Jan. 20, 1959 L. SCHERZ 2,869,137

ADJUSTABLE CAPS AND LIKE STRUCTURES

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FIG. 1

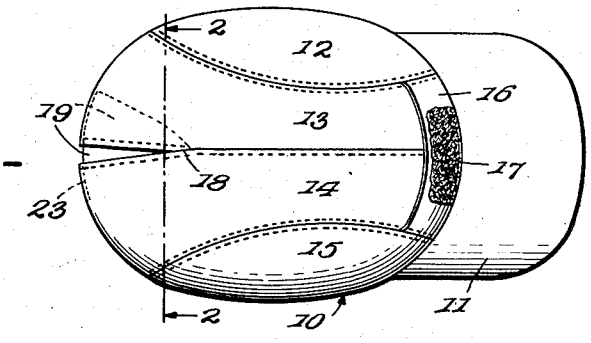


FIG. 2

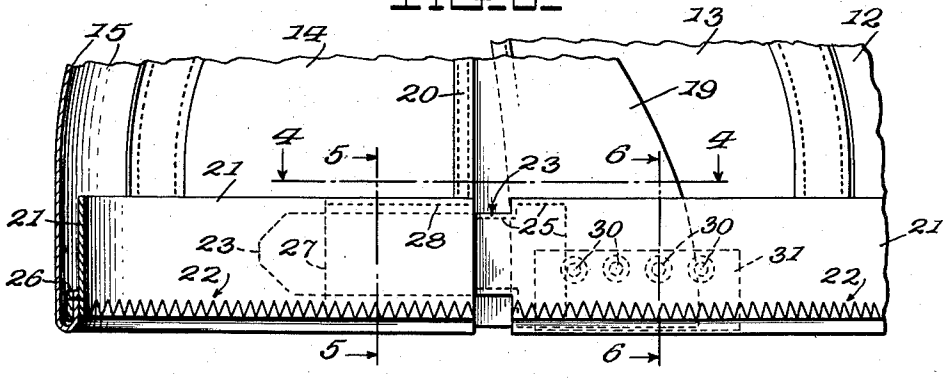
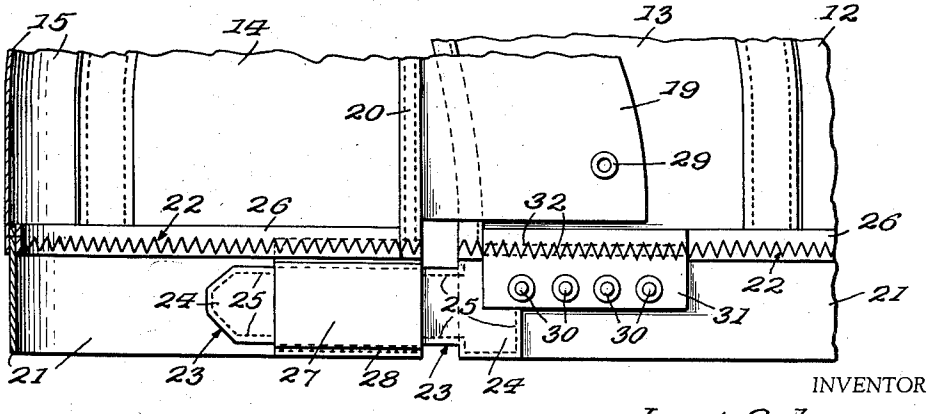


