June 22, 1954 W. T. TOMPKINS 2,681,448

CATCHER'S MITT

Filed May 29, 1951

FIG. 1.

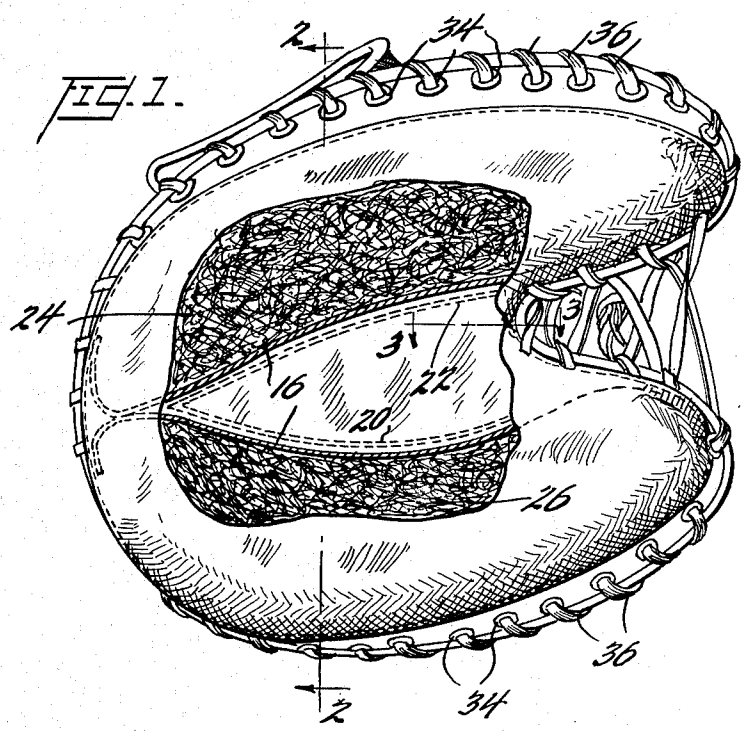


FIG. 2.

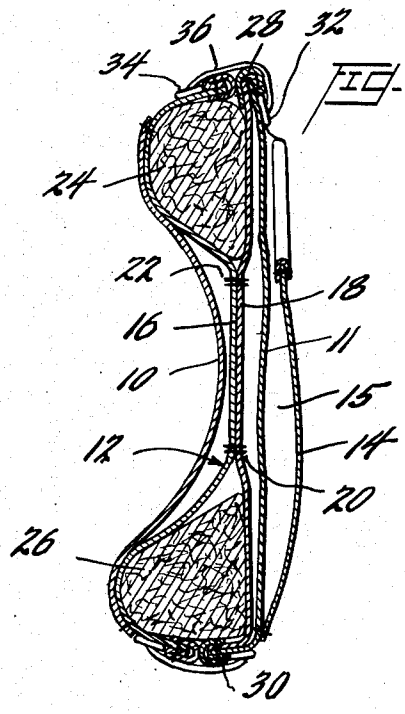
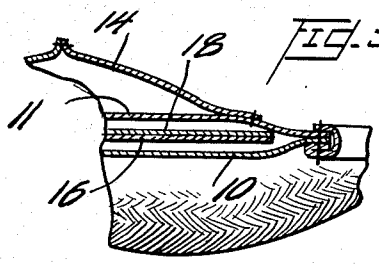


FIG. 3.



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CATCHER'S MITT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

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This invention relates to baseball gloves, and more particularly, to improved means for positioning and retaining in position the padding used in baseball gloves in a manner which permits the padding to be quickly and easily replaced when such replacement becomes necessary.

As commonly known, a baseball catcher's mitt is generally provided with relatively heavy padding to protect the hand of the catcher against the force of repeated heavy impacts of a baseball with the mitt. The effectiveness of the mitt in absorbing the force of the caught ball is dependent to a large extent on the padding used in the glove being sufficiently heavy and resilient, and on the padding being correctly positioned within the glove. The repeated impacts of the ball with the glove cause the padding to compact, and also cause the padding to spread out within the glove unless means are provided to retain the padding in its proper position. Preferably, such padding positioning and retaining means are constructed so that the padding may be quickly and easily replaced when such replacement ultimately becomes necessary.

The purpose of this invention is to provide an improved padding retaining and positioning means for a baseball glove, particularly for catcher's mitt type of gloves, which permits quick, easy replacement of the padding when such replacement is necessary, and at the same time provides additional protection for the hand of one wearing the glove.

One embodiment of the invention in a catcher's mitt type of baseball glove is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It will be apparent that the invention may be employed in other types of baseball gloves. The illustration in the drawings is particularized, and the following description thereof detailed for the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the invention, and it is not intended to limit the scope of the invention except as set forth in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a glove embodying the instant invention looking down on the palm of the glove, the central portion of the palm piece and an inner lining being broken away to illustrate the relationship of the padding to the padding retaining means.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a partial section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

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Referring to Figure 2, it may be seen that a baseball glove constructed according to this invention may comprise a palm piece 10 which constitutes the ball receiving face of the glove and an inner palm lining 11 which on its lower side engages the palm of the hand of one wearing the glove. Intermediate the palm piece and the inner palm lining a padding element indicated generally at 12 is interposed to provide protection to the hand of one wearing the glove against the force of balls which are caught in the centrally positioned pocket in the palm piece 10.

