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A. GOLDSTEIN

3,169,252

KNITTED HEADWEAR

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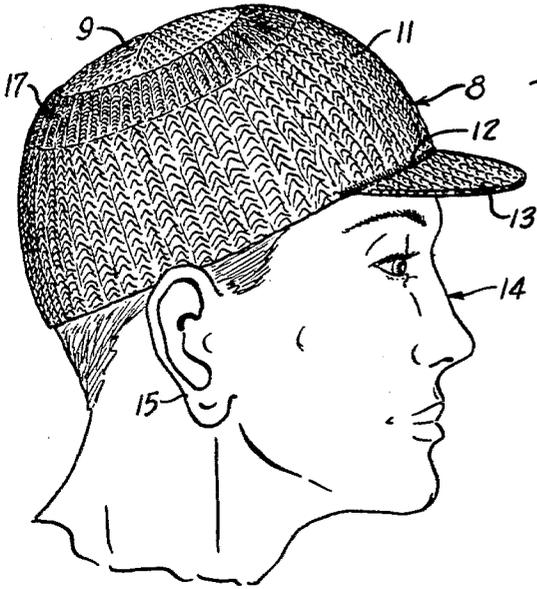


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

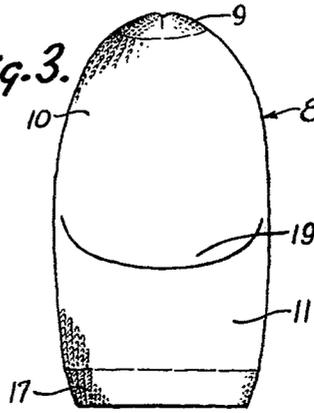


Fig. 4.

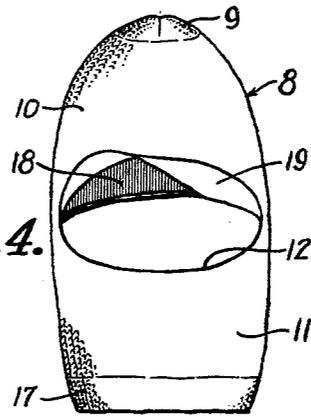


Fig. 5.

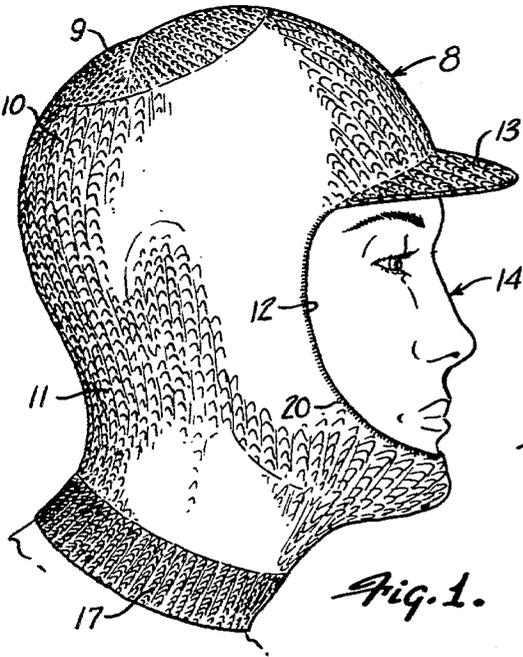
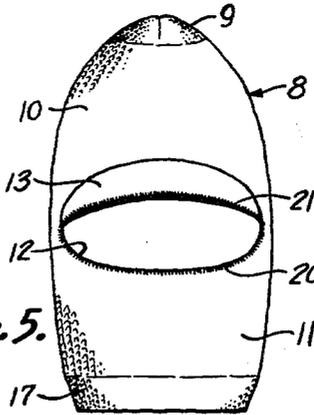


Fig. 1.

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KNITTED HEADWEAR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—203)

The present invention relates generally to improvements in knitted headwear, and relates more particularly to the provision of a knitted cap having an integral visor and neck hood and to the method of producing the same.

A primary object of the invention is to provide an improved knitted cap of unitary construction which is readily convertible for effective use in extremely cold weather as well as relatively mild weather and which may moreover be quickly and easily fabricated at low cost in accordance with a novel production method.

Various styles of knitted hats, caps and hoods have heretofore been proposed for use in all types of weather. In some cases, such prior headwear has consisted merely of a knitted crown provided with an outwardly projecting visor with no provision for ear, neck or chin protection whatsoever. Such knitted caps may, of course, be readily commercially produced at relatively low cost, but the use thereof is restricted more-or-less to mild weather since only the top of the wearer's head is protected.

