

June 28, 1927.

1,633,926

B. J. CRAIG

BASEBALL GLOVE

Filed Jan. 8, 1923

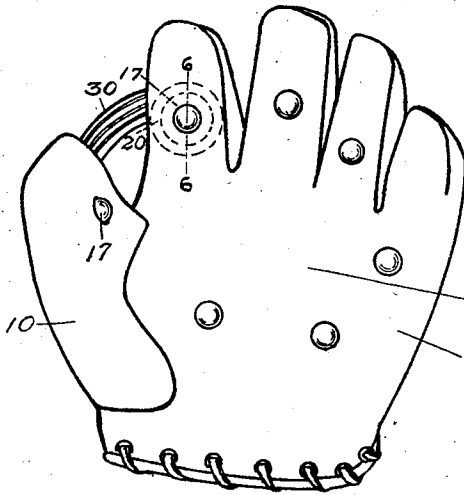


Fig. 1.

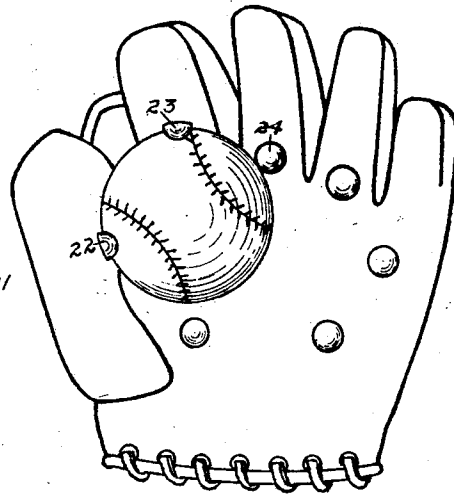


Fig. 2.

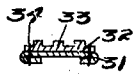


Fig. 10.

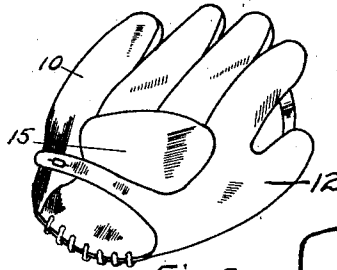


Fig. 9.

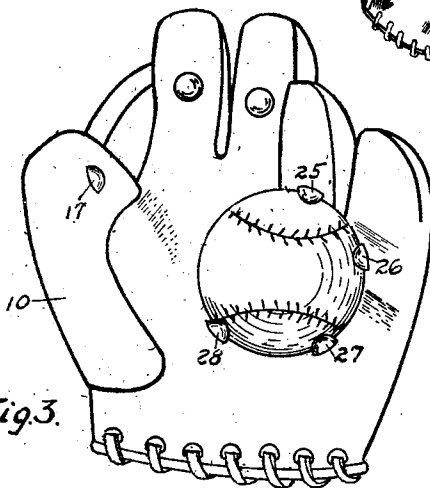


Fig. 3.

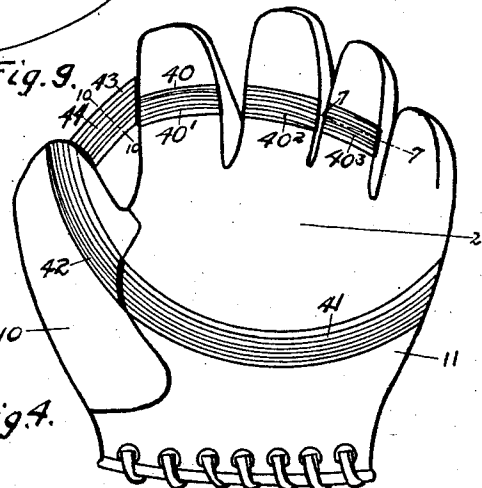


Fig. 4.

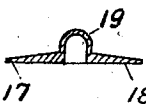


Fig. 5.

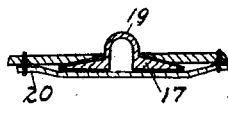


Fig. 6.

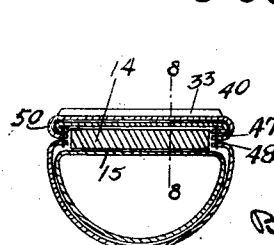


Fig. 7.

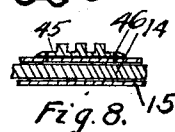


Fig. 8.

