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(54) **SPORTS CAP**

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(71) Applicant: **Elaine Ryan**, Paia, HI (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(72) Inventor: **Elaine Ryan**, Paia, HI (US)

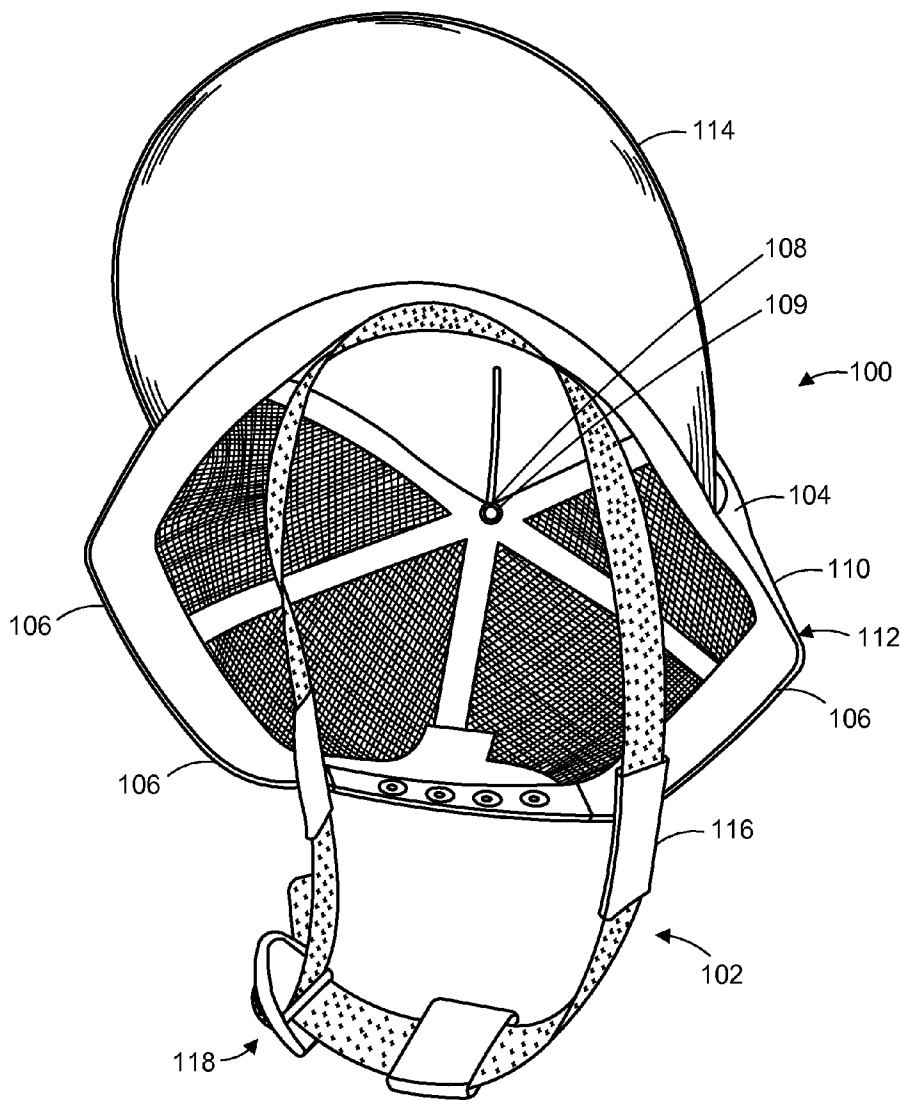
A sport cap includes a hat having an inner peripheral surface that defines a portion of a headband to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears. The hat includes a bill. The sport cap further includes a securement strap of an inelastic webbing coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer. The securement strap further includes a number of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each cushion being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears.