FIG. 3



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Fig. 4

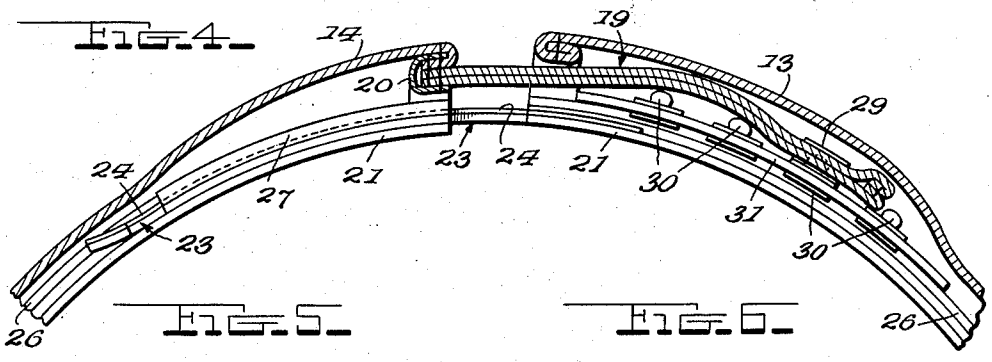


Fig. 5

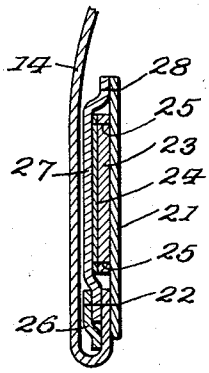


Fig. 6

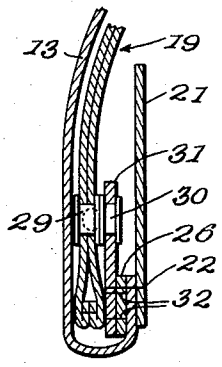


Fig. 7

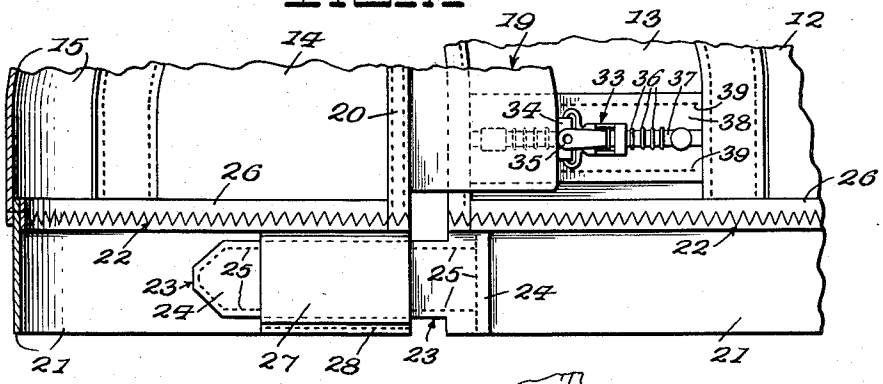


Fig. 8

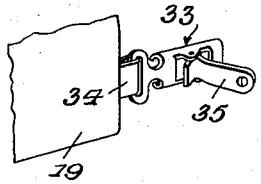
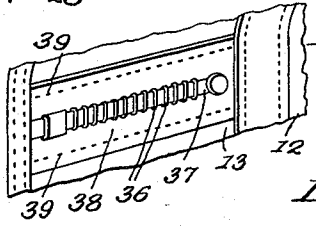


Fig. 9



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United States Patent Office 2,869,137 Patented Jan. 20, 1959

2,869,137

ADJUSTABLE CAPS AND LIKE STRUCTURES

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Application April 27, 1955, Serial No. 504,247

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—197)

This invention relates to headgear such as cap and hats, with provision of means whereby the same can be adjusted to the wearer's headsize.

An object of the invention is the provision of a cap or like structure including a crown of flexible material and having a slit with a concealing flap, and parts providing a peripheral band which can be adjusted and fixed in length.

Another object is the provision of such a cap or the like, in which the peripheral band includes slidable interengaging parts adaptable to various lengths, and the flap cooperates therewith for fixing the adjusted length.

A further object is the provision of a cap or like structure in which the crown has a slit, and a flap is included for preventing a gap at the slit, and the flap has parts cooperating with other cap parts for fixing the exposed area of the flap and therewith the adjusted size of the device.

With these and other objects in view, as will appear in the course of the following description and claims, illustrative forms of practice of the invention are shown on the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top view of a cap embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view, taken in section substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a view corresponding to Fig. 2, but with the sweat band and associated parts turned down and the length-fixing parts separated.

Figure 4 is a horizontal section substantially on line 4—4 of Fig. 2, on a still larger scale.

Figure 5 is a section substantially on line 5—5 of Fig. 2, on the scale of Fig. 4.

