April 28, 1959 S. RAFOWITZ ET AL 2,883,669

CAP

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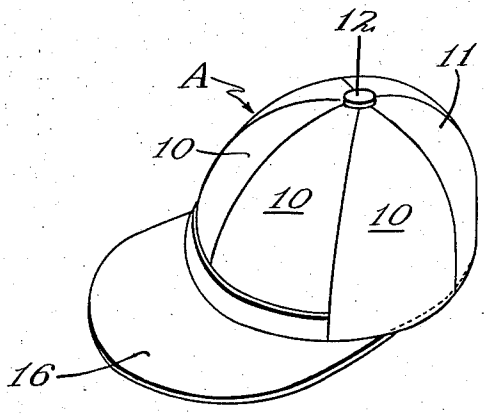

Fig. 1

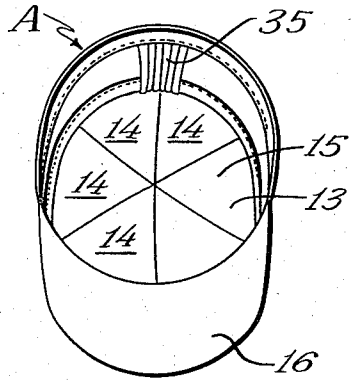

Fig. 2

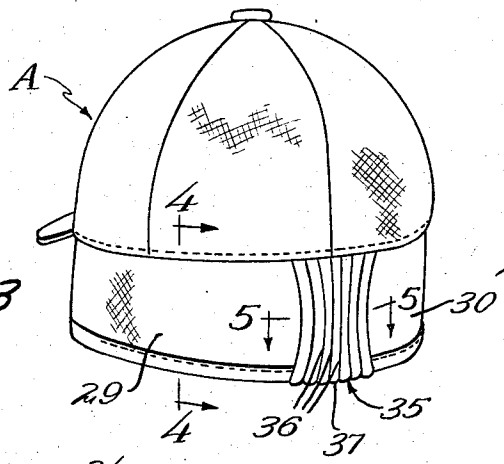

Fig. 3

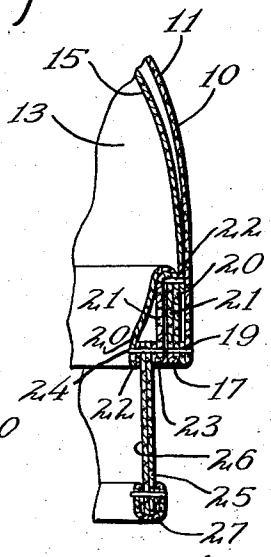

Fig. 4

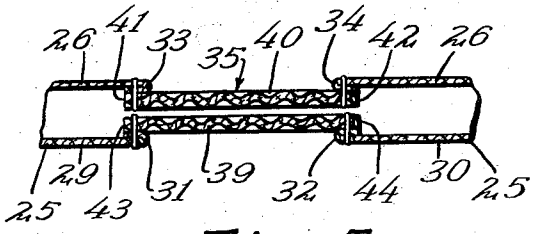

Fig. 5

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CAP

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—172)

This invention relates to an improvement in caps and deals particularly with a cap having a flap portion which is designed to extend over the ears to protect the ears from the cold.

Various types of caps have been produced with elastic segments therein which are designed to hold the flap portion of the cap tightly encircling the head. For the most part, these elastic segments have been in the form of elastic strips or bands which are designed to draw the lower edge of the flap tightly about the head of the wearer.

The present invention resides in the production of a cap of somewhat similar design but which includes an elastic segment of a different type.

An object of the present invention resides in the provision of a cap having a flap portion which may fold into the cap or which may fold down to encircle a portion of the face of the wearer. This flap portion is formed of relatively inelastic material which will not stretch to any material extent. The interior of the flap is lined with a soft material which will enclose the ears when in lowered position and which will not irritate the skin. At the rear of the cap, the flap portion is provided with a connected segment of knitted material which is elastic in its character and which may stretch to easily fit over the head. At the same time this elastic segment will draw the relatively inelastic portions of the flaps closely over the ears so as to thoroughly protect the ears.

A feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a cap having a flap structure, including two spaced portions of relatively inelastic material, each of which extends along one of the sides of the cap, the two sections terminating in spaced relation at the rear of the cap. Secured to this flap portion and connecting the flap sections is provided a relatively elastic section of knitted material which tends to draw the rear ends of the flaps sections together. At the same time this knitted portion may stretch substantially so that the flaps may be easily pulled over the head and when in place will draw the relatively inelastic sections closely about the head.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the specific manner in which the elastic portion is secured to the flap sections. The flap sections are preferably formed of inner and outer layers of material, the outer layer comprising a covering layer and the inner layer forming a soft layer designed to overlie the ears and to be nonirritating to the skin. The elastic section is formed of a strip of knitted material which is folded at its lower edge. Thus, the knitted portion of the flap structure is also in two layers and the outer layer of the knitted section is secured to the outer layer of the inelastic sections and the inner layer of the elastic portion is secured to the inner layer of the relatively inelastic sections. Thus, each of the layers may be individually drawn inwardly so as to closely fit the shape and contour of the head.

These and other objects and novel features of the invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claim.

In the drawings forming a part of the specification:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the cap with the flaps in folded condition.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of the cap with the flaps in folded position.

Figure 3 is a rear perspective view of the cap with the flaps in extended position.

Figure 4 is a sectional view through the cap, the position of the section being indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view through the cap, the position of the section being indicated by the line 5—5 of Figure 3.

