

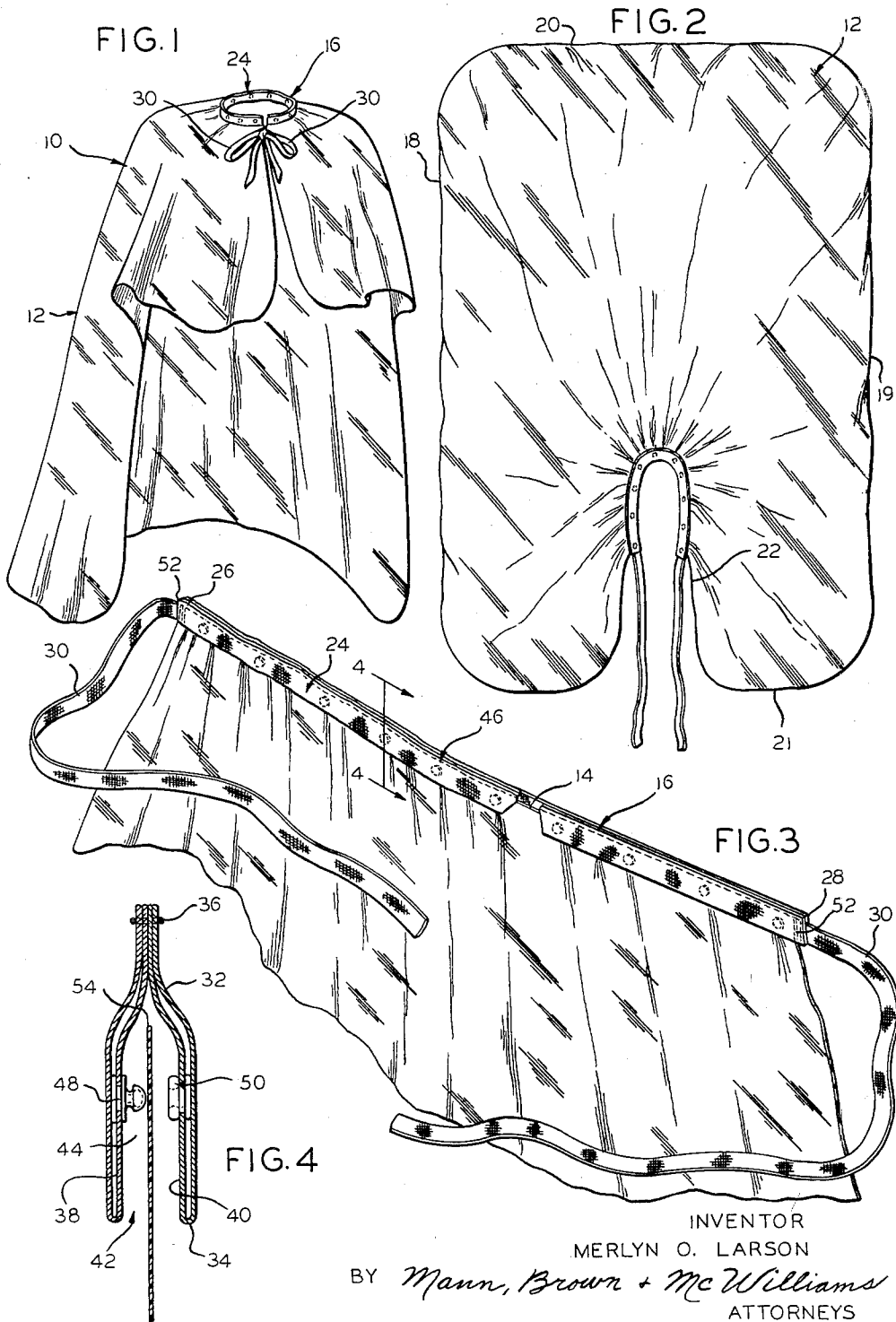
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DISPOSABLE CAPE FOR BEAUTY SALON PATRONS

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DISPOSABLE CAPE FOR BEAUTY SALON PATRONS

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My invention relates to a disposable cape for use, for instance, by beauty salon and barber shop operators and beauticians, and more particularly, to a cape arrangement that includes a low cost disposable sheeting material and a permanent tie band or neck piece assembly that permits the sheeting material to be changed after use on a patron.

