Feb. 23, 1926. 1,574,664

W. E. LONG

BASEBALL GLOVE

Filed August 12, 1925

Fig. 1.

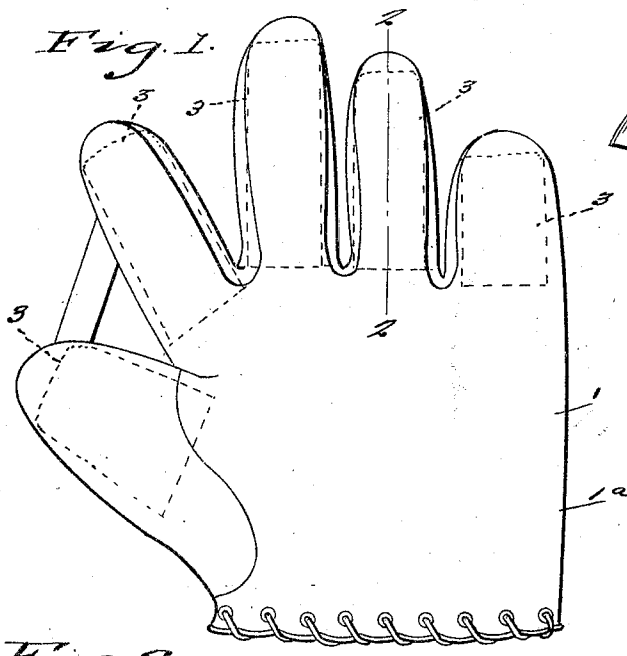


Fig. 5.

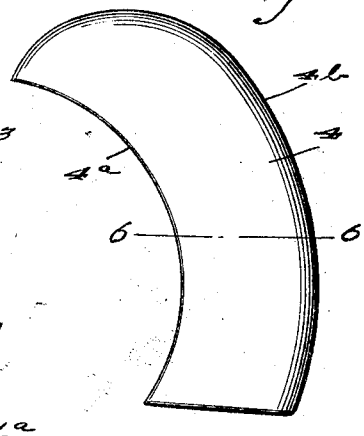


Fig. 6.

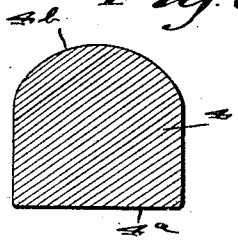


Fig. 2.

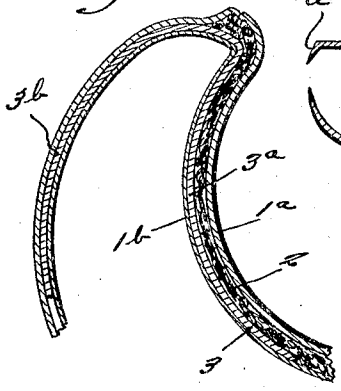


Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.

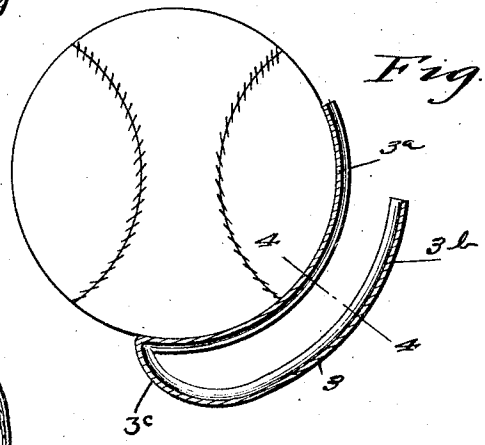
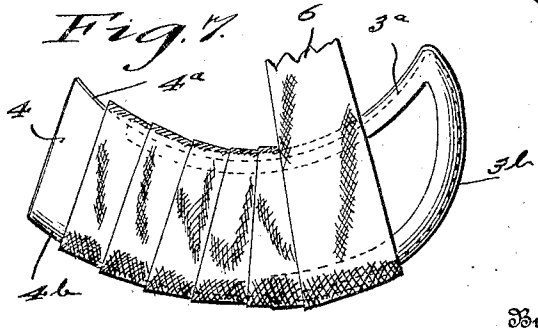


Fig. 7.



Inventor

Walter E. Long

By Spear, Middleton, Donaldson & Hall

Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER E. LONG, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO GEORGE A. REACH, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BASEBALL GLOVE.

Application filed August 12, 1925. Serial No. 49,807.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER E. LONG, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Baseball Gloves, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to improvements in base ball gloves, and aims to provide a glove having finger reinforcements or protectors which will effectually prevent the fingers of the player (including the thumb) from getting bruised or broken, or the joints dislocated.

