

PATENT SPECIFICATION

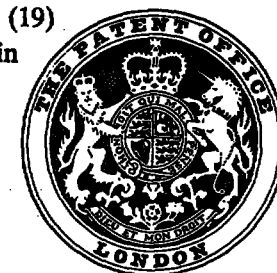
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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN WIG ANCHORAGE

(71) We, KABUSHIKI KAISHA ADERANS, a joint-stock company duly organized under the laws of Japan, of No. 17-5, 3-chome, Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a Patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

The present invention relates to improvements in wig anchorage, and particularly, but not exclusively, to anchorage of a toupee (hereinafter referred to as a wig) for covering a thinly-haired portion of the head or a bald area from which hair has been lost.

The wig for covering up a thinly-haired portion or bald area is well known and is usually anchored to the head by means of an adhesive applied directly to an inner surface of the wig, by means of a velvet type fastener or by fastening the wig to hair growing around the periphery of the bald area. The present invention is concerned with improvements in the latter anchoring technique.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a wig anchoring member to be positioned on an inner surface of a wig body, said anchoring member including a flexible curved member the direction of curvature of which is reversible as a result of flexion, and a plurality of pectinate projections on the flexible curved member having free ends movable towards or away from the flexible curved member having free ends movable towards or away from the flexible curved member as a result of said flexion in alternate directions so that, in use, flexion in one direction will cause hair of the user to be gripped between the projections and the flexible curved member whereby to retain the wig on the user's head, and subsequent flexion in the opposite direction will cause the projections to release the hair to enable the wig to be removed.

Preferably, the flexible curved member includes two legs of which one supports the projections and the other of which includes a gripping surface towards which the free ends of the projections move during flexion of the flexible curved member in said one direction. The legs may be formed from resilient metal sheet, and the projections may be formed from resilient metal wire. The projections are preferably corrugated to improve the grip of the projections on the user's hair. The free end of each projection may be of part spherical form and the other end flattened and attached to the flexible curved member.

The gripping surface is preferably defined by a resilient layer of material such as an oil-resistant rubber tube fitted over said other leg of the flexible curved member.

If desired, the flexible curved member and projections may be integral and formed from resilient synthetic plastics material.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a wig comprising a body having hair on an outer surface thereof, and a plurality of anchoring members on an inner surface thereof, each said anchoring member including a flexible curved member the direction of curvature of which is reversible as a result of flexion, and a plurality of pectinate projections on the flexible curved member having free ends movable towards or away from the flexible curved member as a result of said flexion in alternate directions so that, in use, flexion in one direction will cause hair of the user to be gripped between the projections and the flexible curved member whereby to retain the wig on the user's head, and subsequent flexion in the opposite direction will cause the projections to release the hair to enable the wig to be removed.

A wig and anchoring member in accordance with the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the

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accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view showing a preferred form of wig according to the invention;

5 Figure 2 is a partially enlarged plan view of an anchoring member mounted on the wig of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side view showing the anchoring member of Figure 2 in an open position;

10 Figure 4 is a side view showing the anchoring member of Figure 2 in a closed position;

Figure 5 is a plan view showing an alternative form of anchoring member in accordance with the invention;

15 Figure 6 is an underplan view of the anchoring member shown in Figure 5; and

Figure 7 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along line A-A in Figure 5.

20 Referring firstly to Figures 1 to 4, a wig 1 has a wig body 2 formed either from a soft synthetic resin material of suitable thickness or an alternative material such as highly flexible cloth. A plurality of anchoring

25 members 3 are provided in the inner surface of the wig body 2 at desired positions. The wig body 2 has hairs 4 grafted on to its outer surface and is designed so that it will be difficult to tell from its appearance, when in

30 use, whether it is covering up a bald or thinly-haired area of the head. As shown in Figure 2, the anchoring

35 members 3 are mounted on the periphery of the wig body 2 either by bonding their ends to the wig body 2 by means of an adhesive or by stitching the ends to the wig body. Each

40 anchoring member 3 comprises a flexible curved member 5. A plurality of projections 6 are connected pectinately to one leg piece

45 5a of said member 5, and a gripping surface 7 is formed on another leg piece 5b of the member 5. The projections 6 can be made to engage or disengage the gripping surface 7 by

flexing the member 5 so that it moves from the position shown in Figure 3 to the position shown in Figure 4 or *vice versa*.

The member 5 is preferably a thin plate formed from a highly flexible metal sheet or

50 from synthetic resin material which will remain in the position into which it is urged during flexion. That is, when upward finger-pressure is applied to the central portion of the member 5 when in the Figure 4 position,

the central portion moves upwardly to the Figure 3 position and the direction of

55 curvature of the member 5 is thereby reversed. When subsequent downward finger-pressure is applied to the central portion of the member 5, the central portion

60 moves downwardly and the member 5 resumes the Figure 4 configuration.

The reversing characteristic of the member 5 is achieved by forming the aforesaid thin plate into a U-shaped configuration, and

65 overlapping its free ends before joining them

together. The projections 6 are formed by bending or twisting a springy material such as steel wire, and by fixing end portions thereof to the leg piece 5a by solvent welding or by means of synthetic resin adhesive so as to leave the free ends overlying the leg piece

70 5b.

