Sept. 2, 1930. A. WEBER 1,775,009

BASEBALL MASK

Filed Nov. 19, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

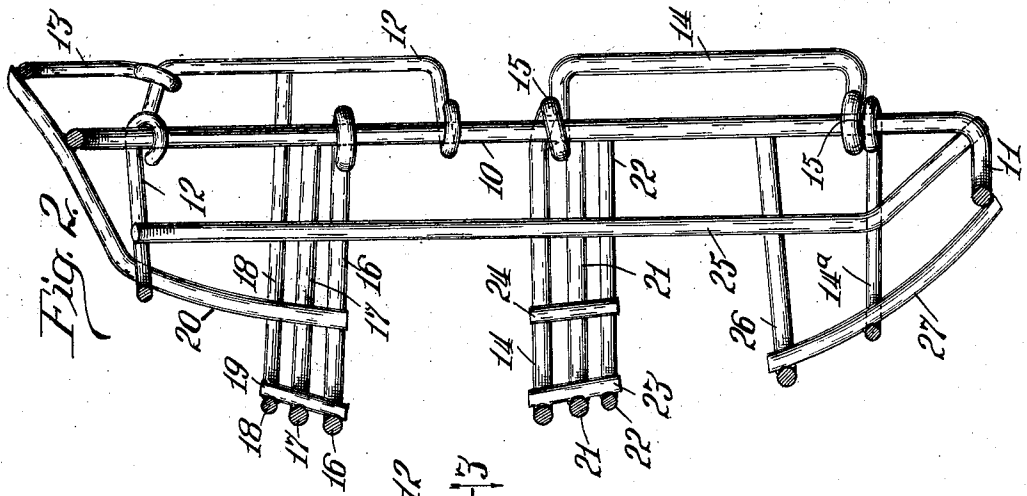

Fig. 2.

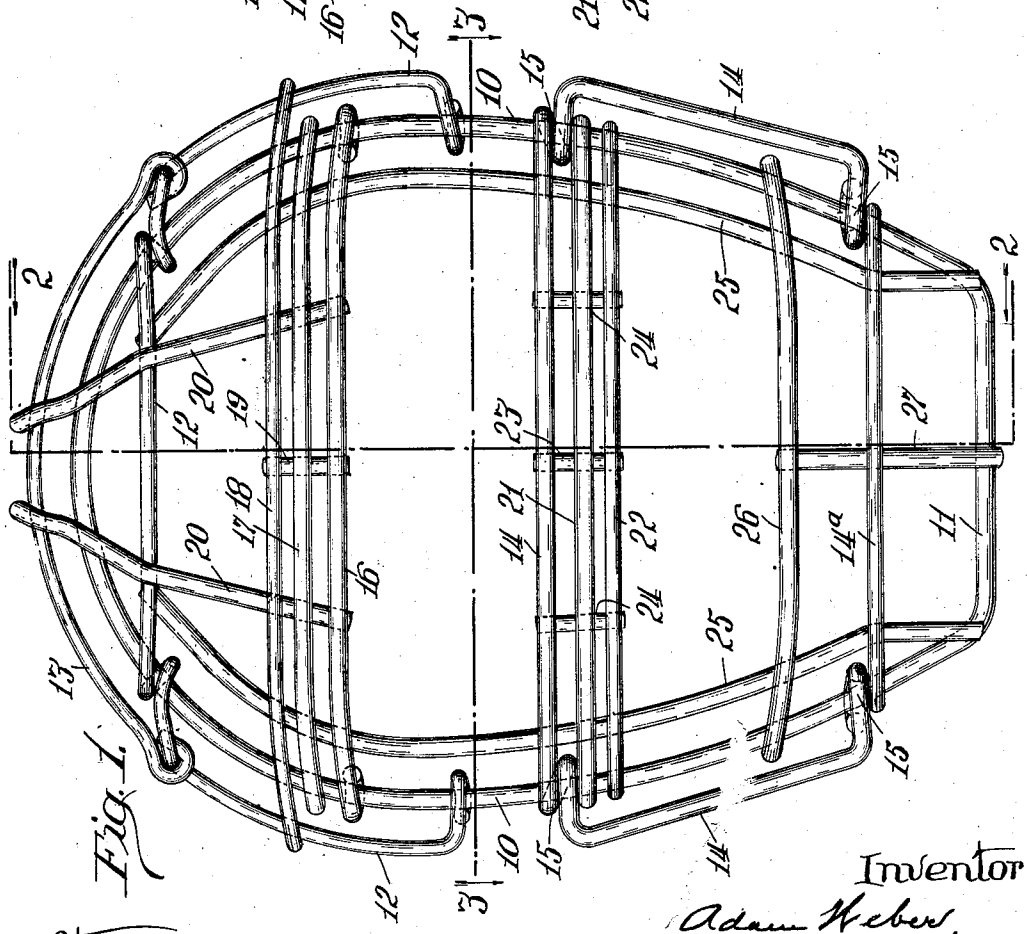

Fig. 1.

