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BASE BALL GLOVE OR MITT.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 14, 1905.

PATENTED MAY 8, 1906.

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 7

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BASE-BALL GLOVE OR MITT.


Application filed October 14, 1905. Serial No. 282,780.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RAOUl. F. LE MAT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Base-Ball Glove or Mitt, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in base-ball gloves, and pertains particularly to those used by the catcher and first baseman.

The object of my invention is to provide a glove of this character which is made scoop-shaped and provided with a correspondingly-shaped rigid frame for retaining the glove in said scoop shape, said frame being open at the center or opposite the palm of the hand, so that the hand will not receive the direct impact caused by the striking of the ball in the glove. This provides a glove in which the ball may be more readily scooped up by the player and the shape of the glove is such that the ball is diverted from all sides toward the center or palm of the glove, thus making it much easier to catch the ball and preventing the ball from striking the edge of the glove and being diverted up in the air or to one side, as is usually the case.

Another object of my invention is to provide a glove of this character which is heavily padded and the padding at the palm or center being so positioned and of such a character that it is impossible for the same to move. The hand-receiving portion of the glove is so constructed that after the hand is in its normal position within the glove the same cannot slip therefrom while in said position, thus obviating the necessity of a securing strap or lacing.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of the back of the glove. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken on the line x x of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the scoop-shaped rigid frame. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the face of the glove. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line y y of Fig. 10. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the blank of glove-piece. Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of a section of the rawhide strip, and Fig. 8 is a plan view of the face of the palm of the glove.

Referring now to the drawings, 1 represents a scoop-shaped frame, which is either made of heavy leather, metal, or paper-maché, but preferably of the latter, and is made of a shape to correspond with that of the ordinary catcher's glove or mitt and is provided at the center with an opening 2, to which the said frame is inclined from each and all directions. The rear end of said frame 1 is provided with a laterally-turned portion 3, which forms the heel of the glove 60 and which will be hereinafter more fully described. As before stated, this frame 1 is made, preferably, of papier-maché, which is cheaper and much lighter, thus making the glove light and yet having the same shape-retaining qualities of sheet metal and can be stamped from a sheet the same as metal. The said rigid frame 1 around its entire edge is provided with an approximately laterally turned flange 4, which serves as a reinforcing-plate for the outer edge of the frame and also serves as means for securing the leather covering to both the front and back of the glove.

As shown in Fig. 3, I have provided strengthening-plates 5, secured to the outer edge of the frame 1, which is subjected to the greatest strain, and which are either screwed or riveted thereto and may be of any desired number. While I have shown three plates, it is understood that they may be omitted. Tightly stretched over the convex surface of said frame 1 is a covering of leather 6, which extends down into the recess 7, formed by the flange 4, and is then turned parallel therewith and extends out to the end 85 of said flange. Passing over this flange between the leather covering of the frame and the flange is a rawhide strip 8, which extends out around the flange and a short distance over the inner face of the frame, and thus the rawhide strip and back covering of the glove are firmly-secured to the plate by the flange being firmly crimped or bent down upon the frame. The said rawhide strip 8 is of the form shown in Fig. 4 and extends entirely around the frame 1. The said frame is not provided with a cut-out portion for the thumb, thus protecting the same. The thumb portion is formed by the padding on the inside of the frame, as hereinafter more fully described. Secured to the rawhide strip 8, as is also shown in Fig. 4, by a row or double row of stitching is a leather covering 9, forming the palm portion of the glove, and between said covering 9 and the frame 1 the padding is placed, as I shall now proceed to describe. The said covering, as shown and described, is secured to the rawhide strip and is made to conform approximately with that of the scoop-shaped frame 1 and, as shown, is...
provided with a thick heel portion 11. This arrangement makes the outer covering 9 have a central depression 12, to which all of the sides incline inwardly, and when the ball strikes any portion of the glove it will be diverted inwardly toward the central depression 12. The rawhide strip 8 serves as a strengthening-strip and also being at a point at which the greatest wear occurs will greatly protect the glove and lengthen the wear of the same.

