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(54) **ZIPPER ATTACHED SPORTS GLOVE WITH FLY COVER PROTECTION**

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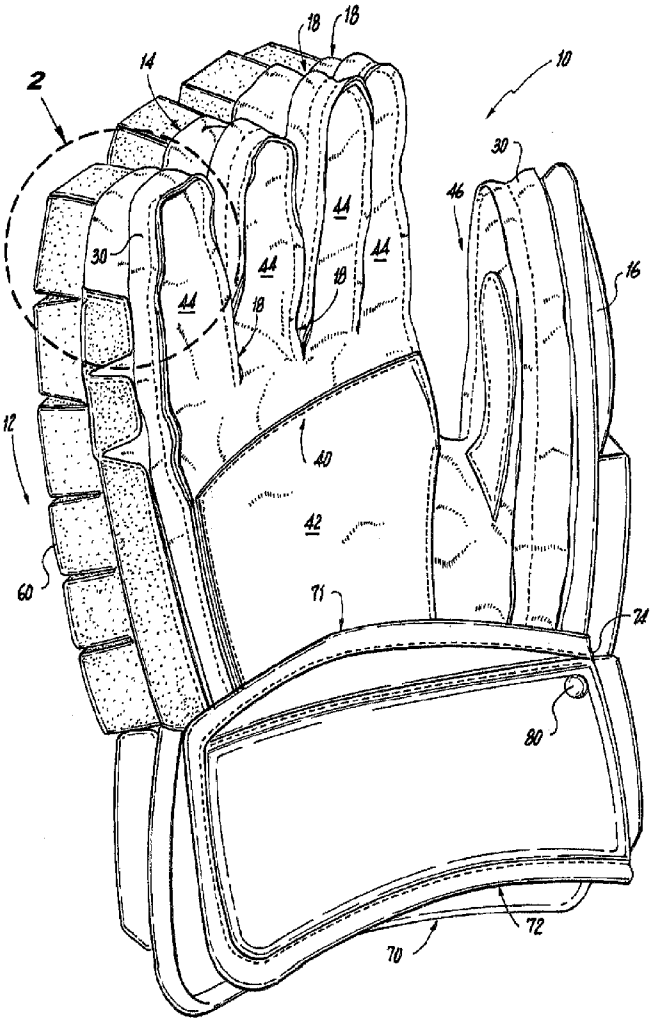
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of protecting a participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator from skin contact with an exposed connector by isolating the connector of a sports glove, such as hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and other sports gloves, which includes a front palm portion having a serpentine array of finger stalls for insertion of fingers therein, and a back portion which is attachable to said front palm portion by a connector, such as a zipper. The method includes the step of removably covering the zipper connector with a fly cover having an attachment end and a free end, wherein further lifting of the free end of the fly cover exposes the zipper for participant user engagement therewith.



