SEAMLESS SELF ADHESIVE HAIR EXTENSION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This version of the invention is concerned with the field of devices and methods that provide the appearance of longer or thicker hair. More specifically, this version of the invention is concerned with a hair attachment comprised of natural or synthetic hair that is releasably attached directly to the hair of a wearer in order to provide the wearer with the appearance of highlighted and or longer and or thicker hair, without causing any tension to the wearer's scalp and or hair.

It is a common desire among many people to acquire hair that is longer and thicker than that which they posses for a variety of reasons, such as self esteem and satisfaction, quickly changing fashion styles, and the like. For example, short hair, which is in fashion for a period of time, may quickly be replaced as current fashion with longer fuller hairstyles. In another example bangs worn on the forehead may be in fashion for the winter and by the summer it may be quickly replaced by another style. As hair grows at the rate of approximately less than one inch per month, many people find that it is exceedingly difficult to acquire a contemporary hairstyle in a reasonable time. Even when someone posses hair of substantial length, the hair may lack thickness or overall volume to achieve a desirable hairstyle. People may also want to add Highlights with out having to cause damage to their own hair.

Various devices and techniques are available in the prior art and in the marketplace that attempt to satisfy the need and desire for longer and thicker hair. A common well known is a wig. Although wigs provide a quick and simple means to achieve longer hair, they do not present a fully natural appearance, a

condition that leads to their recognition when they are being worn. More recently, a variety of more natural hair enhancement techniques have become popular with a variety of users. These consists of hair weaves, hair extensions, hair braiding and the like, whereby natural or synthetic hair is attached to the scalp or existing hair of a wearer by a variety of techniques in order to provide the appearance of longer, thicker hair without the noticeable artifice of a wig. These techniques and systems, which overcome the obvious disadvantage of a wig, also suffer from several many drawbacks as they are relatively expensive and time consuming to acquire and frequently discomfit the wearer during application as well as it may be difficult to maintain.

Description of the Prior Art

Numerous designs, devices, and methods for lengthening and enhancement have been provided in the prior art. Even though these designs may be suitable for the specific individual purposes to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present version of the invention as they involve relatively elaborate and time consuming techniques and methods as referenced earlier. These techniques are exemplified by U.S. Pat. No. 5,072,745, Hair Extension Process, issued to Cheh on Dec. 17, 1991; U.S. Pat. No. 5,107,867, Process for Extending Human Hair, issued to Barrington on Apr. 28, 1999. U.S. Pat. No. 5,868,145, Hair Extension and Thickening process, issued to Spann on Feb. 9, 1999. U.S. Pat. No. 5,881,737, Method of Attaching A Hair Weft To The Hair Of A Wearer, issued to Nelson on Mar. 16, 1999. U.S. Pat. No. 6,405,736, Method of Using A Self Adhesive Hair Extension, issued to Townsend on Jun. 18, 2002 discloses a hair attachment device designed to provide the appearance of longer, thicker, and fuller hair. The attachment consists of a quantity of natural or synthetic human hair that is sewn to a rectangular shaped, self adhesive tape having a removable back, which is applied to the scalp or hair of a wearer in releasable engagement thereon. While a hair attachment is relatively simple to apply, the self adhesive tape provides a less than adequate

means to secure the ends of the strands of natural or synthetic hair, which can become prematurely separated from the self adhesive tape and become unusable in the future.

As such, it may be appreciated that there is a continuing need for a new and improved method and device for providing the appearance of longer and thicker hair in a manner that is relatively simple and inexpensive to achieve. In these respects, the present version of the invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus that substantially fulfills this need. Additionally, the prior patents and commercial techniques do not suggest the present inventive combination of component elements arranged and configured as disclosed herein.

The present invention achieves its intended purposes, objects, and advantages through a new, useful and unobvious combination of method steps and component elements, with the use of a minimum number of functioning parts, at a reasonable cost to manufacture and with the use of readily available materials.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present version of the invention, which will be described in greater detail hereinafter, relates to the field of devices and methods that provide the appearance of longer, thicker or highlighted hair. More specifically, this version of the invention is concerned with a hair attachment comprised of natural or synthetic hair that is releasably attached directly to the hair of a wearer to provide the wearer with the appearance of longer, thicker or highlighted hair. My version of the invention overcomes all of the shortcomings listed previously, in addition to novel aspects that will be described in detail hereinafter.

