United States Patent

Glintz

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[45] **Feb. 15, 1972**

[54] HAIR DRYER WITH REMOVABLE LAY-ON RESILIENT CUSHION

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **34/99**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A45d 20/24**

[58] **Field of Search** 34/96–101, 90, 34/91; 139/9; 128/256; 5/337, 338, 347, 348

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

3,358,382	12/1967	Glintz	34/99
3,319,272	5/1967	Eller	5/338
2,244,953	6/1941	Klingensmith	34/100
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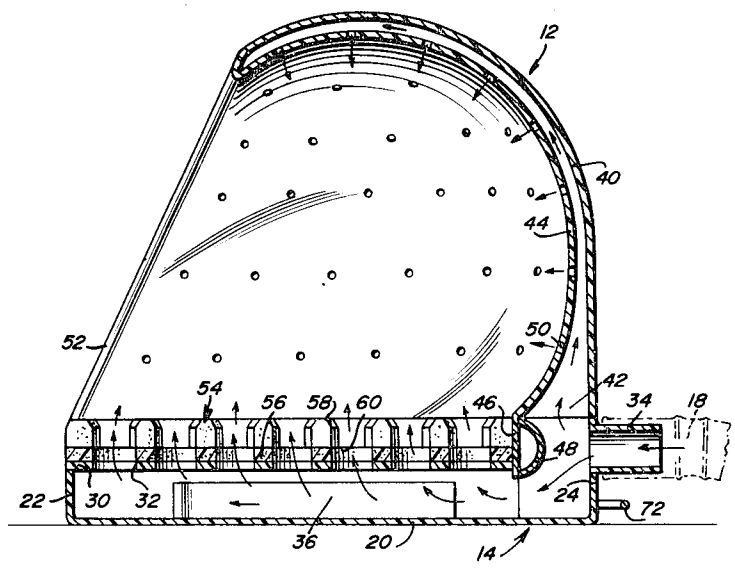
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A hair dryer including a removable cushion having wafflelike projections thereon. Facing sides of adjacent projections are inclined and are adapted to contact rollers on a person's head resting on the cushion during hair drying. Heated air flows through apertures formed in the cushion and then onto the person's hair. A molded hollow hood surrounds the person's head and contains heated air which serves to accelerate drying.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



