March 23, 1954 W. T. TOMPKINS 2,672,611

'FIELDER'S MITT

Filed April 30, 1951

FIG. 1.

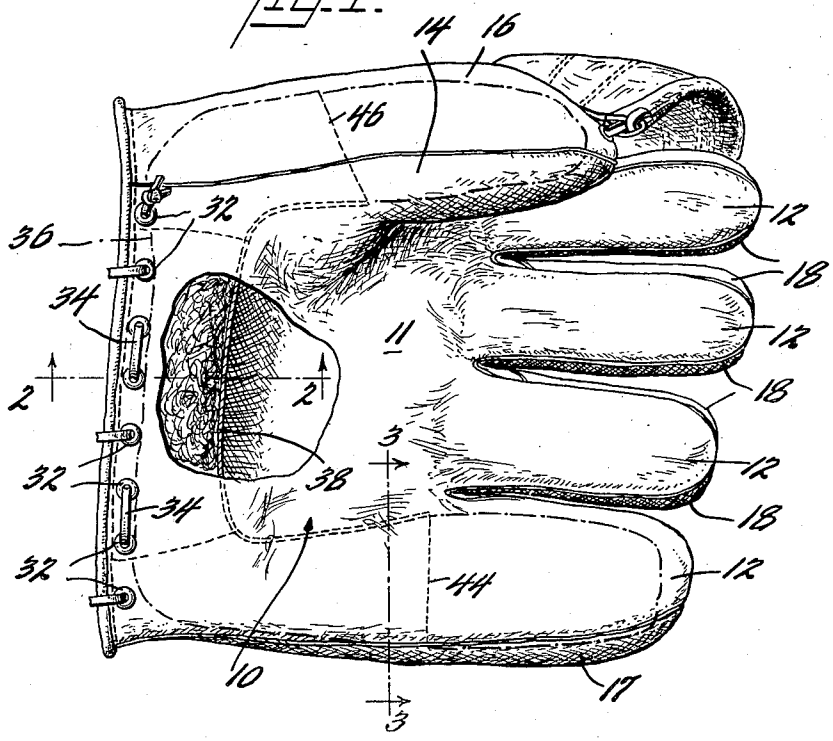


FIG. 2.

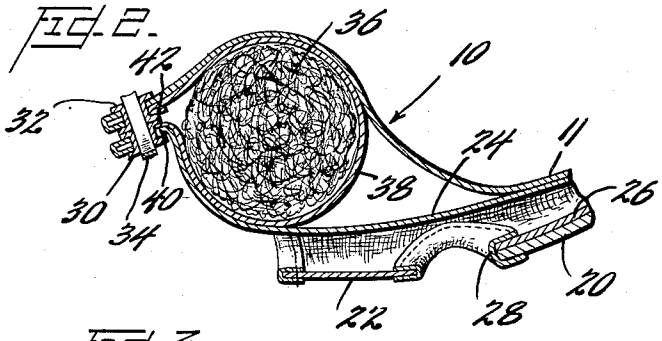
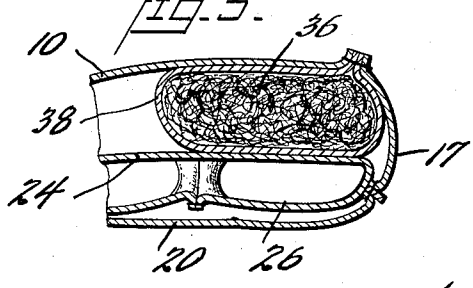


FIG. 3.



INVENTOR

Walter T. Tompkins

BY Watson, Cole, Grindle & Watson

ATTORNEYS

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FIELDER'S MITT

Walter T. Tompkins, Nocona, Tex., assignor to Nocona Leather Goods Company, Nocona, Tex., a corporation of Texas

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—19)

1

This invention relates to baseball gloves, and more particularly relates to means for retaining the padding used in baseball gloves in the proper position therein subject to quick, easy replacement of the padding such as may be desirable when the padding loses its resilience and shape due to repeated impacts of a ball with the glove.

