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(54) INTERCHANGEABLE HEADBAND

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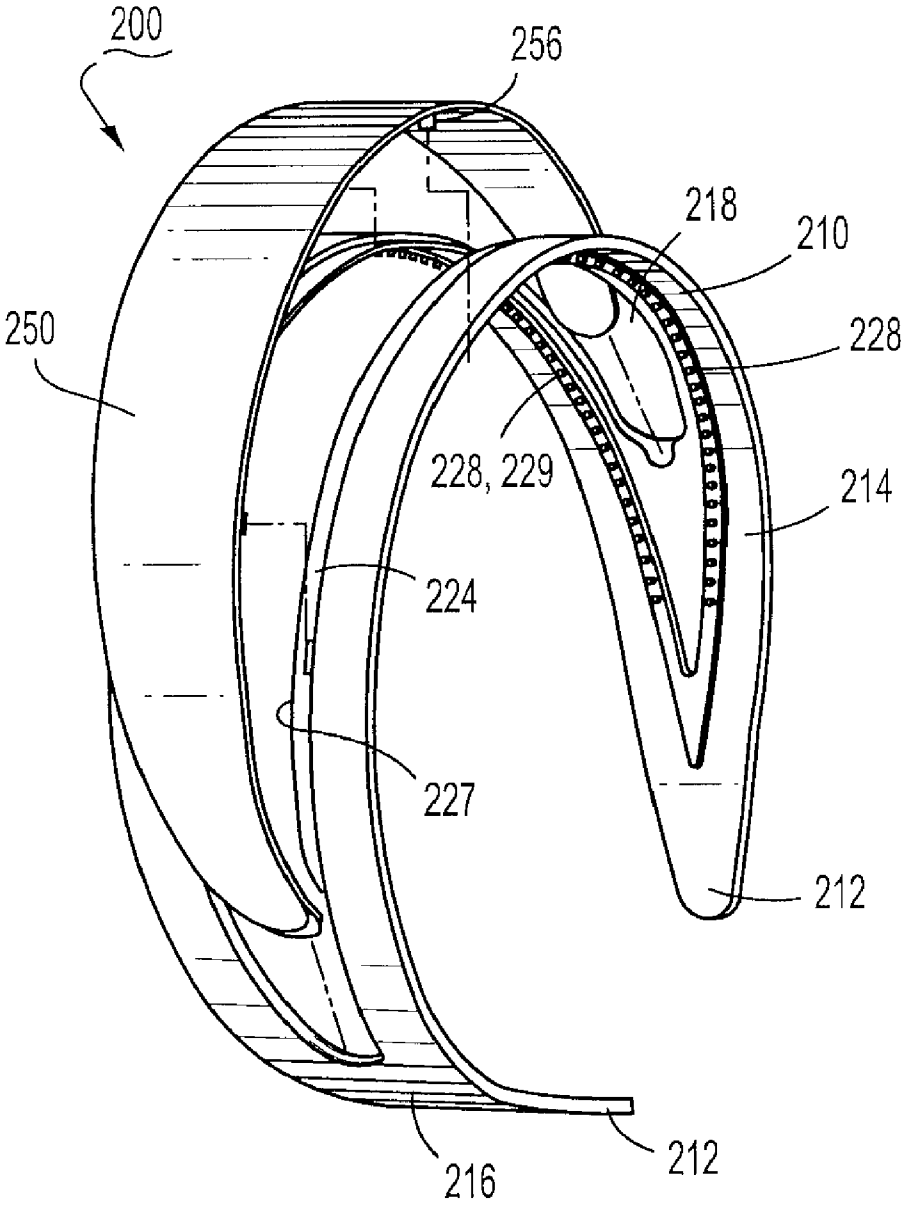
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A headband includes a hair band and a band insert. The hair band has a generally arcuate configuration with opposed free ends. The hair band defines a hair contacting surface positionable against a wearer's head, an opposed outer surface, and an aperture extending therethrough. The band insert is adapted to be releasably mounted into the aperture of the hair band.



