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Meltzer

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[54] **RING-LIKE HEADWEAR ORNAMENT**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** A42C 5/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** 2/171; 2/207;
2/DIG. 11

[58] **Field of Search** 2/1, 171, 174, 207,
2/311, DIG. 11; 59/78, 79.1, 80, 82, 83; 63/3, 4,
5.1, 11; 87/13; 132/273, 275; D2/894, 895;
D11/3, 4, 5, 6, 93

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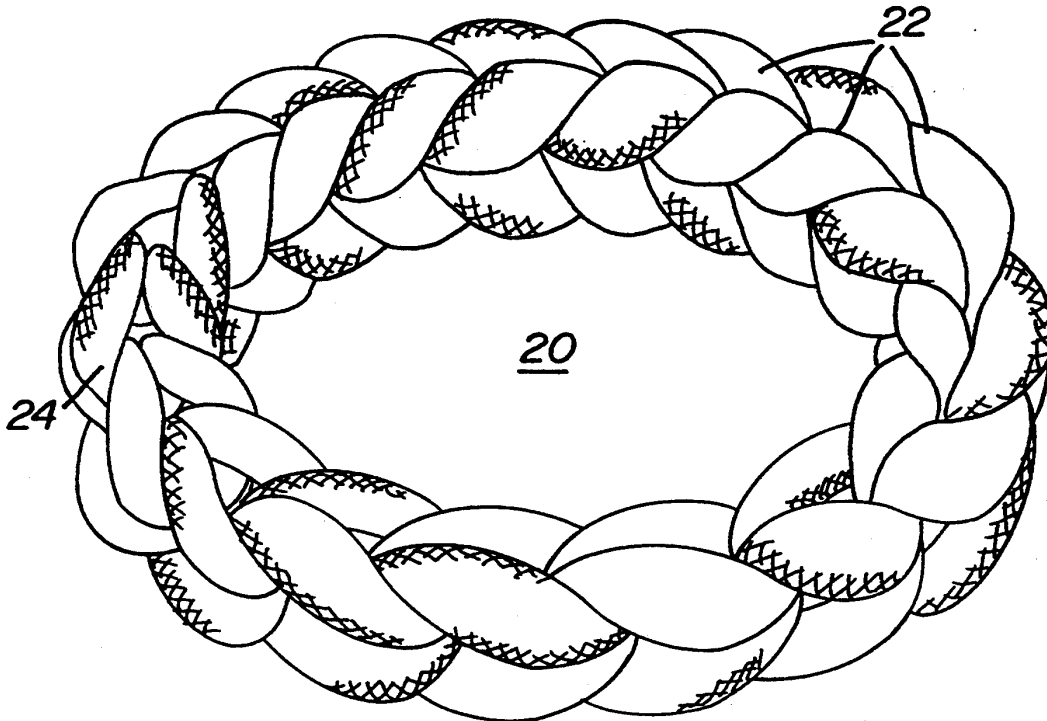
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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein,
Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An ornament, e.g., a hair band, headband, hat band, etc., and method of making it. The ornament comprises a plurality of looped links and a looped connecting member. Each of the looped links is formed of a flexible, somewhat elastic, e.g., knitted, material in the nominal shape of a toroidal loop, but bent into a shape having a bridging midsection and a pair of openings on each side of the bridging midsection. The looped connecting member is in the form of a loop of the same material and has a central opening. The looped links are interconnected with one another so that the bridging midsection of one looped link extends through the openings in the immediately adjacent looped link to form an elongated chain-link strip having a pair of ends. One of the ends of the chain-linked strip comprising the looped connecting member and the other end comprises the looped link forming that end. The looped connecting member is extended through the open ends of the looped link forming the other end of the chain-linked strip and is folded back over itself and secured, e.g., glued, to a portion of it to convert the chain-link strip into a ring. The looped connecting member simulates the shape of the other looped links of the ring.