The cap is illustrated in general in Figures 1, 2, and 3 of the drawings and is designated in general by the letter A. The general construction of the cap is not of utmost importance in the present invention. However, as illustrated, the crown of the cap is formed of wedge-shaped sections or segments 10 of suitable material, these sections being connected along their converging edges so as to form a crown which is indicated in general by the numeral 11. A button, or other ornament 12 may be provided at the top of the crown.

As indicated in Figures 2 and 4 of the drawings, a cap liner 13 is provided within the cap, this liner 13 being similarly constructed to the hat crown 11. In other words, the liner may also be formed of wedge-shaped segments 14 which form the liner crown 15. Obviously, the liner lies closely within the crown 11 and is marginally secured thereto.

As indicated in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, a visor 16 is marginally secured to the edge of the crown 11 to project forwardly therefrom in the usual manner. The particular construction of this crown is not illustrated, but normally it includes two panels of material which are marginally secured together to enclose a stiffener element which is not shown in the drawings.

In order to form a cap band, a strip of fabric or other suitable material is doubled at 17 and is stitched at 19 through the doubled edge of the fabric and through the doubled edge of the periphery of the cap segments 10. The doubled strip portions 20 and 21 extend upwardly inwardly of the cap and are stitched at 22 marginally to the edge of the liner 13. The marginal edge of the strip portion 20 is doubled as indicated at 22 and the marginal edge of the strip portion 21 is doubled as indicated at 23. Stitching 24 extends through these doubled edges 22 and 23 and through the flap panels so as to secure the flaps in place.

Each side of the cap is provided with a relatively inelastic flap portion which includes an outer covering 25 and an inner liner 26. These panels, or coverings, are provided with a taped or bound edge 27 so as to connect these panels and to provide a finished edge. The outer covering 25 is preferably made of water resistant material while the inner panel 26 is preferably of a softer material or of fur so as to prevent any irritation of the skin.

The two flap sections which are formed in the manner described are illustrated at 29 and 30 respectively. These flap sections are of substantially equal width for a distance from the back of the cap toward the front thereof, and then tapered in width, finally tapering to a point, or to a part of minimum thickness at the front of the cap.

The outer panels 25 of the flap sections 29 and 30 are provided with ends 31 and 32 which terminate in spaced relation and which are folded inwardly to provide a doubled edge. The liner panels 26 of the flap sections 29 and 30 are also provided with spaced ends

33 and 34 respectively which are doubled and which are substantially coextensive with the edges 31 and 32 respectively.

An elastic section 35 of elastic material is preferably provided with vertically extending ribs 36 which make this elastic section laterally stretchable, or in other words, stretchable longitudinally of the flap sections 29 and 30. The elastic section 35 is formed of a strip of knitted or other flexible material which is doubled at its lower edge 37 so as to provide an outer layer 39 and an inner layer 40. The upper edges of both of these layers are anchored between the folded edges 22 and 23 of the strip portions 20 and 21 respectively. In other words, the elastic section is secured in the cap in the same way as the relatively inelastic flap sections 29 and 30.

The marginal edges 41 and 42 of the inner layer 40 of the knitted material are secured to the folded edges 33 and 34 of the liner panels 26 of the two sections 29 and 30. In a similar manner, the marginal edges 43 and 44 of the outer layer 39 of the elastic material are secured to the folded edges 31 and 32 of the outer layers 25 of the sections 29 and 30. Thus, each of the layers of the flap sections is secured to a corresponding layer of the elastic section and the inner layer may flex and expand independently of the outer layer except along the top and bottom edges thereof.

With this arrangement a novel and attractive flap structure is formed which produces a means of effectively covering the ears and adjoining portions of the head. The elastic section 35 permits the relatively inelastic flap sections 29 and 30 to spread apart sufficiently so that the cap will readily pass over the head, and at the same time these sections draw the flap sections tightly along the side of the head during use. In view of the fact that each of the layers of the inelastic material is secured to a layer of elastic material, the layers may flex independently if desired to more effectively fit the contour of the head. Furthermore, flap structure is continuous and the elastic section does not provide any stretching of material at the rear of the cap as would be the case if an elastic strip overlaid the outer surface of an inelastic continuous flap so as to draw this flap together at the rear of the cap.

In accordance with the patent statutes, the principles of construction and operation of an improvement in caps have been described and while it has been endeavored to set forth the best embodiments thereof, it is desired to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claim without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

We claim:

A cap including a crown, a visor secured to the lower edge of the crown at the front thereof to extend forwardly therefrom, and a flap structure secured marginally to the lower edge of the crown and selectively foldably into the crown and downwardly therefrom, the flap structure including a pair of relatively inelastic elongated flap sections terminating with their rear ends in spaced relation at the rear of the cap, each inelastic elongated flap section including an elongated inner layer and an elongated outer layer, the layers of each flap section being connected along one longitudinal edge to the lower edge of the crown forming a part of the marginal connection above described and being connected together along their other longitudinal edges, a relatively elastic section connecting said inelastic sections, said elastic section including an outer layer connected to the ends of the outer layer of the inelastic sections and being free of direct connection with the inner layer thereof, and said elastic section also including an inner layer connected to the outer layer of said section along a line of connection parallel to and spaced from the rear margin of said crown and being connected to the ends of the inner layers of the inelastic sections and free of direct connection with the outer layers thereof, both layers of said elastic section being connected to the lower margin of the crown forming a part of said marginal connection, whereby the outer layers of the flap structure may flex independently of one another in a longitudinal and tensional direction relative to the inner layers thereof.

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