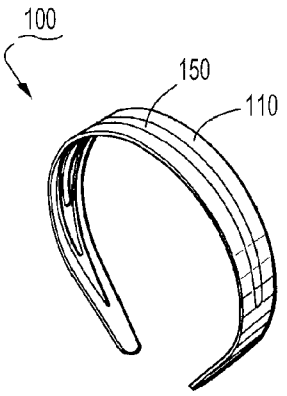


FIG. 1

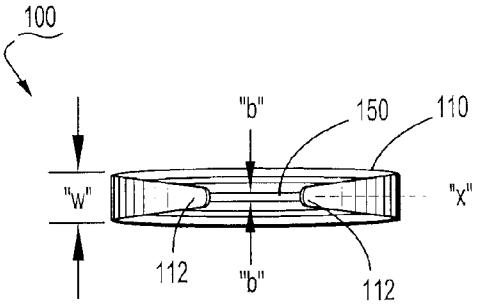


FIG. 2

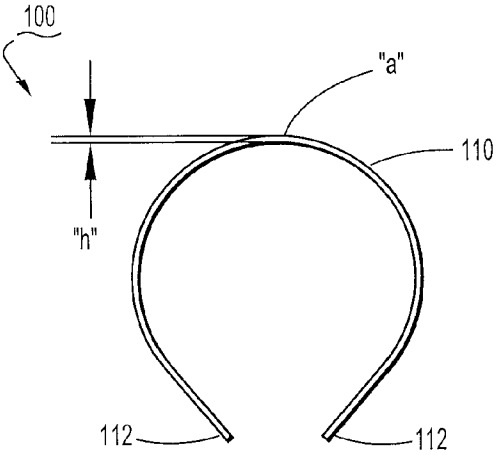


FIG. 3

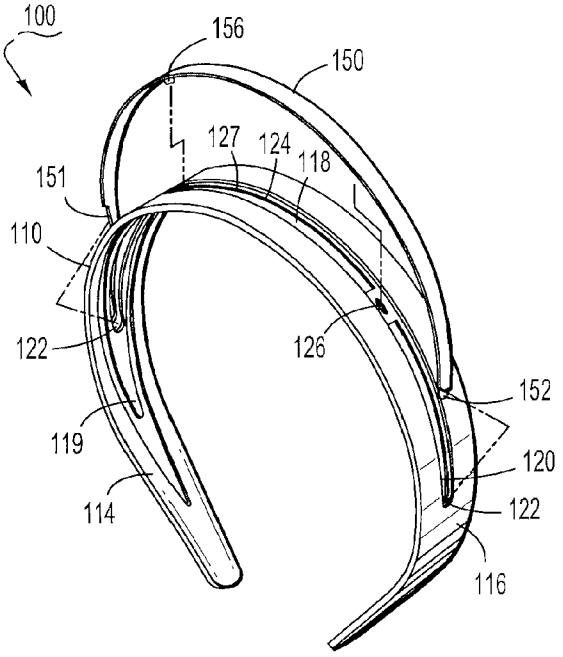


FIG. 4

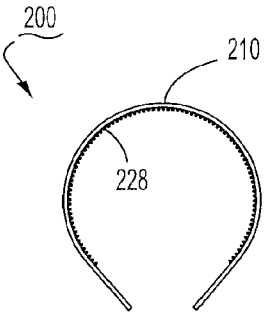


FIG. 5

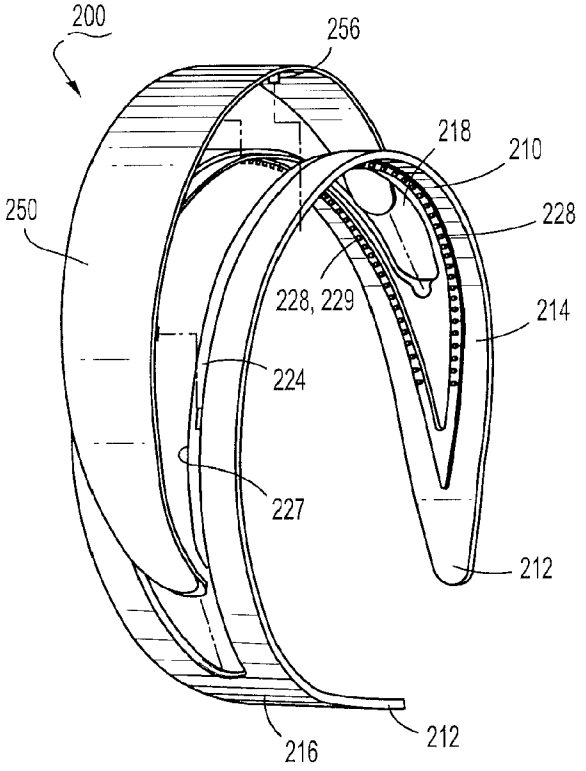


FIG. 6

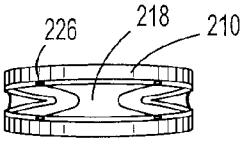


FIG. 6A

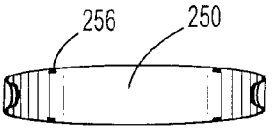


FIG. 6B

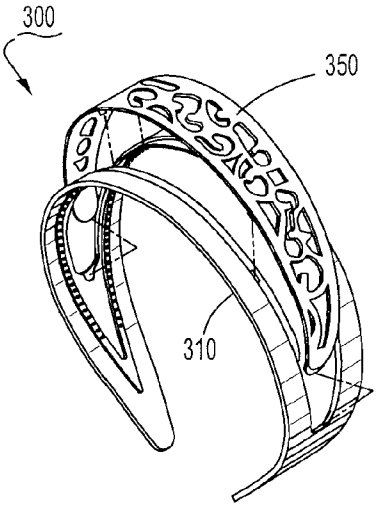


FIG. 7

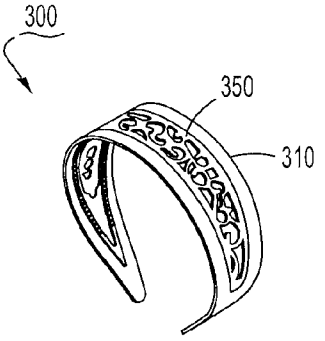


FIG. 8

INTERCHANGEABLE HEADBAND

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to hair styling accessories. More particularly, the present invention relates to headbands.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] Headbands, are well known in the art. Typically, these hair styling accessories incorporate a flexible band dimensioned for positioning about a wearer's head. The bands may be fabricated from a variety of materials and come in varying shapes and sizes. Headbands are used for both functional and aesthetic purposes. For practical purposes, headbands hold a wearer's hair back and away from the face and eyes. Headbands are also fashion accessories that may feature decorative ornamentation.

[0003] It would be advantageous to provide a headband having versatility in styling. It would further be advantageous to provide a headband capable of conveying multiple looks. Additionally, it would be advantageous to provide a headband having adjustable sizing by changing the material of the band insert.

SUMMARY

[0004] The present disclosure is directed to hair styling accessories, particularly headbands. The headband includes a hair band and a band insert. The hair band has a generally arcuate shape with opposed free ends and is adapted for positioning on a wearer's head. The hair band has an inner band or hair contacting surface positionable against the wearer's head, an outer surface opposed thereto, and an aperture extending through both the inner and outer band surfaces. The band insert is adapted to be releasably mounted within the aperture of the hair band.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] Embodiments of the present disclosure will be better appreciated by reference to the drawings wherein:

[0006] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the headband of one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0007] FIG. **2** is a bottom view of the headband of the FIG. **1** of the present disclosure;