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SHEET 1 OF 2

Fig. 1

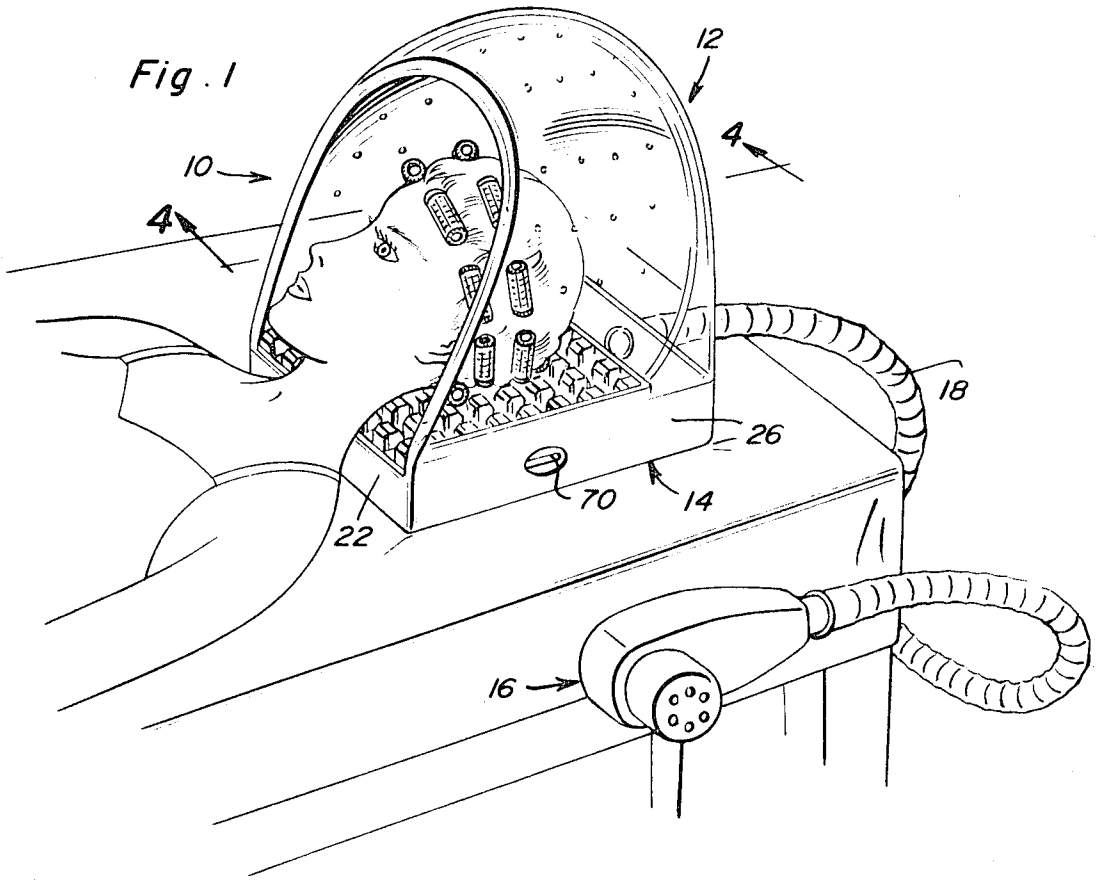

Fig. 2

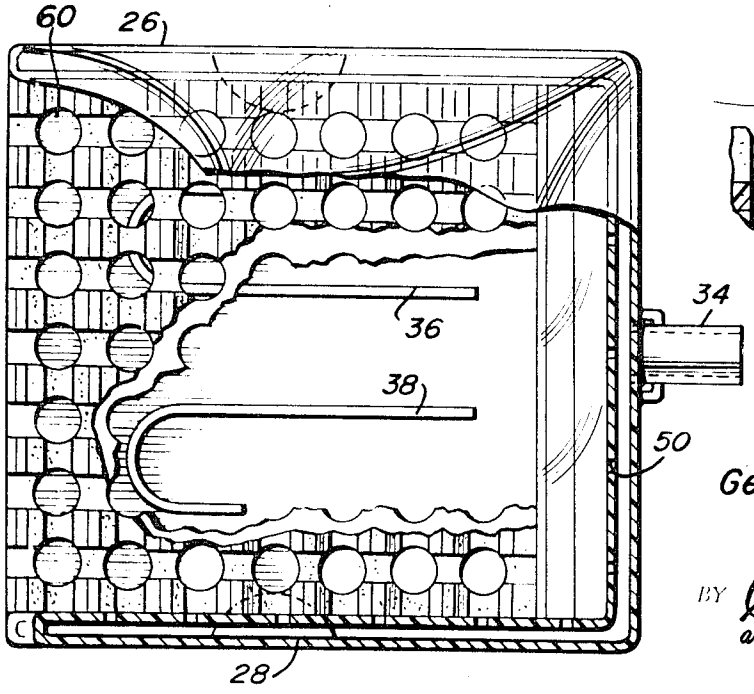

Fig. 3