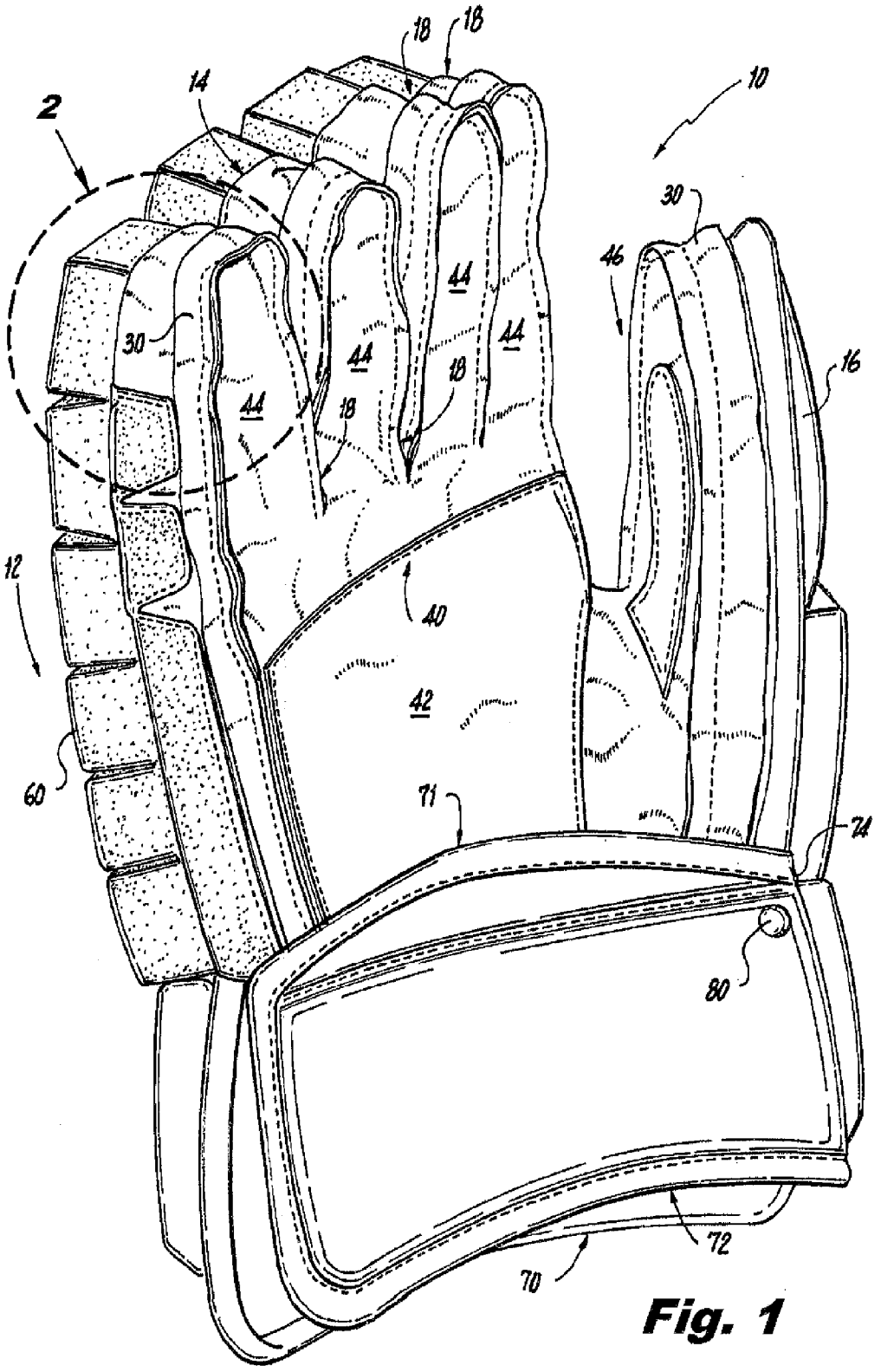


Fig. 1

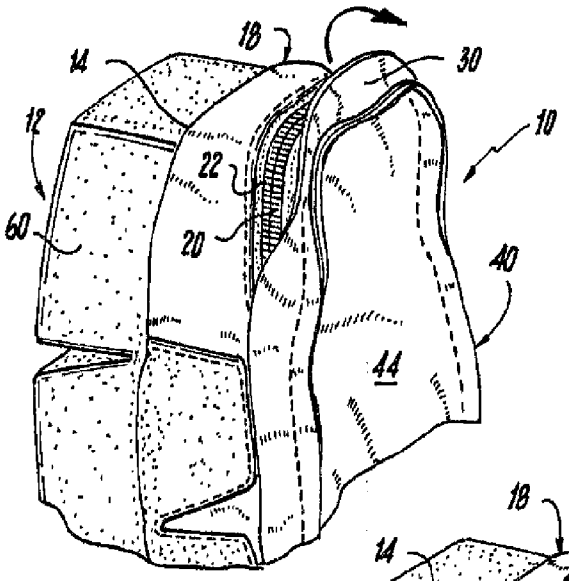


Fig. 2

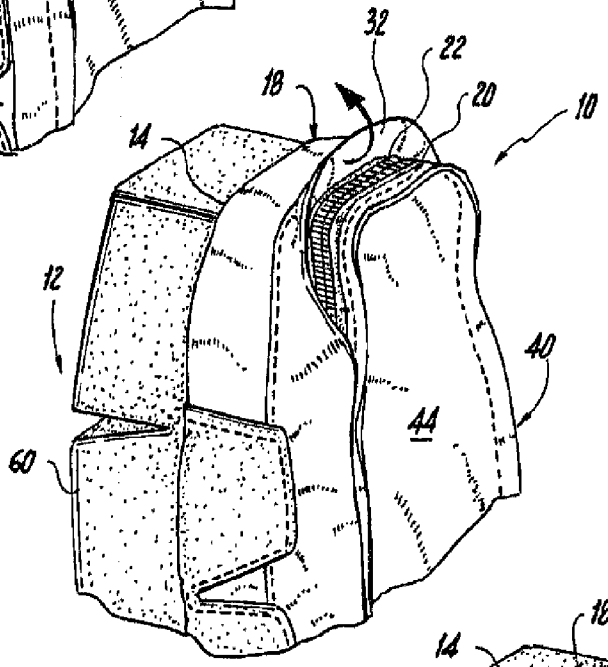


Fig. 3

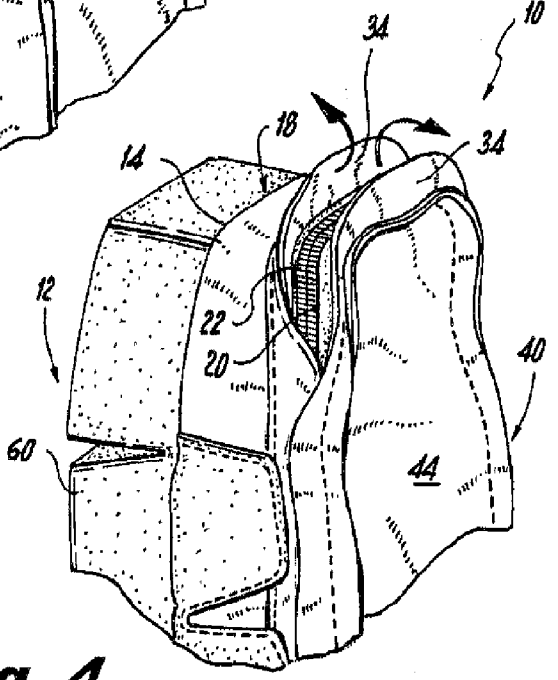


Fig. 4

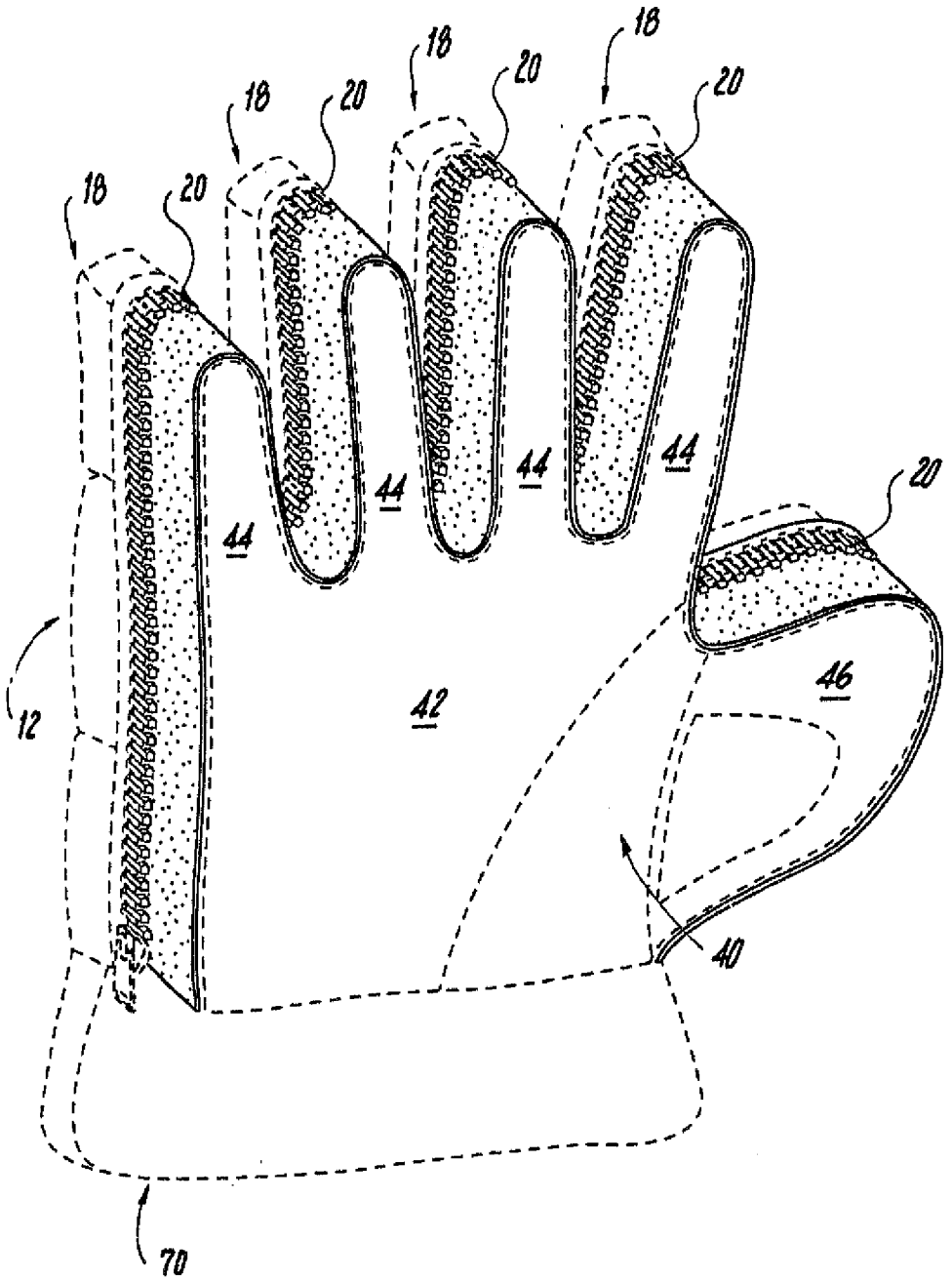


Fig. 5

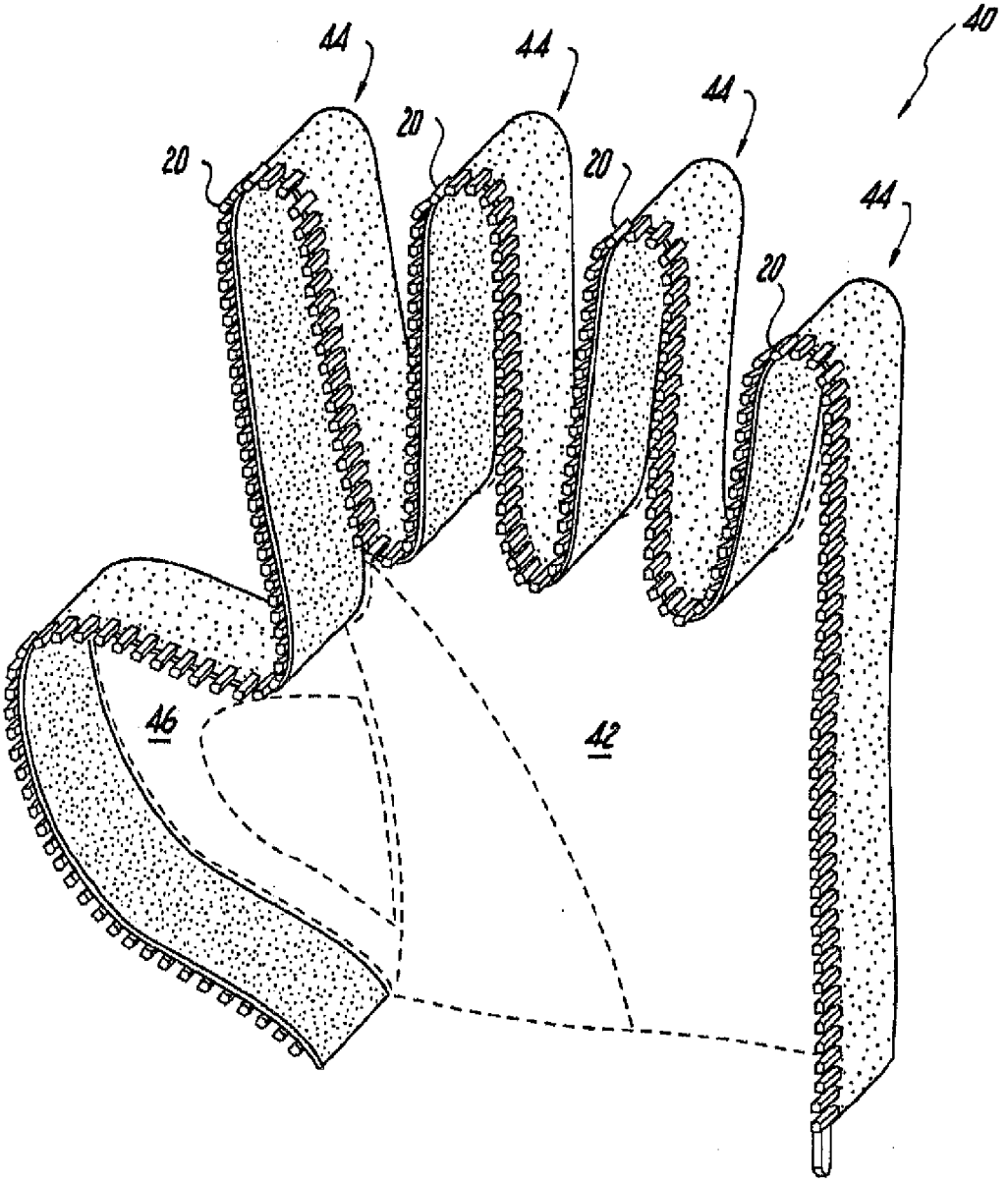


Fig. 6

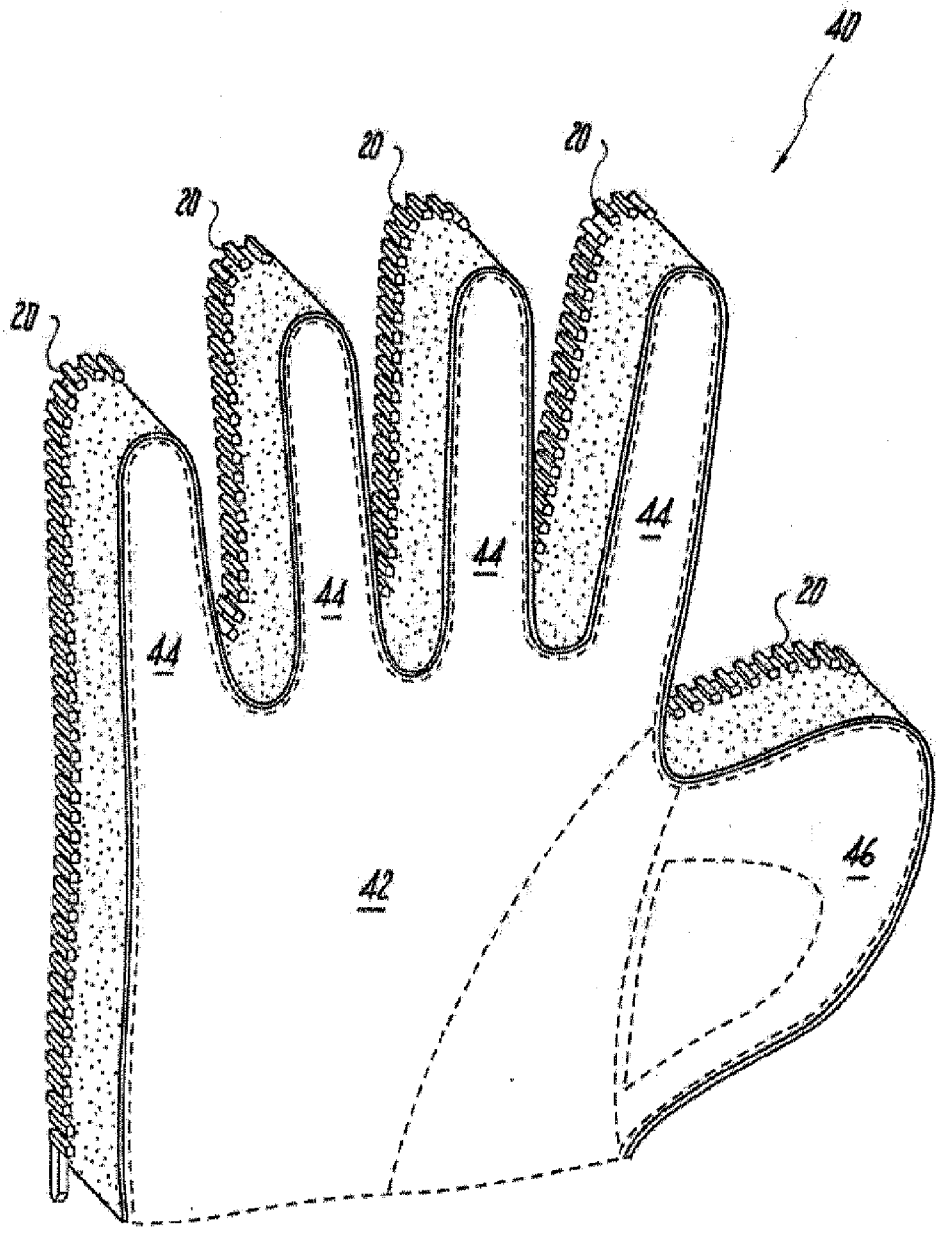


Fig. 7

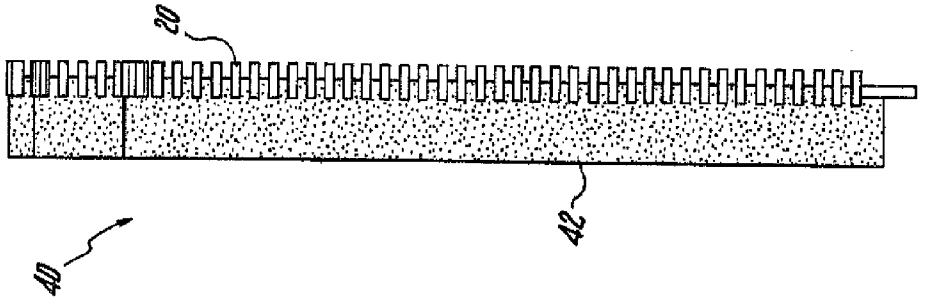


Fig. 9

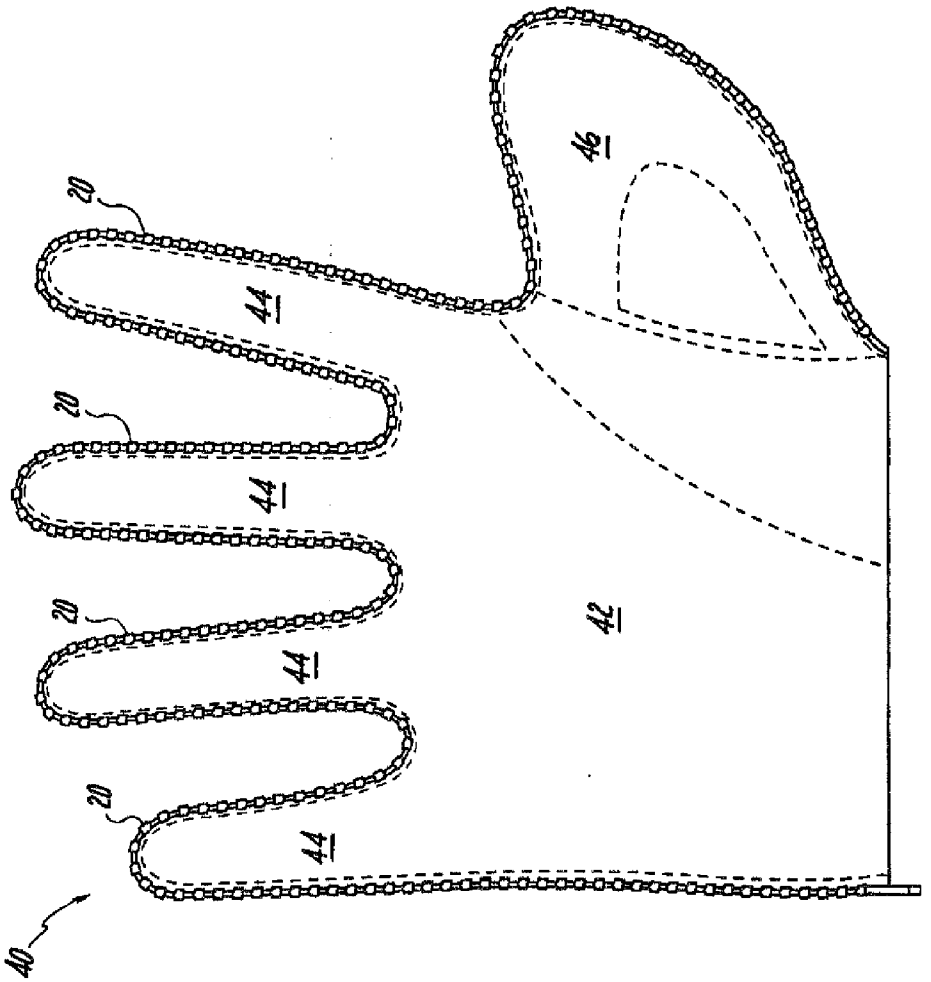


Fig. 8

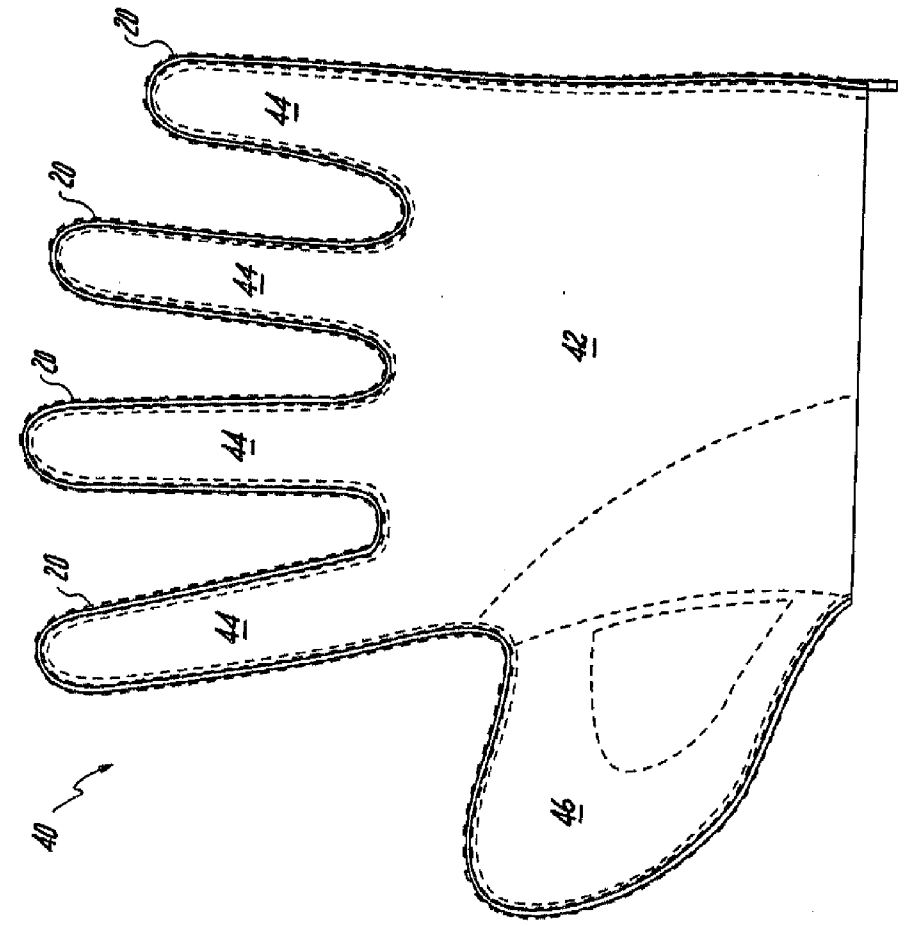


Fig. 11

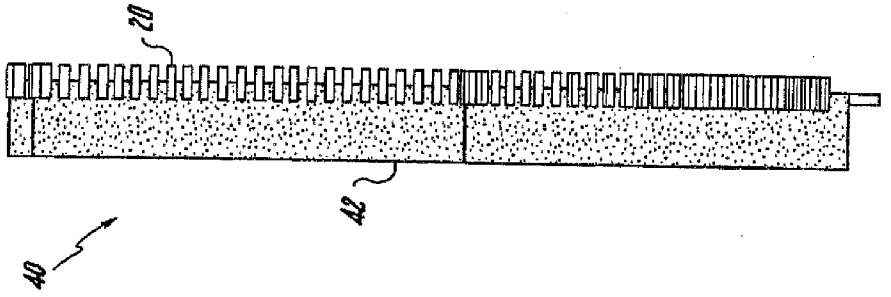


Fig. 10

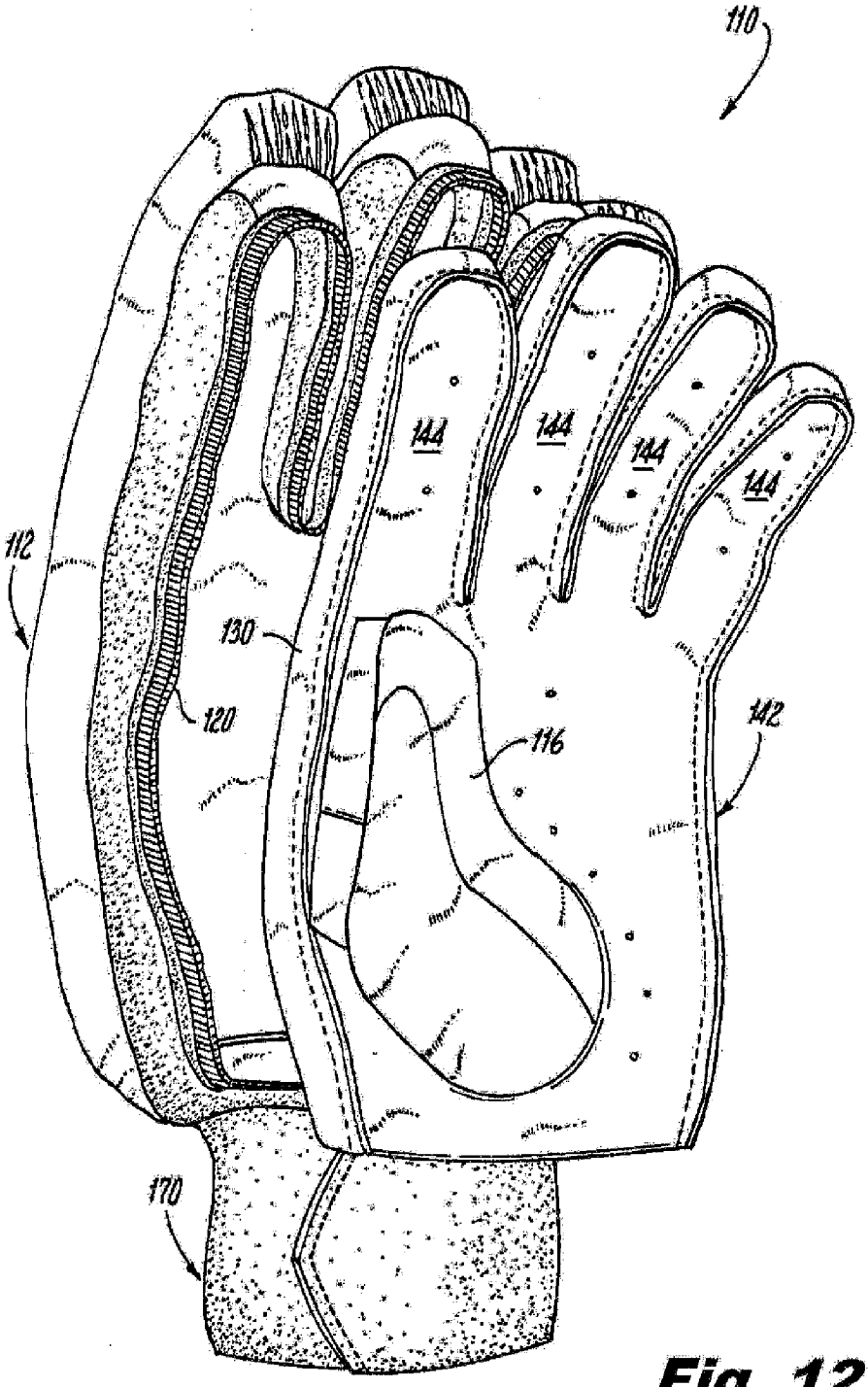


Fig. 12

ZIPPER ATTACHED SPORTS GLOVE WITH FLY COVER PROTECTION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a divisional and continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/689,349, filed on Nov. 29, 2012, and claims priority in part under 35 U.S.C. §120 therefrom. This application also claims priority from Patent Cooperation Treaty, patent application PCT/US2013/072021, filed Nov. 26, 2013, and claims priority in part therefrom. These applications are incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a protective glove and its palm-fingers unit for hockey, lacrosse and other similar sports gloves. Specifically the invention relates to hockey, lacrosse and sports gloves in which the palm-finger unit for holding the shaft, stick, etc., can be easily removed and replaced quickly and easily while having a protective fly cover to cover a zipper attachment when it is installed in the glove.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION—PRIOR ART

[0003] During hockey and lacrosse when a player uses a pair of gloves for a prolonged period of time, the palm-finger area of the glove gets worn, wet, and reduces the players ability to hold the shaft, stick etc. with a good sensitivity within the player's hand allowing a comfortable feeling between shaft, stick and the player fingers and palm.