To provide a somewhat greater degree of protection, these knitted caps have been provided with ear flaps hingedly connected to opposite ends of a semi-circular spring band, and such caps have also enjoyed a fair degree of commercial acceptance. However, while the head and ears of the wearer are protected, the cost of these ear-flap caps is undesirably increased by the need for separate fabrication of the ear protectors and the embodiment thereof in the knitted crown. Then too, these caps are still not entirely suited for severe inclement weather since the wearer's neck and chin are exposed.

In another effort to provide greater cold weather as well as moderate weather comfort, a number of knitted headwear constructions have heretofore been proposed which embody either an integral or a separable neck-band which also serves to cover the wearer's ears, and these prior devices have enjoyed varying degrees of success. In some instances, such knitted headwear consisted of a separately knit band or strap attached by stitching along one edge to the rear of the knitted crown and provided with fastening means such as buttons at the free ends thereof, whereby the band may be distended from a position above the wearer's ears and against the crown to a position overlying the ears and under the neck; but the additional knitting, stitching, button applying and buttonhole forming operations required by such structures obviously result in added expense and higher user costs.

In other cases, these prior hats have been formed with an integral knitted hood depending from the crown over the face and neck of the wearer, the hood being formed merely with an eye or face opening. However, as far as known, none of these knitted hooded hats were ever provided with or adaptable for an integral visor or eye shield so formed as to be effective with the hood either in a position wherein it is folded upwardly over and against the crown or in a lowered position snugly embracing the wearer's neck and protectively confining the ears and chin.

It is therefore an important object of this invention to provide an improved knitted cap of unitary construction which obviates all of the aforementioned objections and disadvantages of prior knitted headwear of this general type.

Another object of the invention is to provide an im-

proved knitted cap which is readily convertible either for use in relatively mild weather or for use in severely cold weather and which is furthermore neat and attractive in both positions of use.

Still another object of my present invention is to provide a knitted cap which has an integral protective hood depending from the crown and adapted to snugly embrace the neck, the hood being formed with a face opening therein spanned by an integral visor and being distendable from its normal depending position to a position snugly overlying the crown with the visor projecting through the face opening thereof.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of rapidly and economically producing a knitted cap of unitary construction having a convertible hood and a protective visor, which method comprises, the steps of initially forming an elongated knitted tube closed at one end and open at the other end to provide a crown and an integral depending hood, severing the tube intermediate its ends transversely across one side thereof along an arcuate line to provide a flap extending toward the open end of the tube, folding the flap upwardly against the crown to provide a face opening in the tube, placing a crescent-shaped stiffener sheet against the flap a spaced distance from its free edge and folding the extending flap portion over the stiffener sheet, and finally securing the free marginal edge of the flap to the adjacent tube wall beyond the stiffener sheet to confine the same and provide a visor spanning the face opening.

These and other additional objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description.

A clear conception of the several features constituting the present invention and of the mode of producing and of utilizing knitted headwear embodying the improvements may be had by referring to the drawing accompanying this specification wherein like reference characters designate the same or similar parts in the various views.

FIG. 1 is a side perspective view of a typical knitted cap embodying the invention and showing the same on a wearer's head with the neck hood positioned to embrace the wearer's neck;

FIG. 2 is a similar perspective view of the cap positioned on the wearer's head but with the hood folded upwardly against the crown and above the visor;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of a knitted tube closed at one end and formed with a transverse arcuate slit to illustrate the initial production steps;

FIG. 4 is a similar plan view of the tube with the front flap folded toward the crown and partially refolded over a crescent-shaped stiffener sheet to thereby illustrate subsequent steps of the production method; and

FIG. 5 is another plan view of the tube with the crescent-shaped stiffener entirely confined within the folded front flap which, in turn, is secured to the adjacent tube wall as by stitching extending entirely about the marginal edge of the face opening to complete the cap.

While the improvements have been shown and described herein as being embodied in a knitted cap having a particular style, it is not desired to thereby unnecessarily restrict the same by reason of such limited disclosure, and it is also contemplated that certain specific descriptive terminology used herein shall be given the broadest possible interpretation consistent with the disclosure.