Secured to the covering 9 on the inside and covering the central depression 12 is a piece of sheepskin 13, carrying the wool 14, and the wool, as shown, being next to the covering 9 and forming a padding at that point of the glove in which the ball is caught, thus prevents the impact of the ball from passing to the hand. The wool 14 being secured to the sheepskin, it will be seen that the same cannot move, and thus the displacement of the padding at this point is absolutely prevented. Between the covering 9 and the frame 1 a packing 15 is placed, which may be of the usual material used in gloves of this character.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have produced a scoop-shaped glove having an outer thin portion 16, which is adapted to engage the ground in picking up ground-ball, and a thick heel portion 11.

The opening 2 in the frame 1 is opposite the central ball-receiving depression 13 of the glove and is arranged opposite the palm of the hand when the glove is in use, and the impact caused by the ball striking in the depression is not imparted through the frame 1 to the hand, but through the sheepskin packing 13 and the usual packing 15 and the covering 6, and thus the glove retains the same qualifications of a glove made entirely of leather. As before stated, the frame 1 is of a circular or approximately circular form, and in order to provide for the thumb portion 23 I provide the cover 9 and the padding with a break or depression 24, which forms the thumb portion 23 of the glove.

Secured to the covering 6 of the frame 1 is a glove-piece 17, which is provided with the usual finger portions 18 and thumb portion 23' and has its upper end provided with a number of gores 20, which are gathered on a leather strip 21, which serves as means for holding the glove on the hand. The hand is placed through the opening 22 at the end of the strip 21 in a straight flat position, and when therein it is curved or the fingers bent to conform with the curve of the frame 1, and when in said position it will be seen that it will be impossible for the glove to slip from the hand as long as the fingers remain in said position.

In gloves of this character it has been found necessary to provide some means for making the upper end of the glove portion smaller to hold the glove on the hand, such as a strap or lacing, owing to the straight position in which the fingers are normally held while using the glove.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim, as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a glove of the character described, the combination with a glove-piece, of a rigid body portion forming the front of the glove.

2. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid body portion and means for attaching same to the hand.

3. A glove of the character described comprising a rigid body portion having a central opening therein, and a glove-piece carried by said body portion.

4. A glove of the character described comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame having a central opening therein, a padded covering for same, and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

5. A glove of the character described comprising a rigid frame, a flange carried by the outer edge of said frame, a covering having its outer edge crimped under said flange, and a glove-piece carried by the frame, substantially as described.

6. A glove of the character described comprising a rigid body portion having a laterally-turned heel portion, and a glove-piece carried thereby.

7. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame, a flange carried by the outer edge of said frame, a rawhide strip crimped under said flange, a palm-covering secured to said rawhide strip, padding between said covering and frame, and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

8. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame having a central opening therein and a laterally-turned heel portion, a covering for said frame, a padding between said frame and covering, and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

9. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame having a central opening and a laterally-turned heel portion, a covering secured to the edge of said frame and having a ball-receiving depression therein, a padding between said frame and covering and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

10. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame, a padding carried thereby, and a glove-piece secured to the frame and having a gathered inner end whereby the hand cannot be removed when in its normal position corresponding with the curve of the frame.

11. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid body portion, a covering secured to the outer edges of the frame, a sheepskin padding secured to the
inside of the covering with the wool side adjacent to the covering, and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

12. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame having a central opening therein, a flange carried by the outer edge of said frame, a covering stretched over the convex side of said frame and having its edges turned parallel with the flange, a rawhide strip extending around the flange and crimped between the flange and said frame, and a palm-covering stitched to said rawhide strip and having a central depression opposite to the opening in the frame, a padding between the palm-covering and the frame, and a glove-piece secured to the convex side of the frame, substantially as described.

13. A glove of the character described, comprising a scoop-shaped rigid frame made of papier-mâché, a padded covering carried thereby, and a glove-piece carried by the frame.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RAOUL F. LE MAT.

Witnesses:
A. M. SPOFFORD,
C. WOODCOCK.