March 18, 1969 S. W. OCHTERA 3,433,395

INFLATABLE WIG SUPPORT

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Fig. 3.

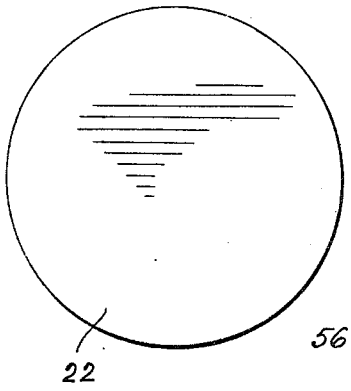


Fig. 1.

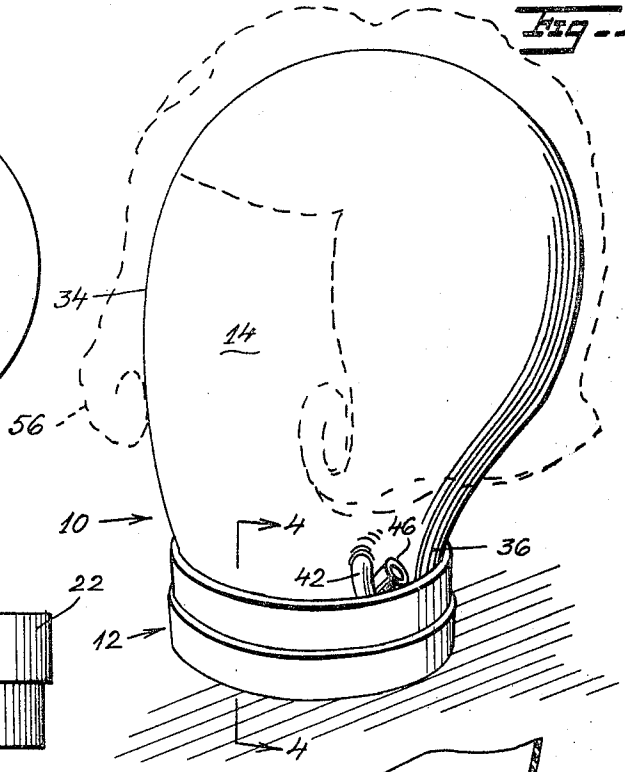
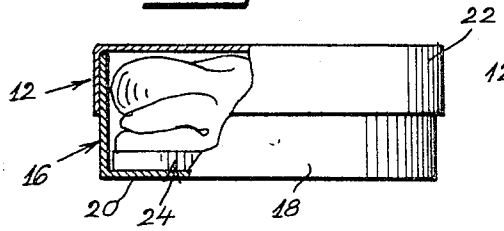


Fig. 2.



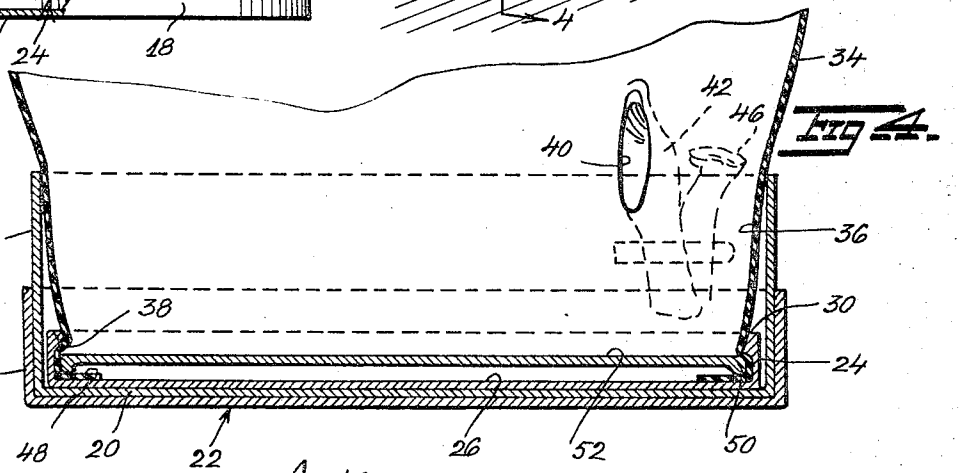


Fig. 4.