[0004] The players require this sensitivity to maintain skillful stick or ball handling which is essential in hockey and lacrosse. This all must be in a glove that is comfortable and not have exposed elements such as a zipper when the glove is being used.

[0005] In hockey and lacrosse gloves, the portion on the back of the glove is usually protected with internal padding and is less susceptible to damage from the elements such as water, ice, grass and wear during conventional use. The front or palm-finger unit of the glove exhibits wear to a much greater extent during use due to constant engagement with the shaft, stick etc. Consequently, the palm-finger area of these hockey and lacrosse gloves is more likely to abrade and tear, or get brittle than the back of the glove.

[0006] Therefore, the palm-finger area of a glove is generally the determining factor of the durability, life and or legality of wearing according to the rules of the hockey and lacrosse gloves and the like.

[0007] U.S. Pat. No. 5,329,639 to Aoki discloses an ice hockey glove which addresses some of these issues. The ice hockey glove in Aoki patent discloses a hockey glove with a removable palm area at peripheral edges of the glove. The attaching means is a zipper installed at peripheral edges of the ice hockey gloves front and back member. Having an a zipper at peripheral edges as shown suffers in the shape, and feel in the finger area, which becomes abnormal and the internal area which touches the fingers is bothersome—not comfortable. Another major problem is that it leaves exposure of the attachment zipper to outside elements. This leads to exposure from other sticks, shafts during