April 28, 1953 W. J. SERVILLA 2,636,498

HAIRDRESSING COMB

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Fig. 1

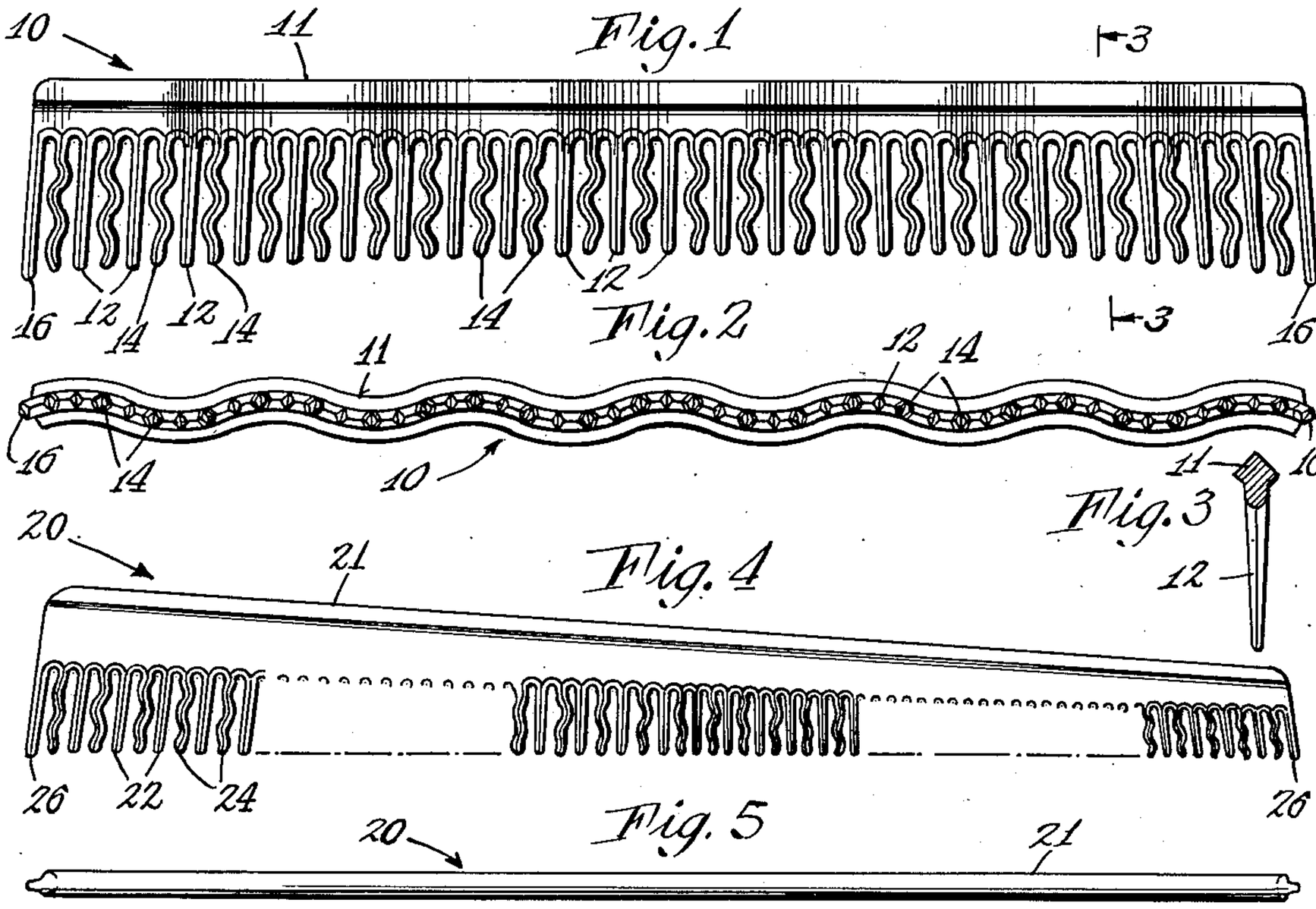


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

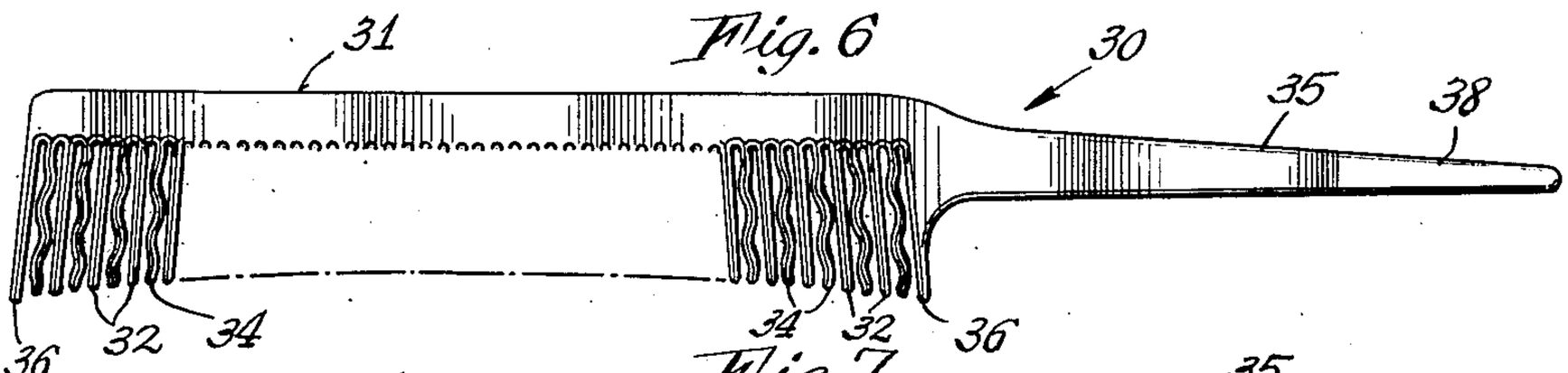


