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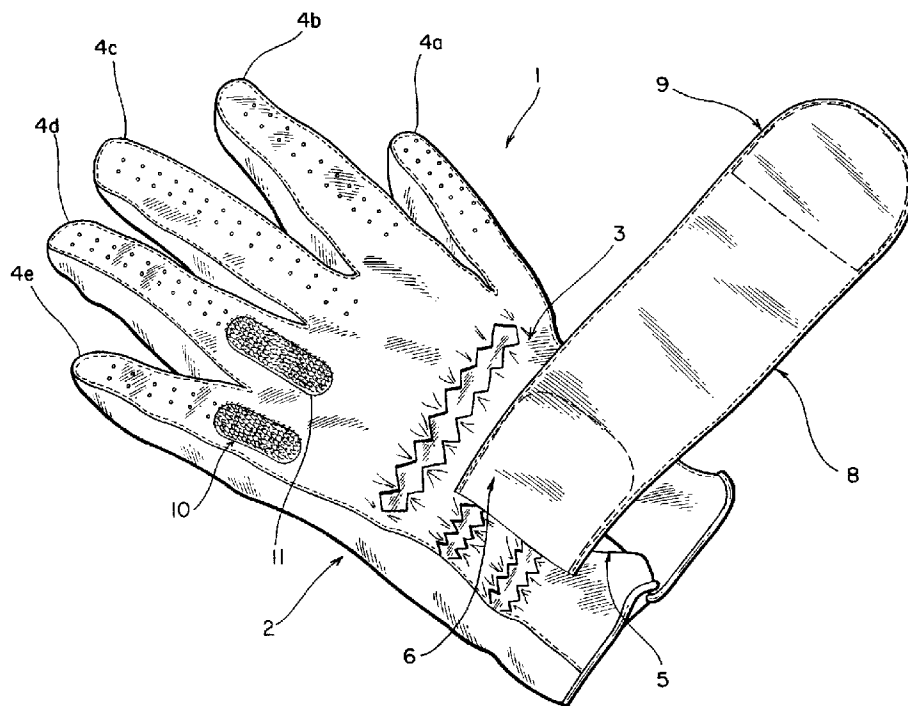
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(54) **GANT DE GOLFEUR**

(54) **GOLF GLOVE**



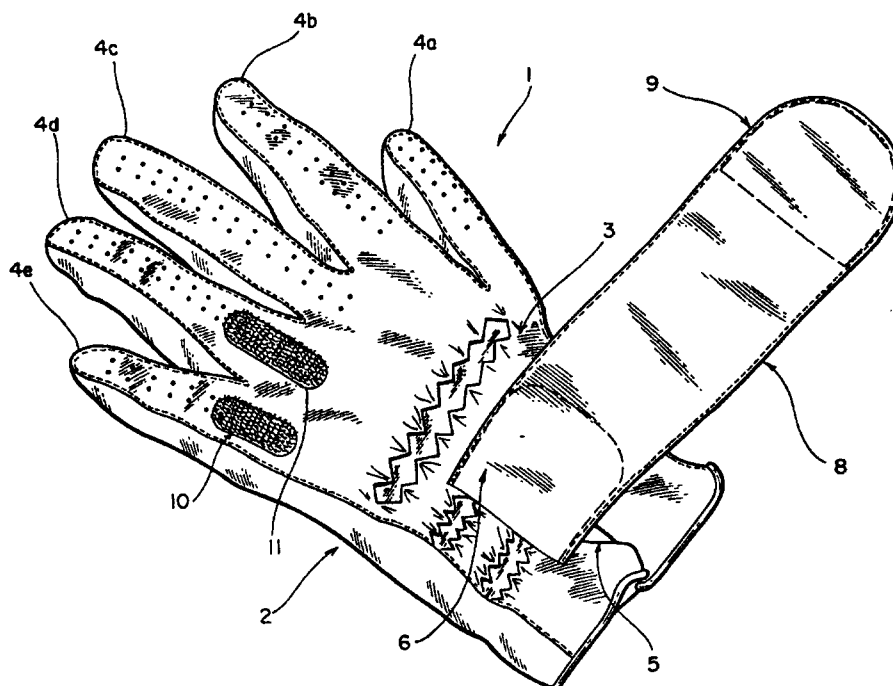
(57) L'invention porte sur un gant (1) pour golfeur assurant une bonne prise du club, et utilisant à cet effet une bande (8) élastique attachée au dos du gant qui, après avoir fait le tour de la main et du club, vient s'accrocher à la partie dorsale (3) de l'annulaire et du petit doigt.

(57) A golf glove (1) adapted to assist in maintaining a proper grip on the club by an elastic strap (8) affixed to the back of the glove which may be drawn around the hand and golf club handle and fastened to the backhand portion (3) of the fourth and fifth fingers of the hand.