The services usually performed by beauty salons and the like customarily require that the patron's garments be covered with a protecting covering of some sort. Cloth capes, towels and the like frequently are employed to serve this purpose, but they require laundering after use, which materially increases operating costs, and, of course, they are too expensive to dispose of after one use.

Some so-called disposable coverings are available, but the need for providing some way to securely fasten them in place, without perforating them with pins or the like, has required the use of fastening arrangements that preclude economical disposability because of their expense.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a disposable cape arrangement that contemplates the use of a permanent washable tie band or neck piece assembly and a disposable film-like sheet of cape-like configuration which may be detachably secured to the tie band assembly.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel neck piece arrangement adapted for releasable attachment to capes or aprons formed from an inexpensive disposable sheeting material.

Other objects, uses and advantages will be obvious or become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description and the application drawings.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view showing the disposable cape in assembled relation, and as it would appear when applied to a patron;

FIGURE 2 is a diagrammatic plan view of the cape when laid out flat;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the neckline portion of the cape better illustrating the tie band or neck piece assembly of the invention; and

FIGURE 4 is a fragmental cross-sectional view substantially along line 4-4 of FIGURE 3, on an enlarged scale, and showing one of the fastening devices of the neck piece when positioned to receive the neckline of the sheeting material forming the cape.

Reference numeral 10 of FIGURE 1 generally indicates a cape assembly embodying my invention which comprises a sheet 12 of an inexpensive film-like material formed to define a cape-like configuration having a neckline portion 14 to which is applied a tie band or neck piece device or assembly 16 for securing the sheet 12 over the clothes of the patron.

As indicated in FIGURE 2, the sheet 12 when laid out flat may have a generally quadrilateral configuration including rectilinear sides 18 and 19, and ends 20 and 21. End 21 is formed with a re-entrant angle portion 22 that defines the neckline of the sheeting 12, and the neckline portion 14 should be sufficiently long to extend around, in the usual manner, the neck of the patron.

The tie band or neck piece assembly 16 comprises a centrally disposed neckline portion 24 having affixed to its ends 26 and 28 flexible tie bands 30.

The central neckline portion 24 in the form illustrated comprises a pair of strips or bands 32, formed from a suitable flexible material, doubled over as at 34, and

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stitched together along like ends as at 36. This defines the center or neckline portion 24 into a holding device having spaced adjacent walls 38 and 40 and an open elongate mouth 42 leading to an elongate pocket 44.

5 Interposed within the pocket 44 are a plurality of spaced snap fastening devices 46 each composed of a male fastening element 48 and a female fastening element 50. The fastening elements of each fastener device are secured to the respective walls 38 and 40 in opposed relation so that these elements may be snapped together in the well-known manner.

10 The tie bands 30 may be stitched between the strips or layers 32 by appropriate stitching 52 and in the illustrated embodiment, mouth 42 and pocket 44 extend between the two stitchings 52.

15 The tie band or neck piece assembly 16 is applied to the sheet 12 by inserting the neckline portion 14 of the sheet within pocket 44, with the edge 54 of the sheet disposed beyond the fastening elements 48 and 50 of the respective fastening devices (assuming that the fastening devices are opened). The individual pairs of fastening elements are then pressed together with the sheeting 12 disposed between them and this securely locks the neck piece or tie band assembly to the sheet 12 to render the cape assembly 10 ready for use.

20 In accordance with this invention, the sheet 12 is formed from an inexpensive film material such as cellophane, polyethylene, one of the cellulose esters, such as cellulose acetate, a polyvinyl acetate or chloride or copolymer of both and the sheet should be made as thin as possible so that there will be minimum expense per square foot. I have found that a sheet formed from polyethylene having a thickness of 2 mils or less (one mil equals .001 inch) is very well suitable for purposes of this invention. However, all of the materials mentioned, when in sheet form having a thickness on the order of that specified, are sufficiently thin and flexible to avoid interference with the locking action of fastening devices 46.

25 The neck piece assembly may be formed from a suitable flexible material such as cloth or some suitable plastic, and it is intended that the tie band assembly or neck piece will be more or less permanently retained for repeated use while the sheet 12 is to be disposed of after it is soiled and/or damaged.

