Sept. 13, 1932. A. GAGNÉ 1,877,452

FORM HOLDING DEVICE FOR CAPS OR LIKE HEADWEAR

Filed Feb. 20, 1931

Fig. 1.

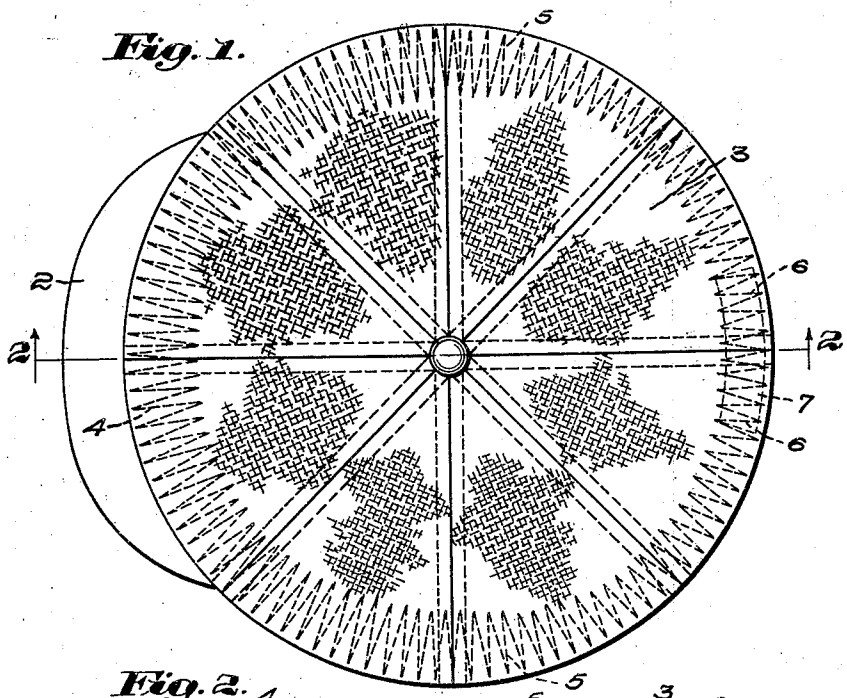


Fig. 2.

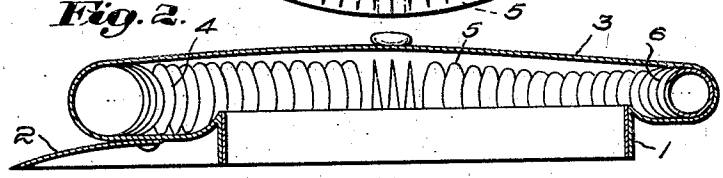
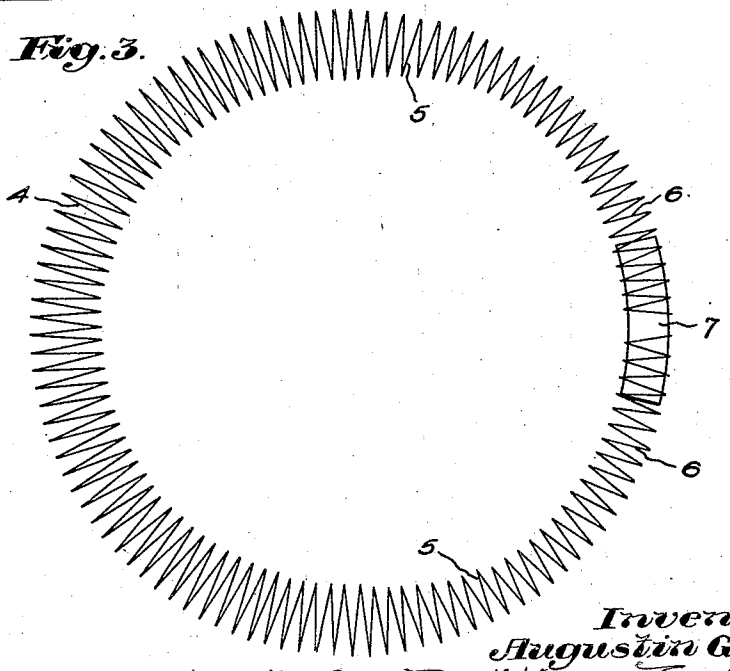


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FORM-HOLDING DEVICE FOR CAPS OR LIKE HEADWEAR

Application filed February 20, 1931. Serial No. 517,258.