Described briefly, according to a typical embodiment, the invention presents a hair attachment device or hair extension that is releasably attached to the hair of a wearer in order to provide the appearance of longer, thicker fuller and or highlighted hair with out the use of chemicals that will cause damage to the wearers hair and or scalp. The hair extension thus allows the wearer to change the appearance of their hair without chemical damage in order to achieve fashion styles that use longer hair or simply to enhance their appearance by achieving particular hair designs heretofore impossible with out the aid of hair extension and or damaging chemicals. The hair extension that is the subject of the instant invention consists of a quantity of natural or synthetic hair strands that are disposed in parallel relation and are attached or secured at one end to a flexible strip of polyurethane. The polyurethane securely anchors the plurality of hair to one end of the double sided adhesive tape so that said strands do not become separated from the self adhesive double face tape. The ventilated polyurethane strip is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the shape of the wearers head. A fastener comprised of a rectangular strip of self adhesive double sided tape with removable backing is attached to the ventilated polyurethane strip in order to provide the adhesion necessary to secure the hair extension to the hair of the wearer. The hair extension can be applied to the wearer's hair in various quantities and locations thereon as needed to achieve the desired look and appearance. The hair extension may be reused as well by simply wetting the fastener, or double sided self adhesive tape on the hair extension with citrus oil, separating the tape from the polyurethane base support and or ventilated poly strip, discarding, and a new rectangular strip of double sided self adhesive tape may be reapplied to the polyurethane support unit or ventilated polyurethane strip in order to reuse the hair extension. The strands of hair secured to the ventilated polyurethane strip as referenced earlier can be natural or synthetic and are also available in a variety of textures, colors and lengths.

My invention, therefore, resides not in any one of these features per se, but rather in the particular combination of all of them herein disclosed. It is distinguished from the prior art in this particular combination of all of its structures for the functions specified as follows; can be used on those wearers who have sensitive scalps; for those who just had a face lift performed wanting to disguise the receded hair line surgery has produced, for those wanting to achieve highlighted hair with out the use of damaging solutions; for those whose crown hair line has receded due to age and or other factors, as well as for those wanting a temporary eyebrow lift which is achieved by simply disguising the side temples of the hair line which in turn has receded due to age and or other factors or for those who simply desire longer and or thicker hair.

In as much as the foregoing has outlined rather broadly the more pertinent and important features of the present invention in order that the detailed description of the invention that follows maybe better understood so that the present contribution to the art can be more fully appreciated. Additional features of the invention will be described hereinafter. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the conception and the disclosed specific method and structures may be readily utilized as a basis for modifying or designing other structures for carrying out the same purposes of the present invention. It should be realized by those skilled in the art that such equivalent methods and structures do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention. In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practices and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

Accordingly, it is an object of my version of the invention to provide an easy to use, comfortable to wear, no tension causing to the scalp or the wearers hair reusable seamless self adhesive hair extension.

A significant object of the invention is to provide a seamless self adhesive hair extension that is comprised of a strip of polyurethane that has been ventilated with a quantity of parallel arranged natural or synthetic hair strands attached to one side of a strip of clear double sided self adhesive tape, which is then secured to the hair of a wearer by another strip of clear double sided self adhesive tape which will in compass alternating parallel [1/4] sections of the wearers own natural existing hair.

An another very significant object of the invention is to provide a seamless self adhesive hair extension that provides the appearance of longer, thicker, and or highlighted hair by overcoming the disadvantages of conventional hair enhancing and supplementing devices and techniques, such as wigs, hair weaves and braids, and removable hair extensions and attachments and or chemicals and or solutions to the wearers scalp and or hair.

A final but very important aspect of my invention is it is virtually undetectable to the eye or touch, due to the manner the hair is ventilated through a very thin but durable polyurethane layer and or strip, then attached with a double sided self adhesive tape. thus making it easy to apply to the wearers crown and or temples, if so desired.

For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which they are illustrated as preferred embodiment of the invention.

The foregoing has outlined some of the more pertinent objects of the invention. These objects should be construed to be merely illustrative of some of the more prominent features and application of the present invention. Accordingly, other objects and a fuller understanding of the invention may be had by referring to the summary of the invention and the detailed description of the preferred embodiment in addition to the scope of the invention illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects, feature and advantages of the invention will become more fully understood from the following description of the preferred embodiment of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying black and white illustrations in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout different views.

FIG. 1 is an actual view of a seamless self adhesive hair extension front complete view.
FIG. 2 is an enlarged front or face view of a seamless self adhesive hair extension.

FIG. 3 is an actual view of a seamless self adhesive hair extension with the double sided self adhesive tape or fastener attached to the hair extension system by means of ventilating the hair thru the polyurethane strip, then another coat of polyurethane is applied thus sealing both ends of the base support unit. The removable backing is separated from the self adhesive double sided tape or fastener to reveal the construction thereof.
FIG. 4 is an actual view of the back side or the attachable side of the seamless hair extension with the backing attached to the fastener of self adhesive double sided tape.
FIG. 5 is an actual view of the process and method of attachment herein referred to as step 1.
FIG. 6 is an actual view of the process and method of attachment herein referred to as step 2.
FIG. 7 is an actual view of the process and method of attachment herein referred to as step 3.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the illustrations and in particular to FIG. 1 wherein there is an actual view of the seamless self adhesive hair extension 10. The present version of the invention 10 consists of a plurality of supplemental hair strands 12. The hair strands 12 are comprised of natural or synthetic supplemental hair in a variety of lengths, diameters, textures, and colors in order to accommodate the desires and needs of a variety of wearers and fashion styles. A quantity of hair strands 12 is arranged generally or typically in parallel arrangement so the strands 12 are aligned at a first attached end and 18 and a second attached end 20.

