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PORTABLE HAIR DRYING HOOD

The present invention relates to a portable hair drying hood, whose hood part, more particularly made from foldable material, containing air ducts and internal air outlets, is equipped with an electrical hot air blower unit, which is connected to the interior of the hood via a hose.

Portable hair drying hoods are known (US-A-3 727 321), in which a hood part is arranged below a hot air blower unit and which is made from a double-walled, foldable foil material equipped with air ducts and with internal air outlets. As a result of the unstable position of the hot air blower unit, which is relatively heavy compared with the inflatable hood part, on the uppermost point of the hood part placed on the head of the person being dealt with, a relatively insecure, unstable seating thereof is obtained, i.e. the hair drying hood tends to slip.

In addition, a portable hair drying hood is known (DE-U-18 33 320), whose hood part is connected to a hot air blower by means of hose-like extensions hanging down on either side of the head. This drying hood suffers from the disadvantage that the entire weight of the hot air blower acts on the hose-like extensions, which is extremely uncomfortable for the person wearing it. In addition, with different head sizes, the hood part is inflated to different shapes, so that the hood part slides down to such an extent that the eye region of the person is covered.

In the case of a similar known hair drying hood (DE-A-23 08 011), a hot air blower unit equipped with a carrying strap hangs in

the manner of a medallion around the hood user's neck. The hot air blower can be connected to hose-like elastic air guidance members, the hood part being able to float on the treated person's head due to the compressed air from the unit and flowing out through internal air outlets in the hood. The use of this hair drying hood is relatively complicated, because prior to the fitting of the floating hood the carrying strap must initially be drawn over the hair, which is usually voluminous due to the waving of the hair.

Finally, a drying hood is known (DE-U-74 19 321) whose hood part made from foldable material is directly connected to a single electrical hot air blower unit operable by a hand switch, the latter and the unit being arranged in a U-shaped collar forming the lower edge of the hood part. The actual collar is constructed as a dimensionally stable, tubular air guidance member, which is at least partly supported on the neck of the wearing person. This drying hood suffers from the disadvantage that the dimensionally stable air guidance member often presses on the person's neck, because as a result of its rigidity it cannot adapt to the neck shape. In addition, such a drying hood can only be difficultly packed for storage purposes.

Therefore the problem of the present invention is to so develop a portable hair drying hood of the aforementioned type, that the using and operation thereof is very simple, in which the supply of the hood part with hot air is of an optimum nature, whose hood part is inflated in roughly the same way for each head shape

and size and which can be easily packed and stored in a small space.

According to the invention this problem is solved in that on the ends of an approximately horseshoe-shaped collar part, joined to the lower edge of the hood part and supported on the neck part and shoulders and which is made from a flexible material, is provided on either side of the sides of the head a hot air blower unit, each unit being connected by its own hose to the hood part.

Preferably the collar part and/or the lower edge thereof have vertically extending tongue or finger-shaped extensions, by means of which the collar part and the lower edge thereof are interconnectable.

Advantageously the first of the two hot air blower units is equipped with a power supply cable, whilst the second hot air blower unit is connected via a cable to the first hot air blower unit. The cable is positioned and held along side the collar part, or is joined thereto by welding, casting or clipping.

For the easy replacement of the hood part, according to a preferred embodiment, the latter has finger-like extensions, which can be buttoned on to the collar part or riveted thereto.

It is advantageous when carrying out repairs on the hot air

blower units for both units, the power supply cables and the collar part to form a single unit, which can be removed from the hood part by means of quick-action hose couplings and press fasteners.

As the collar part has a cable, which interconnects the two hot air blower units, the ends of the collar part are appropriately constructed as electrical plug connectors, by means of which the collar part can be connected to the hot air blower units.

In addition to the plug connectors, the ends of the collar part can also be equipped with bayonet joints, press fasteners or the like, which ensure a particularly durable connection of the collar part to the hot air blower units.

In order to give a pleasant wearing feel, according to a preferred embodiment, the bottom of the collar part is provided with a cushion support.

To ensure a particularly good seating of the drying hood on the shoulders and neck region of the wearing person, the blank or the collar part is constructed in strip-like manner and is in the form of a circular arc, the inner radius of curvature of the blank being approximately 250 mm, so that in the use position the central portion of the collar part is roughly vertical.

The invention permits the most varied constructional



possibilities. One of these is shown in the drawings, wherein represent:

- Fig. 1 A drying hood according to the invention in perspective view.
- Fig. 2 The two hot air blower units and the collar part according to fig. 1.
- Fig. 3 The blank for the collar part in plan view.