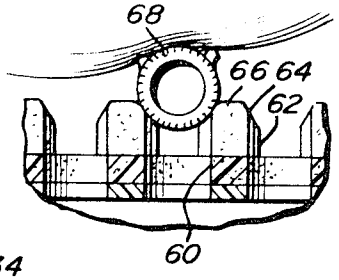

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Fig. 4

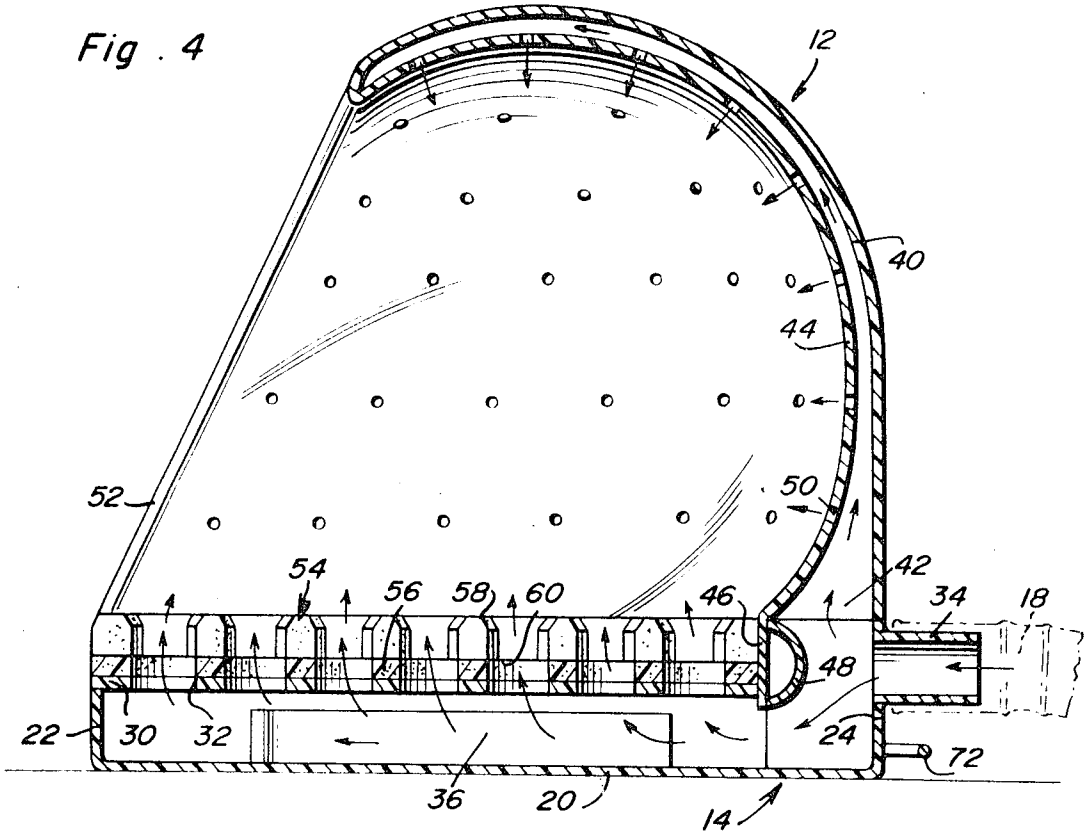
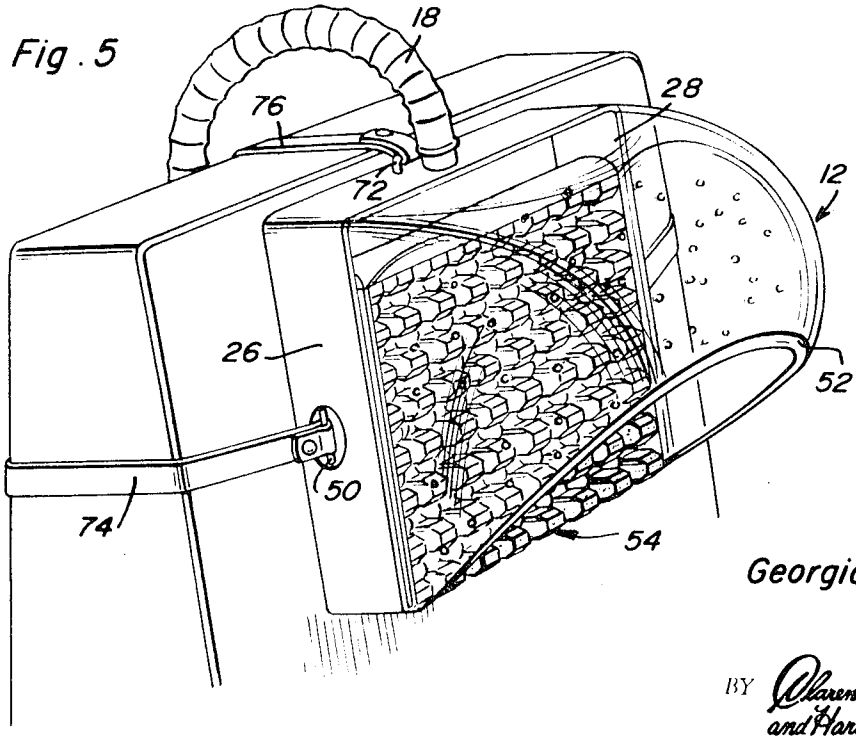