The function of a baseball glove or a baseball mitt, and the manner in which baseball gloves and mitts are used, are widely known and require no description. It is also well known that a baseball glove most effectively assists a baseball player using the glove when its design and construction are such that a ball caught in the glove will be securely retained therein until it is intentionally removed by the ball player. Accordingly, the common practice is to construct baseball gloves so that they contain a rounded pocket in the palm of the glove, which pocket generally conforms to the curvature of a standard size baseball.

A baseball glove customarily comprises a relatively heavy palm piece which forms the ball-receiving face of the glove, and a palm piece lining of softer and lighter material which contacts the front of the hand of one wearing the glove, and the ball-receiving pocket is formed in the palm piece by interposing between the palm piece and the lining a roll of padding of appreciable cross section. This padding is customarily disposed across the heel of the glove and has one end extending into the little finger cavity of the glove and the other end extending into the thumb receiving cavity. The palm piece lining is maintained relatively flat on the palm of the hand so that the padding thus raises the lower and the two side margins of the palm piece and provides a centrally positioned ball-receiving pocket in the palm of the glove. The finger section of the palm piece may, of course, be curved inwardly, and tends to do so naturally when a ball is caught in the pocket of the glove, to deepen the pocket and make the hold on the ball more secure.

The effectiveness of the glove therefore depends to a large extent on the padding used in the glove being retained in the position and shape necessary to maintain a suitable ball-receiving pocket in the palm of the glove. The purpose of this invention is to provide a novel and improved means for retaining the padding of a baseball glove in the position wherein it provides an effective ball-receiving pocket in the glove throughout extended use, and which at the same time is designed and constructed so that the padding can be easily and quickly replaced when such replacement is ultimately necessary.

2

One specific embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings for the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the invention. It will be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific example illustrated and has application to all types of baseball gloves and mitts.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a baseball glove embodying the present invention in which a portion of the palm piece is cut away to reveal the padding and a section of the novel padding retaining means;

Figure 2 is a partial vertical section on line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

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

Referring to Figure 1, the baseball glove there illustrated comprises a palm piece indicated generally by the numeral 10 which has a central portion 11 forming the palm of the glove, finger sections 12, and a thumb section 14 to provide a configuration similar to the hand. The palm piece consists of an unbroken sheet of relatively stiff leather finished in a manner which will make it resistant to the abrasion incident to the use of the glove. The outer envelope of the glove is formed by joining to the palm piece a backing piece 20 having the same general shape. The palm piece and the backing piece are stitched together along their corresponding margins except at the bottom edges which are left open to provide the hand receiving aperture of the glove. The backing piece may consist of a number of sections sewed together, since this construction permits the finger sections of the backing piece to be formed more easily with a concave cross section. Tubular finger receiving cavities are thus formed when the finger sections of the palm piece and the backing piece are joined together along their corresponding edges. The thumb and little finger side panels 16, 17 shown in Figure 1 may be considered as part of the backing piece of the glove. Similarly, the finger panels 18 are also a portion of the backing piece. The central portion of the backing piece 20 terminates above the bottom edge of the palm piece at about the line of the knuckles of one wearing the glove. This portion of the backing piece 20 is shown in Figure 2 along with the strap 22 which extends across the back of the hand on which the glove is worn.

The glove is provided with a lining 24 for the palm piece and a lining 26 for the backing piece.

Both of these linings have the same general shape as the palm piece and the backing piece, respectively, and are sewed together along their sides and along the edges of their finger sections to provide a suitable lining insert for the glove. The bottom edge of the backing piece lining **26** is secured to the backing piece by means of beading **28** which is shown in Figure 2. The lower edge of the palm piece lining **24** is provided with a series of eyelets **30** which are positioned to register with the row of eyelets **32** provided in the lower edge of the palm piece. The lower edge of the palm piece and the palm piece lining are releasably secured together by means of the leather thong **34** which is serially threaded through the corresponding eyelets in the palm piece and the lining.