Figure 6 is a section substantially on line 6—6 of Fig. 2, on the scale of Fig. 4.

Figure 7 is a view corresponding to Fig. 3, of another embodiment of the invention.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of one adjustment part in Fig. 7.

Figure 9 is a perspective view of another adjustment part in Fig. 7.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 shows a cap structure **10**, which may have a stiffened partial brim portion illustrated as the visor **11**. The crown is formed by sections **12, 13, 14, 15** of flexible fabric, joined by seams at the abutting edges and secured to the brim portion **11**. A panel or packet **16** extends across the front, being bound at the lateral ends with the seams between sections **12, 13**, and **14, 15**: and also bound into the visor seam. A sheep's wool pad **17** may be attached to the panel **16**.

At the rear, the flexible sections **13, 14** are free of the stiffened brim portion **11** and of one another from the rim upwardly to a point **18** and provide a radial slit so that the edges of the slit between the sections can be brought toward one another or separated for adjusting the cap to the wearer's headsize. A flap **19** of generally triangular shape is secured (Figs. 2, 3 and 7) by a piped seam **20** to the section **14**, and extends across the slit in

the various conditions of adjustment, thereby avoiding a gap through which the wearer's head or hair is visible, and serving also to prevent rain or dust from reaching the scalp.

The peripheral edges of the sections **12, 13, 14, 15** are turned inward and up, as shown in Figs. 2, 5 and 6, and are connected to the sweat band **21**, by stitching **22**. This sweat band is continuous around the inside of the rim, except at the back in this illustrative form, where it has one end provided with a narrowed extension **23** for overlapping the other end in any adjusted condition of length. It is preferred to reinforce and stiffen this extension **23** by a like-shaped piece **24** (Figs. 3–7) which is secured thereto as by stitching **25** and has a widened portion likewise secured to the main portion of the sweat band **21**. It is preferred to include a reinforcing tape **26** at the rim seam, held by the stitching **22**. The other end of the sweat band, at the side adjacent the crown, has a loop piece **27** secured thereto at the upper and lower edges as by stitching **22, 28** so that a sleeve is provided within which the tongue **23, 24** may slide in telescoping fashion, thereby avoiding any gap or curling edge, and assuring comfort and proper fitting to the wearer's head.

In the form of structure in Figs. 2–6, the rim adjacent the section **13** also includes a flexible strip **31** upon which are provided a plurality of male snap fastener elements **30** spaced along a line parallel to the rim. This strip **31** may be secured by stitchings **32, 22**. The flap **19** has a female snap fastener element **29** cooperative with any of the elements **30**. Illustratively the elements **30** may be so spaced that a shift of the element **29** from one element **30** to the next represents an adjustment.

As examples of employment, the illustrative four elements **30** may be so spaced on strips **31**, and these strips assembled in caps having different inner and sweat band lengths to provide two stock sizes, one of which can be adjusted to small cap sizes of 6⅝, 6¾, 6⅞ and 7, and the other to medium cap sizes of 7⅛, 7¼, 7⅜, and 7½. Therewith only two sizes of headgear need be made or stocked for fitting heads of any such size. At the time of purchase or thereafter, a quick and simple adjustment may be made by releasing the elements **29, 30** and tentatively fitting to the wearer's head, by permitting the tongue **23, 24** to slide within the sleeve provided by band **21** and loop **27**. Upon removing from the head, the element **29** is engaged with an element **30**, e. g. with the adjacent element **30** nearer the tongue **23, 24** if a tight fit is desired or with the adjacent element **30** farther from the tongue **23, 24** if a looser fit is desired. The operation can be conducted, also, by turning the sweat band downwardly, from the position of Fig. 2 to that of Fig. 3, thereby exposing the parts to view, making a tentative adjustment, and then returning the sweat band and engaging an element **30** with the element **29**.

