

force to movement of the filament portion in a second direction tending to shorten the side strap, wherein the first resistance force is greater than the second resistance force.

[0047] In some configurations, the first resistance force is configured to prevent movement of the filament portion in the first direction in response to a blow-off force generated by the respiratory mask.

[0048] In some configurations, the second resistance force is smaller than an elastic force of the inner fabric layer and the outer fabric layer of the side straps such that the elastic force can move the filament portion in the second direction to shorten the side straps.

[0049] In some configurations, the respiratory mask is a nasal mask.

[0050] An aspect of the present disclosure involves a rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear including a unitary body portion comprising a plastic material. The body portion includes an upper strap having a first end, a second end, a length between the first end and the second end, and a width. The body portion also includes a lower strap having a first end, a second end, a length between the first end and the second end, and a width. The rear portion is configured to engage a rearward portion of the user's head. The body portion also includes a junction between the first end of the upper strap and the first end of the lower strap, the junction comprising a base portion and a living hinge between the base portion and one of the upper strap and the lower strap. Each of the upper strap and the lower strap is configured to extend from the junction and around the back of the user's head.

[0051] In some configurations, the living hinge defines a length that is less than a width of the base portion of the junction and/or the width of the respective upper strap or lower strap to which the living hinge is joined.

[0052] In some configurations, the length of the living hinge is less than about two-thirds or one-half of the width of the respective upper strap or lower strap to which the living hinge is joined.

[0053] In some configurations, the living hinge is defined by a slot.

[0054] In some configurations, the junction is symmetrical about an axis passing through the junction and between the upper strap and the lower strap.

[0055] In some configurations, each of the upper strap and the lower strap comprise a main strap portion having a first thickness and at least one flange portion having a second thickness that is smaller than the first thickness, wherein the main strap portion extends along an entirety of the length of the strap from the first junction to the second junction, and wherein the at least one flange portion extends along a substantial portion of the length of the strap.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear, comprising:
a unitary body portion comprising a plastic material, the body portion comprising:
an upper strap having a first end, a second end, a length between the first end and the second end, and a width;
a lower strap having a first end, a second end, a length between the first end and the second end, and a width; and
wherein the rear portion is configured to engage a rearward portion of the user's head;
a junction between the first end of the upper strap and the first end of the lower strap, the junction comprising a base portion and a living hinge between the base portion and one of the upper strap and the lower strap, each of the upper strap and the lower strap being configured to extend from the junction and around the back of the user's head.
2. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of claim 1, wherein the living hinge defines a length that is less than a width of the base portion of the junction and/or the width of the respective upper strap or lower strap to which the living hinge is joined.
3. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of claim 2, wherein the length of the living hinge is less than about two-thirds or one-half of the width of the respective upper strap or lower strap to which the living hinge is joined.
4. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the living hinge is defined by a slot.
5. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the junction is symmetrical about an axis passing through the junction and between the upper strap and the lower strap.
6. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-5, wherein each of the upper strap and the lower strap comprise a main strap portion having a first thickness and at least one flange portion having a second thickness that is smaller than the first thickness, wherein the main strap portion extends along an entirety of the length of the strap from the first junction to the second junction, and wherein the at least one flange portion extends along a substantial portion of the length of the strap.
7. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of claim 6, wherein the at least one flange portion extends along only a portion of the length of the strap.

8. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of either one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the main strap portion or the main strap portion and the flange define an entirety of the width of the strap at any location along the length of the strap.

9. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 6-8, wherein the main strap portion defines an entirety of one of the upper edge and the lower edge of the strap.

10. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 6-9, wherein the main strap portion defines an entire width of a central portion of the strap.

11. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 6-10, wherein the at least one flange portion comprises a first flange portion and a second flange portion located on opposing sides of the central portion of the strap.

12. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of claim 11, wherein each of the first flange portion and the second flange portion extend along a substantial entirety of a respective side of the user's head in use.

13. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the length of the upper strap is a first length and the length of the lower strap is a second length, wherein the second length is greater than the first length.

14. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the width of the lower strap is greater than the width of the upper strap.

15. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the central portion of the upper strap defines a length that is less than a length of the central portion of the lower strap.

16. The rear portion of a respiratory mask headgear of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the living hinge is a first living hinge and the junction further comprises a second living hinge, the first living hinge located between the base portion and the upper strap and the second living hinge located between the base portion and the lower strap.