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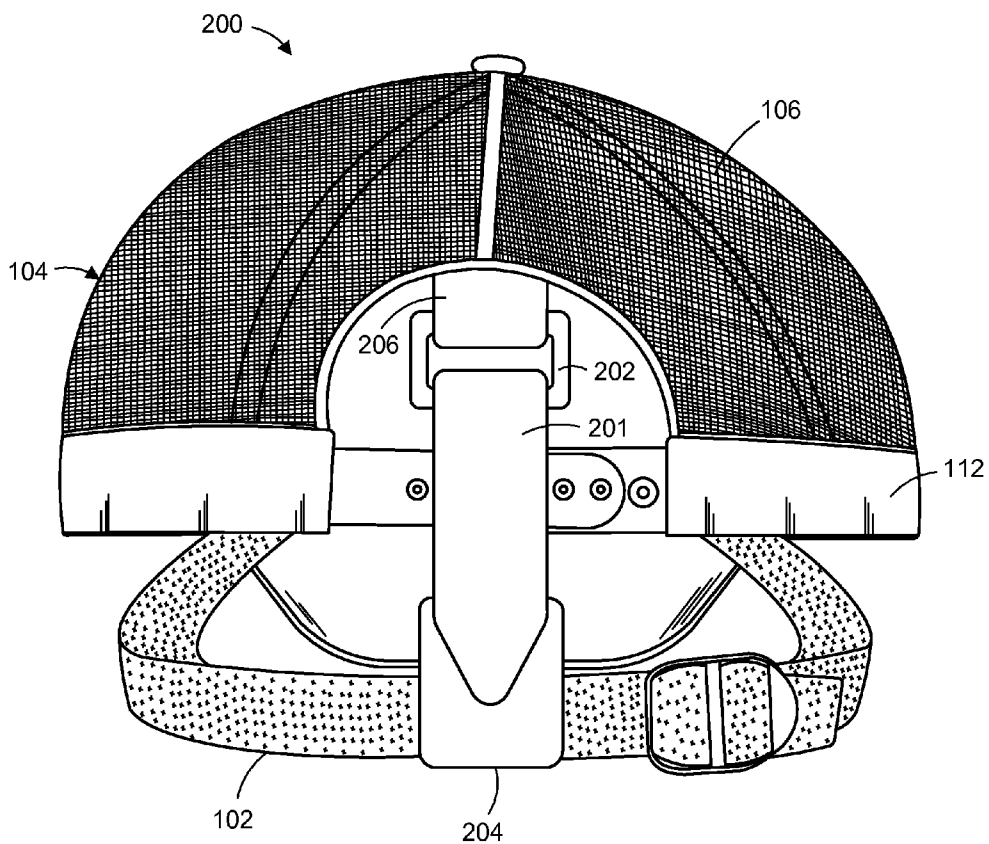


FIG. 2

SPORTS CAP

BACKGROUND

[0001] The present invention relates to sports caps, and more particularly to a sports cap that can remain secured to a wearer's head in wind, waves, and other forces.

[0002] Most sport caps, such as baseball caps or "trucker" caps, cannot be worn during water-related activities such as surfing, stand-up paddling (SUP), windsurfing, kite surfing, wakeboarding, waterskiing, or the like. These types of activities are representative of activities that subject a wearer of a cap to extreme forces: wind, waves, force of water against the cap during a fall, etc.

[0003] One way to make a sport cap more secure is to provide a chin strap. However, a chin strap is very uncomfortable to the wearer, and most wearers find a chin strap difficult and unwieldy, and the chin strap can cut off blood circulation to the head in some circumstances. Further, a chin strap may limit mobility of the wearer's head, which can critically limit the wearer's field of view while undertaking

SUMMARY

[0004] This document discloses a sport cap. In one aspect, the sport cap includes a hat formed of one or more panels, each of the one or more panels having a top that terminates at a top point and a bottom having an inner peripheral surface that defines a portion of a headband. The headband is adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears. The sport cap further includes a bill coupled to the hat and being adapted to extend outward from the forehead region of the wearer's head, the bill having an up position and a down position relative to the forehead region of the wearer's head. The sport cap further includes a securement strap formed of an inelastic webbing coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer. The securement strap further includes a number of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each of the cushions for being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears.

[0005] In another aspect, a sport cap includes a hat to cover at least a portion of a wearer's head and having a lower peripheral portion. The sport cap further includes a headband connected with the lower peripheral portion of the hat, and adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears. The sport cap further includes a securement strap comprising an inelastic webbing coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region. The securement strap is adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer. The securement strap further includes a plurality of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each of the plurality of cushions for being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears. The sport cap further includes an adjustment mechanism coupled between a back portion of the hat a back portion of the securement strap, to raise or lower an angle of the hat on a wearer's head.

[0006] In yet another aspect, a securing apparatus for a sport cap is provided. The sport cap includes a hat to cover at least a portion of a wearer's head, and a headband connected with a lower peripheral portion of the hat, the headband being adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears. The securing apparatus includes a securement strap formed of an inelastic webbing for being coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer. The securement strap further includes a number of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing. Each of the cushions is positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears. The securing apparatus further includes an adjustment mechanism for being coupled between a back portion of the hat a back portion of the securement strap, the adjustment mechanism to raise or lower an angle of the hat on a wearer's head.

