

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Headgear for a breathing interface, the headgear comprising at least the one strap, the at least one strap having a customizable stretch characteristic, wherein the at least one strap incorporates a stretch component, a relatively non-stretch member and two or more buckles that interconnect the at least one strap and the relatively non-stretch member, and wherein the two or more buckles are adjustable along a length of the relatively non-stretch member.
2. ~~The headgear of Claim 1, wherein the at least one strap includes at least one receiving region that is configured to receive an insert, the insert being rigid or semi-rigid.~~
3. ~~The headgear of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the insert is removable from the receiving region.~~
4. ~~The headgear of Claim 3, wherein the insert is movable among two or more of the at least one receiving regions.~~
5. ~~The headgear of Claim 3, wherein the insert can be replaced by a second insert that is receivable within the receiving region.~~
6. ~~The headgear of Claim 1, wherein the at least one strap includes multiple separable segments.~~
7. ~~The headgear of Claim 6, wherein the multiple separable segments are positioned internally within the at least one strap.~~
8. ~~The headgear of Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein two adjacent segments of the multiple separable segments are configured to be dislocated from each other to provide a custom stretch characteristic in one or more location.~~
9. ~~The headgear of Claim 1, wherein the at least one strap incorporates a stretch component, a relatively non-stretch member and two or more buckles that interconnect the at least one strap and the relatively non-stretch member.~~
10. 2. The headgear of Claim 1 ~~Claim 9~~, wherein the stretch component has a greater length than the relatively non-stretch member.
11. ~~The headgear of Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the two or more buckles are adjustable along a length of the relatively non-stretch member.~~
12. 3. The headgear of Claim 1 or Claim 2 ~~any one of Claims 9-11~~, wherein the two or more buckles are adjustable such that an intermediate length of the stretch component disposed between the two buckles can be varied.

~~13.4.~~ The headgear of any ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claims 9-12, wherein adjusting the spacing between the two or more buckles adjusts the amount of the stretch component that is secured to the relatively non-stretch member and, therefore, unable to stretch.

~~14.5.~~ The headgear of any ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claims 9-13, wherein the relatively non-stretch component comprises a hollow portion through which the stretch component passes.

~~15.6.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~5~~14, wherein the two or more buckles attach to the non-stretch component with the stretch component being secured within the non-stretch component.

~~16.7.~~ ~~The headgear of Claim 1~~ Headgear for a breathing interface, the headgear comprising at least the one strap, the at least one strap having a customizable stretch characteristic, wherein the at least one strap incorporates a stretch component, a relatively non-stretch member and two or more limiters that interconnect the at least one strap and the relatively non-stretch member, and wherein the nonstretch member comprises two or more apertures that receive the two or more limiters and the stretch member comprises two or more apertures.

~~17.8.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~7~~16, wherein the stretch component has a greater length than the relatively non-stretch member.

~~18.~~ ~~The headgear of Claim 16 or Claim 17, wherein the nonstretch member comprises two or more apertures that receive the two or more limiters and the stretch member comprises two or more apertures.~~

~~19.9.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~7~~ or Claim 8~~18~~, wherein the nonstretch member comprises at least three openings and the stretch component comprises at least three openings.

~~20.10.~~ The headgear of any of Claims 7-9~~Claim 18 or Claim 19~~, wherein the two or more apertures of the non-stretch member have a first spacing and the two or more apertures of the stretch member have a second spacing.

~~21.11.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~10~~20, wherein the second spacing is the same as the first spacing.

~~22.12.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~10~~20, wherein the second spacing is different from the first spacing.

~~23.13.~~ The headgear of Claim ~~12~~22, wherein the second spacing is less than the first spacing.

24.14. The headgear of ~~any of Claims 7-13~~ Claim 18, wherein the two or more limiters are connected for movement.

25.15. The headgear of Claim 1424, wherein a hinge connects two adjacent limiters such that depressing one causes a lifting of the other.

26. ~~A headgear assembly for use with a patient interface, the headgear assembly comprising at least one strap, the at least one strap comprising an end with a hook component, the hook component being securable to a loop component, the hook component comprising at least two fingers that are spaced apart from each other by a gap such that lifting one of the at least two fingers will not result in lifting of the other of the at least two fingers.~~

27. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein the two or more fingers are symmetrical with each other.~~

28. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein the two or more fingers are asymmetrical with each other.~~

29. ~~The headgear assembly of any of Claims 26-28, wherein the gap results in the at least two fingers defining a forked configuration.~~

30. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein the gap is centrally positioned along the hook component.~~

31. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein one of the at least two fingers at least partially surrounds another of the at least two fingers.~~

32. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 31, wherein one of the at least two fingers completely surrounds another of the at least two fingers.~~

33. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 32, wherein one of the at least two fingers defines a central tab and another of the at least two finger defines an outer tab that circumscribes the central tab.~~

34. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein one of the at least two fingers only partially surrounds another of the at least two fingers.~~

35. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26, wherein the gap extends inwardly from a lateral edge of the hook component.~~

36. ~~The headgear assembly of Claim 26 or Claim 35, wherein a second gap extends inwardly from a second lateral edge of the hook component and two fingers are defined with a narrow section connecting to a wide end.~~