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EYEWEAR AND NOSEPAD FOR USE WITH EYEWEAR

BRILLE UND NASENAUFLAGETEIL ZUR VERWENDUNG MIT BRILLEN
LUNETTES ET PLAQUETTE NASALE À UTILISER AVEC CES LUNETTES

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DE-C- 285 575
GB-A- 2 162 958
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This invention relates to eyewear and, in particular, to eyewear with a nose pad for resting on a user's nose.

Eyewear which comprises a frame housing a pair of lenses and having a bridge portion and temple members for locating the frame on a user's face, has the disadvantage that it tends to slip down a user's nose. This happens despite the provision of nose pads which rest against the opposite sides of a user's nose. The problem is particularly common during hot weather due to perspiration which is present on a user's face. The conventional arrangement also provides little or no protection against shocks due to impact with other objects.

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide eyewear which alleviates the above difficulties.

According to the present invention, this object is achieved by the eyewear of claim 1, and further improvements of the inventive eyewear are defined by claims 2 to 6.

GB-A-2 162 958 discloses an eyewear having a pair of lenses and two nose engagement pieces for resting against the opposite sides of a user's nose in order to locate the eyewear in its normal position. For playing games involving the use of a cue necessitating a sight along the cue, a spacer member is provided which can be fitted onto the bridge portion of the eyewear in order to lift the lenses above their normal position. The spacer member may for example be made of metal, plastics material or rubber, in particular of a material which can be shaped or formed (e.g. by cutting) by the user. The spacer member is in the form of a V or U-shaped member arranged to be fitted from below over the bridge portion such that the spacer member embraces the bridge member. The downwardly facing end of the spacer member is rounded when seen in a direction longitudinally of the bridge portion but straight when seen in the direction of the optical axes of the lenses, and the rear face of the spacer member is provided with a small concavity engaging the bridge of the user's nose. From the above it becomes clear that in normal use this known eyewear is located in position by the two nose engagement pieces resting against the opposite sides of the user's nose.

The eyewear according to the present invention may comprise a lens member for extending across the user's eyes and having a bridge portion for bridging the user's nose, the lens member being provided with said nose pad.

The nose pad may be located substantially centrally of the bridge portion.

The nose pad may be integral with the bridge portion or it may be detachable from the bridge portion. The frame and the nose pad may be attached to the bridge portion by means of an adhesive.

The nose pad may be of a deformable material which deforms to acquire the shape of a user's nose. It is preferably of a material which is slip resistant. It may be of a material which becomes somewhat softened or somewhat sticky to the touch when exposed to ambient or body heat, to resist sliding down the nose of a user.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the description of a preferred embodiment of the invention below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be described, by way of examples, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view showing eyewear according to the invention located in position on a user's face;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary rear view of the eyewear of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a three-dimensional view of eyewear showing a detachable nose pad according to the invention;

Figure 4A is a fragmentary rear view of eyewear with a nose pad according to another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4B is a section taken along the lines IVB - IVB in Figure 4A;

Figure 4C is a three-dimensional view of the nose pad of Figure 4A; and

Figures 5A to C are views similar to Figures 4A to C, but showing a nose pad according to another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 6A is a fragmentary rear view of eyewear with a nose pad according to yet another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 6B is a sectional view taken along lines VIB - VIB of Figure 6A;

Figure 6C is a perspective rear view of the nose pad of Figure 6A; and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective rear view of a further embodiment of an eyewear frame for use with the nose pad of Figure 6A.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0012] With reference to Figure 1, reference numeral 10 generally indicates eyewear comprising a frame 12 housing a pair of eye lenses 14 and having a bridge portion 16 for spanning a user's nose and a pair of temple members 18 for locating the eyewear 10 on a user's face.

[0013] The eyewear 10 includes a nose pad 20 which is in the form of projection extending downwardly from the center of the bridge portion 16. The nose pad 20 has a rounded lower portion which rests by gravity on the frontal part of the user's nose at the origin of the nose. The nose pad 20 is of a flexible or resilient material and may be made of, or contain, for example silicone. In this way, the nose pad 20 locates the frame 12 comfortably in position and counteracts the frame 12 from sliding down the front of a user's nose. It also provides protection against shocks resulting from impact of the frame 12 with another object.