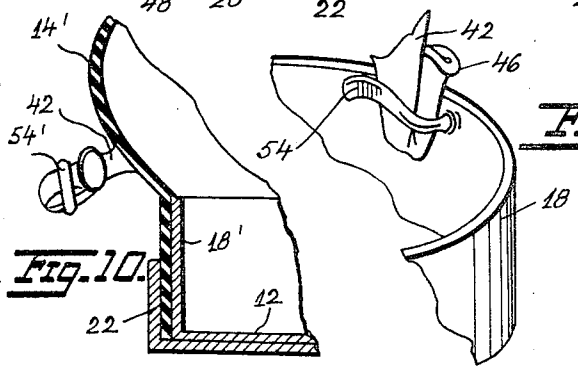


Fig. 5.

Fig. 10.

INVENTOR

Stanley W. Ochtera

BY Polachek & Saulsbury

ATTORNEYS

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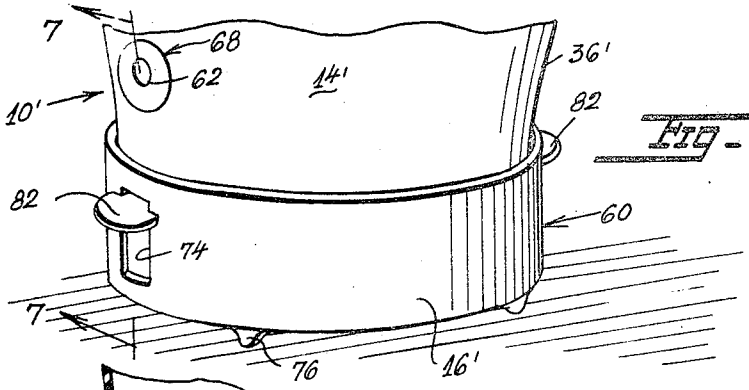