This invention relates to form-holding devices for caps and like head wear.

In order that the principle of the invention may be readily understood, I have disclosed a single embodiment thereof in the accompanying drawing wherein—

Fig. 1 is a top or plan view of a man's or boy's cap showing positioned therein, in dotted lines, the form-holding device of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the structure shown in Fig. 1 upon the line 2—2 thereof; and

Fig. 3 is a view of the form-holding device detached from the cap.

The cap to which my invention is particularly applicable is that type thereof which is generally made of woven or knitted material and is soft so that it will not sustain itself in extended position like a derby, but collapses upon the head so as to overhang the visor in front (if any) and also to overhang the hat or sweat band entirely around the head. It has been customary heretofore in the marketing of such hats to stuff a formless quantity of tissue paper or the like inside the cap so that it will retain its flattened form when in boxes in transportation to retail stores and upon the counters of the stores or in windows. Such a device is a mere makeshift and is open to numerous objections. So far as I am aware, no device for this particular purpose has been provided, and the object of my invention is to provide a form-holding or form-preserving device that can be readily inserted in the cap by the manufacturer so as to be sold with the hat and worn by the user, and which can, if desired, be shifted by the wearer, from one of his caps to another. Such a device must obviously be of the minimum weight and must also be flexible and yielding so that the cap will not be stiff or of unusual appearance when worn, and preferably it should be such as to fit any size of cap.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the band of the cap is indicated at 1, the visor at 2, and the top of the cap at 3. The visor obviously may be of stiff material or may be of the same material as the top of the cap, this involving no part of my invention. The form-holding or form-retaining device is of general application to caps or like articles of head wear. The form-holding or form-retaining device according to the preferred embodiment of the invention, which is the only one illustrated but to which my invention is not limited, is a spiral spring, preferably of steel wire that may be of .02 inch diameter having a suitable number of coils, as, for example, five coils per inch in its normal or non-distended condition. The said coil spring may be of any suitable diameter, and while it may be of uniform diameter throughout, I desirably make the same of about one and one eighth inches diameter at the part thereof which is of greatest diameter, a substantial part of the device at the middle thereof being of maximum diameter and tapering therefrom for a substantial distance toward both ends and thereafter being preferably of uniform minimum diameter, such, for example, as three quarters of an inch.

While obviously my invention is not limited to any particular size or length of coil spring, and while different sized coils might be used in different size caps, the nature of the coil spring is such that it readily adjusts itself to any size cap. I have found that a total length of coil of substantially thirty inches is suitable for any size cap. The middle part of the coil spring, which is of uniform diameter, may be substantially fifteen inches in length, and the tapering part at each side of the middle may be of about two and a half inches and the remainder may be of the smallest diameter.

Desirably I provide a core piece to be inserted in one end of the coil so as to protrude therefrom and the other end of the coil may then be wound thereon as indicated. The coil spring is represented in the several figures at 4, the part thereof of largest diameter being at the front, as shown; the tapering portions are indicated at 5—5; and the two end portions of smallest diameter are indicated at 6—6. The core or like part is indicated at 7. This may be of aluminum or

some other light material and is preferably hollow.

The ends of the coil are brought together and connected by means of the core 7, or otherwise, and the entire device is then inserted inside the cap above the hat or sweat band 1, occupying the position most clearly indicated in Fig. 2. The coil spring, which is sufficiently long to accommodate the largest size cap, will automatically contract or compress to accommodate itself to the size of cap in which it is placed. The form-holding device prevents the top part 3 of the cap from flopping formlessly and serves to hold the said top part of the cap sufficiently elevated above the head to make the cap very comfortable and airy and to give it the best possible appearance.

Having thus described one illustrative embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claim:

A form-retaining or form-holding hollow device for a cap, comprising a light spring wire closely coiled throughout its entire extent and of sufficient length entirely to encompass the head of the wearer and when positioned inside the cap beyond the sweat band thereof to lie entirely about the cap, thereby to distend the top portion of the cap throughout and to cause it to lie flat upon the head, the said coil having a part of maximum diameter adapted to be placed at the front of the cap in position to overlie the visor thereof, the coils decreasing in diameter toward both ends of the said wire device, and a light core member adapted to engage both ends of the said wire device and to retain them in fixed relation to each other.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

AUGUSTIN GAGNÉ.