Burnie Craig

Patented June 28, 1927.

1,633,926

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BURNIE J. CRAIG, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

BASEBALL GLOVE.

Application filed January 8, 1923. Serial No. 611,229.

This invention relates to gloves such as are used as a protection for the hand in the game of baseball.

Baseball gloves as heretofore constructed have been provided with padding material to cushion the impact with the ball. This padding has frequently been arranged so that a ridge is provided near the wrist to form a so-called pocket in which the ball may be held. This pocket has proven useful in preventing the ball from being dropped but as at times the ball is driven or thrown with great force and as frequently it has much spin or twist the pocket has not been entirely satisfactory.

The general object of the invention is to provide a padded baseball glove which will enable the player to more securely hold the ball in the glove and hence cause less "errors" in play.

Another object of the invention is to provide a padded baseball glove or mitt with flexible gripping members thereon so constructed that the gripping members will contact with a ball when caught in the glove and hence enable the player to more tightly grasp the ball.

A more detailed object of the invention is to provide a padded baseball glove with spaced gripping projections or protuberances so arranged that when a ball strikes the glove in any of a number of positions a plurality of the projections or protuberances will engage the ball and prevent it from bounding out of the glove.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a padded ball glove with spaced gripping members arranged on the surface thereof, the members being anchored to the glove preferably on the inside of the latter, and being so spaced that the portion of the palm of the glove immediately surrounding the gripping members will be smooth, so that the flexibility of the glove is undisturbed.

Further and other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein Fig. 1 is an elevation of a glove showing my invention applied thereto; Fig. 2 is a view, similar to Fig. 1, showing the manner in which a baseball is gripped by the holding projections; Fig. 3 is a view similar to that of Figs. 1 and 2 showing the manner in which a baseball is held in another position on the glove; Fig. 4 is an elevation of a modified form of my inven-

tion; Fig. 5 is a cross section through one of the holding members; Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 Fig. 1; Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7 Fig. 4; Fig. 8 is a section on line 8—8 Fig. 7; Fig. 9 is a rear view, in perspective, of a glove; and Fig. 10 is a section on line 10—10 Fig. 4.

Referring to the drawing by reference characters I have shown a baseball glove at 10. This glove is typical of many gloves and mitts now in use and comprises a front portion 11 and a rear portion 12. The glove is provided with suitable padding or cushion material 14 which is located adjacent the inner face of the front portion 11 of the glove. The glove is shown as provided with a suitable lining 15 to which the padding 14 may be secured.

The thick padding used on ball gloves prevents the player from firmly pressing his fingers against the ball, and as the padding is somewhat springy the ball is frequently dropped. Manufacturers sometimes make the padding thinner near the palm of the glove to facilitate gripping, but this is not entirely satisfactory and moreover causes the ball to "sting" the hand. I find that by providing flexible gripping members the difficulties brought about by the padding are overcome.

Arranged in spaced relation on the glove 10, I show gripping members 17, shown in detail in Fig. 5 as comprising a base portion 18 which may be circular, and a raised hollow protuberant portion 19. The grippers are preferably made of rubber or other flexible material. The portion 18 preferably tapers from its edge to its juncture with the protuberance.

The grippers are preferably secured in place by inserting the projection through an aperture in the glove, so that the securing means for the gripper extends within the glove. The portion of the gripper which engages the glove may be glued thereto. To more securely fasten the gripper in place, I may place a securing member of leather, or cloth, 20, over it and then sew through the securing member to unite the latter with the glove. The securing member may be glued to the gripper and to the glove in addition to the sewing.

I now prefer to arrange the grippers as shown in Fig. 1, one being located on the thumb and one on each of the first three fingers of the glove. Other grippers may be

located below the palm portion as shown. The purpose of this arrangement is to leave the palm portion 21 undisturbed so that the flexibility of the glove will not be altered.

5 With the grippers arranged as shown, when the ball is grasped in any one of a number of positions on the glove there will be a plurality of the gripping members in engagement therewith. One position of the
10 ball is shown in Fig. 2 wherein the grippers 22, 23 and 24 are engaging the ball. In Fig. 3 the grippers 25, 26, 27 and 28 are engaging the ball. It will be apparent that in other positions of the ball two or more of the
15 grippers will be in contact with the ball and aid in holding it in the glove.

