Feb. 24, 1970 I. LIVERANT 3,496,574

FOLDING HAT AND INTEGRAL HAT CROWN-SHAPING AND HAT-STORING DEVICE

Filed Nov. 28, 1967 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

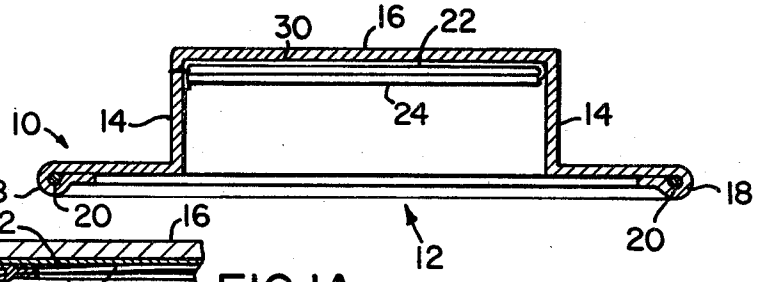


FIG. 1

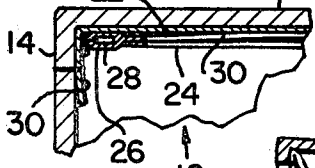


FIG. 1A

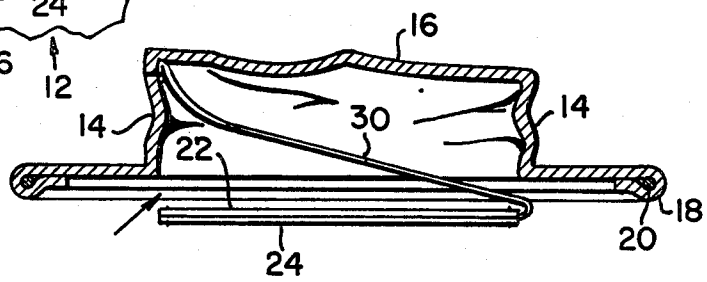


FIG. 2

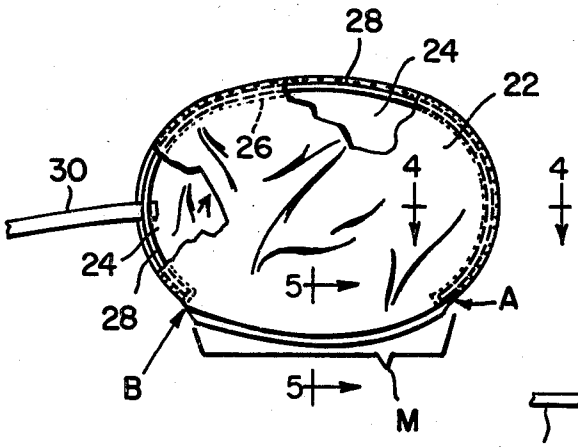


FIG. 3

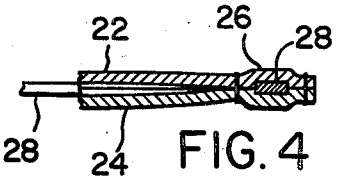


FIG. 4

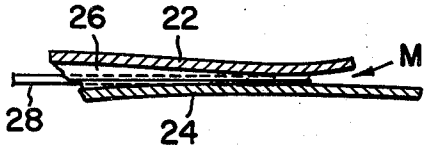


FIG. 5

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FOLDING HAT AND INTEGRAL HAT CROWN-SHAPING AND HAT-STORING DEVICE
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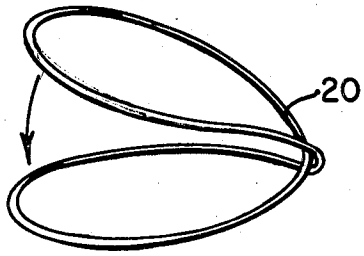