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

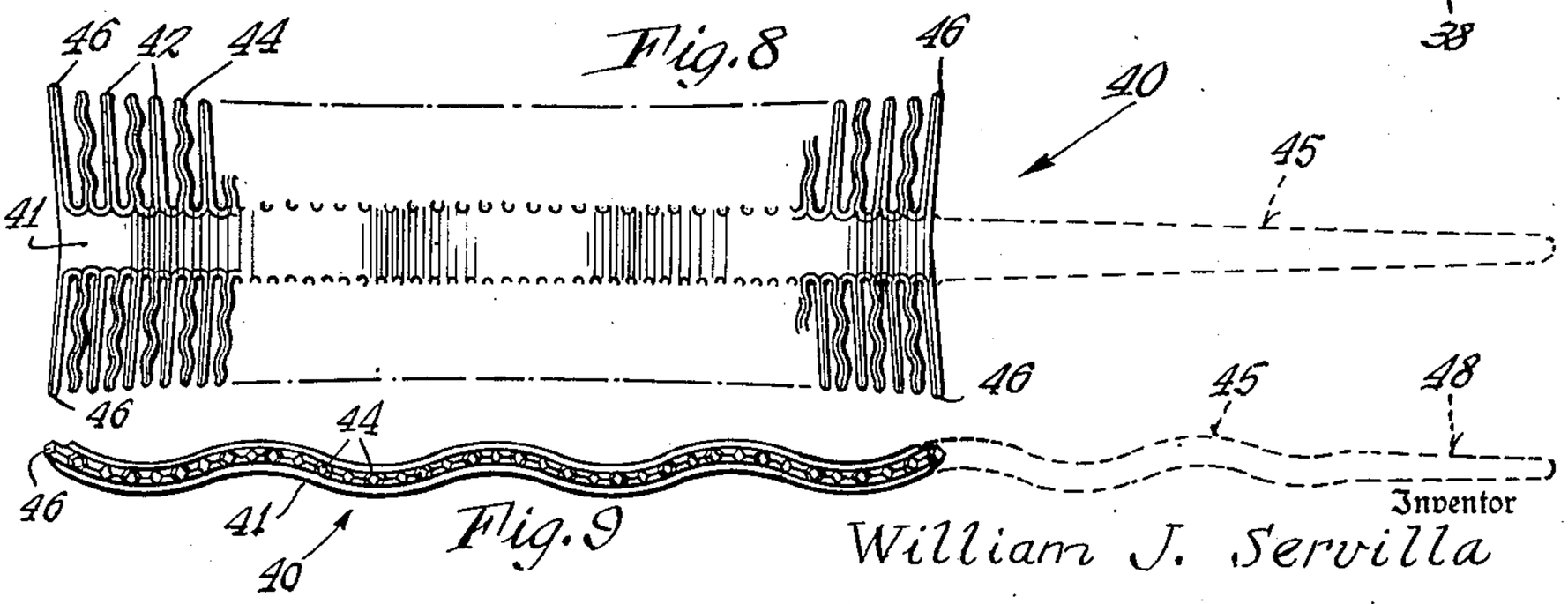


Fig. 9

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HAIRDRESSING COMB

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11 Claims. (Cl. 132—18)

