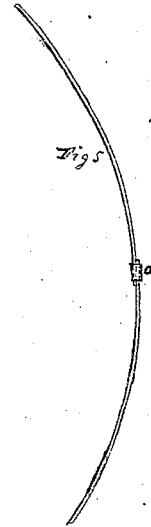
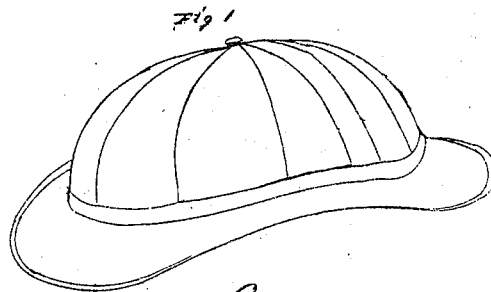


*S. Collin,
Hat.*

No. 44,939.

Patented Nov. 8. 1854.



Smith Collin
Inventor

By his atty

John E. Esch

Witnesses.

*Chas. M. Jacobs
 Rufus Sanford*

Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SMITH COLLINS, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPRING-BRIM HATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,939, dated November 8, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SMITH COLLINS, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hats; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a perspective view of a hat with my improvement in its construction; Figs. 2 and 3, cross sections of the hoop, enlarged; and in Figs. 4 and 5; the manner of joining the two ends of the hoop.

My invention has for its object to improve that class of hats made from fabrics; and it consists in inserting in the brim a hoop of corrugated or concavo-convex steel wire, instead of the round or flat wire generally used, whereby the weight of the hat is very much reduced and the form of the brim improved.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct hats with my improvement, I will proceed to fully describe the same, in connection with the accompanying drawings.

I first roll the wire for my hoops very thin, using such size wire as will roll about one-half the thickness and the usual width of the wire generally used, and consequently my wire is but about one-half the usual weight of wire rolled for hoops. I then pass the wire thus rolled between rolls formed for the purpose to corrugate it, as shown in section, Fig. 2, much enlarged, or concavo-convex, as in Fig. 3, also equally enlarged. I prefer the concavo-convex, after which, temper in the usual manner. By this form the wire attains a lateral spring, which cannot be had in ordinary flat wire, and which adds materially to

the graceful curvature of the brim. I cut the wire into proper lengths and unite the two ends by a single clasp, *a*, as in Figs. 4 and 5, the convex side of one end fitting into the concave side of the other end. (See Fig. 4.) A very short clasp is therefore required, as this form prevents them from turning upon each other, whereas in clasping flat wire, one broad clasp or two are required to perform the same duty—another saving in the use of my invention. Thus clasped, the hoop is ready to insert in the brim of the hat. I place it at the edge, closing the fabric over it, and binding, in the usual manner, as for flat or round wire. One hoop is all that is required to give form to and retain that form in the brim. Thus I produce a hat much lighter and with a more flexible rim than can be practically made with flat wire. To prevent the wire from rusting, I galvanize, or jappan, or otherwise coat it, and, if deemed advisable, the wire may be covered in the usual manner by braiding-machines; but I prefer it without covering.

Having therefore fully described my invention, I do not broadly claim the employment of steel or other wire for the purpose of giving to or retaining the form of hat brims, as such is not new; but

I do claim as of my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A hat constructed of flexible material, its rim extended and form retained by means of one or more concavo-convex or corrugated steel hoops, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

SMITH COLLINS.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,
RUFUS SANFORD.