June 6, 1950 H. GOLDSMITH ET AL 2,510,218

BALL CATCHING GLOVE

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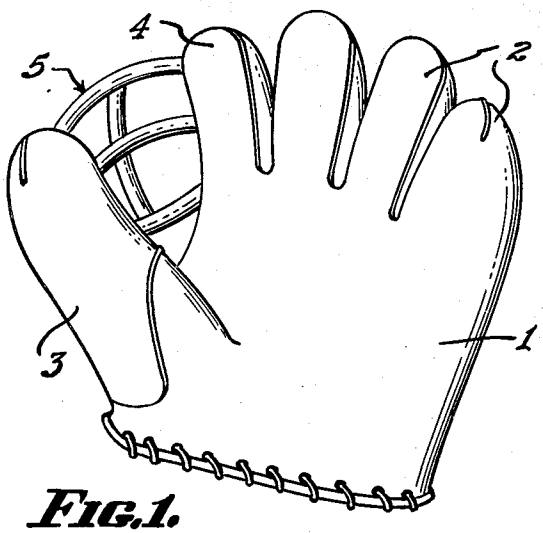


FIG. 1.

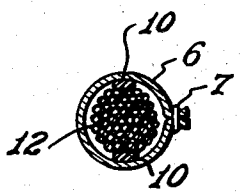


FIG. 4.

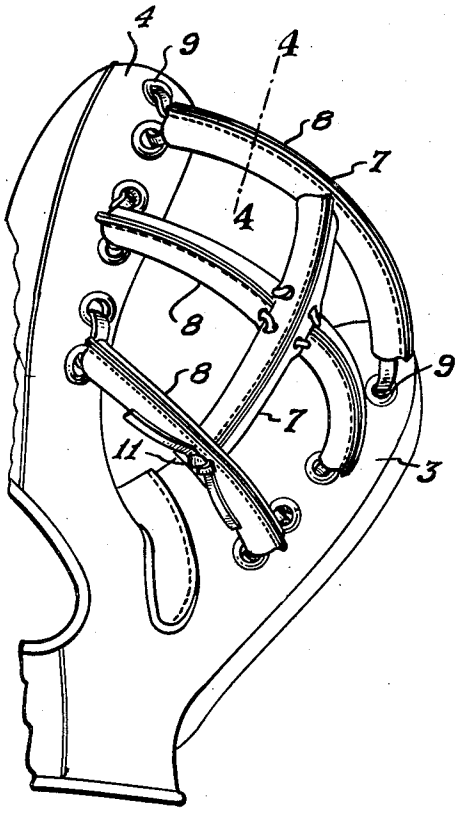


FIG. 2.

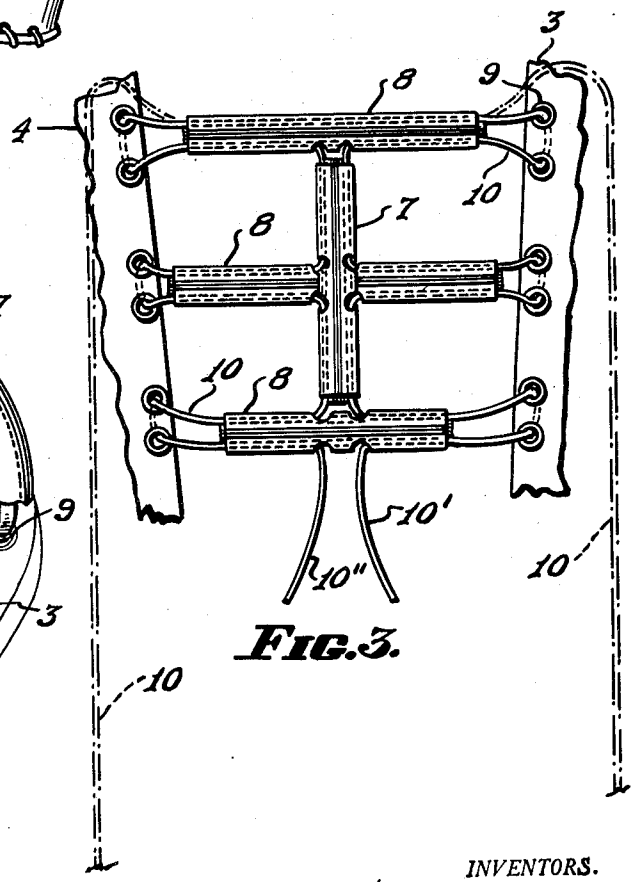


FIG. 3.

