

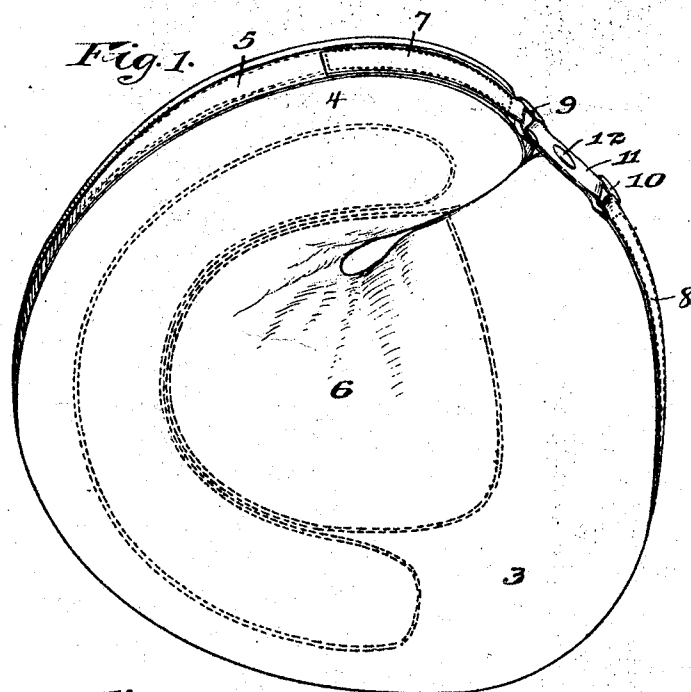
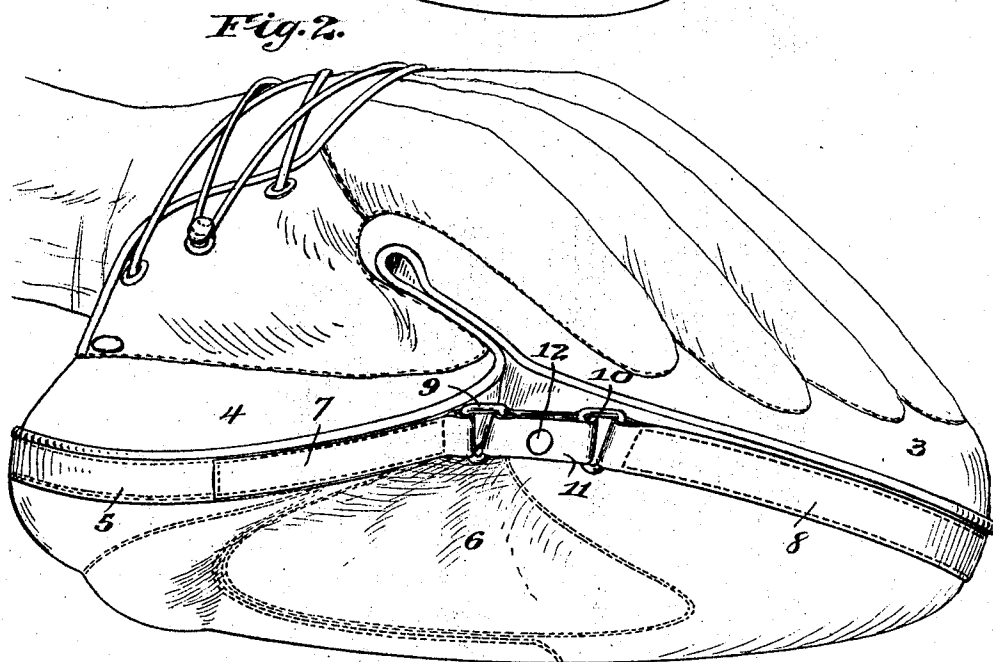
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F. L. SHELDON & C. W. DUDLEY.

CATCHER'S MITT OR GLOVE.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CATCHER'S MITT OR GLOVE.