Fig. 5



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HAIR DRYER WITH REMOVABLE LAY-ON RESILIENT CUSHION

This invention relates to hair dryers and more particularly to hair dryers having apertured resting pads against which a person's head lies. Heated air flowing through the aperture dries the hair.

The present invention is an improvement on U.S. Pat. No. 3,358,382, dated Dec. 19, 1967. This patent was in the form of a hair dryer having a cushion on which a person having her hair dried may place her head. The cushion includes a plurality of apertures therein communicating with the hollow interior of the cushion which in turn is communicated with a heated air source so that air will pass upwardly through the apertures, through and around the hair of the person's head resting on the cushion. A hood encloses the cushion and extends above the cushion. The hood includes an open end area for receiving the head of the person whose hair is being dried. The cushion includes a slotlike opening with a depending diverter structure associated therewith for diverting a portion of the air upwardly through the interior of the cushion for drying the hair. The hood is also provided with a plurality of exhaust openings therein for enabling air circulation.

Although this previously patented device operates satisfactorily, it is desirous to have a hair dryer of the patented type with a removable cushion against which a person rests her head. This removable cushion maximizes sanitary operation. In addition, with the patented device, it has been found that certain individuals are annoyed by the pressure exerted by rollers, pins and the like against a flat cushion.

The present invention includes a removable pad having projections thereon which are spaced from each other thereby forming recesses for receiving rollers, pins and the like so that undue pressure is not brought to bear against the head. In addition, a generally spherical molded hood is provided to more evenly distribute a portion of the delivered heated air.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the present invention in use.

FIG. 2 is a cutaway top plan view of the hair dryer.

FIG. 3 is a partial sectional view illustrating the shape of projections on the removable resilient cushion used in the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken along a plane passing through section line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating an alternate position of the hair dryer.

Referring to FIG. 1, the present hair dryer is generally indicated by reference numeral **10** and is seen to include a molded generally spherical transparent hood **12** typically fabricated from plastic and attached in overlying relation to a hollow base **14**. A conventional hot air blower **16** communicates with the interior of the hollow base **14** by means of a flexible conduit **18**.

Considering FIGS. **4** and **5**, the base is seen to include a bottom wall **20**, a front wall **22**, a rear wall **24** and lateral walls **26** and **28**. A foraminous top wall **30** encloses the hollow base, the top wall **30** being characterized by openings or apertures **32**. A tubular fitting **34** extends outwardly from the rear end wall **24** and provides means for mounting the outlet end of conduit **18**. Heated air is delivered through the fitting **34** into the base **14**. Referring to FIGS. **2** and **4**, oppositely directed and generally parallel disposed J-shaped air guides **36** and **38** distribute the flow of delivered hot air around the interior of the base. A portion of the heated air delivered through fitting **34** is deflected upwardly into the interior of hood **12** which more particularly includes an outer shell **40** and an inner shell **44** thereby constituting a double spaced wall construction. The upper portion of the hood is spherical and continues downwardly to a rectangular bottom edge coextensive with

the upper edge of the base **14**. As will be noted in FIG. **4**, the rearward bottom portion of the inner hood wall **44** is arcuate and diverges away from an adjacent portion of outer wall **40** so that an elongated passageway **42** is defined between the base **14** and the hood. This passageway allows entry of a diverted portion of the delivered heated air from fitting **34**. The lower end of inner hood wall **44** includes a flat elongated flange **46** extending between lateral sidewalls **26** and **28**. A semicylindrical member **48** is positioned against the flange **46** and presents a convex surface against which impinging air is directed from the fitting **34**. It is this semicylindrical member **48** that causes the diversion of heated air into the interior of base **14** and the space between the double wall construction of hood **12**.

