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HEAT SHIELD

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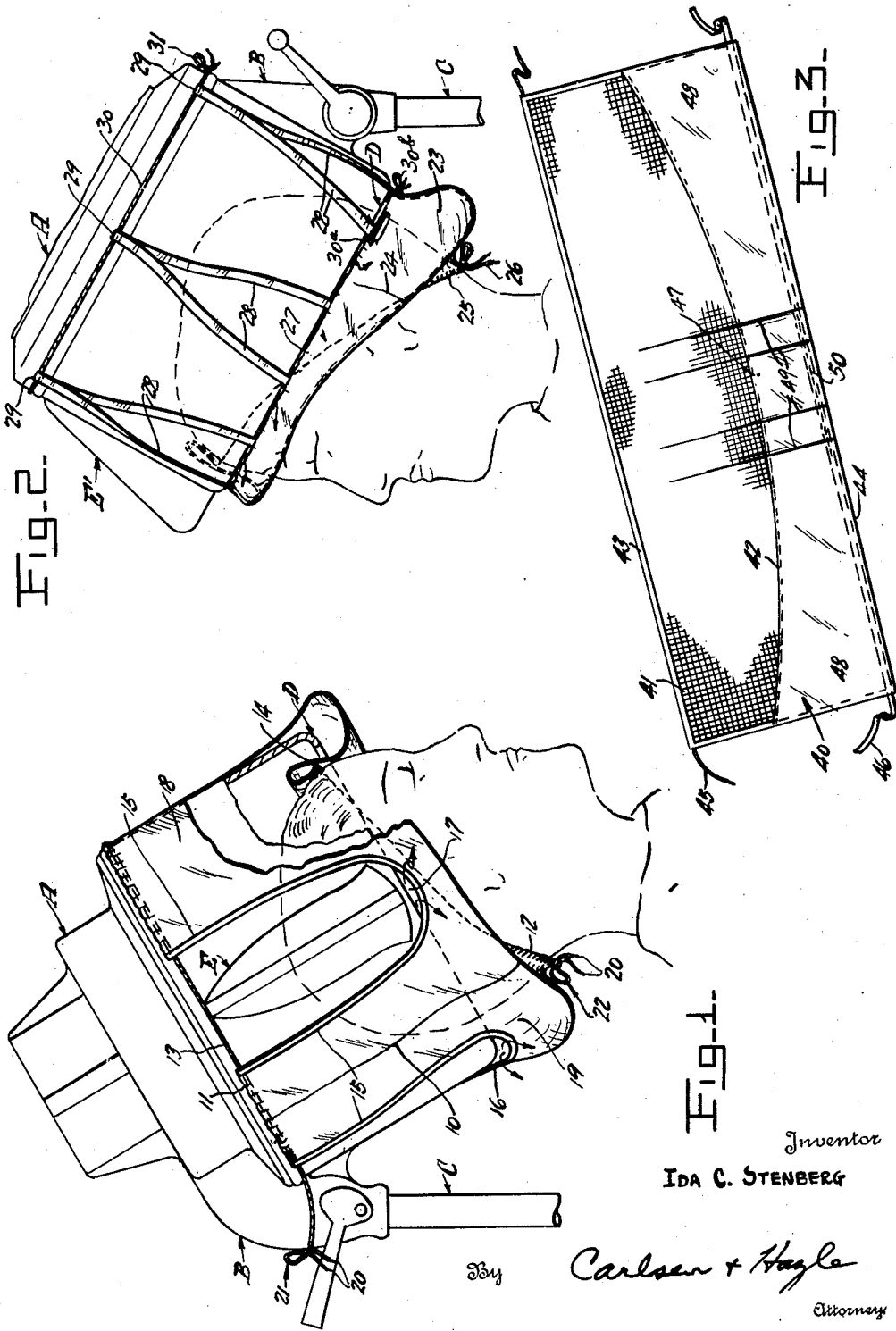


FIG. 1-
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HEAT SHIELD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 34-90)

My invention relates to improvements in heat shields for hair dryers and the primary object is to provide a device by means of which the face and body of the customer may be protected from the hot air currents circulated by the dryers used in beauty shops, without in any way interfering with the normal drying effect of the air currents upon the hair itself.

Another object is to provide a device of this nature adapted for use upon hair dryers of all known models and types, capable of being readily applied thereto and removed for cleaning or replacement, and of such nature that it may be adjusted on the customer's head without requiring undue time on the part of the beauty operator.

