Jan. 22, 1957 W. T. TOMPKINS 2,778,023

BASEBALL GLOVE

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FIG. 1.

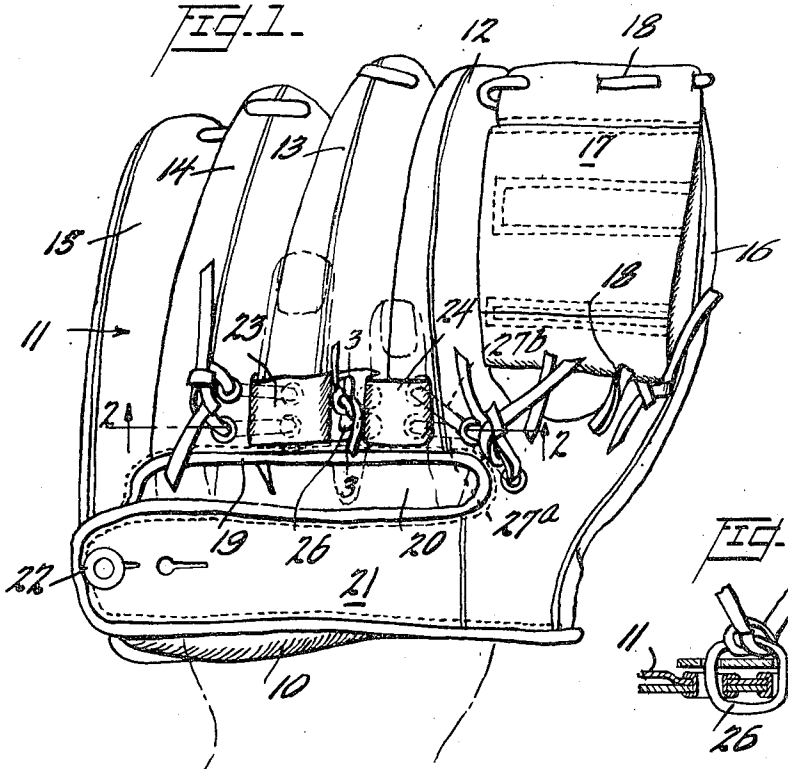


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.

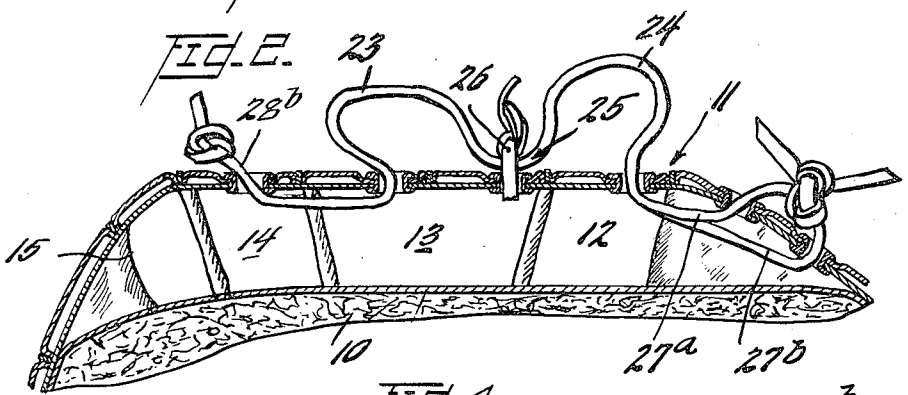
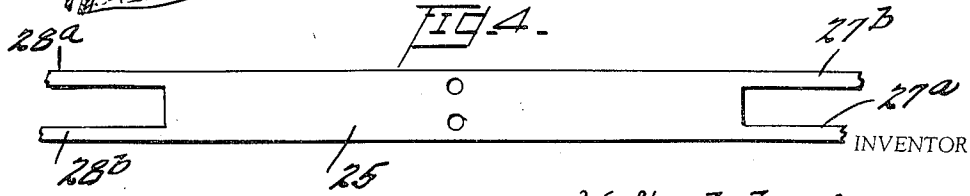


FIG. 4.



INVENTOR

Walter T. Tompkins

BY Watson, Cole, Grindle & Watson

ATTORNEYS

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FIG. 5.

