permitting the body to be hand formed into a desired free shape according to the coiffure of the wearer so that the bulbous body can enclose the hair but at the same time remain substantially out of contact therewith when the cap is supported on the head of the wearer below the hairline by said headband, wherein the improvement comprises said headband having a continuous circumferential elastic segment having a length sufficient to form the portion of the headband that encompasses the front and sides of the head of the wearer below the hairline, and a continuous circumferential nonelastic segment connecting the ends of said elastic segment for forming the portion of the headband that encompasses the rear of the head of the wearer below the hairline, said headband being resiliently extendable to the maximum circumference of said body so as not to disturb the coiffure of the wearer as the cap is placed onto or removed from the head of the wearer, and adjustable means on said headband for selectively adjusting the length of the nonelastic segment and hence the tension of said elastic segment to secure the headband to the head of the wearer so that the headband can have the smallest circumferential length of any portion of the bulbous body, said adjustable means comprising a pair of straps each having one end secured to said headband at the opposite ends of the nonelastic segment, and interengageable fastening means on said straps for securing said straps together at selected positions along the lengths thereof, said interengageable fastening means comprising a plurality of flexible hooks mounted on one of said straps and a plurality of flexible loops mounted on the other of said straps engage-ably by said hooks so that the straps can be secured together at any selected location along their lengths by pressing overlapping portions of the straps together.

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