Still another and important object is to provide a device of this kind having means for the escape or relief of excess hot air where necessary but with such release means so located that the air thus allowed to escape will be prevented from striking the face, neck or body of the user.

These and other more detailed and specific objects will be disclosed in the course of the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a dryer showing my device adjusted upon the dryer and a customer and with certain parts broken away and in section to better disclose the arrangement of the device in use.

Fig. 2 is a similar view but showing a different type of dryer and another form of my device in use thereon.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of one form of my shield spread out flatly or as a blank.

It is found in practice, and the fact is well known in the art, that the hot air from a hair dryer, although it is recirculated, will to some extent at least escape and flow down over the face and body of the person using the dryer. This is an undesirable feature since this air is extremely uncomfortable, particularly in the summer months, and furthermore represents a waste causing, it is believed, increased operating cost to replace and heat the air and a loss in time since the escaping air has little drying effect on the hair.

In all its various forms my invention has the common function of so hooding or capping the user's head that the hot air flowing outwardly from the dryer around the head is confined and caused to either recirculate into the dryer or to escape at a point immediately adjacent the dryer rim and thus well clear of the face and neck. To

this end all forms of the invention include a somewhat annular, imperforate lower member or portion adapted to fit around the head near the hair line of the user and to be adjustably retained in place by an elastic lower edge or band; and means at the upper edge to attach the member to the dryer, said attaching means being in one way or another of perforate or openwork form in order that the air may escape but in such manner that the air will be directed outwardly clear of the wearer. Obviously the imperforate portion of the shield will in use flare outward around the head allowing free access of the hot air to all parts of the hair and scalp and accelerating the drying action thereon.

Referring now more particularly and by reference characters to the drawing, in Fig. 1 thereof I show a hair dryer having a hood A of a well known type adjustably supported by a tilting connection or neck B atop a stand C in such manner that the open lower end or rim D may be lowered over the upper portion of the customer's head as clearly shown. This dryer is of a modern type having on opposite sides the outwardly extended housings, one of which is shown at E, for a heat control switch and reading lamp (neither shown).

For use in connection with this dryer my heat shield or protective device is formed of an elongated, rectangular length of flexible imperforate material such as a fabric treated to close its interstices and to facilitate washing or cleaning. This piece or blank is formed into an annular shape by fastening its narrow ends together as represented at 10 so that the longer edges, now serving as top and bottom, assume an annular shape well adapted to fit around the dryer A and the user's head. These edges, designated (upper and lower) at 11 and 12 respectively, are folded over to receive upper and lower elastic bands or cords 13 and 14 which constrict the edges in a well known manner.

The intended upper portion of the fabric hood or piece thus formed is provided with openings which extend from a point spaced from the opposite lower edge upwardly to and through the upper edge, these openings being marginally reinforced, if necessary, by bindings 15 and being, as a preference, three in number. For the dryer shown, one opening 16 is then disposed at the rear to clear the stand connection B and two opposite openings, one shown at 17, are placed to clear the aforesaid housings E. The upper portion 18 of the device thus takes on an open or perforate form while the narrower lower portion

19 being uncut is completely impervious to the air.

The upper and lower elastic bands 13 and 14 extend at their ends clear of the respective edges 11 and 12 of the shield and may be provided with metal tips 20 to facilitate their insertion through the folded edges.

In practice the upper portion 18 of the shield is placed upwardly and around the dryer A so that the openings 16 and 17 clear the obstructions formed by the connection B and housings E and the upper elastic band 13 encircles the dryer near its upper edge. This band may then be stretched tightly and tied at the rear as represented at 21 to hold the shield firmly in place. The lower edge portion 19 of the shield then hangs below the dryer but it may be turned upwardly over the dryer and held by the lower elastic band 14 when not in use.

To then put the device to use the lower edge portion 19 is pulled down and the edge 12 placed around the wearer's head so that it follows the hair line substantially and the elastic 14 is then tied as designated at 22. This edge is of course adjusted both as to position and tightness to afford the greatest comfort and then the dryer is lowered over the wearer's head to about the usual position as shown. In so doing, the lower edge of the shield is carried upwardly somewhat into the drier so that the surrounding imperforate lower edge portion 19 assumes an outwardly, downwardly and then upwardly flaring or bulging position entirely around the head.

With the dryer in operation, the hot air currents may now play freely over the hair, which is entirely exposed to their effects, and the air will tend to flare or bulge the lower edge portion 19 of the shield outwardly but not to such extent as to cover the eyes of the wearer, the air being of course prevented from escaping around the face and neck by the imperviousness of the shield. As a matter of fact the air will be turned or recirculated back into the dryer to thus effect a saving in operating and heating costs and at the same time to hasten the drying operation by the increased circulation over all the hair and scalp.

