

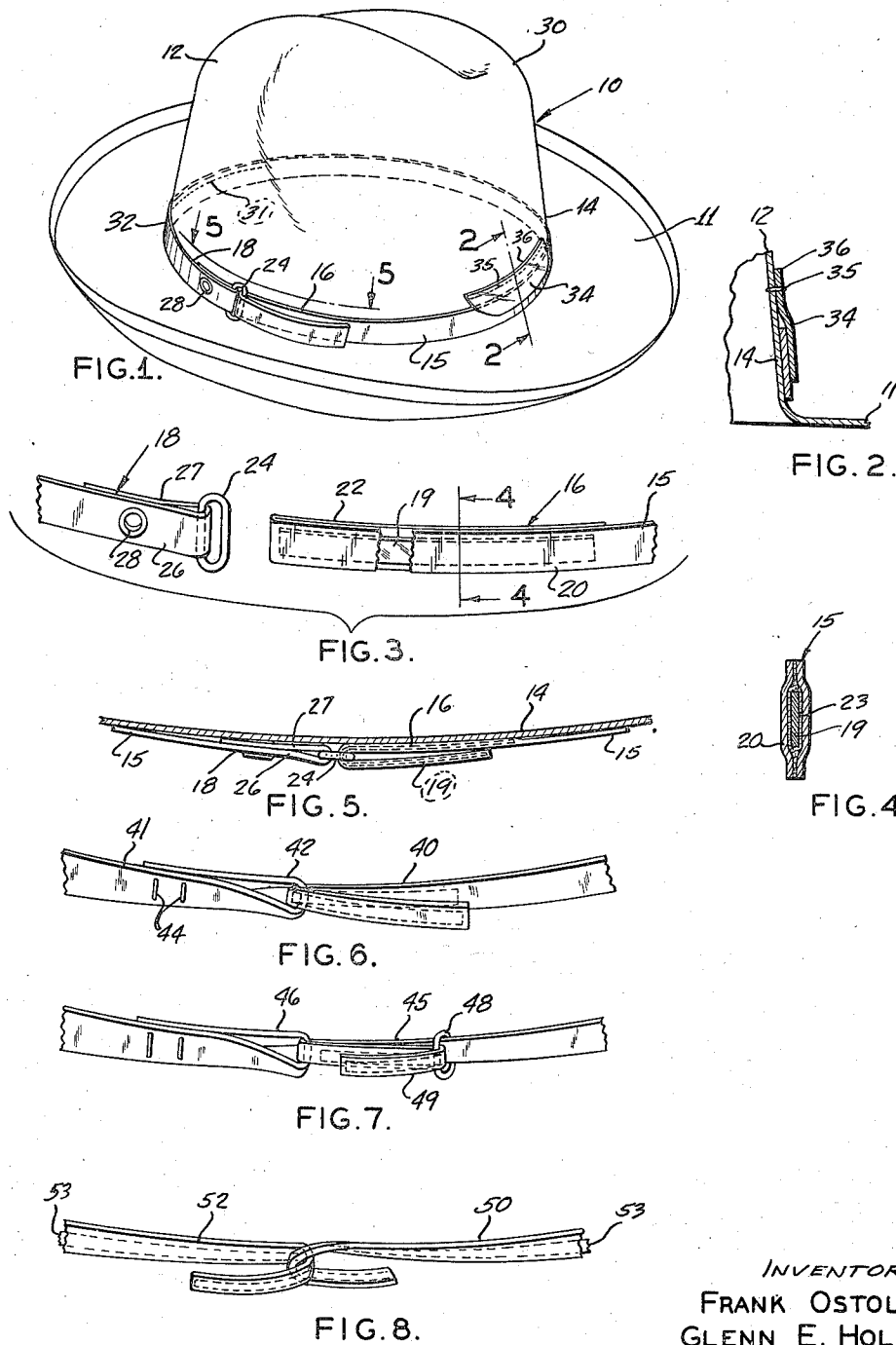
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ADJUSTABLE HAT BAND

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ADJUSTABLE HATBAND

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This invention relates to improvements in hat bands suitable for flexible crown straw hats and the like, and has particular reference to an improved hat band structure embodying novel means affording ready adjustments of the band as to its perimetral extent about the lower part or base zone of the hat crown, such as to effect thereby a greater or lesser contraction of the hat crown at its base, whereby the hat may be adapted to various head sizes.

The principal object of the invention is to provide in connection with a hat band surrounding the lower part or base portion of a hat crown of flexible character, of novel and highly effective connector means embodied in the terminal ends of the band, readily capable of selective connection of the band ends to afford adjustments of the effective perimetral extent of the band for determining thereby a greater or lesser contraction of the lower or base part of the hat, whereby to adapt the hat to different head sizes.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hat band structure of the character aforesaid, arranged in encircling position on the base portion of the hat crown, and holding means therefor constraining the band to such position in any adjustment of the perimetral extent of the band, yet permitting band adjustments to be made while the band is in place on the hat.

Other objects and advantages of the present improvements will appear readily from the following description thereof and the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a hat showing thereon the presently improved hat band structure;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view in section as taken from line 2—2 in Fig. 1, illustrating the hat band holding means;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view in perspective, of the band structure showing a presently preferred form of band connector means;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged transverse section through a part of the preferred connector means, as taken from line 4—4 in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is an on-edge view of the band structure in its terminal end portion, taken from line 5—5 in Fig. 1, showing the preferred connector means applied in assembly connection of the band ends;

Fig. 6 illustrates a modified form of connector means for the band ends;

Fig. 7 shows a further modification in the connector means, and

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Fig. 8 illustrates yet another form of connector means.

