Sept. 30, 1924. 1,510,187

B. A. MARTIN

HEADREST

Filed Oct. 1, 1923

Fig. 1.

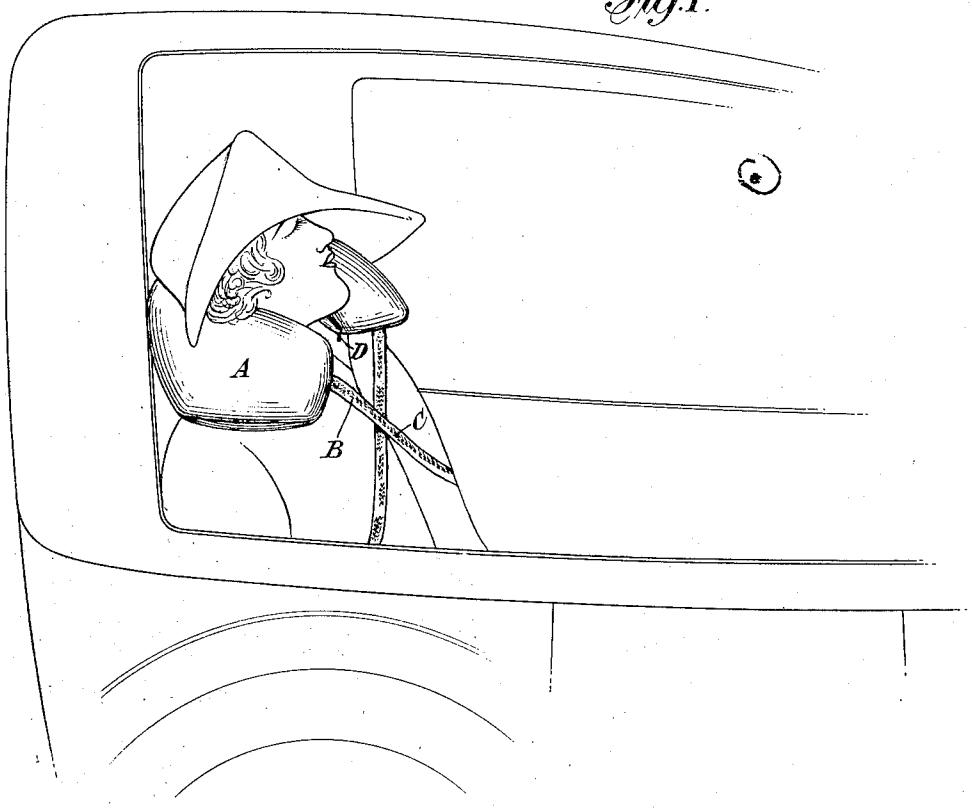


Fig. 2.

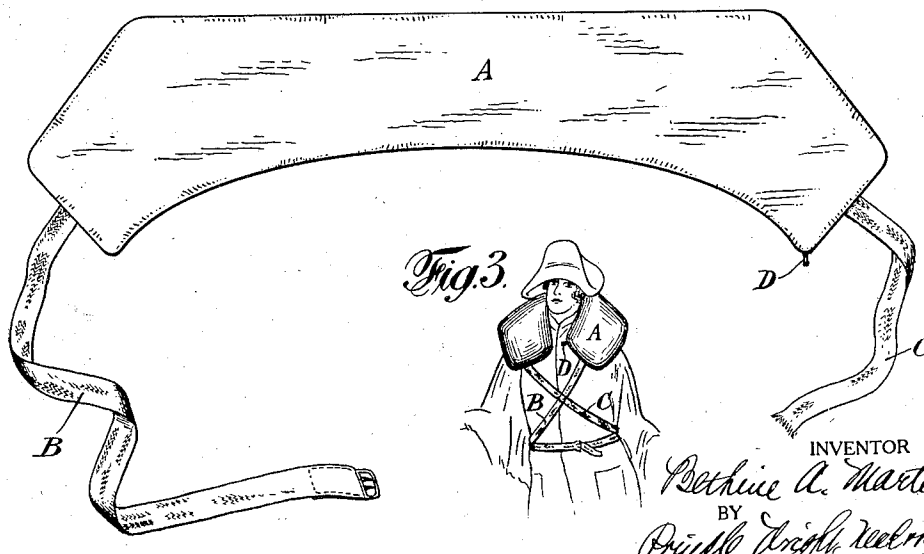


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BETHINE A. MARTIN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

HEADREST.

