Feb. 24, 1959 H. DENKERT Re. 24,610

BASEBALL GLOVE WITH PRE-FORMED POCKET

Original Filed Jan. 10, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

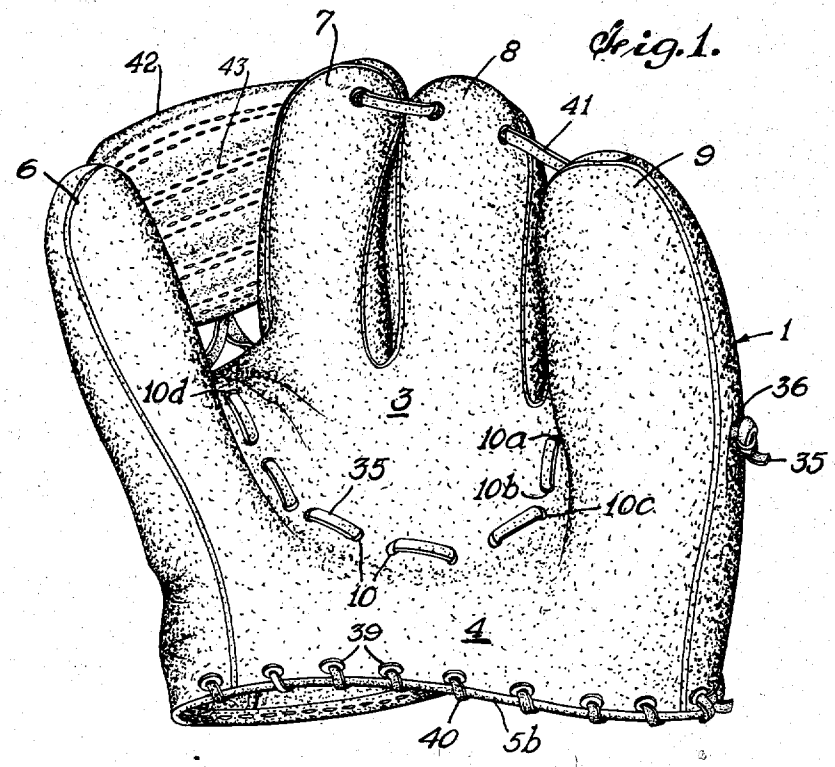
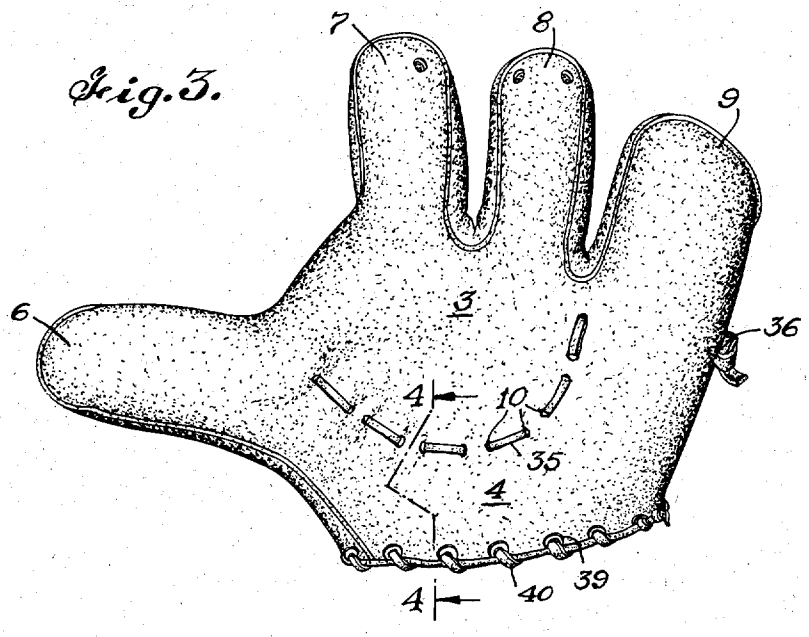


Fig. 3.



BASEBALL GLOVE WITH PRE-FORMED POCKET

Original Filed Jan. 10, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.