In the position of Fig. 2, where the engagement has been shown to be with the element **30** second from the right, that is, for a hot size of 6¾ for a small cap or 7¼ for a medium cap, it will be noted that the flap **19** covers the slit between sections **13, 14**: and that the tongue **23, 24** spans between the ends of the wide or main part of the sweat band. Thus there is a smooth sweat band fitting to the head. The band can be turned downward, to the position of Fig. 3, upon releasing the fastener elements **29, 30**, and hence the parts can be conveniently swept or cleaned. Even with the engagement of the element **29** with the left-hand element **30** in Figs. 2 and 3, the flap **19** covers the slit and conceals and protects the head; and the tongue **23, 24** spans between the ends of the wide part of the sweat band.

It will be noted, Figs. 4 and 6, that the flap **19** can be first sewed at its free edges, then reversed and in assembly sewed into the piped seam **20**, so that a smooth edge is provided in the finished article. The positions of fastener elements 29, 30 above the rim seams **22**, **32** (Fig. 6) assures the absence of objectionable bulkiness or local pressure spots along the head-engaging parts of the sweat band: and this is further assured by having the thickness for the tongue **23**, **24** and sleeve **21**, **27** at one side of the slit: and the thicknesses for the adjustment parts at the other side.

In the embodiment of Figs. 7–9, the external appearance is as in Fig. 1. In place of the male-female glove or snap fasteners, a clamping device is provided for fixing the adjusted length. The flap **19** has connected into the seam, at the lower part of its free edge extending upward in the cap, a flexible loop **34** passing through an aperture of a clamp slide **33** having the hinged clamping lever **35**. A guide strip **38** is secured to the inside of section **13**, as by stitches **39** and by binding into the seam between sections **12**, **13**, and into the turned free edge of section **13** at the slit. This strip has thereon a flexible strap **37** with spaced secured wire loops **36**. The illustrated curled edges of the slide **33** engage around the edges of strap **37**, and permit relative sliding guided movement of the slide **33** along the strap **37** when the lever **35** is released (Fig. 8); but when the lever **35** is pressed down (Fig. 7), the parts are clamped in adjusted position, the loops **36** serving to resist slippage. This structure can be adjusted by releasing the lever **35**, making a fitting for the wearer's head, and then depressing the lever **35**.

In each form of the device, the parts can be made in quantity and assembled without difficulty; and the completed and assembled structure can be inspected, adjusted, readjusted, and cleaned without loss of any part. Externally, the appearance is neat; and internally it is comfortable and the adjustment parts are concealed and protected by the sweat band. Structurally, the telescoping parts of the sweat band, which is preferably as usual of a stiff material, assures conformation: and the presence of the length-adjusting member on the flap assures maintenance of the flap in position.

The illustrated forms are not restrictive, and the invention can be practiced in many ways within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable cap or like structure having a flexible crown member with a slit at its rear extending upwardly from the rim of the crown member, a flap member of flexible material secured to the crown member at one side of the slit and extending across the slit and underlying the crown member at the opposite side of the slit, a flexible sweat band within and secured along the rim of the crown member so that the sweat band may be turned upwards inside the crown member, said sweat band having one end adjacent the slit and an extension at the other end of the sweat band projecting across the slit, a loop portion secured to the said one end of the sweat band and located between the sweat band and crown member when the latter is in upwardly turned position and effective for providing a sleeve in which said extension can slide between said crown member and the said one end of the sweat band, a first fastener piece secured to said flap member, and a fastener structure including a plurality of second fastener pieces secured to the said crown member adjacent said other end of the sweat band for selective cooperation with said first fastener piece, the said first fastener piece and the said fastener structure being so located relative to the rim of the crown member that when the sweat band is turned upward and inside of the crown member said first fastener piece and the fastener structure are positioned between the sweat band and the crown member, whereby the increased thicknesses of the loop and sweat band extension and of the fastener piece and fastener structure are located at opposite sides of the slit from one another.

2. A cap or like structure as in claim 1, in which the fastener structure includes a guide piece secured to the crown member, and the said first fastener piece includes a slide movable along the guide piece, and in which the first fastener piece includes a clamp for fixing the slide in position on the guide piece.

3. A cap or like structure as in claim 1, in which the said second fastener pieces comprise a plurality of male snap elements secured to the said crown member and spaced along a line substantially parallel to the rim, and the said first fastener piece is a female snap element secured to the flap member and cooperative with any of said male snap elements.

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