FIG. 7

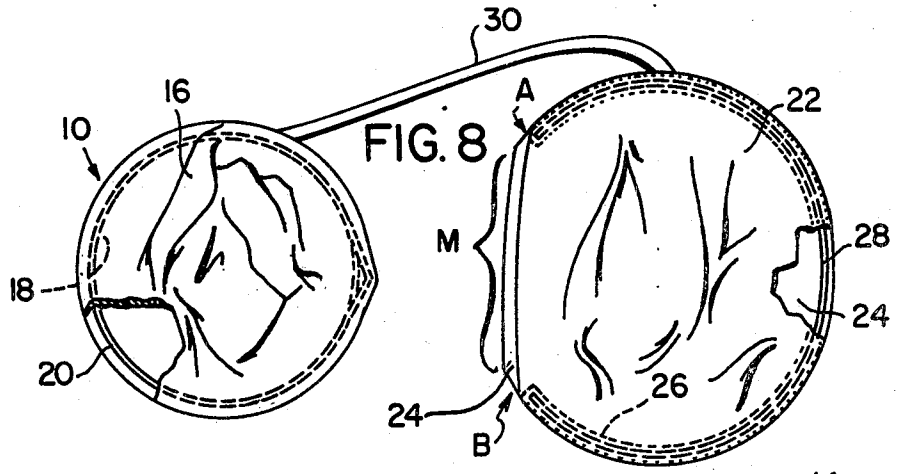


FIG. 8

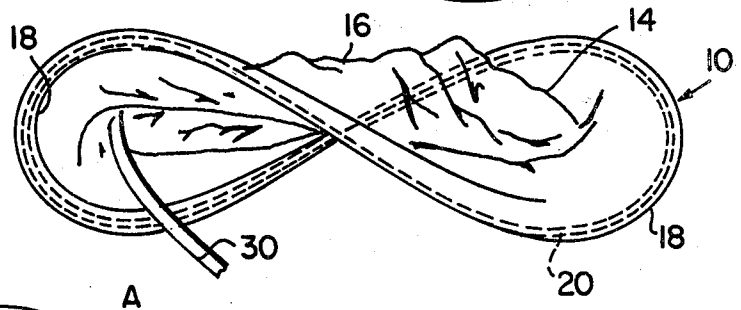


FIG. 6

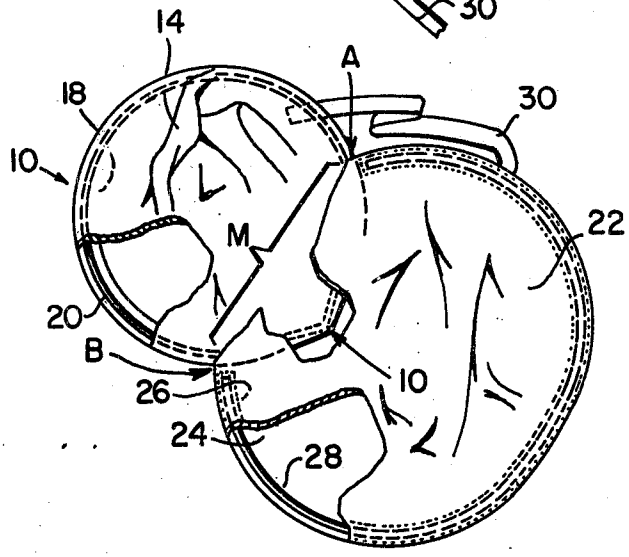


FIG. 9

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3,496,574

FOLDING HAT AND INTEGRAL HAT CROWN-SHAPING AND HAT-STORING DEVICE

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Int. Cl. A42c 5/00
U.S. Cl. 2—180 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hat which is foldable for compact storage when not in use, and which automatically assumes an expanded "use" position and a combined hat-storing and hat crown-shaping and erecting device which is contained within the hat when the hat is in use and which receives and stores the folded hat. The hat-storing device is connected to the hat to ensure that the hat and the storing device are always available together.

THE BACKGROUND

Conventional hats are unneeded when it is fair and warm and they are too bulky to carry around as "insurance" against a sudden change in the weather. Furthermore, upon entering a restaurant, or theatre, etc., hats must be checked or left on a hatrack accessible to the public, because they are too clumsy to carryin one's lap during a meal or a show.

To be sure, collapsible hats, such as English visored caps, French berets, and Russian "Kulpacks" have always been available, but these are not the general types which most people can wear on most occasions. Nor do they have the appearance, or the advantages of a regular hat.

It is therefore one object of the invention to produce a foldable hat which will look like, and can be worn in place of, a regular hat.

To be foldable to a very small size, the hat must be made of thin, non-shape-retaining material, and its crown must be free of all rigidity. The crown of such a hat will be shapeless and will greatly detract from the appearance and utility of the hat.

It is therefore a still further object of the invention to produce a hat wherein the crown is supported by a rigid frame only when the hat is in use and wherein the crown is free of all rigidity when the hat is not in use, and whereby the hat will be shaped when in use and can be fully collapsed when not in use.

Envelopes for storing folded rainhats or raincoats are known. But, as far as I am aware, when the rainhat is in use, its storage envelope has to be carried around until it is needed.

It is therefore a still further object of the invention to produce an improved arrangement wherein the hat-storing envelope forms part of the hat when the hat is worn, and whereby the hat is stored in the envelope when the hat is not in use.

THE INVENTION

A collapsible hat having a brim and a crown, an envelope having a resilient peripheral frame insertable into the crown of the hat to shape and support the same and strap connecting the hat and the envelope.

IN THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a vertical sectional view of a hat embodying the invention.

FIG. 1A is an enlargement of the upper left-hand corner of FIG. 1 and shows details of construction.

FIG. 2 shows the storage envelope being inserted into the crown of the hat.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of crown-shaping and hat-storing envelope.

FIG. 4 and 5 are sectional views looking in the direction of lines 4—4 and 5—5 on FIG. 3.

FIG. 6 shows the first step in folding the hat.

FIG. 7 shows the second, and last, step of folding the hat. For clarity, the frame only is shown.

FIG. 8 is a plan view showing the fully folded hat at the left, the combined crown-reinforcing and hat-storing device at the right, and the connecting strap in between.

FIG. 9 shows the folded hat being inserted into the hat-storing device.