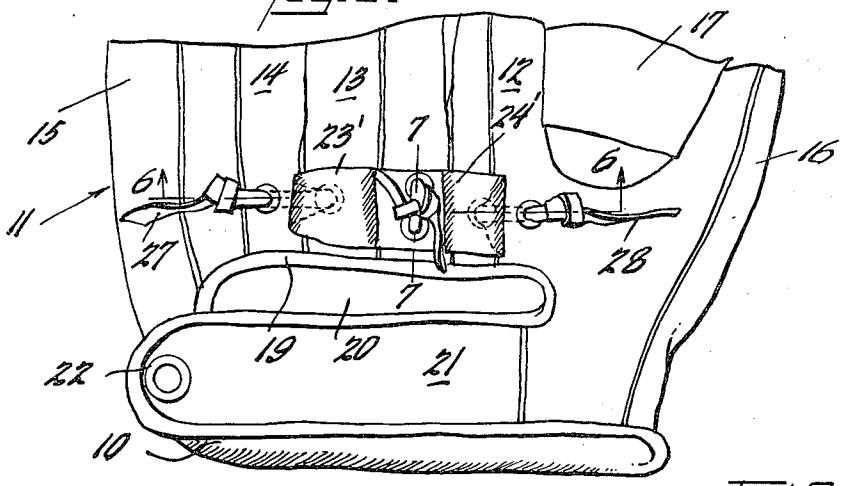


FIG. 6.

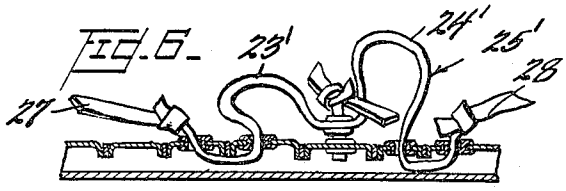


FIG. 7.

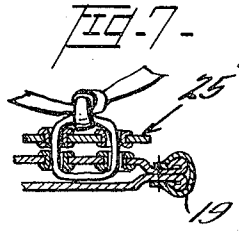


FIG. 8.

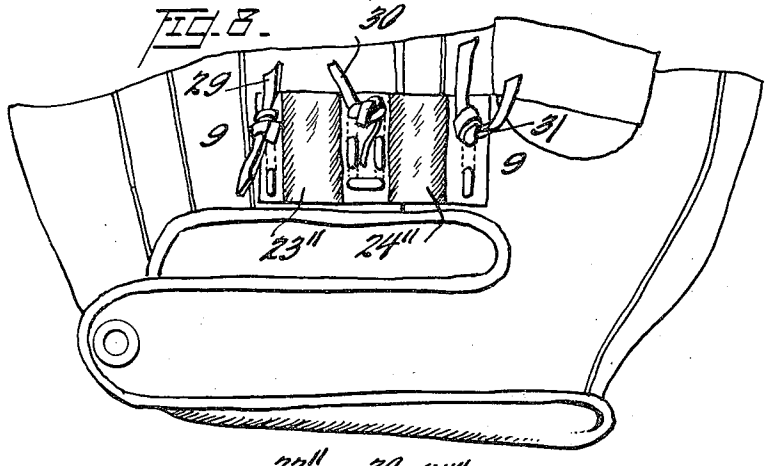
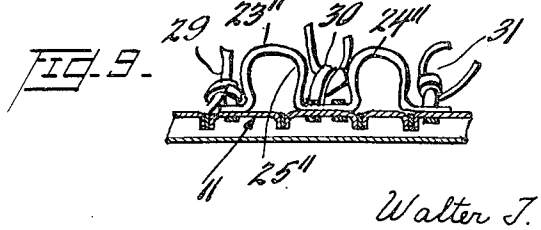


FIG. 9.



INVENTOR

Walter T. Tompkins

BY Watson, Cole, Grindle & Watson

ATTORNEYS

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BASEBALL GLOVE

Walter T. Tompkins, Nocona, Tex.

Application September 22, 1955, Serial No. 535,783

10 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

This invention relates to a baseball glove and more particularly to an improvement or attachment for baseball gloves or mitts adapted to give the player better control and a firmer grip on the glove as well as to give more protection to the fingers than has heretofore been possible, particularly in the case of a youthful player or other player with smaller than average hands.

With this end in view, the invention contemplates applying finger loops to the back of one or more of the finger sheaths of a baseball glove extending transversely across those sheaths and adapted to receive and position one of the fingers of the player rearwardly and exteriorly of the finger sheath, whereby through use of the loop he may maintain full control of the particular finger sheath and yet have the full thickness of the entire finger sheath, including both the padded front portion and the rear portion thereof, interposed in front of his finger to cushion the impact of the ball.

The invention further contemplates providing such loops over the root or base portions of the finger sheaths to better receive the relatively short fingers of a youth or player with a small hand, the loops being in such case located adjacent the rear edge of the finger sheaths and adjacent the customary opening in the back of the baseball glove. This permits the player to insert his fingers either into the finger sheaths of the glove in the usual manner or alternatively to project one or more of his fingers outwardly through the said opening and into the loops.