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/00859 (22) International Filing Date: 21 January 1997 (21.01.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/588,633 19 January 1996 (19.01.96) US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: PORTER, Michael [US/US]; 6324 E. Aster Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254 (US). (74) Agent: LENKSZUS, Donald, J.; O'Connor, Cavanagh, An- derson, Killingsworth & Beshears, Suite 1100, One East Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012-1656 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP. Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: GOLF GLOVE**(57) Abstract**

A golf glove (1) adapted to assist in maintaining a proper grip on the club by an elastic strap (8) affixed to the back of the glove which may be drawn around the hand and golf club handle and fastened to the backhand portion (3) of the fourth and fifth fingers of the hand.

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GOLF GLOVEField of the Invention

This invention relates to golf gloves, and more particularly to a golf gloves that ensures that a proper grip is maintained.

Background of Invention

In the game of golf, a golfer attempts to hit a golf ball in a desired direction with a golf club. In order to hit the ball in the desired direction, the golfer must first, swing the head of the club along a path parallel to the desired direction and second, keep the club face in a perpendicular orientation with respect to the desired direction. If the club face is not perpendicular to the line of travel, the impact of the club face on the ball will impart a spin to the ball. If the club face is turned away from the golfer, the spin will create a "slice" where the ball curves away from the golfer. If the club face is turned toward the golfer, the spin will create a "hook" where the ball curves toward the golfer. In either case, such curvature in the ball's path is generally undesirable.

In order to prevent a hook or slice the golfer must maintain a proper grip on the club. The traditional right-handed grip places the left hand at the uppermost end of the club handle with the right hand placed immediately below the left hand. The left-handed grip reverses the positioning of the hands.

It is conventional wisdom that the fourth and fifth fingers of the upper hand are critical in maintaining a proper grip. If these fingers do not firmly grip the uppermost portion of the club handle the club face tends to "open" or angle away from the golfer, thus creating an undesirable slice. The lack of a firm grip may have many causes ranging from physical disability (including a loss of one or more fingers) to improper training. It is therefore desirable to create an aid that compensates for physical disability or assists in proper

training by providing assistance to the golfer in maintaining a proper grip with the fourth and fifth fingers of the upper hand.

Relevant Art

5 There are numerous examples of golf gloves that have been adapted to assist the golfer in maintaining a proper grip. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,033,120 issued to Myers teaches a glove with a flap attached to the base of the thumb which attaches to the tips of the fourth and fifth fingers of the
10 hand, thereby restraining those fingers firmly around the golf club handle. In a similar vein, U.S. Patent Nos. 3,105,972 issued to Christopher, 3,274,616 issued to Russo, 3,348,238 issued to Hydock, 3,918,097 issued to Mlodoch, and 5,088,122 to O'Toole all teach the idea of using a strap which wraps
15 around the hand and golf club handle to force the fingers into a proper grip.

These structures have a number of problems. First, some of these structures, such as Mlodoch and Myers, apply the holding force to the tips of the fingers. This has a tendency to
20 apply inadequate pressure to the grip. In contrast, other approaches, such as Russo, encircle the entire hand, or at least the third, fourth and fifth fingers, rather than just the fourth and fifth. Securing the third finger is generally unnecessary, as its contribution to the proper grip is less
25 critical than that of the fourth and fifth fingers.

Second, many of these structures, such as Myers, Hydock and Christopher, use a reinforcing strap that is affixed to the glove at a location at the base of the thumb. This creates a host of problems, including interference with the grip when
30 the strap is not in use and additional complexity in the manufacture of the glove. O'Toole resolves the interference problem by moving the attach point to the back of the hand across the knuckles of the third, fourth and fifth fingers. This does not resolve the issue of manufacturing complexity.

Russo provides an independent reinforcing strap. While this simplifies manufacture and eliminates interference problems, it creates a new problem, i.e., the inconvenience of having a two-part glove.

5 Objects of the Invention

Accordingly, it is one object of the invention to provide a golf glove that assists the golfer in maintaining a proper grip on the golf club.

10 Another object of the invention to provide a golf glove that assists physically impaired golfers in maintaining a proper grip on the golf club.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a grip assist golf glove where the mechanism for assisting a proper grip does not interfere with the golfer's grip when the
15 mechanism is not in use.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a grip assist golf glove that can be easily manufactured with existing manufacturing techniques and tools.

20 These and other objects of the invention are achieved in a golf glove in accordance with the invention.

Summary of the Invention

The golf glove of the present invention includes a golf glove of standard construction made up of a palm portion and a backhand portion forming a handpocket therebetween, a thumb
25 opening and finger openings. Each of the palm and backhand portions include extensions defining thumb and finger pockets. The backhand portion is split in a conventional manner to allow the hand to be easily inserted and withdrawn. Along one edge of the split, an adjustment strap is attached. A means
30 for attaching the adjustment strap to the backhand portion on the opposite side of the split is provided so that the

adjustment strap may drawn across the split and attached to the backhand portion thereby securing the glove more snugly to the hand.