Witnesses
Milton Lenoir
G. O. Glorell

Inventor
Adam Weber,
By George Heidemann
Attorney.

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Fig. 4.

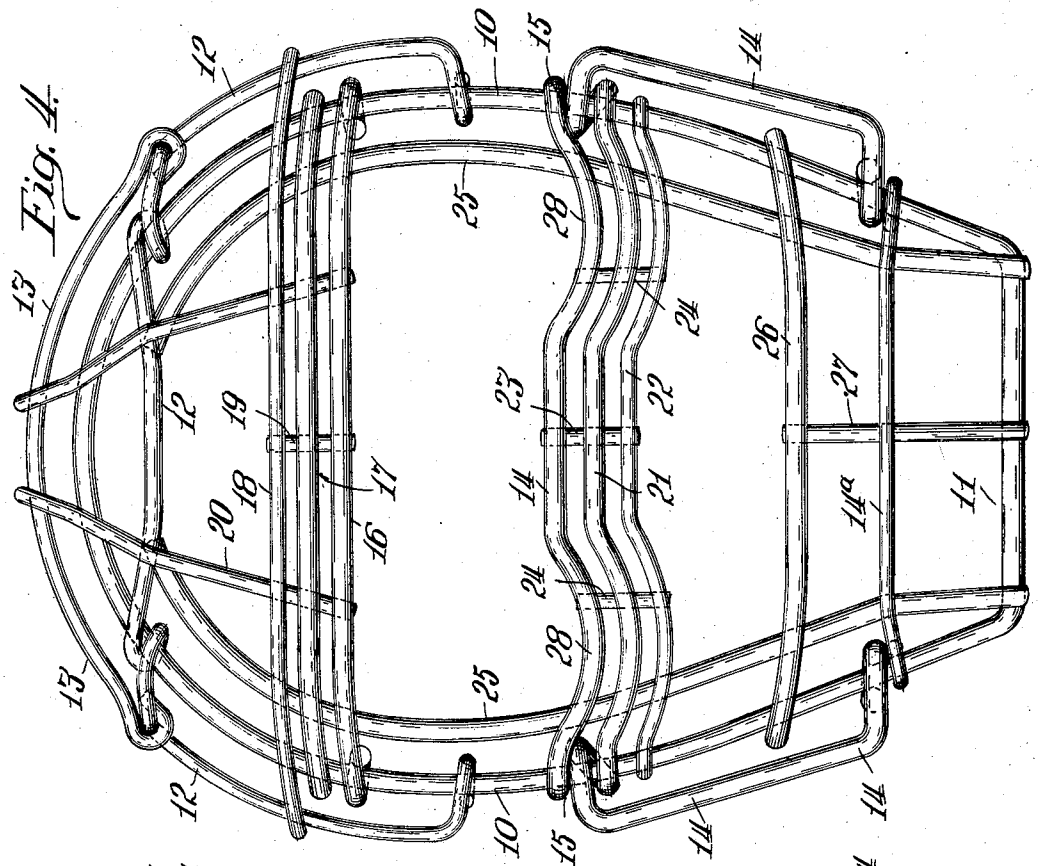
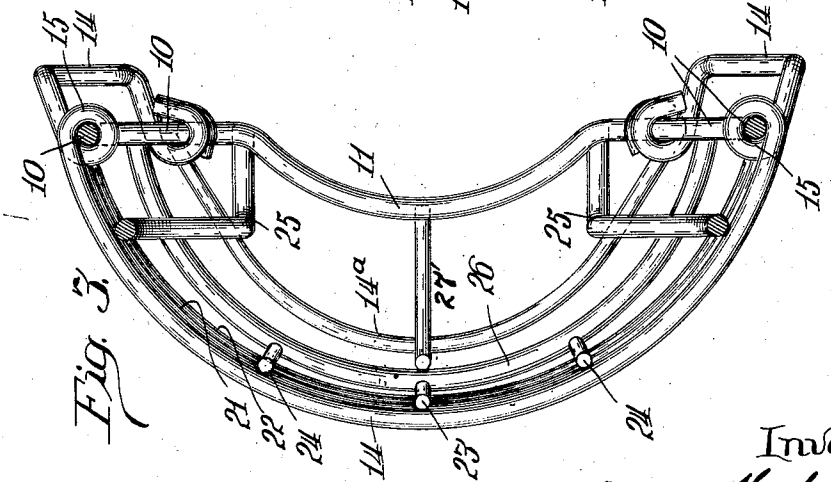


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
Milton Lenoir
T. A. Morrell

Inventor
Adam Weber,
By George Heidman.
Attorney.