Application filed October 1, 1923. Serial No. 665,743.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BETHINE A. MARTIN, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Headrest, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention has been to provide a head rest which shall be adapted to comfortably support a person's head while in an erect or semi-erect position under such difficult conditions as when riding in vehicles where the motion of the vehicle tends to displace the support. To such ends my invention consists in the head rest hereinafter specified.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view of a person seated in an automobile, using a head rest embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a pneumatic head rest embodying my invention, the head rest being shown in deflated condition; and

Fig. 3 is a front view of a woman wearing one of my head rests.

While I have chosen for the purposes of illustration the best embodiment of my invention known to me, my invention is capable of embodiment in many different forms, and the illustrative form is therefore to be regarded only as typical and my invention is not to be confined thereto.

There are many situations in which a person is compelled to sit in an erect or semi-erect position for a long or a considerable length of time, and in which it would be very restful if the head could be comfortably supported so as to relieve the mind of attention to it and the person could go to sleep. Touring in a motor vehicle is an instance of such a situation. Such tours require a person to sit for many hours in a seat which is so constantly moving and jolting that the use of ordinary cushions or pillows to support the head is practically impossible. My invention fully relieves this situation.

In the illustrated embodiment of my invention, a cushion or pillow A is provided which is adapted to rest in the hollow of the neck behind, and which preferably also projects forward over each shoulder in a U-shape, the shoulder portions preferably coming close to the neck and sides of the head. I provide means for securely holding the said cushion against the back of the neck and upon the shoulders. In the illustrated embodiment, such means take the forms of straps B and C which may be crossed over the chest and tied behind the back as shown in the drawing. Such straps not only draw the cushion forward against the back of the neck, but draw the shoulder portions against the sides of the neck and head. The cushion A is preferably made of such thickness as to fully support the head without permitting the neck to bend to an uncomfortable degree. I preferably make the cushion in the form of a pneumatic bag having a canvas or other cloth outer body, with a rubber or other air-tight lining. A valved tube D is provided so that the cushion may be inflated for use and deflated for packing or storage.

By the use of my cushion a person, even in the front seat of a motor car, which has a relatively low back, can support his head with such comfort and with such a feeling of security that he can not only restfully doze but go to sleep. It is not necessary to the successful use of my head rest that the back of the seat rises to the level of the shoulders, particularly as the straps B and C not only hold the cushion against the back of the neck, but, being tied behind the waist of the user, they pull from a part of the back which is supported by the seat back, and thus prevent the shoulders from swinging backward, whether or not the back of the seat comes to the level of the shoulders. By making the cushion pneumatically expansible, its height can be regulated to the length of neck of the user by the degree of pressure of the air within it.

A person reclining in a steamer chair can also use my head rest to advantage for, not only is the back of the steamer chair an insecure support for a cushion, but the motion of the vessel frequently tends to displace an ordinary cushion placed behind the head on such a chair. Another of many uses for my head rest would be in the seats of the day coach of a train.

I claim:

1. A head rest comprising a relatively thick cushion adapted to be placed against the back of the neck of the user, and means that are attached to the ends of said cushion and adapted to cross each other upon the breast of the user and extend in opposite directions around his waist and there be fastened to each other.

2. A head rest comprising a relatively

thick cushion adapted to be placed against the back of the neck of the user, portions that are adapted to rest upon the shoulders of the user and support the sides of the head, and means that are attached to the ends of said cushion and adapted to cross each other upon the breast of the user and extend in opposite directions around his waist and there be fastened to each other.

3. A head rest comprising a relatively thick cushion adapted to be placed against the back of the neck of the user, and straps that are attached to the ends of said cushion and adapted to cross each other upon the breast of the user and extend in opposite directions around his waist and there be fastened to each other.

4. A head rest comprising a relatively thick cushion placed against the back of the neck of the user and straps that are attached to the ends of said cushion and crossed upon the breast of the user and that extend around his waist and are there fastened to each other.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of September, 1923.

BETHINE A. MARTIN.