[0014] A rear view of the nose pad 20 is shown in Figure 2.

[0015] Alternatively, the eyewear may comprise a frame for holding a unitary lens having a bridge portion framed in the lens to accommodate the user's nose. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the nose pad 20 may be mounted on the bridge portion of the lens member itself rather than on the frame.

[0016] In Figure 3, another embodiment of the invention is shown in which a nose pad 30 which is detachable from the frame 12, is provided. The temple members (only one being shown) are again indicated by reference numeral 18, the eye lenses by reference numeral 14 and the bridge portion by numeral 16.

[0017] As can be seen, the nose pad 30 is provided with a lip 32 and the bridge portion 16 of the frame 12 is provided with a matching slot 34 for removably attaching the nose pad 30 to the frame 12. In this way, a variety of different nose pads 30 may be provided for attachment to the frame 12 to suit a user's preferences, or to replace a used nose pad.

[0018] As an alternative to the lip 32 and slot 34, any other suitable type of snap in or clip on connection may be provided for removably attaching the nose pad 30 to the frame 12.

[0019] In the present example the nose pads 20, 30 are shown as having a rounded lower portion but any other shape which will comfortably locate the nose pads 20, 30 in the depression (indicated at 50 in Figure 1) at the origin of a user's nose may be used.

[0020] The nose pad 30 may be of materials of different hardness. For example, the upper part of the nose pad 30 containing the lip 32 may be of a harder material than the lower part resting on the nose, which would be of a relatively soft material. The nose pad 30 may be of a material which becomes somewhat softened or sticky to the touch when exposed to ambient or body heat, to resist sliding down the nose of a user.

[0021] The nose pad 30 may be a hollow member which is filled with air or a flexible or deformable filler material, such as silicone.

[0022] It can be seen that the nose pad 20, 30 effectively forms a sac which seats in the depression 50 to locate the frame 12 in position and to protect against impacts both from the front and the side of the frame 12. If desired additional fit elements, such as pads which rest against the opposite sides of the nose, may also be provided.

[0023] Referring now to Figures 4A to C, a nose pad 40 according to another embodiment of the invention is shown. The nose pad 40 is in the form of a sac which is removably attached to the bridge portion 16 of the frame 12. It is attached by means of a pin 42 which extends through an opening 44 in the nose pad 40 and clips into a recess 46 in the bridge portion 16, as shown. When attached to the rear of the bridge portion 16, the nose pad 40 extends somewhat rearwardly and downwardly from the bridge portion. It is provided with a central indent 48 at its lower end for seating on the frontal part of the bridge of a user's nose. The nose pad 40 may be of a material which deforms to acquire the shape of a user's nose and which is slip resistant.

[0024] Referring to Figures 5A to C, a nose pad 50 according to another embodiment of the invention is shown. In Figure 5A, the rear side of the nose pad 50 is shown to the right of the section line VB - VB and the front side (i.e. the side facing away from a user's face) is shown to the left of the section line. In this embodiment the nose pad 50 has a flap 52 which has the opening 44 for receiving the fastening pin 42 therethrough.

[0025] Referring now to Figures 6A to C, a nose pad 60 according to yet another embodiment of the invention is shown. The nose pad 60 is in the form of a sac, the rear portion 62 being intended to engage the bridge portion of the frame or eyepiece. The rear portion 62 may be provided with a material which is relatively stickier than the material forming the rest of the sac 60. Alternatively, the rear portion 62 may be made of the same material as the rest of the sac 60 but may be provided with an adhesive coating for securing the nose pad to the bridge portion of the frame.

[0026] Nose pad 60 may further comprise a silicone material having a skin formed around the silicone material but allowing an exposed portion corresponding to rear portion 62. By selection of the appropriate silicone material, exposed rear portion 62 can thereby be provided with a stickier surface than the skin surrounding the balance of nose pad 60. Such skin may for example be vacuum formed partly around the nose pad 60 leaving exposed rear portion 62.

[0027] As illustrated in Figure 6B, the nose pad 60 may also be provided with a rearwardly and downwardly extending portion 64 so as to provide an area between portion 64 and bridge portion 66 of the frame into which the portion 64 may be deformed when the frame is sub-
jected to a rearward impact.