The pocket is formed in the palm of the glove by inserting between the palm piece and the palm piece lining an elongated roll of padding, the outline of which is shown in chain lines in Figure 1, and the cross section of which may be seen in Figures 2 and 3. Referring to Figure 1, it will be seen that this padding extends across the heel of the glove and at one end is turned upwardly into the little finger cavity of the glove, and at its other end is turned upwardly into the thumb receiving cavity of the glove. The palm piece lining **24** is maintained in a relatively flat condition on the hand of the wearer, and the palm piece is of such length that it may conform to the curvature of the padding roll without becoming taut across the palm section **11**. The padding roll **36** thus deflects upwardly the two side and the lower margins of the palm piece above the level of the central section **11** which normally lies against the palm piece lining **24** as shown in the right-hand portion of Figure 2. A three-sided pocket or cavity is thus formed in the palm piece, and the glove performs its function most effectively when the ball is caught within this pocket since the walls of the pocket break the force of the ball being caught and assist the player in retaining the ball in the glove until he removes it intentionally.

It will be seen that repeated impacts of a ball with the glove will cause the padding to become compacted and to spread into the palm section **11** of the glove thus reducing the effectiveness of the glove in breaking the force of a ball being caught and also diminishing the effectiveness of the glove in retaining the caught ball.

According to the present invention the padding is retained in its proper position between the palm piece and palm piece lining by means of a strip **38** which along one edge is fixed to the palm piece lining by means of a beading **40**, and which along an opposite edge is fixed to the lower edge of the palm piece by a beading **42**. The intermediate portion of the strip between the secured edges forms a bight which extends upwardly between the palm piece and the palm piece lining. This bight in the strip encircles the padding and prevents the padding **36** from spreading toward the palm section **11**. The strip **38** may be extended across the heel of the glove as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1, or if desired, it may be extended upwardly along the sides of the glove to the opening of the little finger receiving cavity and the thumb receiving cavity, respectively, as

illustrated by the dotted lines **44, 46** in Figure 1, and as shown in more detail in Figure 3. In Figure 3 the edges of the strip **38** are shown secured between the edge of the side panel **17** of the backing piece and the edge of the palm piece **10**. In most instances, it is satisfactory to provide a retaining strip **38** only across the heel of the glove since in normal use it is the padding in this portion of the glove which most frequently absorbs the impact of the ball with the glove.

It will be apparent that the strip **38** may be fixed to the palm piece and the palm piece lining in other ways than illustrated in Figure 2. For example, the strip **38** can be provided with eyelets positioned to correspond with the eyelets in the lower edge of the palm piece or lining so that the strip would be secured in the desired manner by the leather thong **34** which is laced serially through the eyelets **30, 32**. In the construction shown and suggested it will be apparent that the padding **36** may be quickly and readily replaced by unlacing the leather thong **34** and separating the lower edges of the palm piece and the palm piece lining. The elongated padding roll may then be withdrawn and a new roll inserted. No difficulty is encountered in inserting or positioning the replacement padding roll since one end of the roll is received within the thumb receiving cavity of the glove, the other end of the roll in the little finger cavity of the glove, and the intermediate portion is positively and accurately positioned across the heel of the glove in the bight of the strip **38**. The leather thong **34** may then be laced through the registering eyelets along the bottom edge of the glove, and the glove is then restored to the condition in which it can give the most effective assistance to the player wearing it.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

A baseball glove of the kind having a palm piece and backing piece arranged to provide a thumb-receiving cavity and plurality of adjacent finger-receiving cavities, a lining for the palm piece, a generally U-shaped padding interposed between said lining and said palm piece, a generally U-shaped strip of material, the ends of which extend, respectively, into said thumb-receiving cavity and the finger-receiving cavity most remote from the thumb-receiving cavity, means to releasably secure said strip along its one edge to the bottom of said palm piece and along its opposite edge to the bottom of said lining, a bight in said strip between said secured edges, said bight encircling and registrable with said padding, and means for releasably securing together the bottom edges of said palm piece and said lining, said means being the same as that used to secure said strip to said palm piece and said lining, thereby permitting said registrable padding to be easily withdrawn from or inserted into said bight.

WALTER T. TOMPKINS.

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