[0008] FIG. **3** is a side view of the headband of the present disclosure;

[0009] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the headband of the present disclosure with the hair band and the band insert separated and attachment points aligned in phantom;

[0010] FIG. **5** is a side view of another embodiment of the headband of the present disclosure having teeth on the hair band;

[0011] FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the headband shown in FIG. **5** with the hair band and the band insert separated and attachment points aligned in phantom;

[0012] FIG. **6**A is a top view of the hair band of the headband of FIG. **6**;

[0013] FIG. **6**B is a bottom view of the band insert of the headband of FIG. **6**;

[0014] FIG. **7** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the headband of the present disclosure with the hair band and the band insert separated and attachment points aligned in phantom; and

[0015] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the headband of the present disclosure shown in FIG. **7** with the band insert attached to the hair band.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0016] The present disclosure is directed to a hair styling accessory, i.e., a headband, for styling hair in order to achieve a desired look. The headband includes a hair band and a band insert and is capable of achieving different looks by changing the band insert within the hair band. Embodiments of the present disclosure are illustrated in FIGS. **1-8**.

[0017] Referring now to the drawings, in which like reference numerals identify identical or substantially similar parts throughout the several views, FIG. **1** illustrates, in perspective view, headband **100** in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure. Headband **100** incorporates hair band **110** and band insert **150**. Band insert **150** is releasably mountable with respect to hair band **110** as will be discussed in further detail below.

[0018] With reference to FIGS. **2-4**, in conjunction with FIG. **1**, hair band **110** is adapted and configured for positioning about a wearer's head, e.g., along the crown of the head. Hair band **110** may define a generally arcuate configuration, such as a c-shape, u-shape, or horseshoe-shape. Other shapes are also envisioned to those skilled in the art, such as rectangular, circular, and the like. Hair band **110** defines central axis "x" which extends between opposed free ends **112** of hair band **110**.

