

This invention relates to a hair dryer with a preferably tubular blower housing and a handle portion pivotally mounted on the blower housing and adapted to swivel relative to the blower housing.

Hair dryers configured as hand-operated appliances are already known (CH-PS 421,405) in which their tubular blower housings include bearing blocks extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the blower housing and having handle portions pivotally mounted thereto. In these appliances, the handle portions are mounted on axles extending transversely through the bearing blocks.

Further, an electric hair drying apparatus having a cooler setting switch is known (DE-OS 27 35 420) in which the tubular blower housing is partly embraced by the forked end of the hand grip, with the pivot axis extending through the blower housing transversely to the longitudinal axis of the blower housing.

Finally, an electric hair dryer of pistol shape is known (DE-OS 25 28 056) in which the housing which is provided with a pivoted hand grip is formed of two shell halves. The two shell halves are comprised of a housing portion accommodating the blower motor and a housing portion constituting the hand grip, with the grip housing portion and the blower motor housing portion being pivotally interconnected by being fitted into each other in the area of the center of gravity of the blower motor housing portion. B.V.

It is an object of the present invention to configure a hair dryer such that the external dimensions of the apparatus are as small as possible while a predetermined power rating is maintained. It is a further object herein to provide a hair dryer with minimum space requirements. Finally, in spite of its minimum external dimensions, the hair dryer is to be an appliance capable of operating in several power stages.

These objects are accomplished by the features of claim 1 of the present invention. Further advantageous embodiments will appear from the features of the subclaims. Because the blower housing is equipped with a dome-shaped housing portion extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the housing and accommodating the electric circuitry necessary for regulating the temperature of the air flow and the speed of the blower motor, it is possible to build the blower housing to extraordinarily small external dimensions. In this arrangement, the entire inner space of the sleeve-shaped handle portion is available for storage of the electric power cord, so that with the handle portion folded snugly alongside the blower housing, there results an approximately parallel-epipedal shape for the entire hair drying set. B.V.

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It is a further advantage of the invention that the electric power cord may be directly connected to the power supply in the dome-shaped housing portion without the need to provide a cord guard, which results in additional economy of space. The possibility of damage to the power cord is eliminated in this arrangement since the handle portion effectively protects the cord from severe kinks.

Finally, it is an advantage herein that the electric switch is arranged on the dome-shaped housing portion within the immediate range of the fingers gripping the handle wall. In this manner, the appliance can be operated comfortably with one hand. Also, the described arrangement of the electric circuitry eliminates the need for special current-carrying lines routed up to about the handle portion.

The innovation admits of a wide variety of embodiments. One embodiment thereof is shown in more detail in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the hair dryer showing the handle portion folded snugly alongside the blower housing and the electric power cord stowed away inside the handle portion; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the hair dryer of Fig. 1 shown in combination with its associated storage quiver.

The hair dryer includes a substantially tubular two-piece housing 1, 2, with a dome-shaped housing portion 3, 4, 5 extending transversely to the longitudinal axis *s* of the housing 1, 2, the part 5 remote from the tubular housing 1, 2 of the hair dryer being substantially hemispherical. The dome-shaped housing portion 3, 4, 5 is provided with a switch 6 for turning the motor and blower unit of the hand-operated hair dryer on and off. The handle portion 7 is a sleeve-shaped or tubular member having forked bearing lugs 8 at its end close to the appliance.

The bearing of the handle portion 7 which is adapted to pivot in the direction of the arrow A is comprised of a bolt-shaped member (pins 9, 10) configured as a voltage selector switch. The appropriate voltage is selected by turning the pin 9 which has a slot 11 for this purpose. The sleeve-shaped handle portion 7 serves to store the electric power cord 12 and prevents kinking of the power cord 12 directly introduced into the dome-shaped housing portion 3, 4, 5.

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The hemispherical part 5 of the dome-shaped housing portion 3, 4, 5 is provided with recesses 13, 14 and 15, 16 which serve to lock the handle portion 7 into place following its pivoting into its operating position about the pivot axis f (in the direction of the arrow A), with complementary cam members (not shown in more detail) being provided in the areas b and c on the inner wall of the handle portion 7.

As shown in Fig. 2, with the power cord 12 stored inside the handle portion 7, the hair dryer is adapted to be slid into a quiver 17 having an eyelet 18 for hooking it on a wall.

The voltage selector switch 9, 10, 11 is substantially comprised of a bushing slid onto a shaft, with bushing and shaft being relatively rotatable about their longitudinal axis, without, however, being slidable along their longitudinal axis. The shaft itself is fixedly anchored in the dome-shaped housing portion 3, 4, 5, with the bearing lugs 8 being adapted to yield to a degree enabling them to be slid over the pin 9 and the pin 10 as the appliance is assembled, being subsequently anchored there by engagement with the pin 9.

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Patent Claims

1. A hair dryer with a preferably tubular blower housing and a handle portion pivotally mounted on the blower housing and adapted to swivel relative to the blower housing, characterized in that the blower housing (1, 2) is equipped with a dome-shaped housing portion (3, 4, 5) extending transversely to the longitudinal axis (s) of the housing and accommodating at least part of an electric circuitry necessary for regulating the temperature of the air flow and the speed of the blower motor, said dome-shaped housing portion being directly connected to a power cord (12) and serving as bearing for the sleeve-shaped pivoted handle portion (7). BH-
2. A hair dryer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that pins (9, 10) providing the pivot axis (f) and engaged by the bearing lugs (8) of the sleeve-shaped handle portion (7) serving to store the power cord (12) are configured as electric switches, for example, as voltage selector switches.
3. A hair dryer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the part (5) of the dome-shaped housing portion (3, 4, 5) remote from the blower housing (1, 2) is of substantially hemispherical configuration.
4. A hair dryer as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the dome-shaped housing portion (3, 4, 5) serves to receive the electric on/off switch (6) and the voltage selector switch (9, 10).
5. A hair dryer as claimed in one or several of the preceding claims, characterized in that the dome-shaped housing portion (3, 4, 5) lies approximately in the region of the air inlet grille (19) of the motor-blower housing (1, 2), with the open end (20) of the handle portion (7) extending up to the region of the air exit grille (21) when in folded position.
6. A hair dryer as claimed in one or several of the preceding claims, characterized by a quiver 17 serving to store the hair dryer, said quiver having an eyelet (18) for hooking onto a wall, with the dimensions of the quiver (17) corresponding to those of the hair dryer when the handle portion (7) is in the folded position.

All changes indicated B.H. by the translator
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