A hat embodying this invention includes a brim **10**, and a crown **12** which is formed of a sidewall **14** and a top wall **16** and which may be of a single, or of a multiply construction. The parts mentioned may be made of natural tertile fabric, such as silk, cotton, or wool, or of a mixture thereof, or of any available, flexible, elastic or non-elastic sheet material. The shapes and styles of this hat are optional and it is thought sufficient for the purpose of this disclosure to point out that the brim is provided with a pocket **18**, or is so constructed as to receive, or to have secured thereto, and to confine a slightly tensioned spring wire frame **20** or its equivalent, which frame, when unrestrained, stretches the brim to a shape which is determined by the contour of the particular frame. For example, if the wire **20** is confined in an oval pocket **18**, or if the wire is stitched, or otherwise secured to the periphery of the brim so as to take an oval form, the brim and the crown which will have been correspondingly contoured, will assume an oval shape, and so on. The width of the brim and the height of the crown are optional, and can be varied as desired. For example, for town wear the brim will be narrower and the colors will be more subdued, and for sport or beach wear, the rim will be wider and the colors rampant. The tension of the spring varies with the type of fabric used. For example, in the case of a light, non-elastic fabric, a light spring will suffice, and vice versa. Also, forcibly to stretch an elastic fabric, or for use with a heavier material, a heavier spring will be needed, and so on.

The hat so far described is folded by twisting it to cause the frame **20** to assume the form of a figure eight, as shown in FIG. 6, and by folding about the intersection of wire frame **20** as shown in FIG. 7, so that the opposite portions of the hat will overlie each other, in which position, the diameter of the hat will be about one-half of its diameter when the hat is in use. To allow the hat to be folded as described, the crown must be flexible and cannot have any wire such as wire **20** which shapes the brim. A "shapeless" crown will limit the use of the hat to rain wear and to sport and beach wear. In order to increase the utility of this hat, I have invented a device for shaping the crown of the hat only when the hat is in use, and for storing the heat neatly and compactly when the hat is not in use. The device referred to is in the nature of an envelope formed of two walls **22** and **24** which may be made of natural or synthetic elastic or non-elastic material, and the peripheries of which are secured together from about point A to point B, and are left unsecured between said points to provide a mouth M. The peripheries of sidewalls **22** and **24** are constructed to form a pocket which receives and confines a spring wire **28** which extends between points A and B. Spring **28** has enough tension to stretch the envelope out flatly. The size of the envelope, when unrestrained, is such as to fit snugly at the junction of the sidewall **14** and top wall **16** of the crown **12** of the hat.

In order to ensure against mislaying the envelope when the hat is not in use, I provide a strap **30**, one end of which is connected to the envelope and the other end of which is connected to the interior of the crown about as shown in FIG. 1. The length of the strap is just enough to permit presentation of the fully folded hat to the mouth of the bag.

When the hat is not in use, it is folded as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 and is inserted into the envelope as shown in FIG. 9 to make a package small enough to be carried in a pocket, or a handbag. When this hat is to be used, it is withdrawn from the envelope and allowed to assume its shape as shown in FIG. 1. The envelope is now presented to the crown by upward motion, as shown in FIG. 2 until it reaches its uppermost position in which the wire **28** nestles in the angle formed at the junction of walls **14** and **16**, with the body of the envelope abutting the underside of top wall **16** of the hat as shown in FIG. 1A. In this position of the parts, connecting strap **30** is confined between the envelope and top wall **16**, also as shown in FIGS. 1 and 1A.

What I claim is:

1. In combination, a knockdown hat having a limp, shapeless crown and a resilient, permanently attached rim which is yieldably foldable upon itself, and

a combined hat-receiving and crown-shaping and supporting device comprising:

receptacle means associated with said hat including a mouth, and a rigid element carried by the periphery thereof,

the shape of said receptacle corresponding to the shape of said crown and its size being such as to fit snugly within said crown when the hat is in use, and the size of said brim and said crown being such that when said brim is folded, the knockdown hat fits within said receptacle means.

2. The combination defined in claim **1** and a flexible element connecting said device to said hat.

3. In combination, a hat having a limp crown and a resilient rim foldable to a first, non-use position of a relative small size, and expandable to a second, use-position of a larger size,

a combined crown-shaping and folded-hat enclosing receptacle means associated with said hat and including

a rigidity-imparting element at the periphery thereof,

said receptacle means fitting snugly in the crown of the hat to shape and support the same when the hat is in its second use-position, and receiving the folded hat when it is not in use.

4. In combination, a limp crown formed of a sidewall and a top wall connected to the upper edge of said sidewall,

a brim permanently attached to the lower edge of said sidewall,

a first rigidity-imparting means carried by the rim of said brim,

said means being yieldably foldable upon itself to form two superimposed portions when the hat is not in use,

receptacle means associated with said hat having a mouth for the insertion therethrough of the hat when folded, and including

a second rigidity-imparting means at the periphery of said receptacle means, the shape of said receptacle corresponding to the shape of the top wall of the crown and its size being such as to fit snugly within said sidewall below said top wall.

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