17 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



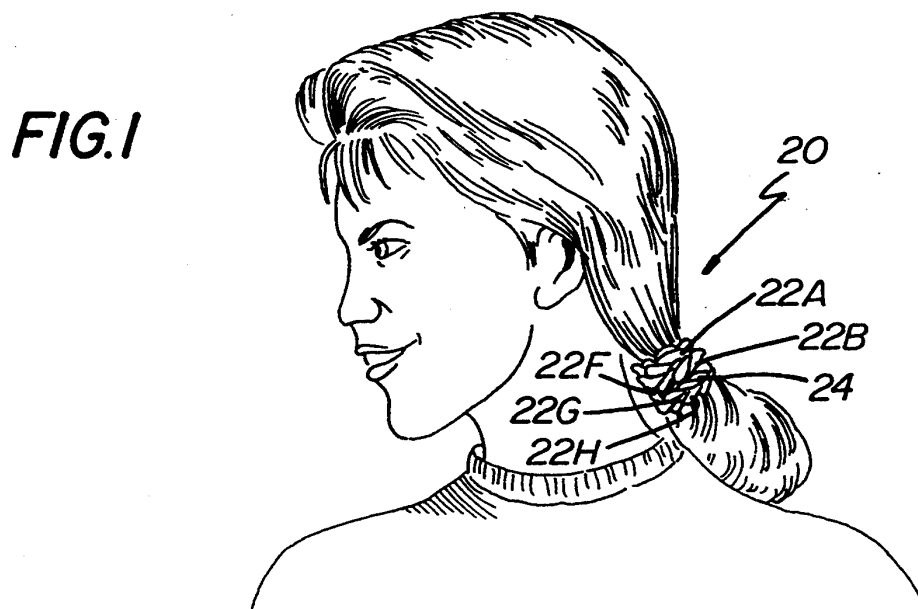
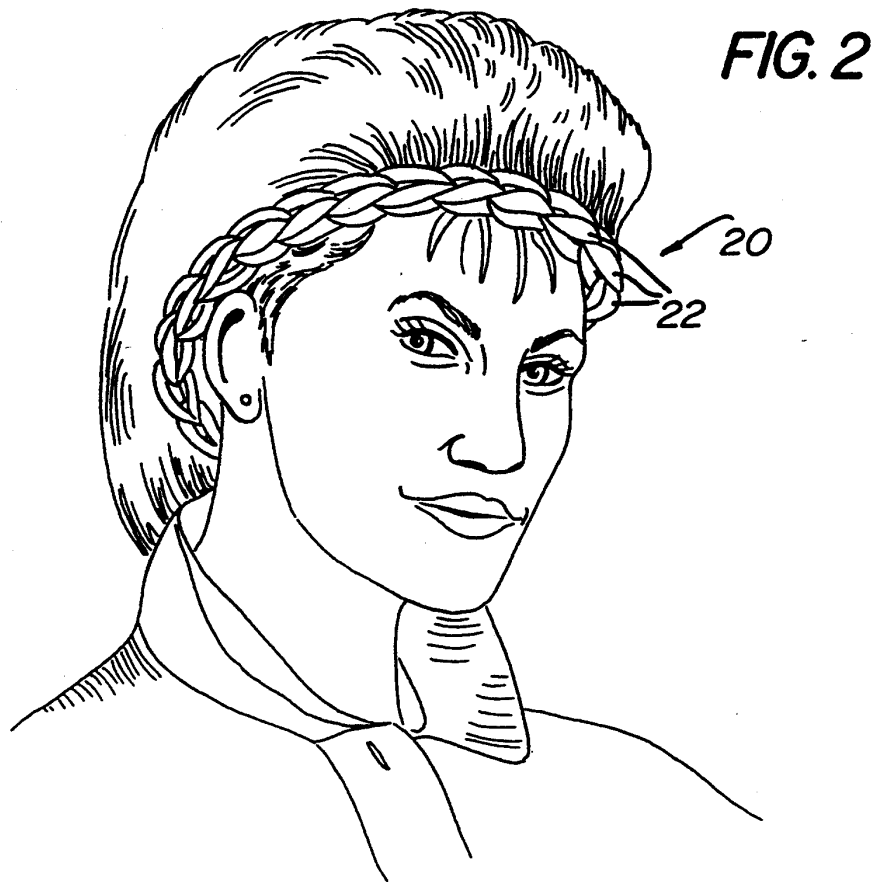