[0007] The details of one or more embodiments are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features and advantages will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] These and other aspects will now be described in detail with reference to the following drawings.

[0009] FIG. 1 illustrates a sport cap with a securement strap.

[0010] FIG. 2 illustrates a back of a sport cap with a securement strap, and a cap adjustment mechanism.

[0011] Like reference symbols in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] This document describes a securement strap, and a sport cap employing a securement strap, which are suited for water-related activities such as surfing, stand-up paddling (SUP), windsurfing, kite surfing, wakeboarding, waterskiing, or the like. The securement strap enables a sport cap to be subjected to extreme forces of wind, waves, and water during such activities, without the cap falling off a head of a wearer.

[0013] FIG. 1 illustrates a sport cap 100 with a securement strap 102, in accordance with some implementations. The sport cap 100 includes a hat 104 formed of one or more panels 106. Each of the one or more panels 106 has a top 108 that terminates at a top point 109 and a bottom 110 having an inner peripheral surface that defines a portion of a headband 112. The headband 112 is adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region of the wearer, and above the wearer's ears.

[0014] The hat 104 further includes a bill 114 coupled to at least one or more panels 106 and/or a forward section of the headband 112 of the hat 102. The bill 114 is adapted to extend outward from the forehead region of the wearer's head. In this configuration, the bill 114 has an up position and a down position, relative to the forehead region of the wearer's head. In other implementations, the bill 114 can extend out from the one or more panels 106 so as to extend out of more than half of the circumference of the headband 112 and/or the wearer's head. As such, in specific implementations, the bill 114 can

circumscribe and extend out from the hat **104** in all directions, so as to provide shade and protection to a wearer's eyes, ears, and neck regions.

[0015] The securement strap **102** is preferably formed of an inelastic material or webbing. Elastic material requires more tightening force to stay on, and is less comfortable as it cuts off blood circulation at the outer portions of the wearer's head. In some implementations, the securement strap **102** is coupled to the headband **112** at a center of a forward area of the forehead region of the headband **112**, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer.

[0016] In some implementations, the securement strap **102** includes one or more cushions **116** or soft regions coupled with the inelastic webbing, such as to be placed above a wearer's ear to prevent chafing, rashes, or the like. The cushions **116** can be placed in other locations on the securement strap **102** as well, including along the entire perimeter of the securement strap **102**. Each of the cushions **116** is adapted to be positioned between the securement strap **102** and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears. One or more of the cushions **116** can be formed of a small-fiber fabric, such as 700-1500 nanometer ultra fine polyester nanofiber. The small-fiber fabric has a high coefficient of friction, and is soft and comfortable to the wearer so that the webbing is comfortable on the wearer's forehead. Accordingly, the securement strap **102** need not to be tightened very much to stay on, making the securement strap **102** and the sport cap **100** even more comfortable to wear.

[0017] In preferred exemplary implementations, only about two inches of the securement strap **102** is attached to the headband **112** of the hat **104**, right under and at the center of the bill **114**. This amount of attachment of the securement strap **102** to the hat **104** enables the bill **114** to be pushed up and down by wind and water independently of the securement strap **102**. If the securement strap **102** is attached in a greater length to the front of the hat **104**, the sport cap **100** may come off much more easily due to a greater force exerted on the securement strap **102** dependent on forces exerted on the bill **114**. Also, the less the securement strap **102** is attached to the hat **104**, the more the headband **112** of the hat **104** can conform to the wearer's head.

[0018] FIG. 2 is a view of a back of a sport cap **100** with a securement strap **102**, and further including a cap adjustment mechanism **200**. The cap adjustment mechanism **200** can be operated to raise or lower the pitch or angle of the sport cap **100** on the head of a wearer, to therefore raise or lower an angle of the bill **114** of the sport cap **100**. In some implementations, the cap adjustment mechanism **200** includes a rigid loop **202**, which is attached to a back portion **206** of the sport cap **100**. The rigid loop **202** can be made of any rigid material, such as steel or plastic, or even carbon fiber or other synthetic material. The cap adjustment mechanism **200** further includes a connection strap **204** connected with a back area of the securement strap **102**. The connection strap **204** can be formed of one half of a two-part hook-and-loop type fastener. The other half of the two part fastener is an adjustment strap **201**, which can be looped through the rigid loop **202** and coupled with the connection strap **204**. The adjustment strap **201** of the cap adjustment mechanism **200** can be cinched shorter or longer, and allows the wearer to cinch the back of the sport cap **100** down, raising the bill **114**, or up, lowering

the bill **114**. This enables the wearer to endure extreme forces, i.e.: to duck dive under a wave without the back of the sport cap **100** being pushed up off the back of the wearer's head and pressed down over the wearer's eyes. Further, the cap adjustment mechanism **200** keeps the sport cap **100** back and away from the wearer's eyes.