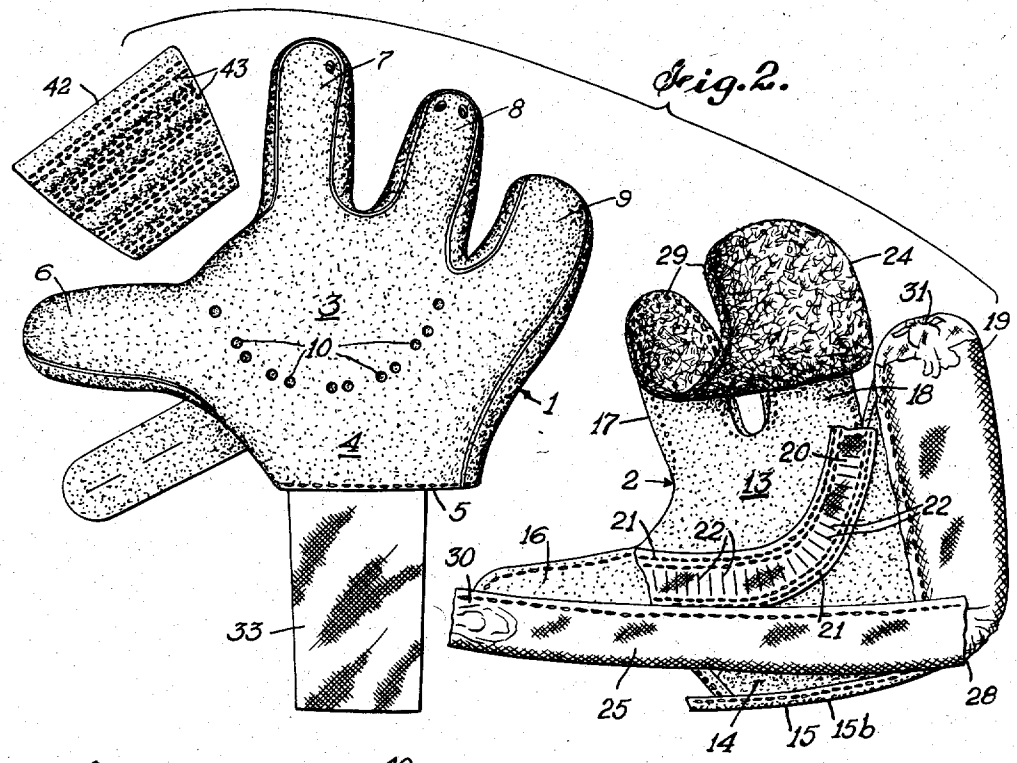


Fig. 5.

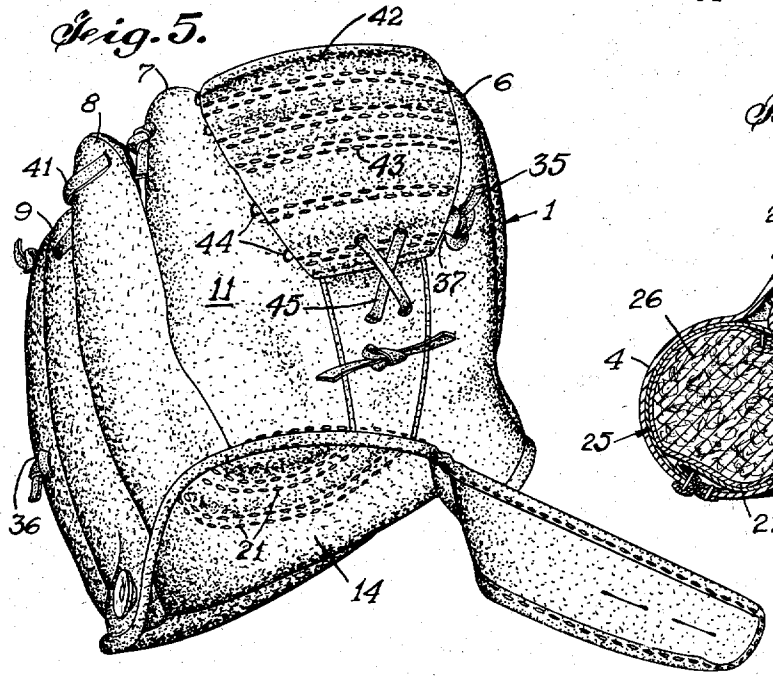


Fig. 4.