Fig-6-

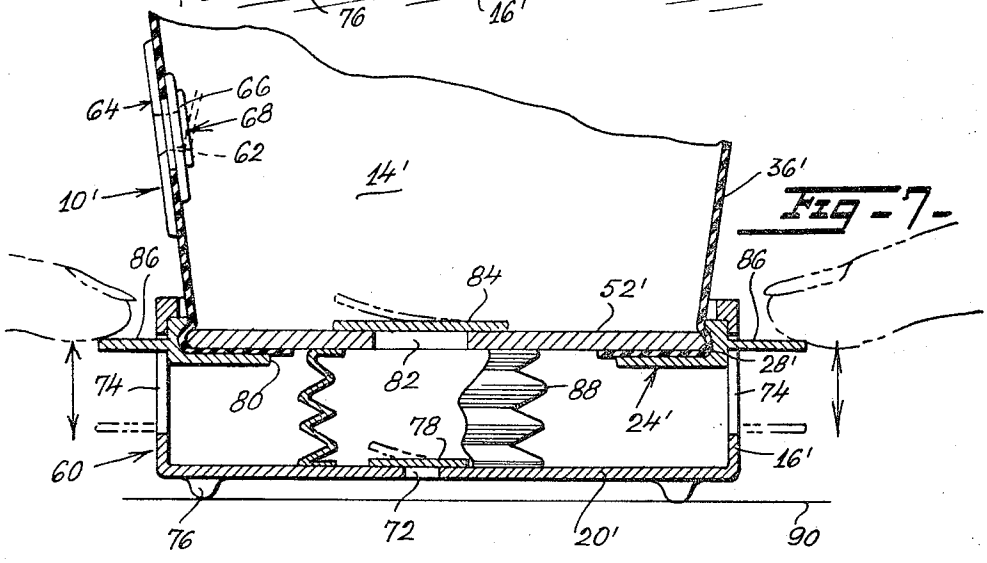


Fig-7-

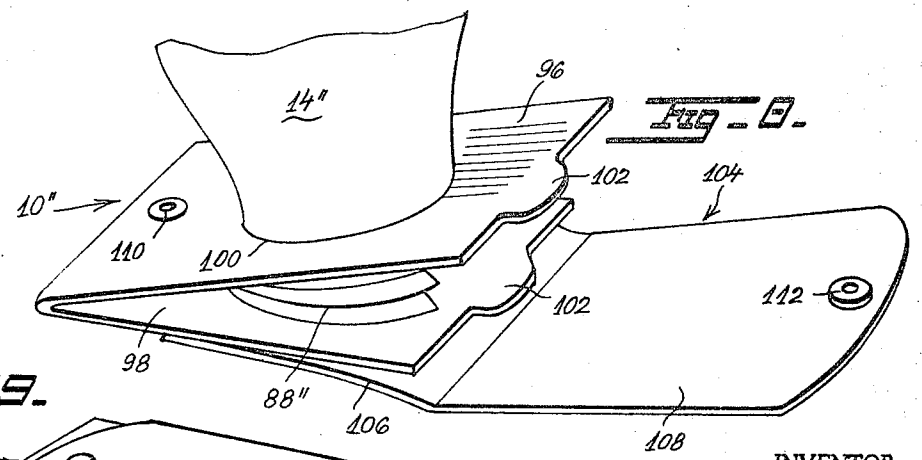


Fig-8-

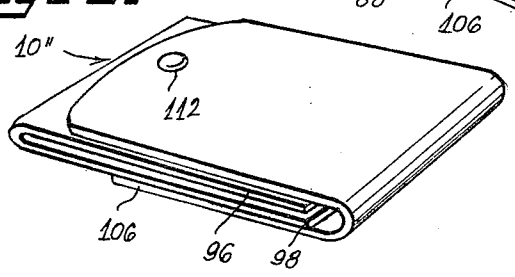


Fig-9-

INVENTOR

Stanley W. Ochtera

BY Polachek & Saulsbury

ATTORNEYS

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INFLATABLE WIG SUPPORT

Stanley W. Ochtera, 33 George St.,
Roslyn Heights, N.Y. 11577

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U.S. Cl. 223—67 2 Claims
Int. Cl. A41h 5/02; A45c 11/02

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wig stand comprising a shallow container having a self contained resilient inflatable head model therein. The container serves as a support for the head model when the model is inflated. The container also serves as a housing for storing the head model when in deflated condition. The container and deflated model therein are readily transported. The head model can very easily be erected and collapsed.

This invention relates generally to wigs and more particularly to new and useful improvements in devices for facilitating the support, transportation, storage and grooming of wigs and the like.

Ordinarily, wigs are handled, stored and groomed by mounting or fitting the wig on a rigid head model or form shaped to support the wig in the manner in which it is normally worn. Such models are costly, large, heavy, awkward and bulky and are highly inflexible.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a small shallow container that takes up but a small area with a self-contained resilient head model therein, the container serving as a support for the model when in inflated condition and as a housing for storing the model and transporting the same when in deflated condition.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved wig stand which can be collapsed into a compact form for expediting the carrying and storing thereof and which can be easily and rapidly erected and ready for use.

A further object of the invention is to provide a collapsible wig stand of the above nature characterized by its simplicity, ruggedness, versatility and ease of operation.

For further comprehension of the invention and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming material part of this disclosure:

FIGURE 1 is a side prespective view of a wig stand embodying one form of the present invention and illustrated in an erected condition, a supported wig being shown in broken lines.

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the wig stand in collapsed condition, parts being shown broken away.

FIG. 3 is a top plan view thereof.

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on the plane of the line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a top perspective view of the clip for clamping the valve in supported position.

FIG. 6 is a side elevational view of the bottom end of a wig stand embodying a modified form of the invention.

FIG. 7 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken on the plane of the line 7—7 of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a top perspective view of a wig stand embodying another modified form of the invention, in erected condition, parts being shown broken away, and

FIG. 9 is a top perspective view of the wig stand in collapsed folded condition, and

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary perspective view of a still further form of the invention.