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This invention relates to hairdressing combs and more particularly to hairdressing combs which are capable of being drawn through the hair with a minimum of effort and without tugging or jerking, even though the hair is long and thick, and even if it is snarled or entangled, or otherwise difficult to comb. Frequently, in combing hair, difficulty is experienced when the comb encounters a snarled or entangled portion, whereupon tugging or jerking of the comb is usually resorted to, with the result that quite often strands of hair are pulled out with a stinging sensation which is considerably annoying. This is a common occurrence with persons having curly or kinky hair and it is also more common in the combing of a woman's hair which is longer and thicker than a man's hair and the possibility of its becoming snarled or entangled is therefore proportionately greater.

Even when the hair is not entangled or knotted, the comb could be drawn through the hair too deeply with the result that binding could occur between the teeth of the comb and the heavy tufts of hair passing therethrough to cause similar irritation. Additionally, unless the stroke of the comb is halted promptly, the result is usually a snapped or broken comb to aggravate the situation.

In an effort to avoid such undesirable consequences, a comb with widely spaced teeth has often been resorted to. Such a comb is, of course, less susceptible to this undesirable characteristic of binding or catching but its use is not too desirable inasmuch as such a comb does not yield as becoming an appearance to the combed hair. In addition, such a comb is usually larger and heavier and more difficult to work with and, as a result, such combs with widely spaced teeth have not been accepted to any great extent.

It is a purpose of this invention to provide a comb which may easily be drawn through the hair and yield a becoming appearance.

It is a further purpose of this invention to provide a comb to be drawn through the hair to dress the same with a minimum of effort, even though the hair is long and thick and there are snarls or tangles present.

A still further purpose of the invention is to provide a comb which reduces to a minimum the possibility of catching in the hair and avoids pulling out of strands of hair.

An advantageous feature of the invention is the shaping of the teeth of the comb thereof whereby a smooth action is attained in drawing the comb through the hair.

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Another advantageous feature of the invention is the shaping of the comb to provide for better gripping by the hand of the user.

Still another feature of the invention is the shaping of the comb to provide for better conformation to the head of the person upon whom the comb is being used.

A further feature of the present invention is the provision of comb teeth particularly adapted to part the hair at a desired point.

Other advantages and features of the invention will appear in the following description of the preferred embodiment of the invention referring to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved comb of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the comb illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the comb taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of a modification of the comb shown in Figs. 1–3.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the comb illustrated in Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of another modification of the improved comb.

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the comb illustrated in Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a front elevation of still another modification of the improved comb.

Fig. 9 is a top plan view of the comb illustrated in Fig. 8.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, the improved comb 10 comprises a flexible backbone or comb body 11 of hard rubber or similar material suitable for the purpose. The comb body may be molded or otherwise manufactured in a diamond or square shaped cross section, as shown in Fig. 3, to provide a better gripping body for the fingers of the operator. Such a diamond shaped form has been found far superior to the normally round or arcuate form hitherto used and provides for better gripping and avoids the possibility of the comb slipping in the hand of the operator.

As shown in Fig. 2, which illustrates a "personal" comb, such as used in the home, the backbone 11 may have a wavy, undulating or curly form perpendicular to the teeth length which gives an undulating appearance to the comb. The curvature and spacing of these waves is such as to provide finger recesses which form a better gripping surface for the fingers of the user. This, however, is not absolutely essential to the operation of the comb and the backbone could be flat.

such as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, wherein a professional or barber's comb 20 is illustrated. In a use such as in men's haircutting, a straight backbone is preferable for trimming the hair on the neck or temples, where it is desirable to place the comb close to the scalp.

While the comb may have a wavy portion extending over half of the length and a straight portion for the remainder of the length, it is herein illustrated as being wavy or straight for the full length thereof as required.

Straight teeth 12 extend from the backbone 11 in a slightly outwardly flared fanlike formation, as shown in Fig. 1. At the central portion of the comb, the teeth 12 extend substantially at a right angle to the backbone 11, whereas the teeth 12 at the outer portions of the comb are inclined outwardly slightly in opposite directions away from the central portion. The relationship of the flaring of the teeth may be such that the axes of all the straight teeth, if extended, would pass through a common point. However, such is not essential and as long as the teeth are flared outwardly, the beneficial results of prevention of hair binding and catching in the teeth are obtained in varying degrees.