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BASEBALL GLOVE WITH PRE-FORMED POCKET

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6 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

The present invention relates to baseball gloves of improved construction, the term "glove" being used broadly to include "mitts."

A base ball glove customarily comprises an outer shell member and an inner shell member or lining, with padding between the lining and the shell. When the glove is used, the repeated impact of the ball tends to form a pocket in the palm of the glove. This pocket assists in catching and holding the ball. However, with gloves of conventional construction, it takes considerable time for the pocket to form properly and, since the padding can shift its position, the pocket may not retain its proper shape.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a baseball glove with a pre-formed and lasting pocket in the palm. In accordance with the invention, there is provided a sheet of padding that lies between the outer shell member and lining in the central portion of the palm and a thicker roll of padding between the heel portions of the outer shell member and lining. Between these two portions of padding, the front portion of the outer shell member is attached to the lining to hold the padding in place and define a pocket of determined shape and size. This attachment between the outer shell member and lining is preferably provided by a curved line of lacing that extends approximately from the crotch between the thumb and index finger to the crotch between the ring finger and the little finger. The lacing preferably passes through holes provided in the front portion of the outer shell member and through a strip sewed to the outer face of the lining without the lacing going through the lining. The inner face of the lining is thereby left smooth.

The baseball glove in accordance with the invention is distinctive and attractive in appearance, comfortable to wear and has improved ball-catching and holding characteristics by reason of the pre-formed pocket in the palm.

The nature and advantages of the invention will be more fully understood from the following description and claims in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a baseball glove in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded front view showing portions of the glove before assembly;

Fig. 3 is a front view of a partially completed glove;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken approximately on the line 4—4 in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a back view of the glove.

The glove shown by way of example in the drawings is a three-fingered glove comprising an outer shell member **1** and an inner shell member or lining **2** (Fig. 2). The front of the shell has a palm covering portion **3** and a heel covering portion **4** terminating in a heel edge **5**.

A thumb portion **6** and fingers **7**, **8** and **9** radiate from the palm portion **3** and are shown integral therewith. The finger **9** is herein referred to as the "little finger." A line of perforations **10** in the outer shell member **1** extends transversely across the front of the glove between the palm covering portion **3** and the heel covering portion **4** as shown in Fig. 1. The line of perforations **10** is curved and extends from the crotch between the thumb **6** and finger **7** to the crotch between the finger **8** and the little finger **9**. The perforations are shown arranged in pairs with the two perforations of a pair somewhat closer together than the distance between successive pairs.

The outer shell member **1** also has a back **11** (Fig. 5) which is shown as being made of a plurality of pieces sewn together. The shell is preferably made of horsehide or other leather but may, if desired, be made of other flexible sheet material, for example plastic or fabric.

The lining **2** has a palm covering portion **13** and a heel covering portion **14** terminating in a heel edge **15** which is shown as being finished by a binding **15b** sewed onto the edge of the lining (Fig. 2). A thumb portion **16** and finger portions **17**, **18** and **19** radiate from the palm portion of the lining and are shown as being integral therewith. The lining may or may not have a back portion, as desired, and is of a shape similar to the outer shell member and of such size as to fit into the outer shell member when the glove is assembled. The lining is also formed of leather or other suitable flexible material and is preferably of somewhat lighter weight.

A strip **20** of fabric, leather, or other suitable material, is attached to the outer face of the lining—i. e. the face toward the outer shell member—by means of stitching **21** along the edges of the strip. The strip **20** extends in a curved line from the crotch between the thumb **6** and finger **7** to the crotch between the finger **8**, little finger **9** in such position as to lie directly under the perforations **10** in the front portion of the outer shell member **1** when the lining and outer shell member are assembled. A series of perforations shown in the form of slits **22** is provided in the strip or tape **20**. The slits **22** extend transversely of the strip **20** between the rows of stitching **21**. Padding is provided between the front portion of the lining and the front of the outer shell member **1**. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the padding comprises a sheet of felted or other padding material **24** which is cut to shape so as to cover the front portions of the two fingers **17** and **18** of the lining and the central portion of the palm portion **13**, terminating approximately at the strip **20**. In Fig. 2, the lining pad **24** is shown as being folded up in order to show the portions under it more clearly. A thicker padding roll **25** extends inwardly from the outer end of the thumb portion **16** across the heel portion **14** and out to the outer end of the little finger **19**. As illustrated in the large scale cross section of Fig. 4, the padding **25** comprises a roll of fibrous or other padding material **26** enclosed in a fabric casing **27**. At a point below the little finger, the padding roll **25** is preferably stitched across as indicated at **28** (Fig. 2) so as to provide a "break" permitting the pad to be bent at approximately right angles to itself, thereby conforming to the shape of the glove. The pad **24** is suitably attached, for example by means of stitching **29**, to the outer portions of the fingers **17** and **18** of the lining while the ends of the padding roll **25** are attached, for example by tack stitching, to the end portions of the thumb **16** and little fingers **19** at the points indicated at **30** and **31**, respectively.