Referring now in detail to the various views of the drawings, the improved wig stand **10** includes a container **12** and a resilient wig-supporting form or head model **14**, the container serving as a base.

The container **12** is formed of metal and has a shallow cylindrical body **16** with a side wall **18**, a flat bottom wall **20** and is open at the top closable by a flat removable flanged cover **22**. Inside the body **16**, there is a shallow pan-like metal member **24** having a bottom wall **26** and side wall **28**, an annular bead **30** being formed on the inner surface of side wall **28** adjacent the top edge thereof. The pan-like metal member **24** seats on the inner surface of the bottom wall **20** of the container, and is suitably fastened thereto.

The collapsible inflatable wig supporting form or head model **14** is affixed to the upper surface of the pan-like member **24** and when the form **14** is inflated and in position for use it is directed upwardly from the pan-like member. The form **14** may be formed of a suitable pliable rubberized cloth, flexible saran, polyvinyl chloride ar the like and includes a spherically shaped head-simulating upper section **34**, a constricted bottom neck section **36** and an open bottom end **38**. An air inlet port **40** is formed in the body of the form **14**, adjacent the junction of the upper section with the neck section, and secured thereabout in any suitable manner is one end of a tubular mouth piece **42** with restricted open end formed with an annular flange **46**. The mouth piece **42** is formed of the same material as the body of the form **14**. The open bottom end **38** of the form **32** is turned inwardly as indicated at **48** and sandwiched between the top surface of the bottom wall **26** of the pan-like member **24** and the peripheral bead **50** on the lower surface of a disc **52** slipped over the annular bead **30** on the side wall **28** of the pan-like member **24**, and clamped in position under the bead **30** as best seen in FIG. 4. The disc **52** secures the form **14** to the pan-like member **24** and effects a hermetic seal therebetween.

In the operative position of the wig stand **10**, suitable for carrying and storing purposes, the collapsed form **14** is housed in the container **12**, as shown in FIG. 2, the container in turn being closed by the cover **22**. The mouthpiece **42** is folded and clamped against the inner side wall **18** by means of a spring clip **54** as shown in FIG. 5. In erecting the wig stand **10** for use, the cover **22** is removed from the container **12**. The wig form **14** is now exposed convenient for manually pulling the upper section **34** outside of the container. The wig form **14** is now fully inflated through the mouthpiece **42** which is then folded in sealed condition and clamped by clip **54**. The cover **22** is then inverted and slipped over the bottom of the body **16** of the container, serving as a base for supporting the container and form **14** in an upright position, the form **14** adapted to support a wig **56** for any desired purpose. The mouthpiece **42** is oriented to normally preform **14**. In order to collapse the wig stand **10**, the mouthpiece **42** is withdrawn from the clip **54** and opened, the form being squeezed to express substantially all the air therefrom. The collapsed form is then housed in the container **12** which is closed by the cover **22**.

In FIGS. 6 and 7 of the drawings, there is illustrated another embodiment of the present invention and designated generally at **10'**. The wig stand **10'** includes a shallow round pan-shaped base **60** and wig-supporting form or head model **14'** of similar construction, with its open bottom end clamped between the pan-shaped member **24'** and disc **52'**. In this form, the wig supporting form is formed with an air port **62** in its neck section **36'**. Mounted in the port there is a flanged bushing **64** with a flap **66** hinged to the inner flange

thereof, the port, bushing and flap constituting a valve **68**. The flap **66** is preferably formed of a natural or synthetic rubber.

The base **60** has a bottom wall **20'** and side wall **16'**, the bottom wall having a central air port **72** therein and opposed closed vertical slots **74**. Spaced feet **76** depend from the periphery of the bottom wall **20'**. The air port **72** is controlled by means of a rubber flap **78** hinged at one end to the inner surface of the bottom wall and normally closing the port.