[0019] Although a few embodiments have been described in detail above, other modifications are possible. For example, the securement strap **102** can be provided as a kit or after-market feature for a standard baseball-type or trucker-type cap. The securement strap **102** can be provided with the connection strap **204**, as described above, along with various mechanisms to attach both the securement strap **102** and/or connection strap **204** to respective portions of a cap. Yet still other embodiments may be within the scope of the following claims.

1. A sport cap comprising:

- a hat formed of one or more panels, each of the one or more panels having a top that terminates at a top point and a bottom having an inner peripheral surface that defines a portion of a headband, the headband being adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears;
- a bill coupled to the hat and being adapted to extend outward from the forehead region of the wearer's head, the bill having an up position and a down position relative to the forehead region of the wearer's head; and
- a securement strap comprising an inelastic webbing coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer, the securement strap further comprising a plurality of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each of the plurality of cushions for being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears.

2. The sport cap in accordance with claim 1, further comprising an adjustment mechanism coupled between a back portion of the hat a back portion of the securement strap, the adjustment mechanism to raise or lower an angle of the hat on a wearer's head.

3. The sport cap in accordance with claim 3, wherein the adjustment mechanism includes:

- a connection strap connected with the back portion of the securement strap;
- a rigid loop connected with the back portion of the hat; and
- an adjustment strap having a first end connected with the connection strap, the adjustment strap being looped through the rigid loop to have a second end adjustably connect with the connection strap, the adjustment strap raising or lowering the angle of the hat on the wearer's head by respectively decreasing or increasing a length of the adjustment strap.

4. The sport cap in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a length adjustment buckle on the securement strap, to adjust a size of a perimeter length formed by the securement strap.

5. The sport cap in accordance with claim 1, wherein the hat is water-resistant.

6. A sport cap comprising:
 a hat to cover at least a portion of a wearer's head and having a lower peripheral portion;
 a headband connected with the lower peripheral portion of the hat, the headband being adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears;
 a securement strap comprising an inelastic webbing coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer, the securement strap further comprising a plurality of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each of the plurality of cushions for being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears; and
 an adjustment mechanism coupled between a back portion of the hat a back portion of the securement strap, the adjustment mechanism to raise or lower an angle of the hat on a wearer's head.

7. The sport cap in accordance with claim 6, wherein the hat is formed of one or more panels, each of the one or more panels having a top that terminates at a top point and a bottom having an inner peripheral surface that defines a portion of the headband.

8. The sport cap in accordance with claim 7, wherein the hat further includes a bill coupled to the hat and being adapted to extend outward from the forehead region of the wearer's head, the bill having an up position and a down position relative to the forehead region of the wearer's head.

9. The sport cap in accordance with claim 6, wherein the adjustment mechanism includes:

a connection strap connected with the back portion of the securement strap;
 a rigid loop connected with the back portion of the hat; and
 an adjustment strap having a first end connected with the connection strap, the adjustment strap being looped through the rigid loop to have a second end adjustably connect with the connection strap, the adjustment strap raising or lowering the angle of the hat on the wearer's head by respectively decreasing or increasing a length of the adjustment strap.

10. A securing apparatus for a sport cap that includes a hat to cover at least a portion of a wearer's head, and a headband connected with a lower peripheral portion of the hat, the headband being adapted to circumscribe a wearer's head between a forehead region and an occipital bone region and above the wearer's ears, the securing apparatus comprising:

a securement strap comprising an inelastic webbing for being coupled to the headband at a center of a forward area of the forehead region, and adapted to circumscribe the wearer's head between the forehead region and a lower occipital bone region below the headband and above a nape of the wearer, the securement strap further comprising a plurality of cushions coupled with the inelastic webbing, each of the plurality of cushions for being positioned between the securement strap and the wearer's head at least at the forehead region and at side regions near the wearer's ears; and

an adjustment mechanism for being coupled between a back portion of the hat a back portion of the securement strap, the adjustment mechanism to raise or lower an angle of the hat on a wearer's head.

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