As shown in Figure 5 or 6, the projections 6 may instead be formed by cutting a springy

75 metallic material such as steel wire into the required number of given lengths, forming one end of each wire into a generally spherical configuration, and expanding and flattening

80 its other end. Each wire 6 is formed with corrugations in the plane of flexing (see Figure 7). A plurality of such projections are

85 pectinately secured to the member 5 by their expanded and flattened ends by solvent welding. Attachment pieces 8 are provided at

each end of the member 5 for attachment to the wig body 2. The use of the Figures 5 and 6 construction improves the anchorage of the

90 wig on the user's head since the user's hair will follow the corrugations in the wires 6.

Conveniently the gripping surface 7 may be defined by an oil-resistant rubber tube

95 fitted over the leg piece 5b as shown in Figures 5 and 6.

If desired, the entire anchoring member 3 may be formed from a synthetic resin

100 material, the projections 6 being integral with the member 5 in such a case. Where separate projections are provided, it is simply a matter of choice as to the leg on

105 which the projections and the gripping surface 7 are provided.

In use, each anchoring member 3 is firstly moved into an open position as shown in

110 Figure 3. Thereafter, the wig is placed on the user's head centering around the bald or thin-haired area of the head. Each of the anchoring members is then reversed and

115 thereby closed by applying finger-pressure to both its ends. Therefore, when the wig is put on the user's head with the anchoring members 3 open, the projections 6 and the

120 user's hair intercalate. Subsequent closure of the anchoring member 3 by applying finger-pressures thereto presses the projections 6 against the gripping surface 7 to positively

125 grip the intercalated hairs around the periphery of the bald or thin-haired area. Thus, the wig will not be easily dislodged from the user's head even though the user may perform strenuous exercise.

In order to remove the wig, finger pressure is applied to the central portion of each

130 curved reversible member 5 so as to reverse its curvature. In this manner, the member 5 will move into the Figure 3 position and projections 6 will disengage the gripping surface 7 so as to release the hair.

Thereafter, the wig can be easily removed from the head.

The present invention has various advant-

ages over known wig anchorage techniques in that fitting or removal of the wig is effected by means of touch, and its grip on the user's hair ensures both snug and secure fitting on the head, so that the user can wear the wig without fear of it becoming dislodged even during strenuous exercise.

A wig in accordance with the invention may be used either as a toupee or as a wig for covering a large bald area of the head provided that there is sufficient peripheral hair for gripping by the anchoring members 3.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A wig anchoring member to be positioned on an inner surface of a wig body, said anchoring member including a curved member the direction of curvature of which is reversible as a result of flexion, and a plurality of pectinate projections on the flexible curved member having free ends movable towards or away from the flexible curved member as a result of said flexion in alternate directions so that, in use, flexion in one direction will cause hair of the user to be gripped between the projections and the flexible curved member whereby to retain the wig on the user's head, and subsequent flexion in the opposite direction will cause the projections to release the hair to enable the wig to be removed.

2. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 1, in which the flexible curved member includes two legs of which one supports the projections and the other of which includes a gripping surface towards which the free ends of the projections move during flexion of the flexible curved member in said one direction.

3. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 2, in which the legs are formed from resilient metal sheet and the projections are formed from resilient metal wire.

4. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 2 or 3, in which the projections are corrugated to improve the grip of the projections on the user's hair.

5. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 3 or 4, in which the free end of each projection is of part-spherical form, and the other end is flattened and attached to the flexible curved member.

6. A wig anchoring member, according to any of Claims 2 to 5, in which the gripping surface is defined by a resilient layer of material.

7. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 6, in which the resilient layer of material comprises an oil-resistant rubber tube fitted over said other leg of the flexible curved member.

8. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the flexible curved member and projections are integral and formed from resilient synthetic plastics material.

9. A wig anchoring member, according to any of Claims 2 to 8, in which the two legs are joined together at their ends and are arranged to be secured at their ends to the inner surface of the wig.

10. A wig anchoring member, according to any of Claims 3 to 5, in which the metal legs are joined together at their ends and support attachment pieces by which the flexible curved member is to be secured to the inner surface of the wig.

11. A wig anchoring member constructed and arranged substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 to 4 or Figures 5 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.

12. A wig comprising a body having hair on an outer surface thereof, and a plurality of anchoring members on an inner surface thereof, each said anchoring member including a flexible curved member the direction of curvature of which is reversible as a result of flexion, and a plurality of pectinate projections on the flexible curved member having free ends movable towards or away from the flexible curved member as a result of said flexion in alternate directions so that, in use, flexion in one direction will cause hair of the user to be gripped between the projections and the flexible curved member whereby to retain the wig on the user's head, and subsequent flexion in the opposite direction will cause the projections to release the hair to enable the wig to be removed.

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3. A wig anchoring member, according to Claim 2, in which the legs are formed from resilient metal sheet and the projections are formed from resilient metal wire.

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