The drying hood comprises a double-walled hood part 1, which is made from flexible material. In order to ensure a maximum uniform and rapid air passage, the hood part 1 is provided on either side of the face opening 3 with a downwardly hanging hose 4, 5 through which hot air is conveyed into the interior of hood part 1. The hot air is distributed in the interior of hood part 1 and passes uniformly out of a plurality of outlets 2 in the direction of the hair to be dried.

The hoses 4 and 5 are reinforced with spirally wound wire 6, 7, so that it is ensured that the full cross-section of the hoses 4, 5 are still available for blowing in hot air if, after fitting the drying hood, accidentally the hoses do not correctly hang freely down.

The hoses 4, 5 are connected to hot air blower units 8, 9, fast couplings 10, 11 being provided between the ends of hoses 4, 5 and the outlet openings of the hot air blower units, 8, 9. Both units 8, 9 are interconnected via a collar part 12, which is in turn connected via finger-like tongues or extensions 18, 19,



20 with the lower edge 13 of hood part 1.

Collar part 12 is provided with an electric cable 14, which enters plug connectors 15, 16, which are inserted in the hot air blower units 8, 9. Blower unit 9 is connected to a supply cable 17, by means of which power is supplied to hot air blower unit 9 and (via the cable 14) also blower unit 8.

If it has become necessary to replace hood part 1 by a new one or to repair one of the hot air blower units 8, 9, then the fast couplings can be detached at 10, 11 and units 8, 9 can be removed from the plug connectors 15, 16. It is also possible to separate extensions 18, 19, 20 from the lower hood edge 13, because said extensions are fixed in the vicinity of the lower hood edge with the aid of press fasteners 21, 22, 23.

Apart from the advantage of being able to separate from one another the main components of the drying hood, namely the hot air blower units 8, 9, hood part 1 with hoses 4, 5 and the collar part 12 with electric cable 14, the plug connectors and the electric supply cable 17, the present drying hood has the further advantage of being able to dry the hair in a relatively short time. Due to the fact that a hot air blower unit is provided on either side of the sides of the hood user's head, the dry air flows from either side simultaneously into hood part 1 and can be easily uniformly distributed in the hood interior, which ensures that dry hot air in appropriate quantities and at the same speed passes out of all the air outlets 2.

Due to the fact that the flexible drying hood is equipped with two hot air blower units 8, 9, both units can be designed in such a way that their blower and blower motors function at a relatively low speed, so that running noise and blower noise is comparatively limited.

Finally, the user can easily place the drying hood on the head, because e.g. no unit, cabling or hoses, which could impede fitting, are located on the chest. The weight of the two hot air blower units located level with the collar bone of the user is taken up by the collar part 12, which is relatively wide, made from flexible material and shaped in such a way that it rests flat on the neck and shoulder regions of the user.

As can be gathered from fig. 3, the blank for the collar part 12 is constructed in strip-like manner, the strip having a circular arc shape. The inner radius of curvature r of the strip-like blank is dimensioned such that the two hot air blower units connectable to the ends of the collar part 12 in the position of use, i.e. when the collar part is looped round the user's neck, deform the blank in such a way that the central portion m is positioned roughly vertically. The two end portions (on either side of portion m) are consequently engaged flat on the front of the upper part of the body. Thus, in the use position, a central portion m of the collar part is twisted by approximately 90° relative to the end portions.

It is obvious that in a simplified embodiment the collar part 12

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can also be constructed in one piece with the blower unit casings. In such a case the collar part 12 is made from a flexible plastics material and is welded or bonded to the casing parts of the blower units 8, 9. Instead of the finger-like extensions 18, 19, 20, the upper edge 24 of collar part 12 can also be directly buttoned, clipped or otherwise connected with the lower edge 13 of hood part 1. In place of plug connectors 15, 16, it is also possible to provide bayonet connections, press fasteners or the like in order to detachably connect collar part 12 to the blower units 8, 9.

List of components:

1	Hood part
2	Outlets (air outlet)
3	Face opening
4/5	Hose
6/7	Wire coil
8/9	Hot air blower
10/11	Quick-action coupling
12	Collar part
13	Edge of hood part
14	Cable
15/16	Plug connector
17	Power supply cable
18/19/20	Tongues/finger-shaped extensions
21/22/23	Press fasteners
24	Upper edge of collar part