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W. O. WELLS, JR

2,344,477

GLOVE

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*Fig. 1.*

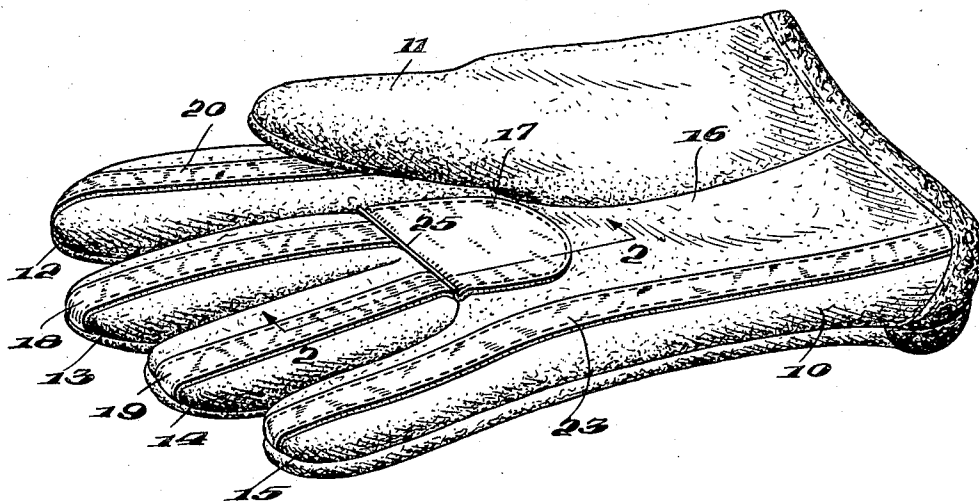


*Fig. 2.*

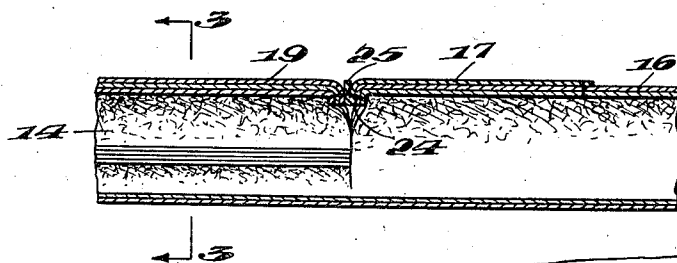


*Fig. 3.*

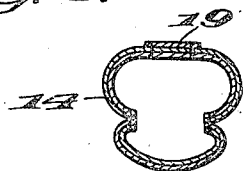
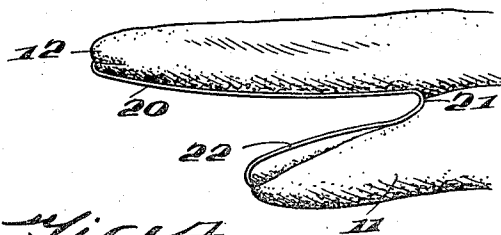


*Fig. 4.*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## GLOVE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—159)

This invention relates to gloves, and has for its principal object the improvement of the front side of the glove with respect to its gripping qualities.

The invention is primarily intended for use in gloves employed in driving automobiles, to permit of a better grip on the steering wheel being obtained, but it is also applicable to gloves for other purposes having surfaces not adherently adapted to give a firm grip on an object received between the palm and fingers.

According to the invention supplemental gripping elements are secured to the face side of the glove in an arrangement such as to provide maximum gripping qualities without impairing flexibility. While it has heretofore been suggested to employ gripping elements, particularly in the finger areas, it is my belief that prior gloves of this character have not been constructed to include satisfactory gripping surfaces in certain localized areas of the gloves having the form and arrangement adapted to prevent the glove from slipping on objects in the absence of an extremely firm grasp on the object which is tiring to the hand.

In grasping automobile steering wheels, for example, the upper portion of the palm at the base of the two middle fingers plays a particularly important part, and by providing a suitable gripping surface in this area, the ability of a glove to avoid slippage on objects is greatly enhanced, and this improvement is particularly noticeable where the object is held in the hand by only a loose grasp. The invention provides a suitable grip element in the portion just referred to, and makes use of further grip elements in organized cooperative arrangement therewith as will be hereafter described.

I further found that the area at the base of the thumb between the front face of the thumb and palm are also particularly important portions of the glove in gripping objects, and particular attention is given to this area in the invention because it appears that a gripping element of limited size at this point is far more effective in improving the general gripping qualities of the glove than extensive gripping elements in other portions of the glove.

The invention will be understood by reference

to the illustration in the accompanying drawing, and the following detailed description thereof.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a glove embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross section of one of the glove fingers taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and,

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary further view of the glove particularly showing the construction at the thumb and index finger.

The glove illustrated is of knitted jersey cloth, and is of a dress type. Such gloves are commonly used for driving automobiles and because of their cloth surface are particularly subject to slippage. The glove is generally designated 10 and includes the thumb portion 11, index finger 12, middle fingers 13 and 14, and little finger 15.

According to the invention the gripping element in the form of a patch 17 is applied to the palm 16 of the glove having its upper edge extending across the bases of the middle fingers 13 and 14, and terminating in a rounded lower end substantially on a line with the base of the crotch between the thumb 11 and index finger 12. Extending upwardly from the upper edge of the patch in continuation thereof are gripping strips 18 and 19 located on the respective front faces of middle fingers 13 and 14. When the fingers are bent around an object, the object is caused to firmly engage patch 17, and is firmly held between such element and strips 18 and 19.