Referring to FIG. 2 therein illustrated is an enlarged front or face view of the polyurethane strip 16 containing the attached end of the hair strands 18 which are ventilated 26 through out the polyurethane strip 16.

In FIG. 3 therein illustrated is an enlarged back view to reveal its components and construction of said support polyurethane base (referred to as the polyurethane strip 16), the hair strands 18 are ventilated thru the polyurethane strip by means of knotting each supplemental hair strand 12 implanting the supplemental hair strands 12 thru the polyurethane strip 16 and reapplying another coat of polyurethane thus sealing the attached ends of the supplemental hair strands 18 to the polyurethane strip 16. Said polyurethane strip 16 is comprised of flexible and durable material that conforms to the shape and contour of various scalp and scalp surfaces in order to achieve a comfortable and unobstructed fit thereon. The fastener 14 of double sided self adhesive tape is rectangular and preferably narrow and elongate in order to correspond with the perimeter of the hair attachment polyurethane strip 16. The fastener 14 is comprised of a self adhesive double sided tape 22 and a removable backing 24. The self adhesive double sided tape 22 is secured to the polyurethane strip 16, in order to prevent said tape portion 22 from being separated or repositioned during use.

In FIG. 4 the back view or attachable view of the seamless self adhesive hair extension system is illustrated with the removable backing 24 attached.

In FIG. 5 the process and method of attachment referred to as step 1 is illustrated herein, a strip of Velcro 36 is used to secure and part the upper portion 32 and the lower portion 34, of the wearers 28 hair, thus achieving a part line 30.

In FIG. 6 the process and method of attachment referred to as step 2 is illustrated herein, with the upper portion 32 and lower portion 34 secured in an upward position by the Velcro 36, placing a strip of double sided self adhesive tape 22 onto the lower portion 34 of the wearer's hair 38 approximately 6mm away from the wearer's scalp 44, using a crotchet needle 40 the wearers natural hair strands 38 are withdrawn in approximately [6mm] alternating sections

from the upper portion 32 and placing them on the double sided self adhesive tape 22, preferably on the entire length of the self adhesive double sided tape 22.

In FIG. 7 the process and method of attachment referred to as step 3 is illustrated herein, once the wearers natural hair strands 38 are placed onto the double sided self adhesive tape 22 in alternating [6mm] sections preferable the entire length of the self adhesive double sided tape 22, as described and illustrated previously in FIG. 7. Step 2, the backing 24 can be removed and the seamless hair extension system 10 can be adhered to the double sided self adhesive tape 22 on the wearer 28. If necessary, the hair extensions 10 can be cut or trimmed either vertically or horizontally to conform to the existing or proposed hair style or desire of the user. Once the hair extensions 10 are secured and aligned onto the double sided tape 22, the upper portion 32 of the hair can be dropped by removing the Velcro strip 36 and releasing the lower portion 34 via removing the Velcro strip 36 as well. Once the hair is in its original position it will conceal the self adhesive tape portion 22 as well as the polyurethane strip 16 resulting in a seamless, lifelike natural appearance of longer, thicker and or highlighted hair. Of course the hair extension 10 can be attached to the head of the wearer 28 in a variety of styles and quantities and at an assortment of location and positions thereon with placement only limited by the imagination of the wearer and hair dresser. It should be recognized that the example of attachment described previously by no means limits the spirit and the scope of the invention 10 and that all possible variation of attaching the seamless self adhesive extension 10 to the either the hair or scalp of a wearer remains within the purview of the instant invention.

As this version of the invention and method has been illustrated and described in detail in the illustrations and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all

changes and modification that come within the spirit of the version of the invention are desired to be protected. With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the illustrations and described in the specifications are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

CONCLUSION AND SCOPE OF INVENTION

It will be understood, from the foregoing that persons skilled in the art, that an improved seamless self adhesive hair extension system has been provided. The invention is relatively simple and easy to manufacture, yet affords a variety of uses. While my description contains many specifications, these should not be constructed as limitations on the scope of the version of the invention, but rather as an exemplification of the preferred embodiment thereof. The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modification and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention. Although this invention has been described in its preferred form with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of the preferred form has been made only by way of example and numerous changes in details of construction and combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A process for attaching removable, reusable, hypoallergenic, self adhesive hair extensions to the hair of a user, which comprises the steps of:

a) forming a seamless self adhesive hair extension by arranging a quantity of hair strands in a parallel arrangement so that the hair strands are aligned at a first attached end and a second attached end,

b) securing the first attached end of the hair strands to a polyurethane base support,

c) attaching a rectangular shaped, clear double sided self adhesive tape having a removable backing to the polyurethane support unit which has been ventilated with the natural or synthetic supplemental hair.