play leading to quick failure. Another major failing of the Aoki patent is that it leaves exposure of the attachment zipper to other players which are undesirable in these sports. Additionally, the attachment of the back padding to the exterior side of the glove may lead to padding failure. This makes the back area less durable and susceptible to outside elements. This would also fail to conform to the configuration of the users hand as it gets damaged or comes off and possibly failing to adequately protect the users. Additionally the wrist closure mechanism suffers as it takes too long to use and has too many pieces that must be engaged before using. Additionally, if the player is required to (must) put their hand in the glove in order to close the cuff area, makes it more difficult and less desirable to operate and function. The time frame is also increased which is less desirable. In this case, one only has the ability to close the mechanisms with the opposite hand instead of the dexterity of using two hands. This suffers in function. It is also more costly to produce.

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 3,605,117 to Latina discloses an ice hockey glove which addresses some of the issues. The hockey glove of the Latina patent discloses a hand receiver portion or an inner glove which is attached to a padded back portion at the ends of the finger stalls and the outer sides of the palm area, but otherwise remains detached from the inner glove. The inner glove is coupled to the padding through lacing. Consequently, when the face of the inner glove wears out, the lacings need to be withdrawn and a new inner glove installed, thereby allowing reuse the back padding. The Latina patent suffers from the disadvantage that it does not allow for quick replacement of the inner glove. Replacing the entire glove of the Latina patent is a time consuming procedure requiring the user to remove and replace all of the laces in the hockey glove. Additionally, the replacement of the entire inner glove portion in the Latina patent is not most efficient procedure since only the palm portion of the glove is generally damaged. Additionally, the attachment of the back padding to the glove at only distinct points may lead to the padding failing to conform to the configuration of the users hand and possibly failing to adequately protect the users in certain positions.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

[0009] An object in the present invention is to overcome the aforementioned drawbacks of the prior art.

[0010] Additionally, an object of the present invention is to provide hockey, lacrosse players and the like, with a desirable, usable, quick efficient and economical glove with a palm-finger unit replacement that also has protection for the attachment means and protects the players from contact with the attachment means.

[0011] Other objects which become apparent from the following description of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] In keeping with these objects and others which may become apparent, the present invention is a new improved version of a two piece, connector joined sports glove, such as hockey, lacrosse and other sports gloves. The sports glove of the present invention features a joining connector, such as a zipper, set of snaps or other suitable attachment, covered by a fly cover. The zipper attaches the front palm with fingers portion to the glove portion. The fly cover protects the zipper attachment from damage caused by impact from the sports mentioned and protects the players in these sports from exposed zippers.

