United States Patent

[11] 3,602,915

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[21] Appl. No. **882,775**
[22] Filed **Dec. 19, 1969**
[45] Patented **Sept. 7, 1971**
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Continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 777,737, Nov. 21, 1968, now abandoned.

[54] **BASEBALL MITT OR GLOVE**
6 Claims, 3 Drawing Figs.

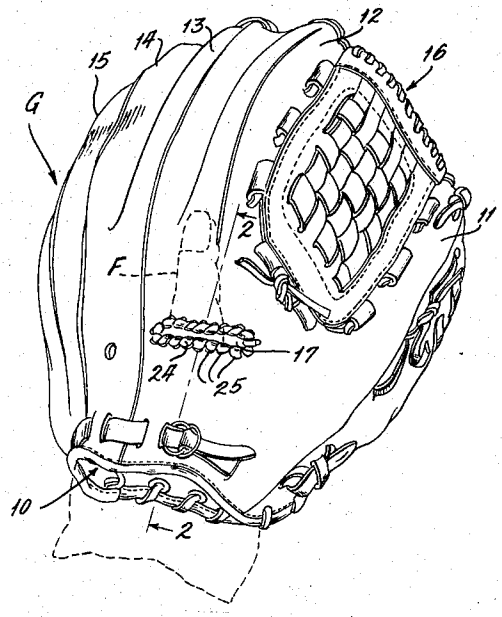
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **2/19**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A41d 13/10**
[50] **Field of Search** 2/16, 18, 19, 159, 161, 163, 158

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ABSTRACT: A baseball mitt or glove including a construction in which control over the position of the glove is enhanced by allowing a finger of the wearer of the glove to be exposed outside of the back of the glove body, without preventing the player from positioning the finger inside the glove when found desirable.



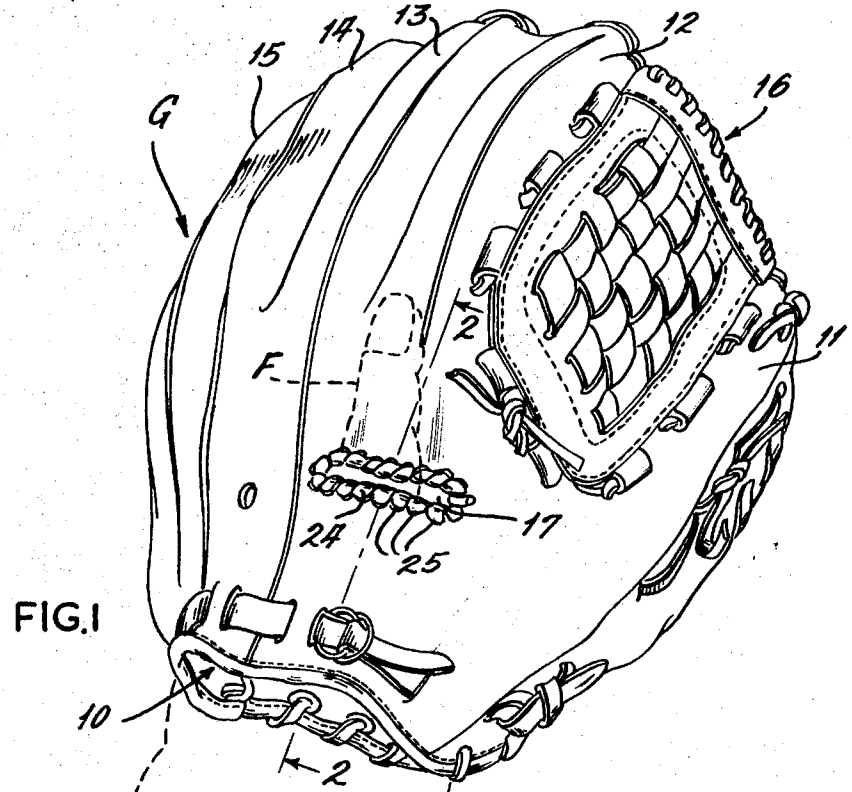


FIG. 1

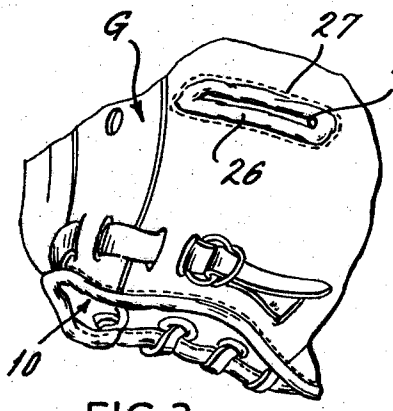


FIG. 3

FIG. 2

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BASEBALL MITT OR GLOVE

This application is a Continuation of Ser. No. 777,737, filed 11/21/68 now abandoned.

This invention relates to improvements in baseball mitts and gloves and is particularly concerned with a construction that allows improved control over the action of the glove in catching a ball.

The improved baseball mitt or glove incorporates an opening in the back thereof so that communication is established between the normal hand-receiving pocket in the glove body and the outside of the back of the body, whereby a player is enabled to place a finger through the opening to the outside of the back of the glove when desired.

The objects of the present invention are to provide a glove construction which will allow the player to obtain additional plies of material as cushioning when catching a baseball; to provide a means for allowing a player to place the index finger, which is most frequently in the ball catching area of the glove, outside of the back of the glove body so as to make use of the cushioning effect of the air in the interior of the glove, in addition to the normal padding; and to provide greater control over the ball-catching action of the glove by allowing a finger to be placed at the outside.