The projections 19 being hollow, flex when engaged by the ball and this increases the holding properties. Also by having the pro-
20 jections hollow should a ball strike directly on one of them it will flatten the projection and not cause the blow to be transmitted to the hand of the wearer.

By referring to Fig. 1 it will be noted
25 that I show a web 30 united to the thumb and the index finger of the glove. This web may comprise a cloth, or leather, member 31 and in order to increase its gripping action when in contact with the ball I provide upon
30 the outer surface of the web a gripping member. This is shown as comprising a flexible strip 32 made of rubber or other material, having a plurality of corrugations
33 upon its exterior surface. The strip 32 may be secured to the web 31 by stitching
35 34 or by gluing or in any other desired manner. The ends of the strip 32 may be inserted between the parts of the glove and when these parts are sewed the strip would
40 be secured by the stitching. The gripping member provided on the web may be used in conjunction with the gripping members 17, or it may be applied to an ordinary glove which has no other gripping means thereon.
45 One of the gripping members 17 may be used instead of the gripping member 32, if desired.

Referring to the modification shown in Fig. 4 I show here a plurality of gripping
50 members 40 similar in character to the gripping member 32, just described. These gripping members may be located as desired. In the drawing they are shown as arranged with one member 40', 40² and 40³ upon each
55 of the first three fingers of the glove and extending transversely of these fingers. Another member 41 which may be arcuate in shape is arranged near the bottom of the glove while another member 42 is shown as
60 extending longitudinally of the thumb. The web member 43 which serves to unite the thumb and index finger may likewise be provided with a gripping member 44 if desired.

65 The gripping members last described are shown in detail in Figs. 7 and 8 where it

will be noted that the members are provided with lateral portions 45 which are sewed to the glove by stitches 46 extending longi-
tudinally of the corrugations and that the
70 ends of the gripping members are extended within the glove between the portions of the glove forming the seam as at 47 and are then secured by stitches 48. The portion of the gripper in engagement with the face
75 of the glove may be glued thereto if desired. It will be noted that the corrugations 33 are shown as terminating short of the ends 50 of the gripping member so that a less bulky seam is provided than if the cor-
80 rugations were continuous throughout the length of the strip.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A base ball glove having a front portion to engage a base ball and a rear portion
85 to receive the thumb and fingers of the wearer, padding between the finger receiving portions and the base ball engaging portion, the front portion of the glove which is adapted to engage a base ball having
90 gripping means thereon, said means being flexible and including a part for engaging a ball held in the glove, flexible fastening means passing through the front portion of the glove for holding the gripping means
95 in place, the part of said flexible fastening means exposed on the front of the glove acting with said flexible gripping means to engage a spherical ball at a plurality of places
100 on the surface of the ball when the ball is gripped in any one of a number of different positions by the glove.

2. A baseball glove comprising a front portion to engage a baseball and a back por-
105 tion to receive the hand of the wearer, said portions being secured together to provide a thumb and finger portions, padding arranged between said front and back portions, a web uniting said thumb and one of said finger portions, said web having a grip-
110 ping member thereon to engage a baseball held in said glove.

3. A baseball glove having a front portion to engage a baseball and a rear portion to receive the thumb and fingers of the wearer,
115 padding between the finger receiving portion and the ball engaging portion, independent gripping members attached to the front portion of the glove and opposite the portion occupied by certain of the fingers of the
120 wearer, one of said members being attached to the outer surface of the glove in front of each of a plurality of the fingers of the glove and being so spaced that two or more grip-
125 ping members engage a spherical ball when the latter is held in the glove in any one of a number of positions, the part of the front portion of the glove comprising the palm having its exterior surface unbroken by the
130 projections.

4. A base ball glove having a front portion to engage a ball and a rear portion to receive the thumb and fingers of the wearer, padding between the finger receiving portion and the base ball engaging portion, flexible gripping members arranged on the outer face of the front portion of the glove and opposite the portions occupied by the thumb and fingers of the wearer, said members being attached to the thumb of the glove and to the outer surface of the portion which is occupied by a plurality of fingers of the wearer, all of said members cooperating to engage a spherical ball at three or more spaced points when the ball is held in any one of a number of positions on the glove. 15

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

BURNIE J. CRAIG.