In this form of the invention, the pan-like member **24'** is slidably mounted inside the base and is formed with a central opening **80** communicating with an air port **82** formed in the disc **52'** and controlled by a rubber flap **84** hinged at one end to the inner surface of the disc. The pan-like member **24'** is actuated by means of radial lugs **86** on the side walls **28'** of the pan-like member **24'**, in opposed relation and extending outwardly through the slots **74** in the side walls **16'** of the base. The disc **52'** and bottom wall **20'** of the base are connected by an extensible bellows **88**, the top end of which is fixed to the bottom surface of the disc around the air port **82** in the disc **52'**, and the bottom end of which is suitably fastened to the inner surface of the bottom wall **20'** around the port **72** in said bottom wall **20'**.

In use, the wig stand **10'** rests on feet **76** on a supporting surface **90**. The wig supporting form **14'** may be inflated by blowing air through the valve **68** in the neck portion **36'** thereof, or by pressing down on the lugs **86** by the fingers as shown in FIG. 7 thereby sucking air through the port **72** and forcing air upwardly through the air port **82**. When pressure on the lugs **86** is released, the bellows **88** automatically retracts the ports to normal condition.

FIGS. 8 and 9 illustrate a wig stand **10''** embodying still another modified form of the invention. This form of the invention involves a wallet-type wig stand preferably formed of suitable flexible plastic material. The wig stand **10''** includes a V-shaped body composed of a pair of rectangular shaped panels **96** and **98** flexibly joined at one end. The panel **96** is formed with a central opening **100** and the panels have aligned protruding finger pieces **102** at the other ends for manipulating the wig stand. The panels are formed with aligned air inlet ports (not shown) and are connected by a bellows **88''** one end of which is positioned around the port in panel **98** and the other end around the port in panel **96**. The wig supporting form **14''** is collapsible to a flat condition on the panel **96**. A sectional wrap-around cover **104** of the same material has one section **106** secured at one end to the panel **98**. Section **106** serves as a base for the stand. The other section serves as a flap **108** adapted to be swung over the collapsed form **14''** covering the same and being held in covering relation thereon by complementary snap fastener elements **110** and **112** on the panel **96** and **98**, respectively.

In FIG. 10, an inflated weight supporting form **14'** is made open at the bottom and is adhered to a side wall **18'** of a container bottom **12'**. The form can be inflated through a mouthpiece **42'** and retained by a clip **54'**. When the wig support is deflated it can be folded downwardly into the container **12** and a removable cover **22** placed over the same in the manner as shown in FIG. 2.

In use, when collapsed the wig stand **10''** may be carried in the pocket of the user. In order to extend the parts, it is merely necessary to unflap the flap **108**, raise the panel **96**, manually pull the wig form **14''** through the opening **100**, move the panel **96** and bellows **88''** downwardly thereby forcing air into the form **14''** inflating the same. When pressure on the bellows is released, the parts are automatically restored to normal position.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A wig stand comprising in combination, a base structure, an inflatable collapsible form and means of connection between the base structure and the form, said form having an upwardly convex top face and a bottom opening being hermetically sealed to the base structure, the base structure including a shallow container having a bottom wall, a sidewall and being open at the top, and a flanged cover adapted to close the open top when the form is collapsed into the container, the inflatable form being formed of pliable rubberized cloth, said form having a neck section, the neck section having an air inlet port therein, a valve controlling the entrance of air thereinto, the means of connection between the base structure and the inflatable form including a shallow panlike member fixed to the inner surface of the bottom wall of the container, said pan-like member having a bottom wall: a disc having a peripheral bead on its lower surface nested in said pan-like member, the material of the bottom open end of the form being bent inwardly between the head of the disc and the bottom wall of the pan-like member.

2. A wig stand as defined in claim **1**, wherein the container has a removable cover for closing the opening in the top thereof and wherein said inflatable form is adapted to be collapsible so as to fit in said container when the cover is in closing position thereon, said removable cover adapted to fit over the bottom wall of the container and serve as a base for supporting the wig stand.

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JORDAN FRANKLIN, *Primary Examiner.*

GEO. V. LARKIN, *Assistant Examiner.*

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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