The invention further aims to provide a glove having a protector of this character which will assist in the catching of the ball and the retaining of the caught ball in the glove.

The invention includes the novel construction hereinafter described and defined by the appended claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a glove embodying this invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation on line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view, partly in section, showing the device in operation.

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail of the protector.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the mandrel.

Fig. 6 is a sectional plan along the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a diagrammatic view showing the wrapping.

Referring by reference characters to these drawings, the numeral 1 indicates a glove which may be of the ordinary or any desired construction, and is shown as embodying an outer covering 1^a of strong wear resisting leather, and a lining 1^b of relatively soft material, it being customary to provide padding as indicated at 2.

Due to the material of which the glove is made, there is always a liability of bruised or dislocated fingers should a ball happen to strike the end of a finger, but heretofore, so far as I am aware, it has been impracticable to stiffen the fingers or provide means for protecting them against such liability without interfering with the action of the fingers in gripping the caught ball. According to the present invention I reinforce or protect the fingers by relatively stiff reinforcements lying between the lining and the outer cover of preferably all of the fingers, the term "finger" being used in its broad sense to include the thumb as well as the four fingers, such protectors or reinforcements being curved on an arc of a circle corresponding approximately to the curvature of the surface of the base ball. Such protectors are shown at 3 and preferably comprise inner and outer parts 3^a and 3^b overlying the front and back of the finger and connected by a sharply curved integral portion 3^c extending across the end of the finger. Preferably the inner portion 3^a extends over the full length of the finger, or in other words, approximately to the base thereof, while the outer portion 3^b terminates approximately at the second joint. Preferably also the front and back portions are made of channel form in cross section, the front portion having a relatively straight central portion *a*, as viewed in cross section, provided with marginal flanges *a'*, while the back portion is of curved channel shape in cross section, as shown.

These reinforcements or protectors may be made of any suitable relatively stiff material, as for example relatively stiff leather, or other fibrous material treated to give it the requisite stiffness. In practice in making these protectors, I provide a form or mandrel 4, shaped to conform approximately to the desired finger or thumb, its inner surface 4^a being curved on the arc of a circle corresponding approximately to the curvature of a base ball, and the outer surface 4^b being substantially concentric thereto up to its outer extremity, where it curves over and joins the inner curved face. A strip of leather for forming the protector is doubled over this, as shown in Fig. 7, and wrapped with a moistened cloth wrapping 6 to cause the leather strip to closely conform to the mandrel, and after drying, the protector may be removed from the mandrel and will be found to be relatively stiff, and will retain its shape indefinitely and in its thus pre-formed condition, may be inserted in the respective fingers between the lining and the outer cover.

With such a protector all of the fingers are fully protected against injury from the impact of the ball, irrespective of where this might strike the hand, while at the same

time not only do the protectors not interfere with the proper catching of the ball, but actually assist, as the curvature of the protectors tends to hold the fingers in ball retaining position, and furthermore, the impact of the ball against the inner end of the protector tends to cause a fulcruming or lever action of the protector causing the outer ends of the fingers and the thumb to automatically swing inward to grasp and retain the ball, as will be clear from an inspection of the drawings.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A base ball glove having a finger reinforcement of stiff inflexible material, which is curved on the arc of a circle corresponding substantially to the curvature of a base ball.

2. A base ball glove having a finger reinforcement of stiff inflexible material extending approximately from the base of the finger to the extremity thereof and curved on the arc of a circle corresponding substantially to the curvature of a base ball.

3. A base ball glove having one or more fingers provided with stiff inflexible protectors overlying the front and back of the finger and across the finger end, said protectors having front walls shaped to conform approximately to the curvature of the surface of a base ball.

4. A base ball glove having one or more finger members comprising an outer covering layer and a lining, and a finger protector of stiff material lying between the lining and covering and extending over the end of the finger and front and back thereof, the front portions being curved approximately to the curvature of the surface of a base ball.

5. A base ball glove having one or more finger members, comprising an outer covering layer and a lining, and a finger protector of stiff material lying between the lining and covering and extending over the end of the finger and front and back thereof, the front portions being curved approximately to the curvature of the surface of a base ball, and the front portion extending substantially the full length of the finger.

6. A base ball glove having one or more finger members, comprising an outer covering layer and a lining, and a finger protector of stiff material lying between the lining and covering and extending over the end of the finger and front and back thereof, the front portions being curved approximately to the curvature of the surface of a base ball, at least one of said portions of the protector being of substantially channel shape in cross section.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WALTER E. LONG.