FIG. 3

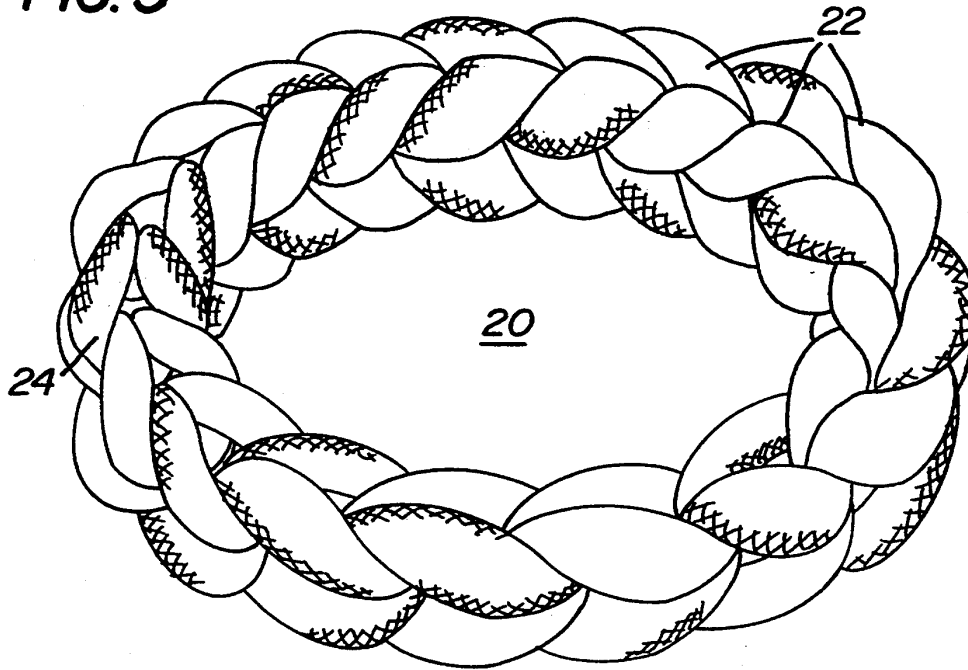