The teeth may have a diamond or a square shaped cross section, similar to the cross section of the backbone of the comb, and may be slightly tapered. The ends of the teeth are smoothly rounded and are not sharp, to avoid any tendency to scratch or irritate the scalp.

Curved, undulating or wavy teeth 14 are alternately interposed between the straight teeth 12 and have arcuate portions which deviate equally to both sides of the tooth axis to present an undulating appearance. The median line intersecting the space between adjacent straight teeth, is considered the axis of an undulating tooth and passes through the center of the base and tip of the tooth.

The wavy teeth do not touch the surface of the straight teeth at any point but approach and recede therefrom in undulating fashion. The axes of the curved teeth, if extended could similarly pass through the common apex of the axes of the straight teeth.

The curved or wavy teeth 14 are thus in a general way flared in a similar fanlike fashion as the straight teeth; that is, the axes of the wavy teeth at the central portion of the comb are substantially at right angles to the backbone 10, similar to the straight teeth thereat, whereas the axes of the wavy teeth at the outer portions of the comb are inclined outwardly slightly, similar to the straight teeth thereat.

Such a configuration of the wavy teeth enables the hair to slip through the teeth of the comb easier and prevents bunching and binding of the hair tufts. It is to be noted what whenever a wavy tooth or tine approaches one adjacent straight tooth, it creates a larger space behind it with respect to the other adjacent straight tooth and it is believed that such creates the resiliency and flexibility requisite to the smooth passage of the hair.

The wavy teeth 14 may have a diamond or a square shaped cross section similar to the straight teeth and backbone of the comb, and may also be slightly tapered similar to the straight teeth. The ends of the wavy teeth are smoothly rounded and are not sharp to avoid scratching or irritating the scalp.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the bases of the teeth follow the undulations of the backbone and the

length of the straight and wavy teeth is such that the ends of the teeth form a concave arcuate line. The curvature of this line gives to the comb greater conformability to the contour of the head and provides for an easier and more uniform stroke of the comb whereby the hair passes through the teeth of the comb more evenly. The spacing and flaring of the teeth is so arranged that the ends of the teeth are equally spaced along the concave arcuate line created thereby. In the case of the barber's comb 20, the spacing is, of course, equal along the straight line formed by the ends of the teeth. Such even spacing of the ends of the teeth also enables an even flow of hair through the comb by thus picking up approximately even groups of hair.

The ends of the outermost teeth 16, 16 by reason of the comb curvature which conforms to the contour of the head and also due to the increasing outward flare of the teeth as they approach the outer ends of the comb, are spaced outwardly sufficiently from the teeth adjacent thereto to form points capable of being used for forming a part in the hair. In the usual type of comb wherein the ends of the teeth are in a straight line and there is no outward flare to the teeth, the ends of the outermost teeth are much closer to the ends of the adjacent teeth and are more difficult to use for parting the hair. The comb of the present invention avoids this difficulty by the construction shown.

The extent to which the outermost teeth 16, 16 extend beyond the teeth adjacent thereto may advantageously be increased to provide for a better parting spike. Such is, of course, highly desirable in the case of the barber's comb 20, shown in Figs. 4 and 5, in which there is no curvature formed by the ends of the teeth, and the added length can be used to good advantage on the outermost teeth, 26, 26.

When the improved comb of the present invention is drawn through thick, long hair or through hair which is snarled or matted, the undulating form of the wavy teeth cooperates with the sides of the straight teeth to gently break up such obstructions and to permit a smooth movement of the comb through the hair.

In passing through the teeth of the comb, the hairs trace a sinuous path caused by the wavy surfaces of the curved teeth and not only is an easier and smoother action provided but the hair is given slight alternate lateral movements which fluff up and bring out any curl in the hair and avoid an undesirable stringy appearance. The undulating surface of the backbone assists in this and provides for increased fluffing up of the hair, thus providing advantages beyond the mere creation of finger grips.

The professional, or barber's comb 20 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, has a straight backbone 21 which is preferable in this type of comb used primarily in men's haircutting. Straight teeth 22 and wavy teeth 24 extend out of contact with each other and in alternate fashion from the backbone 21 in similar fashion to the teeth on the backbone of comb 10. The ends of the outermost teeth 26, 26 are extended beyond the straight line formed by the ends of the other teeth to form parting spikes. The spacing of the teeth on the left-hand end of the comb has been drawn to represent a coarse size, whereas the spacing of the teeth on the right-hand end of the comb has been drawn to represent medium coarse size. It is, of course, obvious that any selection of spacing may be made to have any desired size relation-

ship and the sizes selected for this and other combs represented herein is merely illustrative and not limitative. Such a comb permits close working when used in conjunction with shears and also provides for the drawing of the comb through the hair with less effort than if all the teeth were straight.