Patented Sept. 2, 1930 1,775,009

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ADAM WEBER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO CHICAGO EYE SHIELD COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS

BASEBALL MASK

Application filed November 19, 1928. Serial No. 320,227.

My invention relates to masks of the type worn by catchers in the game of baseball and has for its object a construction adapted to withstand a greater strain than is the case with masks as heretofore constructed and thus afford greater protection to the wearer of the mask.

Another object of the invention is to provide a mask possessing the necessary strength which at the same time will afford a full and unobstructed vision and also an unobstructed opening through which the user may spit, especially if he is a tobacco chewer.

The above enumerated objects, as well as other advantages inherent in my improved construction, will all be readily comprehended from the detailed description of the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved baseball mask, with the usual inner padding omitted.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a front elevation showing a modified form of my invention.

In the exemplification of the invention as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the mask comprises the main frame wire 10 which extends continuously about the major perimeter, with the lower portion bent substantially at right angles forwardly and the ends preferably welded together to form the chin or lower portion 11. The upper part of the main frame wire 10 is surrounded by the outer auxiliary head protecting wire 12, extending from side to side of the mask, with the lower ends of the wires bent about and welded to the main frame wire 10 at opposite sides of the mask; while the intermediate part of the wire is wound or twisted about the upper part of the main frame 10 and extends across the upper forehead covering portion of the mask. The contacting points between the various wires are all preferably spot welded to ensure rigidity. The side portions of the wire 12 extend rearward beyond the main frame 10 and at the point where the side portions bend forwardly about the upper part of the main wire 10, I attach the ends of a top wire 13; the ends being shown bent about the laterally bent part of wire 12 and preferably spot welded thereto.

The main frame wire 10 is provided with an auxiliary wire 14 secured at its ends to opposite sides of the mask adjacent to the lower part of main frame wire 10, the ends being coiled about the main frame wire 10, as shown at 15, 15, and thence bends upwardly beyond the outer sides of wire 10. Wire 14 is then disposed laterally inward and coiled about the main wire 10 approximately mid-way between the top and bottom of the mask as shown at 15, and thence extends forwardly in an arcuate manner across the front of the mask to constitute the lower wire of the vision opening of the mask. The ends of wire 14, like wire 12, are preferably welded to main frame wire 10.

The upper wire of the vision opening of the mask is shown at 16; the ends of the wire being wound about and secured to the main wire 10 while the wire is bent into proper arcuate formation across the front of the mask

This wire 16, together with the adjacent closely placed wires 17 and 18, constitute the forehead protecting members. The wire 17, like wire 16, has its ends attached to the main frame wire 10 and is bowed outwardly across the front of the mask like wire 16, except that wire 17 is shown as defining a slightly smaller arc, see Figure 2. Immediately above wire 17 and in close spaced relation therewith is the other wire 18, whose ends are attached to the outer auxiliary wire 12, preferably by spot welding.

Wires 16, 17 and 18 are arranged in close parallel relation and are preferably provided at the forward intermediate portion with a short reenforcing wire 19 which is also preferably spot welded to wires 16, 17 and 18, thus maintaining the proper relation between said wires 16, 17 and 18.

These forehead protecting wires are also held in proper position by the two upwardly and rearwardly sloping wires 20, 20, which are secured to wires 16, 17 and 18, with the

upper ends secured to the outer auxiliary wire 13; the wires 20, 20 being secured at an intermediate point to wire 12.

In close spaced relation with the lower wire 14 of the vision opening is a wire 21, bent into arcuate form with its ends secured to the main frame wire 10; and in slight spaced relation with wire 21 is third wire 22, whose ends are also connected to main wire 10. Wires 21 and 22 each describe successively smaller arcs as shown in Figure 2; these wires being arranged in closely spaced parallel relation with wire 14 and with each other; and like wires 16, 17 and 18 are maintained in such relation by the short wire 23 at the forward intermediate portion, as well as by the short wires 24, 24, disposed intermediate of the forward central wire 23 and the inner side wires 25, 25 arranged on each side of the mask somewhat forward of main wire 10. The wires 25, 25 extend from the top forehead wire 12 down to the lower chin portion 11 of main wire 10; said wires 25, 25 being spot welded to wires 16, 17 and 18 above the vision opening; to wires 14, 21 and 22 below the vision opening and to the forwardly bowed chin protecting wire 14.