[0013] The present invention also describes a method of joining the front and back of a sports glove (hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and the like), utilizing a zipper attached to the front and back portions. whereby the zipper is engaged to form at least the upper finger stalls and the palm of the sports glove. The zipper is covered with a panel or fly cover thereby protecting the user, participant player(s) from skin contact with an exposed zipper. The method further includes joining the front and back of the sports glove (hockey, lacrosse, cricket and the like), utilizing a connector attached to the front and back portions, whereby the connector is engaged to form at least the upper finger stalls and the palm of the sports glove. To protect the skin and/or face of both opposing participant players, and the participant himself or herself, this connector is covered with a panel or fly cover thereby protecting the user, participant player(s) from skin contact with an exposed connector.

[0014] This development also leads to a better feeling glove with more comfort, a normal look and a non exposed zipper. The fly cover can be the same material as the front palm-finger area or it can be different material. It can also be a combination of materials. It can be made of any suitable material used to make gloves or a combination of any suitable material or materials.

[0015] In the preferred embodiment the fly cover can match the finger material or it can be different. The fly cover can be part of the front palm-finger portion in the sports glove such as hockey and lacrosse and the like. The fly cover can go from the glove portion (side) to the front palm side to cover the zipper. The fly cover can be a combination of the glove side and the front palm-finger side portions. The fly cover can be from the front palm side of the glove portion (side) to the glove portion. The percentage of each can be any percentage that can be feasible if one uses a combination of glove and front palm portions to form the fly cover.

[0016] The fly cover can be different directions on different parts of the gloves if desired. The fly can overlap the nearest material that it is trying to meet. The fly can also be just shy of meeting the material it is trying to meet.

[0017] The preferred embodiment would have the fly-cover cover the zipper as much as possible. Other embodiments may have less than the full coverage; however, anything covering at least 50 percent of the zipper would be preferable.

[0018] The fly cover can go from left to right or right to left or any combination of these. The fly cover can go up to down or down to up or any combination of these. The fly cover can be any direction or a combination of directions. The fly cover can be any suitable material or a combination of suitable materials.

[0019] The zipper can be made of any suitable material or materials. Examples include plastic, nylon, synthetic, polymer materials, metal, ferrous or non ferrous material, carbon fiber or any suitable material or combination of materials. The fly can be made from any suitable material or a combination of materials. The fly can be made from one piece of material or it can be made of multiple pieces.

[0020] The fly cover material can be fabric type material, either synthetic or natural, such as leather, synthetic leather, suede, synthetic suede, Nash, micro fiber type material, VELCRO® hook and loop fastener, any natural or synthetic material or combination of materials and fibers that can be used in this industry for gloves. The fly cover can be any color or combination of colors.

[0021] The zipper can be made from any suitable material or combination of materials. The fly can be cut, formed, molded, cast, forged, pressed, sewn or use any known manufacturing method or methods to make it.

[0022] The zipper can be made from any suitable material or combination of materials. The zipper can be sewn, molded, pressed, cast, forged, formed, cut or be made by any known manufacturing method or combination of methods or manufacturing techniques. The attachment of the zipper and fly cover can be sewn, glued, bonded or use any suitable bonding technique or any combination of techniques.

[0023] The zipper can be installed on the front palm unit in any feasible position-possible position. The preferred embodiment would have the zipper teeth at least slightly away from the back of the front palm units—finger receptacle edges.

[0024] The zipper attachment on the glove side can be installed toward the middle of the fingers, toward the back of the fingers or toward the front of the fingers or any feasible position that will allow the operation and comfort for the fingers. On the preferred embodiment, the continuation of the zipper toward the sides of the hand and cuff would be toward the outer portion of the glove unit. The preferred embodiment would have some material between the edge of the finger unit and the zipper.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The present invention can best be understood in connection with the accompanying drawings. It is noted that the invention is not limited to the precise embodiments shown in drawings, in which:

[0026] FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of the zipper attached sports glove with fly cover protection of the present invention;

[0027] FIG. **2** is a close up detailed view thereof;

[0028] FIG. **3** is a close up detailed view of an alternative embodiment thereof;

[0029] FIG. **4** is a detailed view of a further alternative embodiment thereof;

[0030] FIG. **5** is a front perspective of another embodiment for one hand of a pair of a zipper-attached front palm units according to the present invention;

[0031] FIG. **6** is a rear perspective view thereof;

[0032] FIG. **7** is a front perspective view thereof;

[0033] FIG. **8** is a rear elevational view thereof;

[0034] FIG. **9** is a right side elevational view of a zipper portion thereof;

[0035] FIG. **10** is a left side elevational view thereof; and,

[0036] FIG. **11** is a rear elevational view of the other hand of the other embodiment in FIGS. **5-10** for one hand of a pair of zipper-attached front palm units according to the present invention.

[0037] FIG. **12** is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment for a zipper attached sports glove, where the thumb stall protrudes from a surface of the palm portion of the sports glove, and is therefore not connected to a zipper or other connector.

[0038] The stippling in the drawings represents texture.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0039] The present invention provides a hockey glove, lacrosse glove, sports gloves, with an easily replaceable front palm-finger unit while protecting the attachment means.

[0040] The hockey glove **10** includes a back member **12** having a body portion **14**, a thumb portion **16** and a plurality of finger portions **18**. Padding members **60** are permanently internally encapsulated within the glove to protect the fingers, thumb, back and side portions of the glove and the cuff area **70**, thereby protecting the user's hand. A plurality of internal changeable front member units **40** is provided with each front member including a front palm portion, a thumb portion and a plurality of finger portions. The number of finger portions of the front member unit **40** corresponds to the number of finger portions in a corresponding back member in the preferred embodiment. There can also be a different number of finger elements or socket or receptacle from one to five, however, the preferred would match as stated.

[0041] An attaching means removably couples one of the front members to the back member.

[0042] The coupled front and back members cooperate to form a hand receiving portion which includes a palm, thumb stall and a plurality of finger stalls.

[0043] The hockey and lacrosse gloves and sports gloves of the present invention include the glove to the users' hand and wrist area. The protective element for the wrist area is known as the cuff **70** and **72** in FIG. **1**. A wrist cuff closure mechanism for securely and easily fastening is provided.

[0044] The wrist cuff includes a back portion **72** attached to the glove side and the front portion **70** which is attached to it as a continuation from the glove portion **72**. The wrist cuff is not fully sewn to form a continuously closed cuff around its perimeter. There is an open portion, so the cuff is not permanently closed. It allows the cuff to open and close. The two or more parts of the cuff have hinged action from the sewing or attaching the parts together while not permanently attaching the opposite side to the gloves back portion. The closure mechanism may include VELCRO® hook and loop type fasteners, and snaps or any other workable attachment means. The preferred closure has a VELCRO® hook and loop type fastener on the base of the palm at the wrist area and opposite on the cuff side **71**. These two areas coincide to form the attachment at these locations across the lower region of the palm area that meets it. The cuff only requires one snap **80**, which securely fastens the cuff together so it can't open easily in play. The snap is at the end or toward the end of the open portion, two parts that need to be joined to close the cuff The snap has a male portion and a female portion, the male and female portion are positioned to meet from the two portions that are needed to close the cuff area. FIG. **1** represents the area for the snap at reference numeral pairs **80**, **74** or **80**, **72** or a location in this area as described.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0045] The hockey or lacrosse glove **10** of the present invention includes a back member **12**, shown in FIG. **1**, which covers the back of the user's hand. The back member includes a body portion **14**, a thumb portion **16** and four finger portions **18**, although it should be noted that the glove may be formed with less than four finger portions **18**.