Referring to the drawing and first to the preferred embodiment of the invention as such is illustrated by Figs. 1 to 5, the numeral 10 designates generally a hat formed of straw or other suitable flexible material and having a brim 11 and a crown 12, wherein the crown is capable of limited flexure to permit contraction of its lower part or base portion 14 in respect to its circumferential extent, such as to adapt the hat to different head sizes. Arranged on the hat externally about the crown base portion 14, is a hat band 15 of suitable flexible material having opposed terminal end portions 16 and 18. Releasable and adjustable assembly connection of the band ends is effected by connector means of a presently preferred character now to be described.

As shown clearly by Figs. 3 and 4, a relatively thin strip 19 of a semi-rigid yet readily bendable material such as a suitable soft metal, is provided in a predetermined length suitable to the present purpose, and of a width appreciably less than the width of the band 15. The strip 19 is arranged longitudinally and centrally on one side face of the band section 20 rearwardly from the terminal end section 22 of the band end 16, and the latter band end section is thence folded over and rearwardly upon the band section 20 to overlie the strip 19. The band sections 20 and 22 are secured together and preferably also, to the strip 19, as by a suitable cement or adhesive indicated at 23 in Fig. 4, the strip 19 thereby being completely covered or sheathed in the lapped band sections. As so constructed, the band end 16 constitutes one member of the connector means.

The opposed end 18 of the band supports a ring element 24 preferably of metal, the support thereof being attained by passing the band end 18 through the ring and folding back upon itself, the lapped portions 26 and 27 of the band end then being secured together by stapling, stitching, or one or more eyelet rivets as shown at 28.

In band assembly, the connector end 16 of the band is passed through the ring 24 and thence pulled relative to the band end 18 such as to seat the band firmly about and against the crown base 14, whereupon the connector end 16 is bent back substantially upon itself as appears in Fig. 5. The metal strip 19 embodied in the end 16, readily permits such bending and yet being semi-rigid, will effectively retain the

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fold-bend indicated, and hence the connection of the band ends, against the tensional stressing of the band normally encountered in hat application to and its wear on the head of a wearer. In the event a different or smaller head size is desired, the bent end 16 may be straightened out or substantially so, and thence pulled to a further extent through the ring 24 such as to decrease the effective perimetral extent of the band, thereby producing a corresponding contraction of the crown base 14, until the desired crown size is attained. Re-bending of the end 16 over ring 24 and upon itself, again effects assembly connection of the band ends.

To facilitate band adjustment as above described, as well as to afford retention of the band against displacement or slippage in the direction of the crown top 30, the band is fixed or anchored to the crown base as by stitching 31 (Fig. 1) or other means in the portion 32 of the band relatively near its end 18, and by a holding element 34 effective on the band in the zone thereof substantially diametrically opposite the zone of stitching 31. The holding element 34 preferably comprises a strip of stiff transparent material such as Celluloid or the like, secured to the hat crown by stitching 35 (Fig. 2) along the upper longitudinal margin 36 of the strip, and extending downwardly in overlapping relation to the band. Importantly to the present invention, it is to be observed that the holding element 34 while preventing upward slippage of the hat band, readily permits displacement of the band relative to the element, in the direction of the perimetral axis of the band.

A modification of the band connector means hereinabove described, is illustrated by Fig. 6. As there shown, the band end 40 is constructed in accordance with the metallic strip insert construction of the band end 16 of Fig. 3, while the opposed band end 41 provides a loop 42 to receive the end 40. The loop 42 is formed by turning the band end back upon itself and securing the lapped portions together by suitable means, such as the staples 44. The loop thus is an integral part of the band end 41, taking the place of the separate ring element 24 in the embodiment of Fig. 3.

The further modified band connector arrangement according to Fig. 7, presents band connector ends 45 and 46 which as shown, are identical with the respective band ends 40 and 41 of Fig. 6, and includes as an additional element, a ring 48 encircling the band rearwardly of its end 45 and suitably secured thereto. Ring 48 provides an anchorage for the otherwise free portion 49 of the end 45, this portion being inserted through the ring and thence bent over as shown.

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Fig. 8 illustrates yet another modification of the hat band structure. In this embodiment, each of the band end portions 50 and 52 preferably is of two-ply form, with a semi-rigid, bendable metal strip 53 sheathed therein. The parts are secured in assembly by cement or an adhesive, so that a transverse section of the band end will appear as in Fig. 4 for example. In band connection, the opposed ends 50 and 52 thereof are simply looped over each other, as shown, the connection thus effected being self-retaining by reason of the semi-rigid character of the metal strips 53. If desired although not here shown, the entire length of the band may be of a two-ply character, while the metal strips 53 may be combined in a single strip substantially coextensive with the band length.

Having now described the invention in respect to a presently preferred embodiment thereof and to certain modified forms of the same, we desire to claim and secure by Letters Patent the following:

1. In a hat having a brim and crown, a flexible hat band surrounding the lower part of the crown and providing opposed end portions, a semi-rigid bendable metal strip, one of said band end portions being lapped over said strip with the strip and lapped portions of the band end secured together, and a loop provided on the other band end portion, through which the first said band end portion including said metal strip, is projected and looped thereover in band assembly.

2. In a hat having a brim and a crown, a flexible divided hat band surrounding the lower part of the crown, a semi-rigid bendable metal strip along one end of the band, said end of the band being lapped over upon itself to enclose said strip, means securing the strip and lapped end of the band in assembly, and a ring element carried by the other end of the band, through which the first said band end and the metal strip therein is projected and bent rearwardly thereover in band assembly.

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