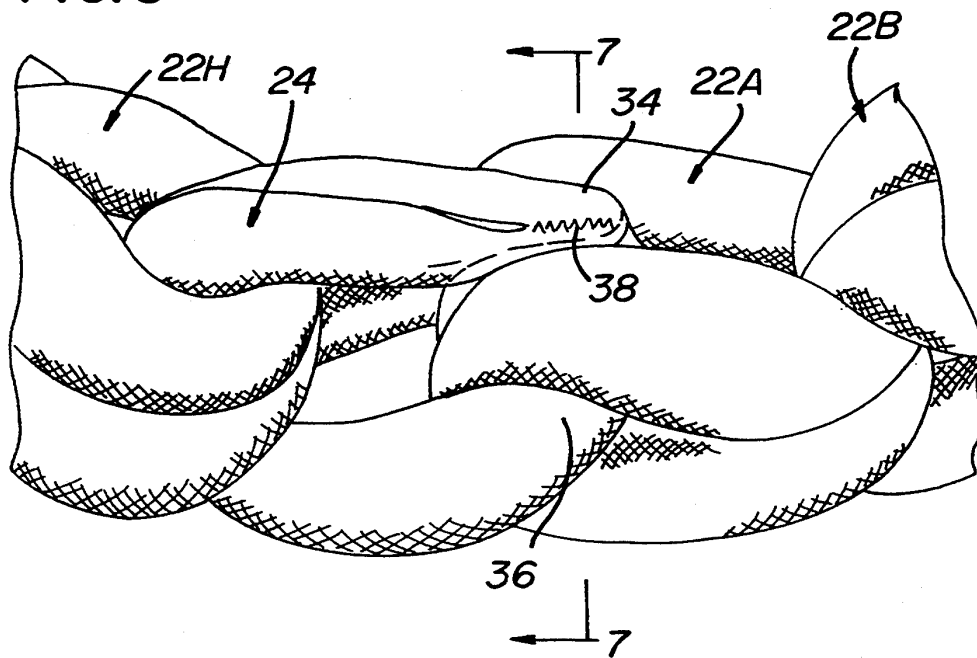
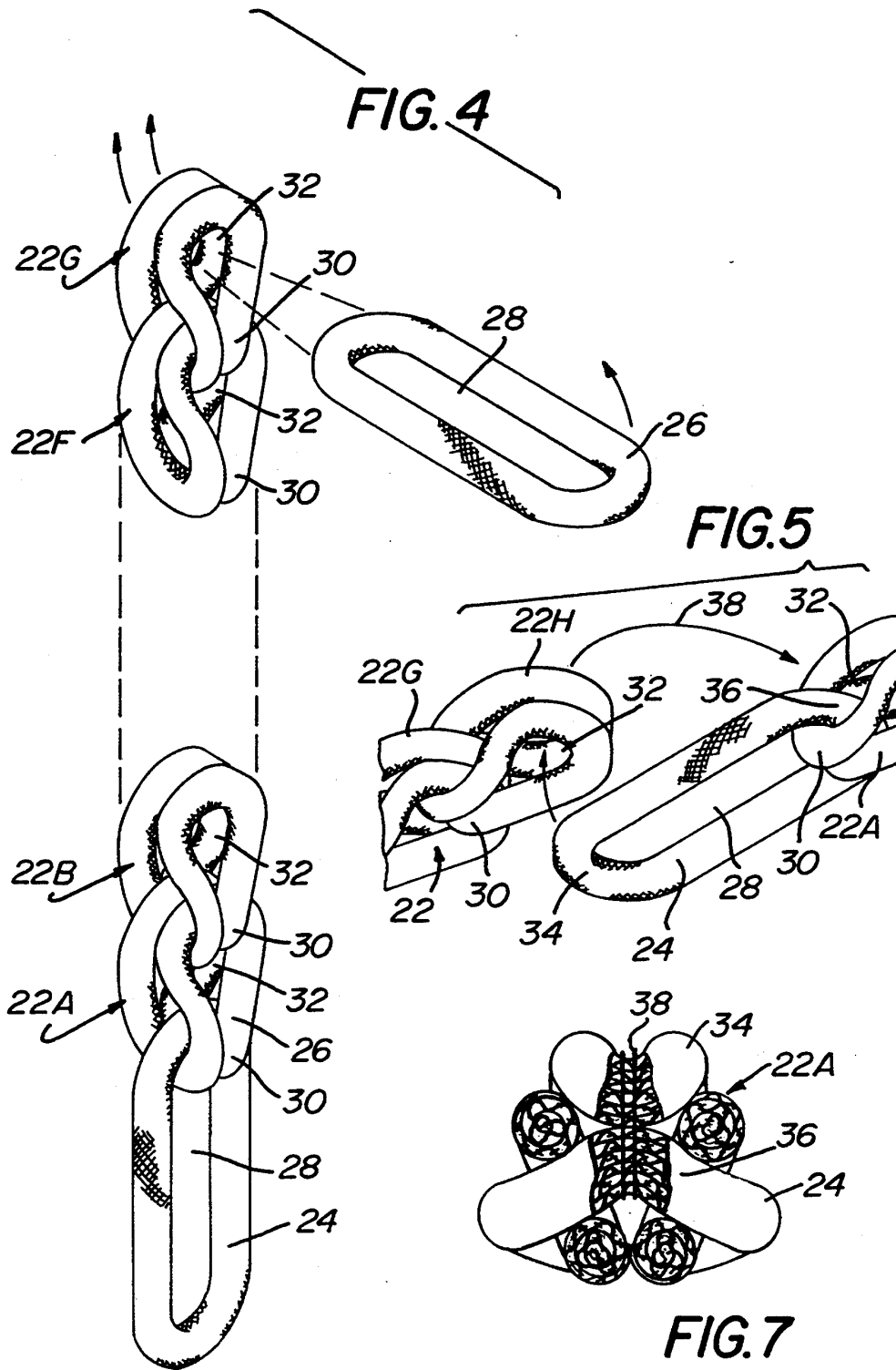