The invention resides in the components and parts thereof hereinafter to be described and claimed with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein: FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the back of a baseball mitt or glove showing the improved opening in the body thereof so as to permit the exterior positioning

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the back of a baseball mitt or glove showing the improved opening in the body thereof so as to permit the exterior positioning of the index finger of the player using the same;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary and greatly enlarged sectional view taken at line 2—2 in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary view of a modified construction for a baseball mitt or glove.

Referring to the drawings, a glove body is shown at G and is formed with a hand-receiving opening **10**, having a thumb section **11** and respective finger sections **12**, **13**, **14** and **15** communicating therewith. The space between the thumb section **11** and the index finger section **12** is occupied by a backstop device **16**. This glove construction is more particularly shown and described in the application of Roland Latina, Ser. No. 671,796 filed Sept. 29, 1967, now abandoned.

While the important feature of the present invention is not limited to the character of glove shown in the above-mentioned prior patent application, in its essence it consists in providing an opening **17** in the back of the glove body G, said opening communicating between the outside and the interior hand-receiving pocket **18** as shown in FIG. 2. The opening is preferably formed by cutting slits through the back ply **19** of the glove body as well as the interior back lining **20** for the back ply. Such slits are formed in general alignment with the index finger section **12** as seen in FIG. 1 so that it will allow a natural positioning of the index finger either in the pocket **18** or on the outside of the back ply **19**. As is shown in the views of the drawings, the index finger is shown in phantom at "F" so that the usage of the opening **17** will be fully appreciated. In addition, FIG. 2 shows a palm lining ply **21** spaced from the back lining ply **20**, which with a palm ply **22** encloses padding **23**.

The opening **17** is finished so as to prevent tearing, or the development of rough edges which could cause blisters, by means of a binding lacing **24** which is successively laced through apertures **25** about the respective margin of the opening **17**. As is shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the binding lacing **24** is made considerably wider than the diameter of the apertures **25** so that it can be spread out and form a Florentine-type lacing which provides a complete finished margin for the opening **17**. The back lining ply **20** constitutes part of an overall glove lining which has finger stalls aligning with and leading up to the individual finger sections **12**, **13**, **14** and **15**. The finger stalls form part of the hand receiving pocket **18** and receives the individual fingers of the user's hand. Indeed, the finger stalls of the lining generally locate the user's hand in a predetermined position within the hand receiving pocket **18**. The finger opening **17** aligns with the finger stall which extends up to the index finger section **12**.

In FIG. **3** there is shown a modified construction in which the back plies of the glove body G are slit to form an opening **17***a* which communicates with the interior hand receiving pocket **18**, as seen in FIG. **2** for example. The edges of the plies are covered by a binding strip **26** which is secured in the usual way by stitching **27**. Thus, the binding protects the player's finger from roughness that might result from forming the opening **17***a*.

The construction above described is an improvement in a glove body which is characterized by an outer shell having a back ply, an inner lining having a lining ply adjacent the back ply and padded plies in the ball catching area of the body. The improvement in its broad aspect resides in the forming of registered or aligned openings in the back and inner lining plies of the glove body, and making the opening elongated transversely of length of a finger to allow the easy projection of the finger outwardly so as to lie on the outside of the back ply behind the ball catching area of the glove body. Finishing means of FIGS. **2** or **3** may be used to cover the cut edges of the openings in both plies.

I claim:

1. A ball glove comprising a shell having palm and back plies provided with detached margins which define a hand receiving opening leading into and providing access to a hand receiving pocket enclosed between the plies, the plies being joined except at said hand receiving opening to provide a thumb section and a plurality of finger sections in the shell, the back ply having a finger opening located therein intermediate the hand-receiving opening and the inner end of one of the finger sections, the finger opening providing an exit from the hand-receiving pocket to the exterior of the shell and being sized and located to receive only one of the fingers on the user's hand, whereby the one finger of the user's hand may be extended from the hand receiving pocket and positioned against the outwardly presented surface of the back ply.

2. A glove according to claim **1** wherein one of the finger sections aligns with the index finger of the user's hand when the user's hand is in the hand-receiving pocket, and wherein said finger opening is located in alignment with the user's index finger.

3. A glove according to claim **1** and further characterized by a lining positioned against the inwardly presented surfaces of the back and palm plies; and wherein the lining has an opening which marginally registers with said finger opening in the back ply, the back ply and the lining being attached to each other along the registered margins of their respective finger openings.

4. A glove according to claim **1** wherein the finger opening is a slot, the major dimension of which is transverse to the axis of the finger section with which the slot aligns.

5. A glove according to claim **1** wherein the finger opening is positioned in the vicinity of the inner end of the user's index finger when the user's hand is in the hand receiving pocket.

6. A ball glove comprising a shell having thumb and finger sections and palm and back plies which extend along the thumb and finger sections as well as rearwardly therefrom, the palm and back plies beyond the inner ends of the finger sections terminating at detached margins which form a hand-receiving opening leading into the interior of the glove, a lining in the shell and forming a hand-receiving pocket, access to which is gained through the hand-receiving opening, the hand-receiving pocket including finger stalls which are formed in the lining and open toward the hand-receiving opening for receiving the fingers of the user's hand and for generally locating the user's hand and fingers in a predetermined position in the glove, the back ply of the shell being provided with a finger

opening sized to comfortably accommodate only one finger on the user's hand and aligned with the lining finger stall which receives that one finger, the finger opening providing an exit from the hand-receiving pocket to the exterior of the shell and being spaced from the detached margin of the back ply a sufficient distance to enable the one finger, at the option of the user, to project through the finger opening from the hand-receiving pocket and extend along the external surface of the back ply when the user's hand is located in the predetermined position within the hand-receiving pocket.