[0019] Free ends **112** may be rounded, squared tapered, pointed, scalloped, or any shape within the purview of those skilled in the art. Free ends **112** may also be capped. Cap **113** (not shown) may be a fabric, plastic, or material that can pad or add comfort to the wearer.

[0020] Hair band **110** defines a width "w" transverse to the central axis "x". The width "w" may be constant along the length of hair band **110**. Alternatively, hair band **110** may define a width "w" that is greatest at the apex "a" or crown of hair band **110** and decreases in dimension toward free ends **112**. The width "w" of hair band **110** may decrease in a linear manner as depicted in FIG. **4** or may define other arrangements such as a varying width along the length in a non-linear design, such as a wave.

[0021] Hair band **110** defines inner and outer band surfaces, **114** and **116**, respectively (FIG. **4**). Inner band surface **114** defines a hair contacting surface which is positionable against the wearer's head. Hair band **110** also defines aperture **118** extending between inner band surface **114** and outer band surface **116**. In embodiments, aperture **118** may only partially extend through hair band **110**, creating a niche or cavity for retaining band insert **150**.

[0022] Aperture **118** is aligned with hair band **110** along central axis "x". Aperture **118** may encompass any portion of the length of hair band **110**. Additionally, aperture **118** may encompass any portion of the width of hair band **110**. Aperture **118** may be linear and of a constant width or may be shaped. One skilled in the art will understand that more than one aperture **118** may be present on hair band **110**. It is also envisioned that the aperture may assume a variety of configurations which are randomly or systematically placed about hair band **110**.

[0023] Aperture **118** defines an internal dimensions "b" sufficient in size to receive band insert **150**. Band insert **150** may be secured to hair band **110** by any suitable method

including, but not limited to, friction fitting or snap fitting, as well as slot and peg or tongue and groove configurations.

[0024] Aperture **18** has first and second ends **119**, **120**. First and second ends **119**, **120** may oppose each other or be asymmetric to each other along a length of hair band **110**. Aperture **118** may have slot **122** at first and second ends **119**, **120** extending into hair band **110** for receiving first and second ends **151**, **152** of band insert **150**.

[0025] FIGS. **5**-**6**B illustrate another embodiment of the presently described headband shown generally as **200**. Headband **200** includes a hair band **210** and a band insert **250**. Hair band **210** has free ends **212**, an inner band surface **214**, and an outer band surface **216**. Hair band also defines an aperture or cavity **218** which is dimensioned to receive band insert **250**.

[0026] Aperture **218** has a pair of lips **224** along periphery **227** of aperture **218** for supporting and/or securing band insert **250** with aperture **218** of hair band **210**. Recesses **226** may be arranged across width "w" of aperture **218** or may be located on lips **224**. Each recess **226** defines a mating structure which interacts with mating structure **256** on band insert **250** to secure band insert **250** to hair band **210**. Hair band **210** may have more than one recess. Two or more recesses may be used. Further, recesses **226** may be spaced substantially evenly about aperture **218**.

[0027] Each recess **226** of hair band **210** may be snap fit with a corresponding projection **256** of band insert **250**. The shape of recess **226** and projection **256** may vary. For example, recess **226** may be circular, rectangular, square, star-shaped, or other geometric shape cut-out as known to those skilled in the art. Projection **256** has a corresponding shape in the form of a protrusion. It should be known to those skilled in the art that the mating structures may also be in reverse position such that recesses may be on the band insert and projections on the hair band.

[0028] Referring again to FIGS. **1**-**4**, band insert **150** is removably mountable into aperture **118** of hair band **110**. Band insert **150** may be monolithically formed or composed of several connected components. Band insert **150** has first and second ends **151**, **152**, which fit within first and second ends **119**, **120** of aperture **118** of hair band **110**. Band insert **150** may also have a projection **156** complimentary to a recess **126** on hair band **110** so that when hair band is aligned with aperture **118** of hair band **110**, projection **156** aligns with recess **126**. As discussed above with respect to headband **200**, projection **156** is positioned within recess **126** to secure band insert **150** within aperture **118** of hair band **110**.