No. 800,328.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANK L. SHELDON and CORY W. DUDLEY, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Catchers' Mitts or Gloves, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in a glove or mitt for catching a base-ball, and more particularly to means whereby the palm and thumb portions of the mitt are permanently attached together, so as to prevent the ball being driven between them and also to provide a pocket to aid in holding the ball. Owing to the great force with which a base-ball strikes the catcher's mitt, it is important to connect the thumb portion of the mitt practically unyieldingly with the palm portion, for this not only provides a pocket to hold the ball, but it prevents the thumb from being bent backward or injured by connecting the parts, so that the strain is transmitted to the palm portion from the thumb portion.

Our invention is more particularly directed to a means for connecting these parts of the glove in such way as to be practically unyielding and the objects above stated thereby more perfectly accomplished, while at the same time the strength and durability of the mitt are increased.

Our improvements are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the mitt, showing the palm or inner side thereof; and Fig. 2 is a side elevation with a hand inserted in the mitt.

In the drawings the palm portion is designated 3 and the thumb portion 4. The mitt itself may be of the usual construction, comprising the rear and front portions of leather joined along their margins by the strip of leather 5. When the thumb is straightened out and separated from the palm portion, the structure is practically flat-sided and of irregular contour; but when the tip of the thumb is drawn into contact with the tip of the palm portion the mitt assumes a practically circular form, and the pocket 6 is produced in the palm portion, one wall of the pocket being afforded by the side of the thumb portion. To hold these parts in the described relation and to preserve the pocket formation, they

are preferably connected together permanently and securely, and this connection we prefer to make as follows: Straps 7 and 8 are secured to the leather strip 5 adjacent to the tip of the thumb and the tip of the palm portion. These straps 7 and 8 are preferably pieces of leather doubled on each other and pass through triangular-shaped metal rings 9 and 10, and these rings are connected by the intermediate strap 11, which is doubled upon itself and has its ends securely fastened, as by the rivet 12.

While the outline of the mitt is practically circular, as above stated, it will be understood that when the thumb portion and the palm portion are brought together the central portion of the body of the mitt is deflected out of the plane of its sides, producing the pocket, while a corresponding elevation on the back of the mitt is produced which fits into the palm of the user's hand, thus giving him a better hold upon the mitt. At the same time the tip of the palm portion and the tip of the thumb portion are deflected, so that they are no longer at right angles on their surfaces to the body of the mitt, and therefore the connecting means pull on the thumb and palm portions of the mitt in a line which is oblique to a plane parallel with the surfaces of said portions. Therefore we preferably employ these triangular-shaped metallic connections, so that the connecting-piece is not twisted, but the strain thereon is exerted throughout its width, and when the ball is received in the pocket strain is exerted upon the whole of the connecting-piece without any liability to the twisting or torsion thereof, and also in such a line that the thumb and palm portions are prevented from flattening out or doubling back, and thereby the pocket formation is preserved. We find this practically fixed connection much more reliable than an adjustable connection or one wherein there is any possibility of the yielding of the parts, and of course the thumb and palm portions of the mitt may be so fashioned that they do not require any adjustment after being once connected. We also find that by the use of connecting-pieces for sides converging toward the center of the mitt the pulling strain tends to close the walls of the pocket over the ball when the latter is fully entered, thus making a much more secure retaining-pocket than the mere joining of the edges of

the thumb and palm portions on their outer sides would afford. Of course some of the advantages of our improved construction might be secured by employing metal connecting-pieces of slightly-different form—as, for example, metal or other rings of circular form—and we do not, therefore, exclude such devices from the broadest scope of our claims.

We claim—

- 10 1. In a catcher's glove or mitt, the combination with the thumb and palm portions thereof, of straps secured to the outer edges of said parts near their tips, connecting-pieces secured to said straps with their adjacent sides oblique,
15 and a joining member such as a strap, engaging said oblique sides whereby strains tending to separate said parts are exerted longitudi-

nally of the connections, substantially as described.

2. In a catcher's glove or mitt, the combination with the thumb and palm portions thereof, of straps connected to the outer margins of said portions, connecting-pieces having inwardly-converging walls, and an intermediate connecting-strap joining such connecting-pieces, substantially as described.

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