FIG. 6





RING-LIKE HEADWEAR ORNAMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to hair ornaments, and more particularly to devices for holding hair, e.g., a ponytail holder, or to be worn on the head as a headband or on a hat as a hat band.

Various elastic rings are commercially available for use as ponytail holders and some are the subject of United States Letters Patent. For example in U.S. Pat. No. 292,030 (Revson) there is shown a gathered fabric ring for holding a pony tail. Commercially available devices bearing that patent number are constructed utilizing a generously sized ring of a decorative fabric and having an elastic ring disposed therein to cause the fabric ring to gather into many folds. Resulting ring can then be used directly or twisted up into a "figure 8" configuration to hold strands of gathered hair, e.g., a ponytail.

In U.S. Pat. No. 5,156,171 (Goodman) there is disclosed a ponytail holder which is formed of a relatively wide fabric ring having a tubular annulus around a central hole, and an elastic ring having a portion that is readily grasped, as by having a knob, such as a bead, for pulling a loop of the elastic ring outside of the fabric ring. The fabric ring with its contained portion of the elastic ring, can encircle a pony tail once and grip the pony tail and the loop of the elastic ring outside the fabric ring can encircle the pony tail separately.

In U.S. Pat. No. 5,044,385 (Rhodes) there is disclosed a ponytail holder comprising an endless planar elastic band and at least one flattened hollow tube of a flexible material and having mutually interconnecting end edges. The flattened tube is interconnected to the elastic band along the axial length of the tube and the band while the band is in an expanded or stretched condition. The hollow tube includes radially inwardly directed cut edges extending through less than the width of the tube to form two ply radially outwardly extending members which simulate petals of a flower.

While the aforementioned patents appear generally suitable for their intended purposes, e.g., to hold the strands of hair forming a pony tail, the never the less leave something to be desired from one or more of the following standpoints, aesthetic appeal, effectiveness, ruggedness or resistance to damage from repeated usage, ease of manufacture, cost.

Hence, a need presently exists for a hair/head ornament which address those deficiencies of the prior art.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is a general object of this invention to provide a hair/head ornament which overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a hair/head ornament which is aesthetically pleasing.

It is still a further object of this invention to provide a hair/head ornament which is easy to make.

It is still a further object of this invention to provide a hair/head ornament which can be manufactured at a relatively low cost.

It is yet a further object of this invention to provide a hair/head ornament which is of rugged construction to be resistant to damage from repeated usage.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These and other objects of this invention are achieved by providing a ring-like ornament, e.g., a hair band, headband, hat band, etc., for wearing on a portion of a person and a method of making the ornament.

The ornament comprises a plurality of looped links and a looped connecting member. Each of the looped links is formed of an flexible, somewhat elastic material in the nominal shape of a loop but bent into a shape having a bridging midsection and a pair of openings on each side of the bridging midsection. The looped connecting member is in the form of a loop having a central opening.

The looped links are interconnected with one another so that the bridging midsection of one looped link extends through the openings in the immediately adjacent looped link to form an elongated chain-link strip having a pair of ends. One of the ends of the chain-linked strip comprises the looped connecting member. The other of the ends of the strip comprises a pair of openings of the looped link forming that other end.

The looped connecting member is bent into a shape having a free end which is extended through the openings of the looped link forming the other of the ends of the chain-linked strip and is bent over itself and secured by securement means to another portion of it to connect the ends of the chain-link strip and thereby form a ring-like ornament and so that the looped connecting member is shaped to simulate the shape of the looped links.

The method of the making the ornament entails providing a looped connecting member and a plurality of looped links formed of an flexible, somewhat elastic material in the nominal shape of a loop. The looped connecting member has a central opening and is formed of the same material as the looped links. The looped links are connected together by supporting the looped connecting member, squeezing a first looped link together to flatten it somewhat and passing the flattened first looped link within the central opening of the looped connecting member. Then the first looped link is opened within the looped connecting member in a manner so that the first looped link includes a bridging midsection extending through the central opening in the looped connecting member and a pair of end openings extending outside of the looped connecting member. Then a second looped link is squeezed together to flatten it somewhat and the flattened second looped link is passed within the extending end openings of the first looped link. This procedure is continued until a predetermined number of looped links are connected together to form a chain-link strip.

The chain-linked strip has a first end defined by the looped connecting member and a second end defined by a looped link having a bridging midsection and a pair of end openings.

The looped connecting member is then grasped to flatten a portion of it and to extend the flattened portion of it through the end openings of the looped link forming the second end of the chain-linked strip. The flattened portion of the looped connecting member is bent over itself and secured to the portion thereof which extends through the end openings of the first looped link. This action thereby interconnects the linked loops and forms a closed ring while causing the looped connecting member to simulate the appearance of the looped links of the ring, so that the entire ring looks like it is formed of serially connected looped links.

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