[0029] With reference to FIGS. **5**-**6**B, hair band **210** includes a plurality of teeth **228** or projecting members. Teeth **228** are adapted to engage strands of hair to assist in retaining hair band **210** on the wearer's head. Teeth **228** may also assist in pulling hair away from the face of the wearer. Teeth **228** are of a sufficient length to be captured within strands of hair. Teeth **228** may have rounded outer surfaces **229** to avoid trauma to the wearer's head. Teeth **228** may be arranged about aperture **218** or, alternatively, in one or more linear rows provided in spaced relation along hair band **210**.

[0030] As illustrated in FIG. **6**, first and second rows of teeth **228** depend from inner band surface **214** on opposite sides of aperture **218** and converge towards free ends **212**, such that the rows meet at opposite ends of aperture **218** of hair band **210**. Alternatively, first and second substantially linear rows of teeth **228** may depend from inner band surface **214** along opposed sides **230** of hair band **210**. Other teeth configurations are also envisioned.

[0031] FIGS. **7** and **8** illustrate an alternative embodiment of the band insert **150** shown generally as **350**. Band insert **350** may have a woven, braided, or other ornamental design. Band insert **350** may also have any color, texture, or pattern thereon. Band insert may also have accessories attached thereto, such as bows, jewels, and the like. Band insert may be of a height to lie flush with hair band **310**. Alternatively, band insert **350** may be of a thickness to be recessed within aperture **318** of hair band **310** or extended above aperture **318** of hair band **310**.

[0032] The hair bands and band inserts described above may be fabricated from suitable rigid or flexible material. In embodiments, the hair bands may be made from a polymeric material manufactured via known injection molding techniques. Such hair bands may be adapted to flex outwardly whereby the free ends may be displaced from an unbiased position to a biased position to fit about the wearer's head. Alternatively, the hair bands may also be fabricated from a fabric, metal, or combinations thereof.

[0033] Similarly, the band inserts may be made of fabric, polymeric, or metal materials which may provide additional structure, stiffness, or flexibility to the headband to assist in sizing the opening between the free ends.

[0034] It will be understood that various modifications may be made to the embodiments disclosed herein. Therefore, the above description should not be construed as limiting, but merely as an exemplification of preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art will envision other modifications within the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. Such modifications and variations are intended to come within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A headband comprising:

a hair band having a generally arcuate configuration with opposed free ends, the hair band defining a hair contacting surface positionable against a wearer's head, an opposed outer surface, and an aperture extending therethrough, the aperture being positioned about a central axis of the hair band; and

a band insert adapted to be releasably mounted into the aperture of the hair band.

2. The headband of claim **1** wherein the hair contacting surface of the hair band includes teeth adapted to assist in engaging the wearer's head.

3. The headband of claim **1** wherein the aperture of the hair band has a first end and a second end.

4. The headband of claim **3** wherein the first end and second end of the aperture of the hair band each have a slot for receiving the band insert.

5. The headband of claim **1** wherein the aperture of the hair band has a pair of lips running along a portion of the periphery of the aperture.

6. The headband of claim **5** wherein each of the lips of the aperture has a recess.

7. The headband of claim **6** wherein the band insert has a pair of projections corresponding to and for mating with the recesses of the aperture in order to mount the band insert onto the hair band.

8. The headband of claim **7** wherein the lips of the aperture each have at least two recesses and the band insert has at least two pairs of projections.

9. The headband of claim **8** wherein the recesses and the projections are substantially evenly spaced along the lips and the band insert, respectively.

10. The headband of claim **4** wherein the aperture of the hair band has a pair of lips running along a portion of the periphery of the aperture.

11. The headband of claim **10** wherein each of the lips of the aperture has a recess.

12. The headband of claim **11** wherein the band insert has a pair of projections corresponding to and for mating with the recesses of the aperture in order to mount the band insert onto the hair band.

13. The headband of claim **12** wherein the lips of the aperture each have at least two recesses and the band insert has at least two pairs of projections.

14. The headband of claim **5** wherein the hair band has a recess across the width of the aperture.

15. The headband of claim **14** wherein the band insert has a projection for mating with the recess of the hair band.

16. The headband of claim **15** wherein hair band has at least two recesses and the band insert has at least two projections.

17. The headband of claim **16** wherein the recesses and the projections are substantially evenly spaced along the hair band and the band insert, respectively.

18. The headband of claim **1** wherein the hair band has a recess across the width of the aperture.

19. The headband of claim **18** wherein the band insert has a projection for mating with the recess of the hair band.

20. The headband of claim **19** wherein the hair band has at least two recesses and the band insert has at least two projections.

21. The headband of claim **20** wherein the recesses and the projections are substantially evenly spaced along the hair band and the band insert, respectively.

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