

CLAIMS:

1. External cutting member (10) which is configured to be used in a hair-cutting unit (4) in combination with a rotatable internal cutting member (40) having at least one hair-cutting edge (41) for the purpose of subjecting a portion of skin to a hair-cutting action,
- wherein the external cutting member (10) is generally cup-shaped and
- 5 comprises a base (11) and an annular wall (12) extending from a circumferential area (13) of the base (11),
- wherein, at an exterior side thereof, the base (11) has an exterior base surface (14) configured to face the portion of skin to be subjected to a hair-cutting action, and at an interior side thereof, the base (11) has an interior base surface (15) configured to face the
- 10 internal cutting member (40),
- wherein the base (11) includes at least one hair-cutting track (21) which is annular about a central axis (16) of the external cutting member (10) and provided with a plurality of hair-entry openings (23), and an annular base portion (31) located between a central portion (17) of the base (11) and an innermost one of the at least one hair-cutting
- 15 track (21) which is closest to the central axis (16),
- wherein, seen in a cross-section of the external cutting member (10) comprising the central axis (16), the annular base portion (31) is provided with a profiled section (34) which is located between a straight inner section (32) and a straight outer section (33) of the annular base portion (31), which is annular about the central axis (16), and which
- 20 is shaped according to a predefined profile,
- wherein the profiled section (34) comprises a first bent connection zone (35) at a location of connection to the straight inner section (32) and a second bent connection zone (36) at a location of connection to the straight outer section (33), and
- wherein, in an axial direction parallel to the central axis (16), the predefined
- 25 profile of the profiled section (34) involves an axial height difference (h) of at least one of the exterior base surface (14) and the interior base surface (15) of at least 80 μm over a radial measuring distance in the profiled section (34) of at most 800 μm in a radial direction relative to the central axis (16).

2. External cutting member (10) according to claim 1, wherein the predefined profile of the profiled section (34) involves an axial height difference (h) of at least one of the exterior base surface (14) and the interior base surface (15) of between 80 and 150 μm over the radial measuring distance in the profiled section (34) of at most 800 μm .

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3. External cutting member (10) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the predefined profile of the profiled section (34) involves an axial height difference (h) of at least one of the exterior base surface (14) and the interior base surface (15) of at least 130 μm over a radial measuring distance in the profiled section (34) of at most 650 μm .

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4. External cutting member (10) according to claim 3, wherein the predefined profile of the profiled section (34) involves an axial height difference (h) of at least one of the exterior base surface (14) and the interior base surface (15) of between 130 and 200 μm over the radial measuring distance in the profiled section (34) of at most 650 μm .

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5. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-4, wherein, seen in said cross-section of the external cutting member (10), an outline of the exterior base surface (14) and an outline of the interior base surface (15) correspond to each other, at least at the position of the profiled section (34).

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6. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-5, wherein, at the position of at least a major part of the profiled section (34), the base (11) is further indented in the axial direction towards the interior side of the base (11) than at the position of the straight outer section (33).

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7. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the predefined profile of the profiled section (34) is shaped as a U, wherein the profiled section (34) comprises an intermediate zone (37) at a location between the first and second bent connection zones (35, 36), and wherein each of the first and second bent connection zones (35, 36) of the profiled section (34) comprises two oppositely bent parts (35a, 35b, 36a, 36b).

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8. External cutting member (10) according to claim 7, wherein, at the position of the intermediate zone (37) of the profiled section (34), the base (11) is further indented in the axial direction towards the interior side of the base (11) than at the positions of both the first

bent connection zone (35) of the profiled section (34) at the location of connection to the straight inner section (32) and the second bent connection zone (36) of the profiled section (34) at the location of connection to the straight outer section (33).

5 9. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the predefined profile of the profiled section (34) is shaped as a horizontally stretched S.

10 10. External cutting member (10) according to claim 9, wherein, at the position of the first bent connection zone (35) of the profiled section (34), the base (11) is further indented in the axial direction towards the interior side of the base (11) than at the position of the second bent connection zone (36) of the profiled section (34).

15 11. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the central portion (17) of the base (11) comprises a central bearing portion configured to be used in rotationally supporting the internal cutting member (40).

20 12. External cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-11, comprising a deformed sheet having a thickness of less than 100 µm at the position of the at least one hair-cutting track (21).

25 13. Hair-cutting unit (4), comprising an external cutting member (10) according to any of claims 1-12 and a rotatably arranged internal cutting member (40) having at least one hair-cutting edge (41), wherein the external cutting member (10) is arranged in the hair-cutting unit (4) to cover the internal cutting member (40).

14. Hair-cutting appliance (1), comprising at least one hair-cutting unit (4) according to claim 13 and a mechanism configured to drive the internal cutting member (40) of the at least one hair-cutting unit (4).