The foregoing objects and advantages are all attained by the preferred embodiment of the invention and its several modifications as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 represents an elevation of a baseball glove embodying the invention as seen from the back of the glove;

Figure 2, an enlarged fragmentary section on line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 3, an enlarged fragmentary section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4, a plan view of the strap used in forming the finger loops on the glove shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3; same being shown in flat condition prior to assembly and with the end portions of the terminal securing thongs broken away;

Figure 5, a view generally similar to Figure 1, but showing a part only of a baseball glove having a modified form of loop-forming strap secured thereto;

Figure 6, an enlarged section on the line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7, an enlarged section on the line 7—7 of Figure 6;

Figure 8, a view similar to Figure 5, showing a further modified form of the invention;

Figure 9, a section on the line 9—9 of Figure 8.

Referring now in detail to the drawings and first considering the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the invention as there

illustrated is applied to a more or less conventional baseball glove comprising a padded front section 10 including palm, finger and thumb portions. Fixed to the rear of said front section is a back portion which may be of multi-piece or composite construction as shown, generally designated 11. It will be seen that the back portion is generally in registry with the front section and marginally connected thereto to form finger sheaths 12, 13, 14 and 15, respectively, and a thumb sheath 16. If desired, a conventional backstop 17 may be secured between the thumb sheath 16 and finger sheath 12 by laces 18.

The back portions of certain of the finger sheaths terminate approximately medially of the palm section of the glove along one edge 19 of the generally medial opening 20 in the back of the glove, the opposite edge of this opening 20 being defined by a usual wrist strap 21, which in the instance shown is integral with the thumb sheath 16 and extends from the base thereof to the relatively remote side of the glove where it is secured in place by the usual button 22.

The improvement of the present invention consists in applying to such a conventional baseball glove one or more finger-receiving loops 23 and 24, respectively, which in the preferred embodiment of the invention are formed by a single leather or other flexible material strap 25 extending transversely across the backs of adjoining finger sheaths 12 and 13. The mid-section of the strap 25 is secured in suitable manner as by the lace 26 to the back of the glove at a location substantially between the adjoining sheaths 12 and 13 while the opposite ends of the strap project at least partially across these adjoining sheaths and have their terminal ends connected thereto so that the resulting loops 23 and 24 will receive and position the fingers of the player behind these respective sheaths as is generally indicated in the drawings.

While it is broadly within the scope of the invention to form these loops in any suitable manner and to position them on any one or more of the finger sheaths, it has been found most advantageous to apply them over the finger sheaths 12 and 13 for the index and middle fingers, respectively, as it is these particular fingers which normally carry the brunt of the impact of the ball in the pocket area of the glove. By adding the full thickness of the finger sheaths to the protection afforded by the glove, these fingers will be less subject to damage.

In the arrangement shown in the preferred embodiment, the strap 25 is provided at its opposite ends with laterally spaced, preferably integral continuations or thongs 27*a*—27*b* and 28*a*—28*b*. These tongs are disposed through the back of the glove through openings which may be defined by metal eyelets in the usual manner, said eyelets being spaced longitudinally of the glove a distance generally equivalent to the spacing between the thongs of the respective pairs to thus maintain the strap 25 in flat condition transversely of its length. The free ends of the thongs are then projected outwardly through suitably disposed and relatively spaced pairs of openings in the back of the glove and tied together as illustrated. It will readily be seen that by tying or otherwise interconnecting these exterior ends of the thongs at different points along their lengths, the finger loops 23 and 24 may be readily adjusted to fit fingers of varying sizes or diameters.

In the modified form of the invention shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7, the construction and arrangement is generally similar to that heretofore described in the preferred embodiment except that the strap 25' has but a single integral thong extending from each end thereof, the thongs being disposed through transversely aligned openings in the back of the glove and the exterior end of the thong in each case then being knotted to prevent its retraction through these apertures. Obviously, by forming

the knot in different locations lengthwise of the thong, the size of the resulting loops 23' and 24' may be individually adjusted as in the preferred embodiment.

In the further embodiment illustrated in Figures 8 and 9, the strap 25'' is simply stitched to the back of the glove at suitable points as by the leather thongs or laces 29, 30 and 31, respectively, to define the two loops 23'' and 24''.

Obviously, there are a variety of other ways in which the loops might be formed to secure the relationship and to accomplish the functions contemplated by the present invention. Accordingly, the preferred embodiment of the invention and the several modifications thereof disclosed in the present application are intended to be merely illustrative in nature and not to exclude other modifications falling within the scope of appended claims.