The lining **2**, with the pads **24** and **25** thereon, is assembled in the outer shell member **1**. A lock strip (Fig. 2) having one end stitched to the inner edge **5** of the heel portion **4** of the shell is carried around the adjacent por-

tion of the padding roll **25** and the opposite end is stitched to the inner edge **5** along with binding **5b**. This lock strip **33** thus holds the central portion of the padding roll **25** in place.

A thong or *lacing* [lacking] **35**, formed of leather or other suitable material, is laced through the perforations **10** in the front portion of the outer shell member and the underlying strip **20** attached to the outer face of the lining. The thong **35** starts at a point **36** (Figs. 1, 3 and 5) where a hole is provided in the back portion of the outer shell member at the outer side of the little finger. It passes between the padding roll **25** and the lining and comes out at an opening **10a** which is the first of the series of openings **10** provided in the palm. The thong then goes in through the next hole **10b**, catches the slotted strip **20** secured to the lining and comes out again at the next succeeding hole **10c**. The lacing continues in like manner through the rest of the perforations **10**. The slits **22** in the strip **20** are sufficiently close together that a curved needle or other lacing instrument inserted through one of the perforations **10** will pass through one slit and come out through a succeeding slit. Hence, although the lacing operation is "blind" operation, in the sense that the operator cannot see the strip **20**, it is nevertheless easily and quickly effected. After going into the last of the holes **10** as indicated at **10d** (Fig. 1), the lacing passes between the outer shell member and the lining and comes out through a hole at the back of the thumb, as indicated at **37** (Fig. 5). Knots are tied in the ends of the thong to keep it in place and hold it with the desired degree of tightness. It will be seen that the knots in the ends of the lacing **35** are at the back of the glove rather than in the palm. While the lacing has been described as starting at the little finger and proceeding toward the thumb, it can alternatively be effected in the reverse direction.

The lacing **35**, laced through the holes **10** in the front portion of the outer shell member **1** and through the slits **22** in the strip **20** attached to the palm portion of the lining, draws the outer shell member down toward the lining along the curved line of the lacing and thereby defines a pocket of determined shape and size in the palm of the glove. The tightness with which the front portion of the outer shell member is drawn in toward the lining can be varied by varying the tightness of the lacing **35**. As the lacing **35** does not pass through the lining but only through the strip **20** sewed to the outer face of the lining, the inner face of the lining that is in contact with the player's hand is left smooth, thereby avoiding any discomfort that might arise from contact of the lacing with the palm of the hand. By drawing the outer shell member and the lining together along a curved line between the padding **24** and the padding **25**, the lacing **35** assists in retaining the paddings in their proper positions.

The edges **5** and **15** of the heel portions of the outer shell member **1** and lining **2**, respectively, are suitably joined, for example by providing eyeletted holes **39** in the outer shell member and lining along said edges and lacing the edges together by a leather or other thong **40** passing through these holes and over the edges, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The glove shown in the drawings also has a lacing **41** between the tips of the fingers and a double thickness web **42** composed of two layers united by rows of stitching **43** and held between the thumb **6** and first finger **7** by means of a lacing passing between the two layers of the web and through suitable holes **44** provided in the shell of the glove. One of these holes is the same as that through which the lacing **35** passes at **37** (Fig. 5), thus reducing the number of holes required. A further lacing **45** is provided between the lower portion of the web **42** and the back portion of the glove between the thumb and first finger.