Referring to the drawing, the cap shown therein as embodying the invention comprises, in general, an elongated knitted tube 3 closed as at 9 at one end thereof to form a crown portion 10 and open at its opposite end to provide an integral neck engaging hood 11, the tube 3 having a transverse side opening 12 formed therein intermediate its ends. Merging with and extending outwardly

from the edge of the side or face opening 12 adjacent the crown portion 10 is an integral visor or eye shield 13, and the hood 11 is distendable from a position such as shown in FIG. 1 wherein it covers the ears and chin and snugly embraces the neck with the visor 13 spanning the opening 12 and face 14 of the wearer to a position as shown in FIG. 2 wherein the hood 11 is folded completely upon the crown portion 10 above the wearer's ears 15 and with the marginal edge of the side or face opening 12 spanning the visor 13.

The tubular body 8 may be formed in the usual manner of double thickness on a cylinder rib knitting machine or the like and is, for the most part, of ordinary loose rib knit. However, the upper closed end 9 of the crown portion is preferably provided with a tightly knit course to smoothly conform the crown to the wearer's head, and the lower marginal edge of the neck hood 11 is formed with an integral tightly knit course 17 providing an expandable band. The side opening 12 is transversely elongated and of elliptical shape as shown, and the visor 13 is of crescent shape and is formed by confining a stiffening member 18 within an integral flap portion 19 formed by arcuately slitting the tube 8, the flap 19 being folded upwardly to form the face opening 12 and then being folded over the stiffener 18 and secured beyond the edge thereof to confine the same and form the integral visor. The face opening 12 thus formed in the tube 8 is framed by marginal stitching 20 providing a marginal overcast to prevent raveling, and the stitching or hemming 20 is elastic to permit stretching of the face opening within certain limits.

In the production of caps embodying the invention, the knitted tube is first formed in a customary manner either of single or double thickness, one end of the tube being formed with a tightly knit course and being closed as at 9 to provide a crown portion 10 and an integral depending hood 11. The marginal lower edge of the depending hood 11 is also preferably provided with a tightly knit course 17 to insure snug engagement either with the neck of the wearer when the hood is in its lowered position or snug engagement with the crown 10 when the hood is in its upper or raised position. The tube 8 is next severed transversely across a portion thereof intermediate its ends and along an arcuate line to thus provide a flap 19 extending toward the open end of the tube, the arcuate slit forming the face opening 12 and the flap 19 providing the means for forming the integral visor 13. The visor is formed by next folding the flap 19 upwardly against the crown portion 10 and placing a crescent shaped stiffener member 18 against the flap 19 a spaced distance from its free marginal edge and subsequently folding the extending free portion of the flap 19 over the member 18 as shown in FIG. 4. Finally, the free marginal edge of the flap 19 is secured as by stitching or sewing 21 to the adjacent tube wall beyond the member 18 to thereby confine the same and provide a visor spanning the face opening.

As the extending free portion of the flap 19 is folded over the member 18 to provide the visor 13, the flap 19 is stretched outwardly and downwardly, and the free marginal edge of the flap 19 is stitched beyond the outer edge of the member 18 to the adjacent tube wall immediately adjacent the inner edge of the stiffener member, and this stitching 21 cooperates with the elastic hem stitching 20 framing the face opening 12 to provide a final neat and attractive assemblage.

From the foregoing detailed description, it is believed apparent that a neat and attractive knitted cap is provided which is readily adaptable and convertible to use in extremely cold as well as mild weather. The knitted cap is provided with a protective visor or eye shield which is so formed as to be effective at all times regardless of whether the protective neck hood is in its lowermost or in its raised position, and the improved cap may be readily fabricated in accordance with the simple and novel method described herein. These knitted caps are capable of being produced in volume at low cost and are extremely effective in use as well as attractive in appearance in either position of adjustment.

Various modes of carrying out the invention are contemplated as being within the scope of the following claim particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which is regarded as the invention.

I claim:

A cap comprising, an elongated knitted tube closed at one end thereof to form a crown portion and open at its opposite end to provide an integral neck engaging hood, said tube having an arcuate slit therein intermediate its ends forming an integral flap above said slit, said flap being folded upon itself to form a pocket, and a visor comprising a stiffening member enclosed within said pocket, the free marginal edge of said flap extending beyond said stiffening member and cooperating with the lower edge of said arcuate slit to define a face opening spanned by said visor, the marginal edge of said flap being stitched to the inner surface of said tube beyond said stiffening member with the stitching extending entirely about said face opening to thereby provide a reinforced edge therefor while also closing said visor pocket.

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