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

1. A baseball glove comprising a padded front section, including palm, finger and thumb portions, back portions respectively cooperating with said finger and thumb portions to form finger and thumb sheaths, the back portions of certain finger sheaths terminating medially of said palm, a wrist strap extending across the wrist edge of said palm portion and with the medially terminating back portions of said certain finger sheaths defining an opening in the back of said glove, a flexible strap secured across the backs of said certain finger sheaths at transversely spaced points over the root portions thereof to define finger receiving loops in registry with the respective sheaths, whereby certain of the fingers of the wearer may be projected exteriorly of the glove through said opening and through said loops, rearwardly of and in registering, controlling relation with their respective finger sheaths, while the remaining fingers and thumb are inserted within the glove in their respective sheaths.

2. A baseball glove comprising the padded front section, including a palm, finger and thumb portions, the back portions, respectively cooperating with said finger and thumb portions to form finger and thumb sheaths, the back portions of certain finger sheaths terminating medially of said palm, a wrist strap extending across the wrist edge of said palm portion and with the medially terminating back portions of said certain finger sheaths defining an opening in the back of said glove, finger receiving loops secured on the backs of certain of said finger sheaths over the root portions thereof in registry with the respective sheaths whereby certain of the fingers of the wearer may be projected exteriorly of the glove through said opening and said loops rearwardly of and in registering, controlling relation with their respective finger sheaths, while the remaining fingers and thumb are inserted within the glove in their respective sheaths.

3. A baseball glove comprising a padded palm, fingers and thumb, back portions cooperating with said fingers and thumb to form finger and thumb sheaths, the back portions of certain adjoining finger sheaths having open ends terminating medially of said palm, a flexible strap secured across the backs of said certain finger sheaths at transversely spaced points over the root portions thereof and forming loops in substantial registry with the respective sheaths, whereby certain of the fingers of a wearer may be projected through said loops rearwardly of and in registering, controlling relation with their respective finger sheaths.

4. A baseball glove comprising a padded palm, fingers and thumb, back portions cooperating with said fingers and thumb to form fingers and thumb sheaths, the back portions of certain adjoining finger sheaths having open ends terminating medially of said palm, finger receiving loops secured across the backs of the root portions of said certain finger sheaths at transversely spaced points and forming loops in registry with the respective sheaths, whereby certain of the fingers of a wearer may be projected through said loops rearwardly of and in registering, controlling relation with their respective finger sheaths.

5. A baseball glove comprising interconnected front and back portions defining a hand receiving pocket having a hand opening through one end thereof, and finger sheaths communicating with the other end of said pocket, a finger receiving loop connected across said back portion over the root portion of and in rearwardly registering relation with one of said finger sheaths, said back portion having an opening therethrough at the root of said last mentioned finger sheath, whereby one of the wearer's fingers may be selectively inserted either within said sheath or through said opening and said loop exteriorly of the sheath.

6. A baseball glove comprising interconnected front and back portions defining a hand receiving pocket having a hand opening through one end thereof, and finger sheaths communicating with the other end of said pocket, a plurality of finger receiving loops connected across the backs of the roots of certain of said finger sheaths in substantial registry with the respective roots, said back portion having an opening therethrough at the roots of said last mentioned finger sheaths, whereby certain of the wearer's fingers may be selectively inserted either within said sheaths or through said opening and said loops exteriorly of the sheaths.

7. A baseball glove as defined in claim 6 in which said loops are formed by a flexible strap medially anchored to said back portion substantially between the roots of adjoining finger sheaths, the said strap extending across the said roots and terminating at its opposite ends in relatively spaced furcations, said furcations of each end being adjustably projected inwardly through relatively longitudinally spaced apertures in said back portion, and thence outwardly through relatively transversely spaced apertures in said back portion, the outer extremities of each pair of furcations being then tied together.

8. A baseball glove as defined in claim 6 in which said loops are formed by a flexible strap extending transversely over said back portion across the root portions of a plurality of adjoining finger sheaths and anchored to said back portion between relatively adjoining loops.

9. A baseball glove as defined in claim 6 in which said loops are formed by a flexible strap extending across the backs of a plurality of adjoining finger sheaths and stitched to said backs on opposite sides of the respective sheaths.

10. A baseball glove as defined in claim 6 in which said loops are defined by a flexible strap medially anchored to said back portion substantially between the roots of adjoining finger sheaths, said strap extending across said roots and having bifurcated ends, each said bifurcated end extending inwardly through an aperture formed in said back portion and then outwardly through another aperture formed in said back portion, the exteriorly projecting furcations then being knotted together to prevent withdrawal through said last mentioned apertures.

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