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(54) HAIRPIECES OR TOUPEES

(71) We, NORJO-HOLDING AG., a Swiss Corporation of Badener Strasse 681, Zurich, SWITZERLAND, 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 invention relates to a base in a hairpiece or toupee, more particularly in hairpieces or toupees which are to be fixed to the wearer's remaining hair semipermanently.

Many hairpieces and toupees as known have a base on to which tufts of false hair are knotted. The base used is generally a relatively fine-mesh net made from synthetic plastics or cotton filaments. Such a base is not entirely satisfactory, however, particularly in the case of hairpieces and toupees which are to be attached to the wearer's remaining hair semipermanently, because the base is relatively impermeable to air. Also, the wearer of such a hairpiece or toupee cannot scratch his scalp. Since hairpieces and toupees attached semipermanently to the wearer's remaining hair are not removed when the hair is washed, the difficulty of removing all the shampoo or soap used in washing the hair is a further disadvantage.

An object of the present invention is therefore to provide a base for hairpieces and toupees which does not have these disadvantages, and which offers satisfactory permeability to air and rinsing.

According to the invention there is provided in a hairpiece or toupee, a base comprising a net knitted from synthetic plastics or cotton fibres and having meshes of at least 5 mm in width. The wearer of a hairpiece or toupee manufactured on such a base can scratch through the meshes; and any remaining shampoo or soap can easily be removed through the meshes during hairwashing. What remains of the wearer's own hair can be pulled through these meshes and combed into the false hair.

In a relatively simple embodiment of the

invention, the knitted net is a net with hexagonal meshes.

It is generally preferable, however, if the knitted net comprises a plurality of ribbons formed of mutually parallel cords, each cord consisting of a plurality of filaments of which some are offset laterally to make a connection to a cord of an adjacent ribbon, and at regular intervals over predetermined distances the connection formed between two ribbons by the filaments is interrupted so that subsequent lateral traction on the net forms fairly large, spindle-shaped meshes.

In the latter form of base the false hair may be knotted either to the cords or to the connecting filaments in the central regions of the resulting zigzag ribbons, the knots being extremely small. As a result only a very short portion of the knotted false hair is in contact with the wearer's own hair.

The invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 illustrates a first, simple embodiment of a base according to the invention; and

Figure 2 illustrates a second, preferred embodiment of a base according to the invention.

As Figure 1 shows, the first, simple embodiment consists of a net 1 with a large number of hexagonal meshes 2. The individual meshes 2 are separated by knitted cords 3 consisting of a plurality of separate nylon filaments 4 knitted together.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 1 the cords 3 are approximately 0.8 mm thick and the mesh width is 5 mm or more. It should be noted, however, that a larger mesh width of about 1 cm has been found generally satisfactory.

Figure 2 shows a second, preferred embodiment of base. As Figure 2 shows, this base comprises a knitted net 5 with a large number of relatively wide, spindle-shaped meshes 6. In this embodiment groups of six cords 7 run parallel to one another, and each cord

consists of three or four separate nylon filaments 8. Every six successive cords 7 are interconnected by individual filaments 8 over substantially their entire length. Between each sixth and seventh cord 7 the connection by means of the filaments 8 is interrupted at regular intervals, so that lateral extension of the net 5 produces spindle-shaped meshes 6. There then follow another six cords 7 interconnected by filaments 8, but the next pair of cords 7 are again interconnected by filaments 8 only at intervals. This time, however, the intervals are offset relative to the previous intervals so that successive rows of spindle-shaped meshes 6 are always staggered relative to each other.

The spindle-shaped meshes 6 are suitably about 8 mm wide and about 12 mm long. Every two superjacent meshes 6 are separated from one another by connecting areas about 8 mm wide. Each group of six cords 7 interconnected by filaments 8 forms a zigzag ribbon approximately 4 to 5 mm wide.

A particular advantage of the form of base shown in Figure 2 is that the knots attaching the false hair (not shown) to the cords 7 or filaments 8 in the net 5 are extremely small, so that very short lengths of false hair can come in contact with the wearer's own hair.