As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the principle of the present invention is equally applicable to a curling comb or, as is more popularly known, a "rattail comb" 30. The backbone 31 of this comb is also given a curved or undulating shape which not only facilitates gripping of the comb thereat but also cooperates with the curved or undulating shape of the wavy teeth 34, interspersed alternately between the straight teeth 32. The ends of the outermost teeth 36, 36 are extended similarly to the outermost teeth 16, 16 on the comb 10 and also constitute parting spikes.

While the backbone 31 may be provided with a diamond or square shape as shown in Fig. 1, it is illustrated in this form of the invention as having flat sides. The handle 35 of the comb 30 is also formed with undulations which provide recesses for the fingers. A portion 38 at the outermost end of the comb 30 is straight inasmuch as the comb is never gripped at such a far end and as such a straight length facilitates the sliding of the hair curls on its surface.

A double edged comb 40 is shown in Figs. 8 and 9 of a similar nature to the comb of Figs. 1 and 8 but possessing a double row of teeth which are oppositely positioned on each side of a backbone 41. Straight teeth 42 and wavy teeth 44 are present, as usual, and the ends of the outermost teeth 46, 46 are similarly increased in length to provide parting spikes. While a diamond of square shaped backbone, as shown in Fig. 3, may be provided, if desirable, in the illustrated form of the invention it has flat sides. It is pointed out that the teeth on the opposite sides of the backbone 41 may be of the same spacing, or of any selected differing sizes as required. In the illustrated form of the invention they are coarse on one side and medium coarse on the other side.

The comb 40 may be provided with a handle 45, similar to the handle 35, and also may have a straight end portion 48 whereby a double curling comb is formed.

The curvature of the undulations of the wavy teeth is such that there is no contact between the wavy teeth and the straight teeth when in normal untensioned condition. During use of the comb, the teeth may be flexed slightly to one side or the other but they remain substantially out of contact at all times. Hair which is difficult to comb may be dressed very easily with the improved comb of the present invention and the hair will assume a more pleasing appearance and be fluffier and wavier.

The invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific embodiments shown or described but variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth extending outwardly along the length of said backbone, said undulating teeth being undulated in the direction of the length of the comb backbone with the undulations thereof lying between and substantially coextensive in length with the straight teeth, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition with the ends of each tooth substantially lying on a line connecting the teeth immediately adjacent thereto, whereby the comb may be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

2. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth extending outwardly along the length of said backbone, said undulating teeth being undulated in the direction of the length of the comb backbone and having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the undulating teeth in said row being substantially coextensive in length with the adjacent straight teeth and being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition with the ends of each tooth substantially lying on a line connecting the teeth immediately adjacent thereto, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

3. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located at the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone, and the teeth located at the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined to said backbone and away from the teeth at the central portion, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

4. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

5. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone, a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, and parting spikes at the ends of said row of teeth, the ends of said parting spikes extending beyond the ends of the teeth in said row, whereby the hair may be parted and the comb may be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

6. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone having undulations

along the length thereof to provide finger recesses and to cooperate with the hereinafter mentioned teeth and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

7. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone having undulations along the length thereof to provide finger recesses and to cooperate with the hereinafter mentioned teeth, said backbone having a diamond shaped cross section for finger gripping purposes and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

8. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition with the ends of said teeth lying in a concavely curved line in the plane of the comb for better conformation to the contour of the head, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

9. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a flat comb backbone having a diamond shaped cross section for finger gripping purposes and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

10. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone, a handle having finger gripping undulations along the length thereof and forming an extension of said backbone and a row of spaced alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which undulate in the direction along the length of said backbone, the teeth located in the central portion of said row extending substantially perpendicularly to said backbone and the teeth located in the outer portions of said row extending outwardly from said backbone on both sides of and inclined away from the teeth in the central portion, said undulating teeth having curved portions alternately deviating on both sides of the tooth axis, the teeth in said row being noncontiguous when in normal untensioned condition, whereby the comb can be drawn easily and without binding through hair normally difficult to comb.

11. In a hairdressing comb of the character described, a comb backbone having an undulating body and a row of spaced teeth extending outwardly along the length of said backbone, said backbone being undulated in a direction perpendicular to the teeth length, said row of teeth comprising alternating straight teeth and undulating teeth which are undulated in the direction along the length of said backbone, with the bases of the teeth following the undulations of the body of said backbone.

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