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BALL CATCHING GLOVE

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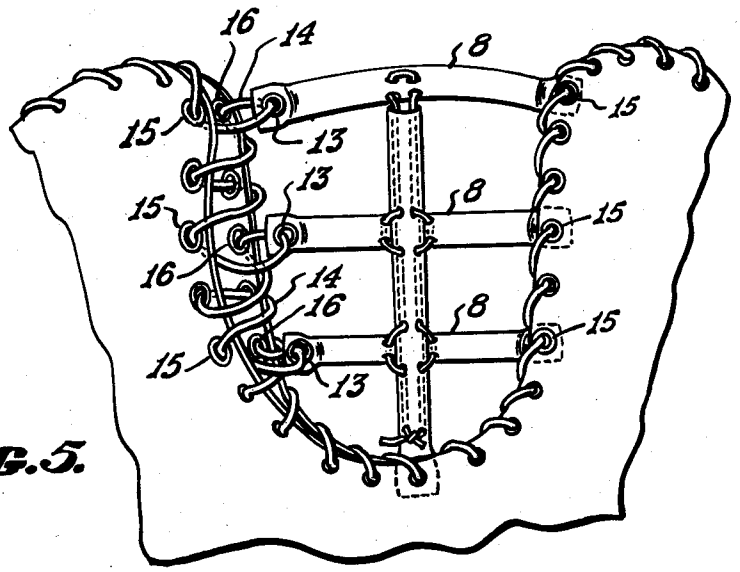


FIG. 5.

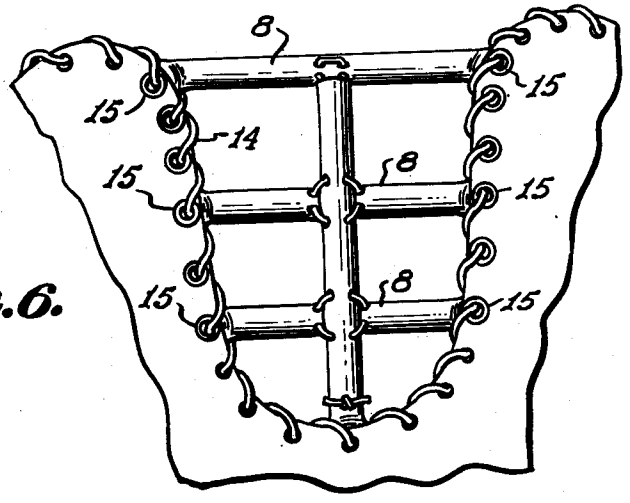


FIG. 6.

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BALL CATCHING GLOVE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

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Our invention relates to a ball catching glove such as a baseball glove, soft ball glove, fielder's glove, catcher's mitt, and gloves of a similar nature that are used in sports requiring the catching of a ball.

Ball catching gloves of the type to which our invention relates ordinarily have a web between the thumb and first finger which assists in the catching of the ball and prevents the ball slipping through this aperture in the glove.

It is an object of our invention to provide a ball catching glove having a web between the thumb and first finger which is more or less in the form of a net and which, besides preventing the slippage of a ball between the first finger and the thumb, also snares and catches the ball and hence retains it in the player's hand.

It is an object of our invention to provide a ball catching glove wherein the above described web may be easily adjusted to conform to the preference of the wearer of the glove.

It is a further object of our invention to provide a glove wherein the web above referred to is of relatively strong construction so as to prevent breakage, but at the same time is relatively flexible and soft so as not to interfere with the movement of the player's fingers in catching or handling a ball or other missile.

It is a further object of our invention to provide a ball catching glove having a web as described above, but which is preferably slightly resilient so as not to injure any other part of the body by accidental manipulation of the glove or to injure another player.

These and other objects of our invention which will be set forth hereinafter or will be apparent to one skilled in the art upon reading this specification, we accomplish by that certain construction and arrangement of parts of which we shall now describe an exemplary embodiment. Reference is now made to the drawings which form a part thereof and in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of our novel ball catching glove.

Figure 2 is a side perspective view of our novel ball catching glove showing our novel web.

Figure 3 is a detailed view of our novel web.

Figure 4 is a cross section of one of the tubular web members taken on the section line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a modified glove with the laced seam open.

Figure 6 is a rear view of a portion of a modified glove with the seam laced.

Briefly, in the practice of our invention, we

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provide a web between the thumb and forefinger of the glove made up of tubular web members held in position on the glove and in reference to each other by lacing through the tubular members and through grommets in the material forming the thumb and forefinger of the glove. However, with some gloves having a laced periphery, it is desirable to hold some of the members in place by placing a grommet in the ends thereof and lacing through them with the lace normally used to lace up the periphery.

While in the following description and in the drawings we have illustrated a web composed of a single central tubular member and three transverse tubular members, it is to be understood that different designs and different numbers of tubular members may be used without departing from the spirit of our invention.

The tubular members are preferably formed of soft leather sewn into tubes. However, other material may be used, as will be apparent to one skilled in the art.