5 In accordance with the principles of the invention, a grip reinforcement strap is affixed to the adjustment strap. A fastener is attached to the end of the grip reinforcement strap. Fastener are also attached to the backhand portion of the glove at about the beginning fingerholes for the fourth and fifth fingers and extending to the second knuckle of those
10 fingers. The golfer puts on the glove and adjusts it by means of the adjustment strap so that it fits snugly. The golfer then properly positions his hand around the golf club handle and then draws the grip reinforcement strap around the base of the thumb and over the fourth and fifth fingers and attaches
15 it by means of the fasteners to those fingers.

When not in use, the grip reinforcement strap can be folded over on the back of the hand and held in place by additional fasteners mounted on the grip reinforcement strap and the backhand portion of the glove.

20 Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention will be better understood from a reading of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the following drawing in which like referenced designations indicate like elements and in which:

25 FIG. 1 is a view of the backhand side of the glove.

FIG. 2 is a view of the glove in use, when gripping a club.

FIG. 3 is a view of the backhand side of the glove with the grip reinforcing strap pulled aside.

30 FIG. 4 is a view of the glove showing the first storage embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a view of the glove showing the second storage embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a view of the glove showing the split fastener embodiment.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

As seen in FIG. 1, the golf glove of the present invention includes a golf glove 1 of standard construction made up of a palm portion 2 (not visible) and a backhand portion 3 forming a handpocket therebetween, a thumb opening and finger openings. Each of the palm and backhand portions include extensions defining thumb and finger pockets 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e. As can be seen in FIG. 3, the backhand portion 3 has a split 5 which allows the hand to be easily inserted and withdrawn. Along one edge of the split 5, an adjustment strap 6 is attached. A fastener 7 for attaching the adjustment strap 6 to the backhand portion 3 on the opposite side of the split 5 is provided so that the adjustment strap 6 may drawn across the split 5 and attached to the backhand portion 3 thereby securing the glove more snugly to the hand.

A grip reinforcement strap 8 is affixed to the adjustment strap 6. The grip reinforcement strap may be made of an elastic material. This allows the grip reinforcement strap 8 to be drawn snugly across the hand and provide additional securing force to assist the grip. A fastener 9 is attached to the end of the grip reinforcement strap 8. In one embodiment, as in FIG. 3, the fastener 9 is substantially unitary. In another embodiment, as in FIG. 6, the fastener 9 is split into two segments to provide independent mobility and flexure of the fourth and fifth fingers. In an alternative embodiment, the adjustment strap 6, the grip reinforcement strap 8 and the fastener 9 may be a unitary piece with fasteners attached to achieve the same effect as the multi piece structure.

Fasteners 10 and 11 are also attached to the backhand portion 3 of the glove at a about beginning fingerholes for the fourth and fifth fingers 4d, 4e and extending to the second knuckle

of those fingers. The golfer puts on the glove and adjusts it by means of the adjustment strap so that it fits snugly. As shown in FIG. 2, the golfer then properly positions his hand around the golf club handle 40 and then draws the grip reinforcement strap 8 around the base of the thumb and over the fourth and fifth fingers 4d, 4e and attaches it by means of the fasteners 9, 10, 11 (10 and 11 hidden beneath 9) to those fingers.

When not in use, the grip reinforcement strap can be folded over on the back of the hand and held in place by additional fasteners mounted on the grip reinforcement strap and the backhand portion of the glove. In one embodiment, as shown in FIG. 4, the grip reinforcement strap 8 can be folded back across the adjustment strap 6 and held down by a first stowage fastener 21, 22. The remaining loose length of the grip reinforcement strap can be folded back again and attached to the glove by the fasteners 9 and a second stowage fastener 20.

As shown in FIG. 5, in another embodiment, the grip fastener 9 can be applied to the adjustment fastener 7. The excess length will create a loop across the split. This loop can be drawn down (as shown by broken arrow) and fastened to the backhand portion 3 by means of a stowage fastener 30, 31.

In either case, stowage of the grip reinforcement strap 8 across the backhand portion 3 of the glove 1 will allow the glove 1 to be used without the grip assist, such as during putting. By positioning the grip reinforcement strap 8 on the backhand portion 3 of the glove 1, the grip enforcement strap 8, while stored, does not interfere with the gripping of the club.

The various fasteners referred to above can take any conventional form, such as buttons or snaps. The preferred method, however is to use hook and loop type nylon fasteners commonly known as Velcro. Velcro fasteners have two

complimentary components, the hook side comprising a plurality of small nylon hooks and the loop side comprising a plurality of small nylon loops, wherein said hooks engage said loops when the components are brought into contact.