This invention is principally concerned with the construction of the padding element 12, and this element will be more fully described hereinafter. The glove also includes the customary hand backing piece 14 which is configured similarly to the outline of the hand, and which is secured to the inner palm lining 11 to provide the hand receiving cavity of the glove.

The padding element 12 consists of two inner lining sheet members 16, 18 which are in outline shaped similarly to the inner palm piece 11, and which are substantially coextensive therewith. The central portion of the sheet members 16, 18, which underlie the pocket formed in the palm piece 10, rest in contact with each other, and are thus secured by the seams of stitching 20, 22 seen best in Figures 1 and 2.

Padding rolls 24, 26 are interposed between the sheet members 16, 18 along the opposite marginal edges thereof, so that the roll 24 overlies the heel of the glove and extends generally linearly into the thumb portion thereof, and the roll 26 is positioned transversely across the finger portion of the glove. Along the heel of the glove, and the top thereof, the sheet member 18 is secured to the corresponding edges of the inner palm piece 11 as at 28, 30 respectively. Both edges of the secured together members 11 and 18, and the edge of the member 16, are provided with a series of spaced apart eyelets 32, 34 respectively. A leather thong 36 is laced serially through the registering eyelets 32, 34 to secure together the outer edges of the sheet members 16, 18 and the inner palm piece 11. Padding receiving pockets are thus formed between the seams 20, 22 and the secured together edges of the members 16, 18.

It will be observed that the seams 20, 22 are formed immediately inwardly of the padding rolls 24, 26 in order to prevent the padding from spreading inwardly across the central portion of the glove as it is compacted by repeated im-

pacts of the ball with the glove. The central portions of the members 16, 18 lying between the seams 20, 22 extend beneath the pocket in the palm piece 10 and provide additional protection for the hand of one wearing the glove.

It will be observed that in the example of the invention illustrated the seams 20, 22 converge at the edge of the glove disposed oppositely from the crotch thereof. The portions of the padding receiving pockets which are formed along the one side by the converging seams 20, 22 are thus reduced in cross-sectional area, and the portion of the padding received within these portions of the pockets is similarly reduced in cross-sectional area. The separation of the padding rolls in this manner makes it possible to flex the glove easily along its transverse center line. Although the illustrated construction, and the flexibility which may be obtained thereby, is generally considered the most desirable, it will be apparent that the invention may be equally well employed in other types of construction. For example, rather than the converging seams 20, 22 which secure together the members 16, 18, a single seam having a rounded apex could be employed to provide a continuous padding receiving pocket which would then extend from the tip of the thumb portion across the heel of the glove, up the side thereof, and transversely across the finger section. A single roll of padding, generally U-shaped, could then be inserted into this single pocket. In the same manner, the padding roll would be positioned between the single seam and the laced together outer edges of the members 16, 18 to retain and position the padding. At the same time the additional protection to the hand of one wearing the glove which is afforded by the central portions of the members would be provided. Similarly, the construction would permit the padding to be quickly and easily replaced by unlacing the bound together edges of the members 16, 18 to remove the old padding and to insert the replacement padding.

Referring to Figure 3, it will be seen that the edges of the members 16, 18 terminate inwardly of the bound together edges of the palm piece 10 and the inner palm piece 11 at the crotch of the glove. The attachment of the members 16, 18 to the inner palm piece 11 along the heel of the glove and the top thereof is sufficient to maintain these members in their proper position between the palm piece 10 and the inner palm piece 11. For the same reason, it is unnecessary to secure the edges of the members 16, 18 along the side of the glove intermediate the top and the heel portion thereof, and the assembling of the glove is thereby facilitated.

The claims of invention that are desired to be secured by Letters Patent are set forth below:

1. In a baseball glove having a hand-receiving portion and thumb- and finger-seating portions, said thumb- and finger-seating portions spaced from each other and connected to the hand-receiving portion, a backing piece, two sheet members substantially co-extensive with said backing piece in overlapping relation, the upper of said sheet members having its peripheral edge abutting and detachably secured to the peripheral edge of said backing piece and to the peripheral edge of the lower of said sheet members, said two sheet members being secured together inwardly of the said edges by a plurality of seams, said seams generally converging at the heel of the glove and extending therefrom across the glove to the thumb- and finger-seating portions, respectively, and thereby defining an outer U-shaped pocket, a facing piece secured to the upper sheet adjacent to and spaced from the abutting edges and of smaller dimension than the sheet, a plurality of padding rolls disposed between said sheet members intermediate said inwardly secured portions of said members and said abutting edges, whereby said glove may easily be flexed along its transverse axis.

2. In a baseball glove having a hand-receiving portion and thumb- and finger-seating portions, said thumb- and finger-seating portions spaced from each other and connected to the hand-receiving portion, a backing piece, two sheet members substantially co-extensive with said backing piece in overlapping relation, the upper of said sheet members having its peripheral edge abutting and detachably secured to the peripheral edge of said backing piece and to the peripheral edge of the lower of said sheet members, said two sheet members being secured together inwardly of the said edges by a plurality of seams spaced from and having at least one seam on each side of the transverse center line of the glove, said seams extending from the heel of the glove to the thumb- and finger-seating portions respectively, to thereby define a plurality of pockets, a facing piece secured to the upper sheet adjacent from and spaced from the edges and of smaller dimension than the upper sheet, a plurality of padding rolls disposed between said sheet members intermediate said inwardly secured portions of said members and said abutting edges, whereby said glove may easily be flexed along its transverse axis.

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