30 Thus, when a patron is to be treated, a sheet 12 may be attached to the tie band or neck piece assembly 16 by inserting same within the mouth 44 of the neckline portion of assembly 16, and past the elements 48 and 50 of the fastener devices, after which the fastener devices are closed by pressing their respective elements together. The sheet and tie band or neck piece assembly then form the cape assembly 10 which may be applied about the back and shoulders of the patron, the tie bands 30 then being tied together to secure the cape assembly in place. After the patron has been treated, the cape assembly is removed by untying the bands 30, after which the fastening devices 46 may be separated to remove the sheet 12 (if it is to be replaced) to ready the tie band or neck piece assembly for receiving the next sheet 12.

35 It will thus be seen that I have provided a cape assembly which is best adapted for effecting the disposability now desired by beauty salon operators and the like. Since the sheet 12 carries no fastening devices or elements whatsoever, and is merely a single sheet of film-like material having a cape-like shape, no real economic loss is incurred by disposing of same after one use. The fastening devices are affixed to and form part of the tie band or neck piece assembly which may be inexpensively cleaned due to its diminutive size. Furthermore, the tie band or neck piece assembly need only be infrequently cleaned since its position about the neck of the patron prevents it from becoming readily soiled.

One of the most salient features of the invention is its low cost. This device can be profitably marketed for only a fraction of the cost of conventional disposable capes.

I contemplate that the tie band assembly 16 may be employed as part of an apron assembly in which the sheet 12 is given the form of an apron and the assembly 16 is proportional for tying about one's waist.

The thickness of sheeting 12 is preferably in the range of 1/2-2 mils as sheeting having thicknesses in this range provided the economy factor I desire with sufficient body to withstand a reasonable amount of use but without interfering with the operation of the snap devices. Sheet- ing in the indicated thickness range is also light and com- fortable to wear while having sufficient body to readily be spread out over the patron's person.

The foregoing description and the drawings are given merely to explain and illustrate my invention and the invention is not to be limited thereto, except insofar as the appended claims are so limited, since those skilled in the art who have my disclosure before them will be able to make modifications and variations therein with- out departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A protective cape assembly for beauty salon patrons and the like, said cape assembly comprising a single sheet of disposable imperforate film having a uniform thickness in the range of one-half to two mils, said sheet being formed to define a cape having a neckline portion, and a tie band device comprising an elongated member hav- ing a central neckline portion and a tie band affixed to each end of said central portion, said central portion comprising two elongate layers of flexible material se- cured in juxtaposition along one longitudinally extending edge of said tie band device to define an elongate pocket that opens along and lengthwise of the other longitudi- nally extending edge of said tie band device, said neck- line portion of said sheet having a length on the order of the length of said pocket, said central portion of said tie band device having affixed to the sides of said layers that face each other in said side pocket spaced snap fas- tener devices, said snap fastener devices each comprising a pair of complementary male and female locking ele- ments affixed to the respective layers in opposed relation,

said sheet being secured to said tie band device by said neckline portion of said sheet being interposed within said pockets in laid out relation and between the respective elements of each of said snap fastener device with the respective elements of said snap fastener devices closed in interlocking relation.

2. A protective cape assembly for beauty salon patrons and the like, said cape assembly comprising a single sheet of disposable unpleated plastic material having a thick- ness in the range of one-half to two mils, said sheet in plan having a generally quadrilateral configuration with one of the sides thereof being formed with a re-entrant angle portion defining an arcuate neckline portion adapted to be received about the neck of the user, and a tie band device comprising an elongated member having a central neckline portion and a tie band affixed to each end of said central portion, said central portion comprising two elongate layers of flexible material secured in juxtaposi- tion along one longitudinally extending edge of said tie band device to define an elongate pocket that opens along and lengthwise of the other longitudinally extending edge of said tie band device, said neckline portion of said sheet having a length on the order of the length of said pocket, said central portion of said tie band device having affixed to the sides of said layers that face each other inside said pocket spaced pairs of snap fastener devices, said snap fastener devices each comprising a pair of complementary male and female locking elements affixed to the respective layers in opposed relation, said sheet being secured to said tie band device by said neckline portion of said sheet being interposed within said pocket in laid out relation and between the respective elements of each of said snap fastener devices with the respective elements of said snap fastener devices closed in interlocking relation.

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