The invention thus provides a baseball glove of improved construction having a pre-formed and lasting pocket in the palm of the glove and important advantages over gloves heretofore available. While the invention has been shown as applied to a three-fingered glove, it will be understood that it is also applicable to other gloves and mitts and is in no way restricted to the particular example shown in the drawings.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A baseball glove comprising inner and outer shell members connected along peripheral edges to form a casing, each of said shell members having a front portion comprising finger, palm and heel covering portions, the front portion of said outer shell member having a curved line of perforations extending transversely across it between said palm and heel portions, a perforated strip secured to the outer face of said inner shell member in a position to underlie said line of perforations, palm padding means disposed between the palm portions of said shell members, thicker heel padding means disposed between the heel portions of said shell members, and lacing means extending through said perforations in the outer shell member and through perforations in said strip attached to the inner shell member to *hold* [secure] *superposed portions of* said shell members [to one another] *closely together* along said curved line of perforations, said lacing passing between said palm padding means and said heel padding means and cooperating with said shell members and padding means to *confine said heel padding means and* form a lasting pocket of predetermined shape and size in the palm-covering portion of the glove.

2. A baseball glove according to claim 1, in which said strip is stitched along opposite side edges to said inner shell member and [has] *said perforations are formed as* a series of spaced transverse slits *in said strip* between said stitchings.

3. A baseball glove comprising inner and outer shell members connected along peripheral edges to form a casing, each of said shell members having a front portion comprising finger, palm and heel covering portions, padping means disposed between the front portions of said inner and outer shell members including a pad between the palm portions of said shell members and a padding roll between the heel portions of said shell members, and means securing said outer shell member to a directly underlying portion of said inner shell member along a curved line extending transversely across the front portions of said shell members between said palm portions and said heel portions and [thereby] [securing] *holding* superposed portions of said shell members *closely* together between said pad and said padding roll to *confine said padding roll and* form a pocket of predetermined shape in the palm-covering portion of the glove.

4. A baseball glove comprising inner and outer shell members connected along peripheral edges to form a casing, each of said shell members having a front portion comprising a thumb portion, a plurality of finger portions including a little finger portion, a palm portion and a heel portion, padding means disposed between the front portions of said inner and outer shell members including [a pad between the palm portions of said shell members and] a padding roll having end portions disposed respectively between the thumb portions and the little finger portions of said shell members and an intermediate portion disposed between the heel portions of said shell members, the front portion of said outer shell member having a line of perforations extending transversely across it between said palm and heel portions, a perforated strip secured to the outer face of said inner shell member and extending transversely across said face in a position to lie directly under said line of perforations in the outer shell member and lacing means extending through said perforations in said outer shell member and through perforations in said strip attached to the inner shell member to *hold* [secure] *superposed portions of* said shell members [to one another] *closely together* along said line of perforations, said lacing means [passing between said pad

and padding roll and] cooperating with said shell members and said padding *roll* [means] to *confine said padding roll and* preform a lasting pocket in the palm covering portion of the glove.

5. A baseball glove comprising inner and outer shell members connected along peripheral edges to form a casing, each of said shell members having a front portion comprising finger, palm and heel covering portions, padding means disposed between the front portions of said inner and outer shell members including a padding roll between the heel portions of said shell members, and means securing said outer shell member to a directly underlying portion of said inner shell member along a curved line extending transversely across the front portion of said shell members between said palm portions and said heel portions, and holding superposed portions of said shell members closely together along said line, said securing means cooperating with said shell members and padding roll to confine said padding roll and form a lasting pocket of predetermined shape and size in the palm-covering portion of the glove.

6. A baseball glove comprising inner and outer shell members connected along peripheral edges to form a casing, each of said shell members having a front portion comprising finger, palm and heel covering portions, padding means disposed between the front portions of said inner and outer shell members including a padding roll having end portions disposed respectively between thumb covering portions and little finger covering portions of said shell members and an intermediate portion disposed between the heel portions of said shell members and lacing securing said outer shell member to a directly underlying portion of said inner shell member along a line extending transversely across the front portions of said shell members between said palm covering portions and heel covering portions and holding superposed portions of said shell members closely together along said line, said lacing cooperating with said shell members and padding roll to confine said padding roll and form a lasting pocket of predetermined shape and size in the palm-covering portion of the glove.

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