The lower ends of wires 25, 25 at the points of contact with the chin member or wire 14^a are bent at a slight inclination so as to contact with the lower chin portion 11 of main frame wire 10 where the chin portion 11 begins its forward lateral curvature as more clearly shown in Figure 2.

Immediately below the spitter opening, I provide a transversely disposed bowed wire 26, spaced above the chin member or wire 14^a, with the ends of wire 26 contacting with wires 25, 25 and with the side portions of main frame wire 10; the wire 26 being arranged preferably on the outer forward side of the mask and welded to the wires 25, 25 and main frame wire 10.

In order to further reenforce the central bowed portions of wires 26 and 14^a, I prefer to employ the vertically disposed wire 27; the upper end being arranged on the inner sides of wires 26 and 14 to which it is welded, while the lower end laps the outer forward side of the chin portion 11 of main frame wire 10, to which it is also preferably welded.

It will be understood, of course, that the mask is to be provided with suitable padding secured at the outer perimeter within the face receiving side of the mask as is usual, and that suitable head-gear or mask fastening straps are also employed; these features not being shown because their arrangement is well known.

With the mask constructed of comparatively heavy wire and with the wires arranged as shown and the various points of contact between the respective wires all soldered or spot welded, a very strong and rigid mask is provided.

The mask is adapted to withstand a materially greater strain or pressure than is the case with masks as heretofore constructed; while at the same time a mask is provided without the usual guard or wire extending throughout the longitudinal center of the mask; my improved mask providing a full unobstructed vision opening as well as a wide unobstructed expectorating opening, both coextensive with the width of the mask.

In Figure 4 I show a modified form of my improved mask wherein the general arrangement of the main frame 10 and all of the auxiliary side wires are the same as shown in the previously described figures, except that the lower wires of the vision opening are shown curved downwardly immediately beneath the points where the wearer's eyes are located. That is to say, in Figure 4 the wire 14 at the intermediate portion which extends transversely of the front of the mask immediately beneath the eyes at the lower side of the vision opening are bent or bowed downwardly at 28, to meet the needs and eyes of different players and thus increasing the vision opening.

As the nose protecting portion of the mask, namely the portion immediately beneath the vision opening are composed of a plurality of closely spaced parallel wires 14, 21 and 22, the registering portions of wires 21 and 22 are likewise bowed to extend substantially parallel with the bowed portions 28, 28 of wire 14, as shown in Figure 4. These wires, like in Figure 1, are reenforced and united by the short wires 23 and 24, 24, as previously described.

As shown, the forehead and nose protecting portions of the mask consist of closely arranged parallel wires which provide great strength, while at the same time afford ventilation; and all of the wires are so arranged relative to each other as to reenforce each other without presenting sharp portions on the exterior or forward side of the mask which would tend to injure the catcher's hand or glove or cause injury to the ball when coming into contact therewith.

I have described my invention in terms employed merely as terms of description and not as terms of limitation, as modifications may be made without, however, departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim is:—

A baseball mask comprising a main frame wire, an auxiliary wire whose ends are secured to opposite sides of the main frame wire, portions thereof being disposed laterally and extending vertically beyond the outer sides of said main wire and thence bent toward and about said main wire, with the intermediate portion of the auxiliary wire extending transversely of the upper part of the mask, a second auxiliary wire whose ends are secured to opposite sides of the main wire

adjacent to the bottom, portions of said wire being disposed laterally and vertically beyond the outer sides of the main frame wire and thence bent toward and about said main frame wire with its intermediate portion extending transversely of the mask, a plurality of wires arranged parallel with said intermediate portion of said second auxiliary wire, a third auxiliary wire extending from side to side of the main frame in wide vertically spaced relation with and beneath the last mentioned plurality of wires so as to provide a wide expectorating opening coextensive with the width of the mask, and a plurality of wires above the intermediate portion of said second auxiliary wire, extending from side to side of the main frame and arranged in wide vertically spaced relation with said second auxiliary wire so as to provide a wide vision opening coextensive with the width of the mask, and reenforcing wires extending from said last mentioned plurality of wires to the top of the mask, a reenforcing wire extending from said third auxiliary wire to the bottom of said main frame wire, a vertically arranged wire on each side of the mask extending from the intermediate portion of said first mentioned auxiliary wire to the bottom of the main frame wire and connected to all of the wires extending transversely of the mask, and a top wire connected at both sides of the mask to the laterally and vertically disposed portions of the first mentioned auxiliary wire, the contacting points between all of the wire being of a non-yielding nature.

ADAM WEBER.