[0028] The frame 68 may also be provided with a recessed area 70 corresponding in shape to the rear portion 62 of the nose pad so as to enhance the retention of the nose pad to the frame 68.

[0029] While only preferred embodiments of the invention have been described herein in detail, the invention is not limited thereby and modifications can be made within the scope of the attached claims.

Claims

1. Eyewear (10) comprising a frame (12) for holding a pair of lenses (14) or a unitary lens, a bridge portion (16) for bridging a user's nose, and a pair of temple members (18) for locating the frame on the user's head, said bridge portion (16) holding a support member (20) extending rearwardly of said bridge portion and having a downwardly facing rounded end for resting by gravity on the frontal part of the bridge of said user's nose, wherein said support member (20) is detachably fixed to the rear side of said bridge portion (16) and has the form of a flexible nose pad having a downwardly facing end.

2. The eyewear according to claim 1, wherein the nose pad (20) is located substantially centrally of the bridge portion (16).

3. The eyewear according to claim 1, wherein the frame (12) and the nose pad (20, 30) are provided with mutually engaging formations (32, 34) for removably attaching the nose pad (20, 30) to the frame (12).

4. The eyewear according to claim 3, wherein the mutually engaging formations comprise a slot (34) in the bridge portion (16) and a lip (32) on the nose pad (20, 30) for engaging with the slot (34).

5. The eyewear according to claim 3, wherein the mutually engaging formations comprise a pin (42) on the nose pad (20) and a recess (46) in the bridge portion (16) for receiving the pin (42).

6. The eyewear according to anyone of claims 1 to 5, wherein the sac (40) has an indent (48) in the downwardly facing rounded end for seating on the frontal part of the bridge of a user's nose.

Patentansprüche


2. Brille nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Nasenpad (20) im Wesentlichen zentral bezüglich des Brückenteils (16) angeordnet ist.

3. Brille nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Fassung (12) und das Nasenpad (20, 30) mit gegenseitig in Eingriff bringbaren Strukturen (32, 34) zum lösbar Verbinden des Nasenpad (20, 30) mit der Fassung (12) versehen sind.


5. Brille nach Anspruch 3, wobei die gegenseitig in Eingriff bringbaren Strukturen einen Stift (42) an dem Nasenpad (20) und eine Aussparung (46) in dem Brückenteil (16) zur Aufnahme des Stiftes (42) umfassen.


Revendications

1. Lunettes (10) comprenant une monture (12) servant à retenir une paire de verres (14) ou un verre unitaire, une partie en pont (16) destinée à être disposée sur le nez d'un utilisateur, et une paire d'éléments temporaux (18) pour placer la monture sur la tête de l'utilisateur, ladite partie en pont (16) retenant un élément de support (20) qui s'étend vers l'arrière de ladite partie en pont et possède une extrémité arrondie tournée vers le bas et destinée à s'appliquer, sous l'action de la pesanteur, sur la partie frontale de l'arête dudit nez de l'utilisateur, dans lesquelles ledit élément de support (20) est fixé de façon amovible au côté arrière de ladite partie en pont (16) et possède la forme d'une plaquette nasale flexible possédant une extrémité tournée vers
le bas.

2. Lunettes selon la revendication 1, dans lesquelles la plaquette nasale (20) est disposée dans une position essentiellement centrale de la partie en pont (16).

3. Lunettes selon la revendication 1, dans lesquelles la monture (12) et la plaquette nasale (20, 30) sont pourvues de configurations (32, 34) d'engagement mutuel permettant la fixation amovible de la plaquette nasale (20, 30) à la monture (12).

4. Lunettes selon la revendication 3, dans lesquelles les configurations d'engagement mutuel comprennent une fente (34) située dans la partie en pont (16) et une lèvre (32) située sur la plaquette nasale (20, 30) et destinée à coopérer avec la fente (34).

5. Lunettes selon la revendication 3, dans lesquelles les configurations d'engagement mutuel comprennent une tige (42) située sur la plaquette nasale (20) et un renfoncement (46) dans la partie en pont (16) et destiné à recevoir la tige (42).

6. Lunettes selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans lesquelles le logement (40) possède une indentation (48) située dans l'extrémité arrondie tournée vers le bas et destinée à prendre appui sur la partie frontale de l'arête du nez d'un utilisateur.