Referring to Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the drawings, the ball catcher's glove 1 is composed of padded fingers 2, and a padded thumb member 3. Between the first finger 4 and the thumb 3, we provide a web generally shown at 5.

The web 5, as more clearly shown in Figures 2 and 3, is preferably formed of tubular members 6, preferably made of soft leather and sewn together as at 7 to form a tube.

We preferably provide a central tubular member 7, which substantially bisects the angle between the thumb member 3 and the first finger member 4. We also provide transverse tubular members 8, which span this angle. Grommets 9 are placed in the thumb portion and the first finger portion 4 preferably in groups of two, opposite the ends of the transverse members 8.

The transverse members 8 are at substantially right angles and cross over the bisecting members 7 as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The tubular members 7 and 8 are all held in position by lacing 10, which runs through the tubular members and through the grommets 9, as shown in the drawings.

In this instance, the lacing consists of a single continuous strand 10, which is first laced through the top transverse member 8 and then through the grommets 9 on the thumb and finger of the glove. The lacing 10 is then brought back through the same tubular member and down through the bisecting tubular member 7. From that tubular member it is brought out through the next transverse tubular member and the grom-

mets 9 at the end. This is continued and the ends 10' and 10'' are finally brought out together and tied in a knot 11 (see Figure 2).

From the above, it is apparent that each of the tubular members has the lacing 10 run through it twice or in double relation. This greatly strengthens the web 5 without making it rigid. The use of a single lace 10 permits easy and quick adjustment of the web 5 to conform to the preference of the wearer of the glove.

In order to stiffen the web 5, we provide a rope-like core 12 within the tubular members themselves. This, besides slightly stiffening the tubular members, also has the advantage of creating a padded effect, which besides resisting the blow of the caught ball, prevents the web 5 from injuring the player or other players in any way. While the rope-like core 12 is of distinct advantage, we do not intend to limit ourselves to padding of this type or any padding at all, since it may be preferable in some cases to use a web such as we have described, without the core 12.

The seam 7 is preferably positioned towards the back of the web, so as not to interfere with the caught ball or missile.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings wherein we have shown a modification of our invention particularly applicable to gloves having a laced periphery, such as basemen's mitts, we have fastened the tubular members to the glove in a slightly different manner.

In this instance, the ends of the tubular members 8 are flattened and a grommet 13 placed therein. The web is thus held to the glove between the thumb and first finger by the peripheral lacing 14 of the glove running through the grommet 13 which is positioned between the grommets 15 and 16, which are in the body of the glove and used for holding the same together.

It is to be noted that the ends of the tubular members 8 in this case are sandwiched between the front and rear surfaces of the glove so as to hide the end and the grommet 13, as more clearly shown in Figure 6.

In this case, the tubular members may or may not contain the rope-like core, and the central bisecting tubular member may be fastened to the transverse tubular members by lacing as heretofore described with the terminal end sandwiched between and laced to the front and rear junction of the leather at the crotch between the thumb and first finger.

From the above, it is apparent that we have provided a web for a ball catching glove which may be easily adjusted by the player and which will at all times catch and retain a ball attempting to slip through between the thumb and first finger of the player. It is also apparent that we have provided a web of soft and flexible construction, but which is extremely strong and durable and which may be easily adjusted by the wearer.

It is to be understood that modification may be made in our invention without departing from the spirit thereof, and we do not intend to limit oureslves otherwise than as pointed out in the claims which follow.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a ball catching glove having a laced periphery, a web between the thumb and first finger comprising tubular members having grommets in their ends with the peripheral lacing of the glove running through said grommets to hold the members in position.

2. In a ball catching glove having a laced periphery, a web between the thumb and first finger comprising tubular members having grommets in their ends with the peripheral lacing of the glove running through said grommets to hold the members in position, and a core of padding within the tubular members.

3. In a ball catching glove having a laced periphery, a web between the thumb and remaining portion of the glove comprising a tubular web member bisecting the angle between the thumb and remaining portion of the glove, transverse tubular members crossing the first mentioned tubular member and spanning the angle between the thumb and remaining portion of the glove, grommets in the ends of said transverse tubular members laced into the peripheral lacing of the glove and lacing running through said first mentioned tubular member and said transverse tubular members for holding the web in place.

4. In a ball catching glove formed of a front and back portion laced together at the periphery, a web between the thumb and remaining portion of the glove comprising tubular members having ends sandwiched between the front and rear portion of the glove with the peripheral lacing running therethrough and a single tubular member normal to all of said first mentioned tubular members and laced thereto by a separate single lacing running longitudinally through the last mentioned tubular member and transversely through the first mentioned tubular members.

HUGO GOLDSMITH.
ALBERT HILTON.

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