[0046] The zipper **20** connects the front palm portion **42** of the sports glove **10** with the rear portion **12** of the sports glove **10**. The zipper **20** is covered by a fly cover **30** wherein the zipper **20** and the fly cover **30** extend in a continuous peripheral non-linear serpentine line of varying radii around each finger stall **44**, thumb stall **46** and side of hand leading toward the cuff **70** on the rear glove portion and each finger stall **44** and thumb stall **46** and side of hand leading to the cuff **72** on the palm portion **42**.

[0047] Padding **60** is encapsulated between the body portion **14** and back portion **12** to protect the exterior side of the back member **12** and it substantially covers the exterior portion of the back member **12** to protect the user's hand. The padding **60** may be in the form of foam inserts into the areas needed to be protected such as the fingers and back of hand and side of hand and cuff area. The padding may also be in the form of a plurality of rolls, some of which extend across the back of the hand, generally on the back of the body portion **14**. Other of the rolls may be positioned longitudinally along the back area of the finger portions **18**. Similarly, another padding roll or insert may be provided which corresponds to the shape of the thumb portion **16**. Thumb portion **16** may also have a plastic insert along with foam padding adding further protecting the thumb. Additionally the padding may be tapered and or have any shape desired.

[0048] The removable front palm unit **40**, shown in FIG. **5**, covers the front portion of the players' hand. A plurality of front finger members **44** may be provided for use with a single back member **12**. Each removable front palm units **40** includes a palm portion **42**, a thumb portion **46** and four finger portions **44**. The thumb portion is usually stitched to the remainder of the front palm portion. Fewer finger members **44** may be formed limited only in that the number of finger portions **44** of the front palm unit **40** is intended to correspond with the number of finger members **18** of the back member **12**. The front palm unit can be any thickness desired or any material desired or any combinations of material desired. It is contemplated that a plurality of front palm units with varying thicknesses and or materials can be attached to the same back member **12**. However, it is preferred that the front palm unit **40** have a thickness that allows greater feel by the player. This can be achieved using the desired material and thickness for the particular material.

[0049] The size and material provide an effective hockey and lacrosse glove which maintains the appropriate flexibility and control for the player. Front palm unit may terminate at the very bottom of the wrist area. VELCRO® hook and loop type fastener or another closure material or device can be stitched to the base of the front palm unit to aid in the cuff closure. As shown in the accompanying drawings, the back member **12** and front palm unit **40** are attached together by a closure, such as a zipper **20** on the front palm unit and **22** on the glove unit, covered by fly **30** from front to back or fly **32** from back to front or fly **34** which forms in the middle to form a hand receiver portion which includes a thumb stall and a plurality of finger stalls. The zipper and fly extend around each finger and thumb unit and side of hand leading toward the cuff on the glove side and each finger and thumb and side of hand leading to the cuff on the palm side. Additionally the zipper and fly cover extend along the thumb **16** on the glove portion and **46** on the palm unit and finger portions **18** on the glove portion and **44** of the front palm unit, thereby connecting the front palm unit to the back member **14** forming a hand receiving unit. The zipper is preferably a thin, narrow, soft zipper with a lock, thereby allowing the zipper **20** on the front palm unit and **22** on the glove unit to effectively operate in the space provided between the finger walls and also the fly cover.

[0050] The hockey and lacrosse glove or sports glove **10** of the present invention includes a wrist closure mechanism for securely fastening the glove at the users' wrist. The wrist

closure mechanism includes a first flap **70** attached to one side of the of the body portion **14**. A hook and loop type fastener such as VELCRO®, is attached to the interior of flap **70** at or near the inside horizontal area at **71**. Additionally a snap **80** or other closure devise is attached to the flap **70**. The female portion of the snap can be on the inside of this flap.

[0051] A second flap **72** can have the male portion which coincides with the snap on flap **70**. The preferred embodiment would have the male portion on the glove side next to the base of the zipper **74** attachment on the side of the glove. Near this area on the glove side can have the male portion of the snap. This may also be reversed to allow **72** or **74** to have the male side of the snap and the inside of flap **70** have the female portion to receive. The preferred embodiment would have the female portion of the snap on the **70** flap and the male portion of the snap on position **74**. The exterior side of the front palm unit base would also have VELCRO® hook and loop type fastener which coincides to the shape and size on the first flap at **71** for closure purpose. The snap or other closure devise is for a secure closure.

[0052] In operation the wrist closure operates as follows:

[0053] With or without the players hand in the glove **10**, the first flap **70** secures the VELCRO® hook and loop fastener on the inside of flap **70** coinciding with to the palm units VELCRO® hook and loop fastener type of attachment at coinciding areas or points as it closes and the snap **80** locks the cuff unit secure on position **74**.

[0054] The zipper **20** on the palm unit and **22** on the glove portion is protected by the fly cover **30** which goes from front to back, or **32** which goes from back to front or **34** which goes in both direction toward the middle, allows for quick and easy replacement of the front palm unit **40**. The fly cover can be a combination of any direction from the palm unit or the glove portion or be any combination of the two. It can even be different ways of covering the zipper in different sections of the glove or palm unit. The zipper is in a position and protected by the fly cover so that it does not interfere with the operation and use of the hockey or lacrosse glove or other sports glove **10**. The zipper and fly cover extend around the portions of the players hand and fingers in which the hand fits into. The present invention allows a single back member **12** and a plurality of front palm units **40**, thereby extending the life and usefulness and function of the glove **10**.

[0055] Another embodiment may have a gap between the base of the palm unit and cuff area. On this glove the cuff will not overlap the palm unit. There can be a gap between the cuff and the palm unit. The tab on the bottom of the zipper on each side may be covered by a piece of material coming off the glove or as part of the replaceable palm or a combination of both.

[0056] This embodiment allows more freedom for the wrist to maneuver while having a replaceable palm unit.

[0057] Another embodiment is a replaceable front palm unit **40** which has a zipper attachment **20** as shown in FIG. **2** and a fly cover **30**, **32**, **34** as shown in FIGS. **2**, **3** and **4**. The fly cover may be only a portion of a fly cover to cover the zipper attachment or cover a portion of the zipper attachment on the front palm unit. The fly cover may be able to cover the majority or even most of the zipper if not all of the zipper attachment on the front palm unit. Whatever percentage is needed or works best would be alright as the desired results are achieved. The front palm unit has a palm section, a thumb section and a plurality of finger portions which will coincide with the glove portion to form a hand receiving unit. The base of the front palm unit may have VELCRO® hook and loop type fastener to aid in the cuff closure when the palm of the glove is in the glove unit. There may be any number of finger portions or hand shapes—make up to any desired form to form a hand receiving unit. The fly cover may be any portion of the total fly cover and can vary in thickness and shape or size or length if desired or be consistent if desired or any combination of percentages within the replaceable palm unit.

[0058] On the preferred embodiment, the snap would be on the cuff flap **70** with the female portion being exposed on the inside of the cuff flap toward the end of the flap as shown on FIG. **1**. The base of the side of the glove side opposite the cuff flap would have the male portion of the snap **74** as shown in FIG. **1**. This would be next to the palm units' zipper attachment's zipper. The snap could then be closed and secured from the wrist cuff flap to the glove side.

[0059] FIG. **2** is a detailed close up view of the glove portion containing a portion of the zipper **20** from the palm unit and **22** from the glove unit. Fly cover **30** on the front palm unit covers both elements of the zipper attachments from the front palm unit and the glove unit. The fly cover is attached to the front palm unit and is made with material that is sewn and part of the front palm unit, thereby protecting the zipper attachment. The direction of the fly cover is from front palm unit towards glove unit.

[0060] FIG. **3** is a close up view of an alternative embodiment. On this embodiment the fly cover **32** is part of the glove unit. The zipper **20** from the front palm unit attaches to the zipper **22** on the glove unit the fly cover **32** covers the zipper attachment as shown and describes with material that is attached to the glove unit. This protects the zipper attachment.

