Sept. 27, 1949. J. L. SINGER 2,483,157

MOUTH-PROTECTIVE BIT

Filed June 17, 1946

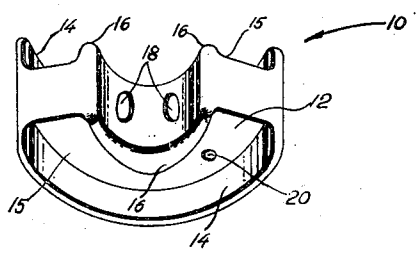

Fig. 1

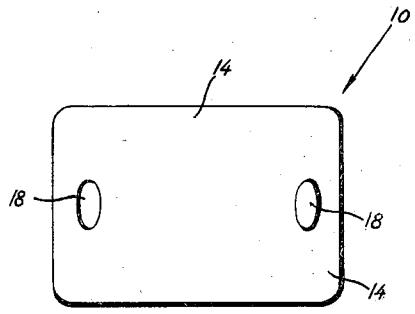

Fig. 2

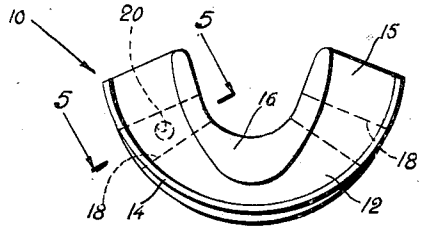

Fig. 3

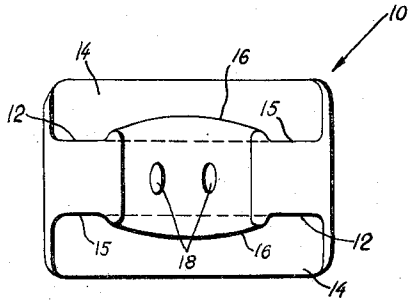

Fig. 4

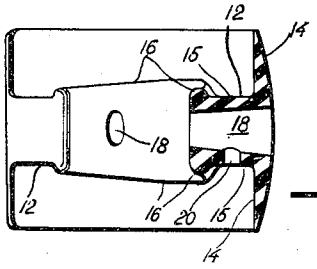

Fig. 5

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2,483,157

MOUTH-PROTECTIVE BIT

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Application June 17, 1946, Serial No. 677,182

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—136)

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This invention relates to mouth-protective bits for athletes in general, and for boxers in particular.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a bit of this type which fits comfortably in the wearer's mouth and permits considerable freedom of natural movement of his jaw and tongue without falling out of his mouth, yet effectively protects his mouth, and particularly his teeth, from outside blows as long as the bit is worn.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be fully understood from the following description, considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

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

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the bit;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the bit;

Fig. 4 is a rear view of the bit; and

Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings, the reference numeral 10 designates a bit of the type which is worn by boxers or other athletes liable to receive blows on the mouth in the pursuit of their athletic activities. The instant bit 10 is preferably formed from elastic rubber or a like material, and may be of the general crescent shape shown in Fig. 3. The bit 10 has an arcuate web 12 of considerable thickness which the wearer grips with his teeth, and integral frontal lips or shields 14 of considerably smaller thickness which extend oppositely from the opposite faces 15, 15, respectively, of the web and are adapted to be received between the lips and adjacent teeth of the wearer. The frontal lips 14 protect the wearer's teeth and gums from outside blows, and serve additionally to hold the bit 10 securely in the wearer's mouth against accidental removal therefrom, as will be readily understood.

As shown, the opposite faces 15, 15 of the bit 10 are provided along their inner margins with ridges 16, respectively, which are adapted to project behind the wearer's teeth and effectively separate the latter from the wearer's tongue. Hence, the ridges 16 accomplish that the wearer's tongue may never be near enough to his upper or lower teeth to become painfully pinged or bitten thereby when the wearer is subjected to a blow on his mouth.

Since it is natural for a person to breathe through his or her nose and mouth when the mouth is open, as is the case when the bit 10 is worn, and in order not to interfere with the natural breathing of an athlete wearing the bit, the latter is provided with air holes or vents 18 through which the wearer may take in air with every breath. Provided in the bit 10 is a further passage 20 which leads from one face 15 of the web 12 into one of the air passages 18 for the discharge therethrough of saliva collecting in the wearer's mouth.

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The instant bit 10 is highly effective in protecting the wearer's mouth, and particularly his teeth and gums, from blows against the wearer's mouth, in that the web 12 is sufficiently thick to absorb the impact of the lower or upper teeth of the wearer under an outside blow without transmitting such impact to the opposite teeth. Also, the ridges 16 on the bit safeguard the wearer's tongue from painful impact with, or bite from, the teeth under an outside blow on the mouth. The ridges 16 also permit a certain freedom of movement of the wearer's jaw such as caused by the wearer's efforts to discharge excess saliva through the passage 20, without letting the wearer's tongue come near his teeth. Hence, the present bit does not appreciably restrain the wearer, and affords him the opportunity safely to work his mouth in much the same manner as if no bit were worn. Thus, the present bit 10 makes for comfort of the wearer, this being a highly desirable feature of the bit since any restraint placed upon an athlete will have its adverse effect on his athletic performance. The wearer's tongue rests normally and conveniently against the inner curved wall of the bit, and may be moved entirely without restraint from the bit and without getting near dangerous close contact with the wearer's teeth.

It will be understood that various changes in the details of construction and in the arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the underlying idea or principles of this invention within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A mouth-protective bit having a web of elastic rubber or the like shaped to fit between the user's teeth, integral lips extending oppositely from the opposite faces, respectively, of said web along the outer margin of the latter, and opposite ridges on said faces, respectively, of the web along the inner margin of the latter, said web having a saliva passage extending from one of said faces to said outer margin of said web.

2. A mouth-protective bit having a web of elas-

tic rubber or the like shaped to fit between the user's teeth, integral lips extending oppositely from the opposite faces, respectively, of said web along the outer margin of the latter, and opposite ridges on said faces, respectively, of the web along the inner margin of the latter, said web having an air passage extending from said inner margin to said outer margin of said web, and a saliva passage extending from one of said faces of said web to said air passage.

JOHN L. SINGER.

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