Moreover, the wearer's remaining hair can be pulled through the relatively wide meshes 6 and mixed in with the false hair to build up the hairstyle, particularly in the case of semi-permanently attached hairpieces or toupees.

A base embodying the invention retains its shape very well, so that hairpieces and toupees produced with it can be used over long periods and will resist washing and careless treatment.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. In a hairpiece or toupee, a base comprising a net knitted from synthetic plastics or cotton fibres and having meshes of at least 5 mm in width.

2. A base as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

the knitted net comprises a plurality of groups of mutually co-directional cords each cord consisting of a plurality of filaments some of which are offset laterally to connect with a cord of an adjacent group, and at regular intervals over predetermined distances the connection formed between two cords of adjacent groups by the filaments is interrupted so that subsequent lateral traction on the net can form spindle-shaped meshes greater than 5 mm in width.

3. A base as claimed in Claim 2, wherein those portions of two groups of cords interconnected by filaments are slightly shorter than the portions not connected by filaments.

4. A base as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein each of those portions of two groups of cords which are not connected by filaments is offset relative to the adjacent portions, not connected by filaments, of two further groups of cords.

5. A base as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 4, wherein six cords are interconnected by filaments over substantially their entire length, whereas the seventh cord is connected to the sixth cord by filaments only at regular intervals, and so on.

6. A base as claimed in Claim 5, wherein each cord is formed of three or four nylon filaments.

7. A base as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein each group of cords comprises six cords forming a zigzag ribbon approximately 4 to 5 mm wide, and the spindle-shaped meshes are approximately 8 mm wide and approximately 12 mm long.

8. In a hairpiece or toupee, a base comprising a knitted net substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings.

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The spindle-shaped meshes 6 are suitably about 8 mm wide and about 12 mm long. Every two superjacent meshes 6 are separated from one another by connecting areas about 8 mm wide. Each group of six cords 7 interconnected by filaments 8 forms a zigzag ribbon approximately 4 to 5 mm wide.

A particular advantage of the form of base shown in Figure 2 is that the knots attaching the false hair (not shown) to the cords 7 or filaments 8 in the net 5 are extremely small, so that very short lengths of false hair can come in contact with the wearer's own hair.

Moreover, the wearer's remaining hair can be pulled through the relatively wide meshes 6 and mixed in with the false hair to build up the hairstyle, particularly in the case of semi-permanently attached hairpieces or toupees.

A base embodying the invention retains its shape very well, so that hairpieces and toupees produced with it can be used over long periods and will resist washing and careless treatment.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. In a hairpiece or toupee, a base comprising a net knitted from synthetic plastics or cotton fibres and having meshes of at least 5 mm in width.

2. A base as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

the knitted net comprises a plurality of groups of mutually co-directional cords each cord consisting of a plurality of filaments some of which are offset laterally to connect with a cord of an adjacent group, and at regular intervals over predetermined distances the connection formed between two cords of adjacent groups by the filaments is interrupted so that subsequent lateral traction on the net can form spindle-shaped meshes greater than 5 mm in width.

3. A base as claimed in Claim 2, wherein those portions of two groups of cords interconnected by filaments are slightly shorter than the portions not connected by filaments.

4. A base as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein each of those portions of two groups of cords which are not connected by filaments is offset relative to the adjacent portions, not connected by filaments, of two further groups of cords.

5. A base as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 4, wherein six cords are interconnected by filaments over substantially their entire length, whereas the seventh cord is connected to the sixth cord by filaments only at regular intervals, and so on.

6. A base as claimed in Claim 5, wherein each cord is formed of three or four nylon filaments.

7. A base as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein each group of cords comprises six cords forming a zigzag ribbon approximately 4 to 5 mm wide, and the spindle-shaped meshes are approximately 8 mm wide and approximately 12 mm long.

8. In a hairpiece or toupee, a base comprising a knitted net substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings.

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