While patch 17 should be so formed as to provide a continuous gripping surface in the central upper portion of the palm as shown, it is desirable that the same be limited in its total width to the distance across the two middle fingers so as not to impair the flexibility of the glove in bending along a vertical line. Similarly, the vertical length of the patch is limited so that it will not impair the bending of the glove across the palm at the base of the knuckles.

As a further feature of the invention a gripping strip 20 is disposed on the palm in spaced relation to patch 17 extending downwardly around crotch 21 between index finger 12 and thumb 11. As shown strip 20 preferably extends

up index finger 12 and is provided with integral extension 22 extending up the inner face of thumb 11. Strip 20, as in the case of strips 18 and 19, is relatively narrow, but by locating the same so as to extend around crotch 21 it is extremely effective in securing a firm grip of the glove on an object as in the case of patch 17, even though the object be only loosely grasped.

Patch 17 is preferably bordered on its other side by a further narrow strip 23 on the palm aligned with and usually extending up little finger 15. For purposes of appearance the lower end of strip 23 may be carried down the palm to the lower end of the glove without noticeably impairing the ability of the glove to bend across the knuckles.

With the construction as described the upper palm area of the glove is provided with a central grip area of appreciable size through patch 17 and spaced narrow gripping areas aligned with the first and little fingers through strips 20 and 23. Particularly important is the further gripping area provided at thumb crotch 21, and it may be here mentioned that while the grip areas on the fingers and thumb are useful to insure a firm grip of the glove under all circumstances, a very effective grip can be obtained merely through the provision of gripping means in the central upper area of the palm and in the localized area of thumb crotch 21.

The various gripping elements are preferably formed of relatively soft leather providing a good gripping surface and sufficiently thin to bend easily. Because of the limited size of the gripping elements they may be formed of scrap leather so as not to appreciably increase the cost of the glove in incorporating the features of the invention. The gripping elements will be secured to the surface of the glove by suitable stitching or any other satisfactory securing means. Preferably the upper edge of patch 17 and the lower ends of strips 18 and 19 will be turned in and incorporated in a seam 24 extending across the bases of fingers 13 and 14 as will be understood from Fig. 2. It is desirable both for improved wearing quality, and also to improve the gripping qualities that the edge of patch 17 be doubled upon itself in seam 24 to provide an outwardly extending welt end 25.

While the invention has been illustrated as applied to cloth dress gloves, and is particularly designed for use in driving automobiles, it will be understood that it may be employed in gloves of other types and adapted for other uses.

I claim:

1. A cloth driving glove having thumb and finger portions, and means for increasing the gripping properties of the glove including a leather patch secured to the local upper palm area with its upper edge located at the bases of the middle fingers, said patch being of a width to lie only within spaced vertical lines intersecting the respective crotches between the index and long middle fingers and between the smaller middle and little fingers, thereby facilitating flexing of the glove along said vertical lines at said finger

crotches, and being of a length to extend substantially only to a horizontal line at the base of the crotch between the thumb and index finger so as to leave exposed the cloth lower palm area below the patch and facilitate flexing of such area, and laterally spaced leather gripping strips secured to and extending up the front of the two middle fingers from the upper edge of the patch.

2. A cloth driving glove having thumb and finger portions, and means for increasing the gripping properties of the glove including a leather patch secured to the local upper palm area with its upper edge located at the bases of the middle fingers, said patch being of a width to lie only within spaced vertical lines intersecting the respective crotches between the index and long middle fingers and between the smaller middle and little fingers, thereby facilitating flexing of the glove along said vertical lines at said finger crotches, and being of a length to extend substantially only to a horizontal line at the base of the crotch between the thumb and index finger so as to leave exposed the cloth lower palm area below the patch and facilitate flexing of such area, laterally spaced leather gripping strips secured to and extending up the front of the two middle fingers from the upper edge of the patch, and a U-shaped further leather gripping strip laterally spaced from the patch and located on the opposite side of the line of the crotch between the index and long middle fingers from the patch, said U-shaped strip being located in the thumb crotch and extending up and secured to the front faces of the thumb and index finger.

3. A cloth driving glove having thumb and finger portions, and means for increasing the gripping properties of the glove including a leather patch secured to the local upper palm area with its upper edge located at the bases of the middle fingers, said patch being of a width to lie only within spaced vertical lines intersecting the respective crotches between the index and long middle fingers and between the smaller middle and little fingers, thereby facilitating flexing of the glove along said vertical lines at said finger crotches, and being of a length to extend substantially only to a horizontal line at the base of the crotch between the thumb and index finger so as to leave exposed the cloth lower palm area below the patch and facilitate flexing of such area, laterally spaced leather gripping strips secured to and extending up the front of the two middle fingers from the upper edge of the patch, and further leather gripping strips laterally spaced from the patch and located on opposite sides therefrom of the respective lines of the crotches between the index and long middle fingers and between the smaller middle and little fingers, one of said further strips being secured to and extending up the palm and the front of the little finger and the other said further strip being secured to and extending down the front of the thumb to the thumb crotch and then up the palm and front of the index finger.

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