Apertures **50** are formed at spaced points along the interior wall **44** and provide means for heated air to flow from the double wall space into the general interior of hood **12**. This flow affects drying of a person's hair disposed in the hood as seen in FIG. **1**. The front edges of walls **40** and **44** are smoothly joined along a rearwardly inclined edge **52** that defines the hood entrance.

Referring to FIG. **1**, the sidewalls **26** and **28** will be seen to be raised relative to front wall **22** thereby defining a traylike receptacle for a removable resilient pad or cushion **54**. The pad includes a base member **56** and a plurality of parallel-spaced waffle shaped projections **58**. As will be noted, openings **60** are formed in the pad and between adjacent projections so that each opening in the pad is in alignment with an aperture **32** in the top wall **30** of the hollow base **14**. By virtue of the aligned openings, heated air circulating through the hollow base is free to move upwardly through the aligned apertures and contact the person's hair as shown in FIG. **3**.

Considering FIG. **3** in detail, the particular shape of the projections is shown to include a vertical cylindrical portion **62** having a square cross section. This cylindrical portion extends upwardly to an upper portion having upwardly converging lateral sides truncated at the top. This particular shape is of special advantage because facing inclined sides **64** of adjacent projections form supporting surfaces for a roller **68** or the like. Due to the resilient characteristics of the projections, the projections yield to receive rollers, pins, and the like therebetween so that the person's head rests against the truncated tops **66** of the projections. As a result, annoying pressure on the head, usually exerted by the rollers, is obviated.

Although the dryer **10** can be placed on a horizontal surface as shown in FIG. **1**, means are provided for mounting the dryer on the vertical back of a seat as seen in FIG. **5**. More particularly, the sidewalls **26** and **28** include recesses therein. Bar members **70** are enclosed within the recesses and allow the attachment of straps **74** thereto which clamp the base of the dryer against the back of a chair as seen in FIG. **5**. A U-shaped member **72** is suitably attached to the rear wall **24** of the base and provides sufficient mounting means for an additional strap **76** interconnected with the strap **74** to secure the dryer to the seat back. Therefore, the present hair dryer construction offers the flexibility of being usable in the vertical or horizontal positions.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A hair dryer comprising a hollow base, a cushion positioned on the base, the cushion having spaced upwardly extending projections between whose upper ends a person's hair rollers and pins may be cradled when the person's head rests upon the cushion, aligned air passages formed in the base and in the cushion between the projections, and means communicating the hollow base with a heated air supply whereby heated air passes upwardly through the passage to effect hair

drying, the upper ends of said projections including upwardly and inwardly beveled surfaces, the opposing beveled surfaces of adjacent projections being adapted to cradle opposite underside surface portions of hair rollers therebetween, the spacing between adjacent portions of adjacent projections below said beveled surfaces being less than the diameter of a medium-size hair roller.

2. The structure of claim 1 together with a hood extending over the cushion and overlying the person's head, the base having an opening for communicating the hollow base with the hood, and air-diverting means for diverting a portion of heated air coming into the hollow base into the hood while the remainder of the air passes through the aligned air passages for more efficient hair drying.

3. The structure set forth in claim 2 wherein the hood has a spaced double wall which receives the diverted portion of heated air, the inward wall including apertures therein through which heated air flows directly onto the person's hair.

4. The structure of claim 3 wherein the hood includes a rearwardly inclined inverted U-shaped opening therein for facilitating insertion and removal of the person's head and further providing vent means for the heated airflow.

5. The structure of claim 3 wherein the cushion is removable thereby enabling use of the dryer with separate cushions resulting in sanitary operation.

6. The structure of claim 1 wherein said cushion is constructed of form-retaining, but deformable and resilient material.

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