[0061] FIG. **4** is a close up view of a further embodiment. This shows the zipper **20** from the palm unit joins zipper **22** from the glove unit. The fly cover **34** has material from both the palm unit and the glove unit. The fly cover covers the zipper attachment and protects the zipper.

[0062] Another embodiment can have any combination of the above embodiments where the material used for the fly cover can come from either or both the front palm unit or glove unit or both. There can be another embodiment that has varying areas around or near the zipper portion were the material can come from one side or the other or both.

[0063] FIG. **5** is a front perspective of a zipper attached front palm unit **40** according to the present invention. This view shows the majority of the zipper element **20** as it goes from the side of the hand closest to the cuff **70**, around the plurality of finger elements **44** and around the thumb area **46** on the front palm unit **42**.

[0064] FIG. **6** is a rear perspective view of another embodiment for the zipper attached front palm portion **42** of a pair of front palm and back glove portions **40** and **12** respectively of sports glove **10** according to the present invention. This view shows how the zipper **20** goes from the side of the hand portion closest to the base of the unit continuously up toward and around each finger unit **44** and around the thumb member **46**.

[0065] FIG. **7** is a front perspective of a zipper attached front palm unit **42** according to the present invention. This view shows the majority of the zipper element **20** as it goes from the side of the hand closest to the cuff, around the plurality of finger elements **44** and around the thumb member **46** on the front palm unit **40**.

[0066] FIG. **8** is a rear elevational view of the front palm unit **42** of this invention. The zipper element **20** goes completely around the palm portion's periphery.

[0067] FIG. **9** is a right side elevational view of the palm portion **42** and zipper portion **20**. The length of the zipper **20** is determined by the palm size and dimensions. There is a material component and teeth component to the zipper attachment **20**, which mates with rear zipper attachment **22** shown in FIG. **1**. The material portion gets attached to the palm unit. Optionally the material portion to which the zipper is attached can be a strip of flexible and/or expandable elastic type stretchable material, to permit the palm portion **42** to have greater forward travel during closing or clenching of the hand of the user inside of glove **10**. Optionally the strip can vary in width according to the amount of stretch required.

[0068] FIG. **10** is a left side elevational view of the palm portion **42** and zipper portion **20**. The length of the zipper **20** is determined by the palm size and dimensions. There is a material component and teeth component to the zipper attachment **20**. The material portion gets attached to the palm unit.

[0069] FIG. **11** is a rear elevational view of the other hand of the front palm unit **42** of the pair of sports gloves **10**, as in FIGS. **5-10** of this invention. The zipper element **20** goes completely around the palm portion **42**'s periphery.

[0070] The back glove unit **12** will have the matching portion of the zipper attachment **22**, as shown in FIG. **1**, so the palm unit **40** with palm portion **42** can be joined with the back glove unit **12** to form a hand receiving sports glove unit **10** according to the present invention.

[0071] FIG. **12** shows an alternate embodiment for a zipper attached sports glove, such as a cricket glove **110**, where the thumb stall **116** protrudes from a surface of the palm portion **142** of the sports glove **110**, and is therefore not connected to a zipper **120** or other connector. The zipper **120** connects the front palm portion **142** of the sports glove **110** with the rear portion **112** of the sports glove **110**. The zipper **120** is covered by a fly cover **130** wherein the zipper **120** and the fly cover **130** extend in a continuous peripheral non-linear serpentine line of varying radii around each finger stall **144** and side of hand leading toward the cuff **170** on the glove portion and each finger stall and side of hand leading to the cuff on the front palm portion It is further noted that the fly cover **130** may extend front to rear as in FIG. **12** or the embodiment shown in FIG. **2**, or from rear to front in an analogous situation as in the embodiment of FIG. **3**, or overlapping both from front to back and back to front, as in the embodiment shown in FIG. **4**.

[0072] In the foregoing description, certain terms and visual depictions are used to illustrate the preferred embodiment. However, no unnecessary limitations are to be construed by the terms used or illustrations depicted, beyond what is shown in the prior art, since the terms and illustrations are exemplary only, and are not meant to limit the scope of the present invention.

[0073] It is further known that other modifications may be made to the present invention, without departing the scope of the invention, as noted in the appended Claims.

I claim:

1. A method of protecting the exposed face, neck or hand skin of a contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator when exposed to a violent contact by exposed zippers on a glove of the contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator during a contact sports game, said glove having a separate joinable front palm portion having finger stalls for insertion of fingers therein and a separate back joinable glove portion joinable attachable to said front palm portion by a zipper; the method comprising the steps of:

providing a protective glove with at least one fly cover covering said zipper;

extending said at least one fly cover in a continuous peripheral non-linear serpentine line of varying radii over said zipper around each finger stall and thumb stall and side of hand leading toward the cuff on the glove portion and each finger stall and thumb stall and side of hand leading to the cuff on said front palm portion;

providing a physical barrier overlaying the outer surface of the zipper with said fly cover and preventing violent physical contact of said zipper to the exposed face, neck or hand skin of the contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator.

2. The method as in claim **1** farther comprising the step of providing a plurality of fly covers over said zipper and overlapping each other from front to back and from back to front between said separate joinable front palm portion and said separate joinable back glove portion of the glove.

3. A method of protecting the exposed face, neck and hand skin of a contact sports game contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator when exposed to a violent contact by exposed zippers on a glove of the contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator, during a contact sports game, the glove having a separate joinable front palm portion and a separate back joinable glove portion joinably attachable to said front palm portion by a zipper; wherein when said respective front palm portion and said separate back joinable glove portion are joined, said respective front palm portion and separate back joinable glove portion form respective finger stalls for insertion of fingers therein;

the method comprising the steps of:

providing a protective glove with at least one fly cover covering said zipper;

extending said at least one fly cover in a continuous peripheral non-linear serpentine line of varying radii over said zipper around each finger stall and side of hand leading toward the cuff on the glove portion and each finger stall and side of hand leading to the cuff on said front palm portion;

providing a physical barrier overlaying the outer surface of the zipper with said fly cover and preventing violent physical contact of said zipper to the exposed face, neck or hand skin of the contact sports game contact sports game participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator.

4. The method as in claim **3** wherein said respective finger stalls comprise upper finger stalls for the upper fingers of the hand of the participant user.

5. The method as in claim **4** wherein said respective finger stalls further comprise a thumb stall for the thumb of the hand of the participant user.

6. The method as in claim **3** wherein the contact sports game is selected from the group of hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and the like.

7. The method as in claim **3** wherein a material portion to which said zipper is attached comprises a strip of flexible and/or expandable elastic type stretchable material, to permit

said front palm portion to have greater forward travel during closing or clenching of the hand of the participant user inside of said glove.

8. The method as in claim **3** further comprising the step of providing a plurality of fly covers over said zipper and overlapping each other from front to back and from back to front between said separate joinable front palm portion and said separate joinable back glove portion of the glove.

9. The method of non permanently joining the front and back of a sports glove for a game selected from the group of hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and the like, comprising the steps of:

utilizing a connector attached to the front and back portions. whereby the connector is engaged to form at least the upper finger stalls and the palm of the sports glove,

covering said connector. with at least one of a panel or a fly cover thereby protecting the participant user, participant player, players, referee, official, coach or spectator from skin contact with an exposed connector.

10. The method as in claim **9** further comprising a thumb stall for the thumb of the hand of the participant user.

11. The method of non permanently joining the front and back of a sports glove for a game selected from the group of hockey, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and the like, as in claim **9**, wherein said connector is a zipper.

12. The method as in claim **11** wherein a material portion to which said zipper is attached comprises a strip of flexible and/or expandable elastic type stretchable material, to permit said front palm portion to have greater forward travel during closing or clenching of the hand of the participant user inside of said glove.

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