Any excess of air may, however, escape through the openings 16 and 17 which for this purpose are adjusted so that at lower ends they just downwardly clear the lower edge or rim D of the dryer. Any air thus escaping, as represented by the small arrows in the drawing, will be thrown outwardly and prevented from flowing downwardly in contact with the wearer's face and neck by the outward flare of the lower portion of the shield as well as by the fact that the air is thus discharged well outward from the head.

In Fig. 2 I illustrate a slightly different type of dryer at A having, instead of the side housings E, a single frontal housing E' for the heat control switch or lamp. The dryer is supported by a connection B on the stand C and has the marginal lower edge or rim D as heretofore described.

For use on this, or any other dryer, my shield may also take the form shown in Fig. 2 in which a narrow elongated strip or piece of imperforate material is used to form the lower portion 23 and is fastened together at its narrow ends as at 24. The lower edge 25 is folded to enclose the lower elastic band or cord 26 while the upper edge 27 is bound and has secured at spaced points thereto the lower ends of strips or straps 28. These straps are secured at one end, turned upwardly and then

downwardly and secured to the edge 27 at a spaced point by their other ends and the loops or bights 29 thus formed at upper ends of the straps receive the upper elastic band 30.

This elastic band 30 is tied at 31 around the dryer A so that the straps 28 extend downwardly and support the upper edge 27 of the member 23 just clear of, or below, the rim D. The open work formation of these straps thus permits them to be arranged to clear the housing E' and connection B, as well as any other obstructions which may be on the dryer, and furthermore the straps reduce the weight and bulk of the shield as a whole.

In use the lower edge 25 of the portion 23 of the shield is fastened around the wearer's head and the device then functions exactly as previously described, protecting the face and neck from the hot air and permitting the escape of the excess air over the upper edge 27 as indicated by the arrows.

If desired or required the upper edge 27 of the member 23 may also be provided with an elastic band or cord 30^a which may be adjusted and tied as designated at 30^b to prevent this edge from flaring out too greatly under influence of the hot air issuing from the dryer. At the same time the elasticity is such as to permit the member 23 to be turned up over the dryer hood when not in use. A third or intermediate elastic of this nature may of course be used in connection with any of the various modifications of my shield.

Referring to Fig. 3, I show in the flat or blank form therein a shield comprising an imperforate or fabric lower portion 40 and reticulated upper portion 41 fastened together along a meeting line 42. Upper and lower folded edges 43 and 44 receive the elastic bands 45 and 46. Here the portion 40 is not of the same width throughout, being narrower at the center 47 than toward the ends 48 to thus curve the meeting line 42 between the two kinds of material. The narrow center portion 47 is arranged at the front over the forehead of the wearer thus providing the greatest protection, due to the wider ends 48, at the back where most needed. In use this shield is formed to proper shape by bringing its narrow ends together and connecting the bands 45 and 46, after which it is used as are the shields of Figs. 1 and 2.

Here also the forward or forehead engaging part of the imperforate lower portion 40 is folded to form pleats as shown at 49 and the lower elastic band 46 (being flat in this case) is sewed tight as at 50 along this part in order that the gathering caused by contraction of the material on the band will be prevented. The edge is thus smooth at all times for greatest comfort and to prevent the forming of unsightly creases across the forehead. This type of shield may be used where the dryer has no obstructions on its outer surface.

It is understood that suitable modifications may be made in the structure as disclosed, provided such modifications come within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. Having now therefore fully illustrated and described my invention, what I claim to be new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A shield for protecting the face and neck from the hot air in a hair dryer hood, comprising a flexible imperforate shield member of substantially cylindrical shape having open upper and lower ends, an elastic gathering means for

fastening said lower end over the user's head, an upper fastening means encircling the dryer hood above the shield member, and elongated straps folded at their centers and secured at said folds to the upper fastening means, the ends of said straps depending in diverging relation from their folded centers and being secured to the upper end of the shield member.

2. A shield for protecting the face and neck from the hot air in a hair dryer hood, comprising a flexible imperforate shield member of substantially cylindrical shape having open upper

and lower ends, an elastic gathering means for fastening said lower end over the user's head, an upper fastening means adapted for positioning around the dryer hood above the shield member, and elongated straps folded at mid-portions and secured at said folds to the said upper fastening means, the ends of the straps depending from the folds and being attached to the shield member to support the same below the dryer hood.

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