d) forming a part line on the head of a user to form an upper portion of hair and a lower portion of hair,

e) temporarily sweeping the upper and lower portion of hair away from the part line and securing it,

f) placing a strip of a rectangular shaped clear double side self adhesive tape approximately [6mm] away from the scalp onto the lower portion of hair below the part line,

g) withdrawing and laying approximately [6mm] alternating sections of the wearers natural hair from the upper portion of the part line onto the clear double face tape which has been placed on the lower portion of the part line hair as specified above, as to make small rows of hair on the entire length of the self adhesive double sided tape,

h) removing the backing from supplemental hair extension, placing and making contact with the other double sided self adhesive tape which is adhered to the wearers hair and securing into position

i) repositioning the upper portion of the hair back to its original position.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the seamless self adhesive hair extensions comprise of:

A plurality of supplemental hair strands attached to a polyurethane base support unit at one end in parallel arrangement, a fastener attached to the base support unit under the attached end of the supplemental hair strands; and a removable backing attached to the fastener.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the support unit is a strip of polyurethane

4. The process of claim 2 wherein the hair strands are attached to the polyurethane support unit by ventilating individual strands or pile of hair through the polyurethane base support unit.

5. The process of claim 2, wherein the hair strands are attached to the polyurethane based support unit by ventilating the individual strands and applying another coat of polyurethane to seal both sides of the supplemental hair support unit.

6. The process according to claim 2, wherein the removable backing exposes the self adhesive double sided tape when removed there from.

7. The process of claim 1, wherein the hair strands are natural hair strands.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the hair strands are synthetic hair.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the hair extension is reusable comprises of the steps of:

a) wetting the double sided self adhesive tape which is attached to the hair extension polyurethane support base with citrus oil

b) removing and discarding the wet double sided self adhesive tape

c) using a cloth material or paper towel like material to dry the excess citrus oil from the polyurethane support base

d) applying a new rectangular strip of double sided self adhesive tape on to the polyurethane support base.

10. The process of claim 1, wherein the hair extension is hypoallergenic.

11. A kit of parts for use in a process according to any one of claims 1 to 10, comprising a hair extension device and a piece of double-sided self-adhesive tape for use as stated in claim 1 (c).

12. A kit of parts according to claim 11, wherein the piece of double-sided self-adhesive tape for use as stated in claim 1(c) is clear.

13. A kit of parts according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the piece of double-sided self-adhesive tape for use as stated in claim 1(c) is rectangular shaped.

14. A kit of parts according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the dimensions and shapes of the double-sided self-adhesive tape used in claim 1 (c) and of the fastener ~~device~~ are substantially the same.

15. A kit of parts according to any one of claims 11 to 13, further comprising means for cutting the double-sided self-adhesive tape used in claim 1(c) and the fastener so that their respective dimensions and shapes can be made substantially the same.

16. A hair extension device as claimed in Claim 11 which is seamless and self-adhesive comprising (a) a quantity of natural or synthetic hair strands each having a first end and a second end, (b) a base support to which the hair strands are attached at their respective first ends, the hair strands being in a parallel arrangement so that the hair strands are aligned at their respective

first (attached) ends and are unattached at their respective second ends, and (c) a discrete fastener adhered to the base support and having an adhesive surface for being directed in use towards a wearer's head, the said head-directed adhesive surface being protected before use by a removable backing.

17. A hair extension device according to claim 16, wherein the base support is in the form of a strip of a support material for the hair strands.

18. A hair extension device according to claim 17, wherein the strip of the support material is rectangular shaped.

19. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the base support is formed of polyurethane.

20. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the base support is ventilated with the natural or synthetic hair strands.

21. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein the fastener comprises a piece of double-sided self-adhesive tape.

22. A hair extension device according to claim 21, wherein the double-sided self-adhesive tape is clear.

23. A hair extension device according to claim 21 or claim 22, wherein the piece of double-sided self-adhesive tape is rectangular shaped.

24. A hair extension device according to claim 20, wherein the hair strands are attached to the polyurethane based support unit by ventilating the individual strands and applying another coat of polyurethane to seal both sides of the supplemental hair support unit.

25. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 24, wherein the hair strands are natural hair strands.

26. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 24, wherein the hair strands are synthetic hair.

27. A hair extension device according to any one of claims 16 to 26, wherein the hair extension device is hypoallergenic.