- 5 A significant advantage of this invention is that the glove can be manufacture with a minimum of modifications to existing glove manufacturing processes. There are no changes whatsoever to the basic structure of the glove. In fact, the only additions are the placement of the finger fasteners and
10 the grip reinforcement strap. Both of these elements can easily be sewn on to existing gloves once they have been fabricated.

Although certain preferred embodiments and methods have been disclosed herein, it will be apparent from the foregoing
15 disclosure to those skilled in the art that variations and modifications of such embodiments and methods may be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is intended that the invention shall be limited only to the extent required by the appended
20 claims and the rules and principles of applicable law.

I claim:

1. A golf glove, comprising:

a glove body having a palm portion and a backhand portion defining therebetween a handpocket, a thumb opening and a plurality of finger openings;

wherein said palm portion and said backhand portion have extensions forming a thumb pocket and a plurality of finger pockets each having a palm side and a backhand side;

a grip reinforcement strap having a glove end and a free end, said glove end being affixed to said backhand portion;

a first fastener affixed to said free end; and,

a second fastener attached to the backhand side of at least one of said finger pockets wherein said first fastener engages to said second fastener.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip reinforcement strap is elastic.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap; and,

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means to secure said grip reinforcement strap in a stowed position.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap;

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion; and,

a third stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means and said third storage fastening means engages to said first fastener to secure said grip reinforcement strap in a stowed position.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a third fastener attached to the backhand side of a second of said finger pockets to engage said first fastener.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said first fastener and said free end are substantially unitary.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said first fastener is divided into two segments, wherein one segment engages said second fastener and the other segment engages said third fastener.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said first fastener comprises one of a hook or loop component of a hook and loop type fastener and said second and third fasteners each comprises the complimentary component hook or loop component of said hook and loop type fastener.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein each of said two segments of said first fastener comprises one of a hook or loop component of a hook and loop type fastener and said second and third fasteners each comprises the complimentary component hook or loop component of said hook and loop type fastener.

10. A golf glove, comprising:

a glove body having a palm portion and a backhand portion defining therebetween a handpocket, a thumb opening and a plurality of finger openings wherein said backhand portion has a split therein;

an adjustment strap fastened to the backhand portion on one side of said split;

a fastening means for engaging said adjustment strap affixed to the backhand portion on the other side of said split;

wherein said palm portion and said backhand portion have extensions forming a thumb pocket and a plurality of finger pockets each having a palm side and a backhand side;

a grip reinforcement means having a glove end and a free end, said glove end being affixed to said adjustment strap;

a first fastener affixed to said free end; and,

a second fastener attached to the backhand side of at least one of said finger pockets for engaging said first fastener.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said grip reinforcement strap is elastic.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap; and,

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means to secure said grip reinforcement strap in a stowed position.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap;

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion; and,

a third stowage fastening means attached to said grip reinforcement strap, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means and said third storage fastening means engages to said first fastener to secure said grip reinforcement strap in a stowed position.

14. A golf glove, comprising:

a glove body having a palm portion and a backhand portion defining therebetween a handpocket, a thumb opening and a plurality of finger openings wherein said backhand portion is divided, forming a split therein, wherein said palm portion

and said backhand portion have extensions forming a thumb pocket and a plurality of finger pockets each having a palm side and a backhand side;

an strap fastened to the backhand portion on one side of said split said strap having first and second portions;

a first fastening means affixed to said first portion;

a second fastening means corresponding to said first fastening means affixed to the backhand portion on the other side of said split;

said second portion having a glove end and a free end, said glove end being affixed to said first portion, wherein said second portion is elastic;

a third fastening means affixed to said free end of said second portion; and,

a fourth fastening means attached to the backhand side of at least one of said finger pockets, wherein said said fourth fastening means engages said third fastening means.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said second portion strap; and,

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means to secure said strap in a stowed position.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

a first stowage fastening means attached to said strap;

a second stowage fastening means attached to said backhand portion; and,

a third stowage fastening means attached to said strap, wherein said first storage fastening means engages to said second storage fastening means and said third storage fastening means engages to said third fastening means to secure said strap in a stowed position.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said first portion is elastic.

18. A method for manufacturing a golf glove, said golf glove comprising a glove body having a palm portion and a backhand portion defining therebetween a handpocket, a thumb opening and a plurality of finger openings wherein said palm portion and said backhand portion have extensions forming a thumb pocket and a plurality of finger pockets each having a palm side and a backhand side, wherein said backhand portion has a split therein, an adjustment strap fastened to the backhand portion on one side of said split and a fastening means corresponding to said adjustment strap affixed to the backhand portion on the other side of said split, said method comprising the steps of:

sewing a fastener to the backhand side of at least one finger pocket of a golf glove; and,

sewing a grip reinforcement strap to the backhand portion said golf glove.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

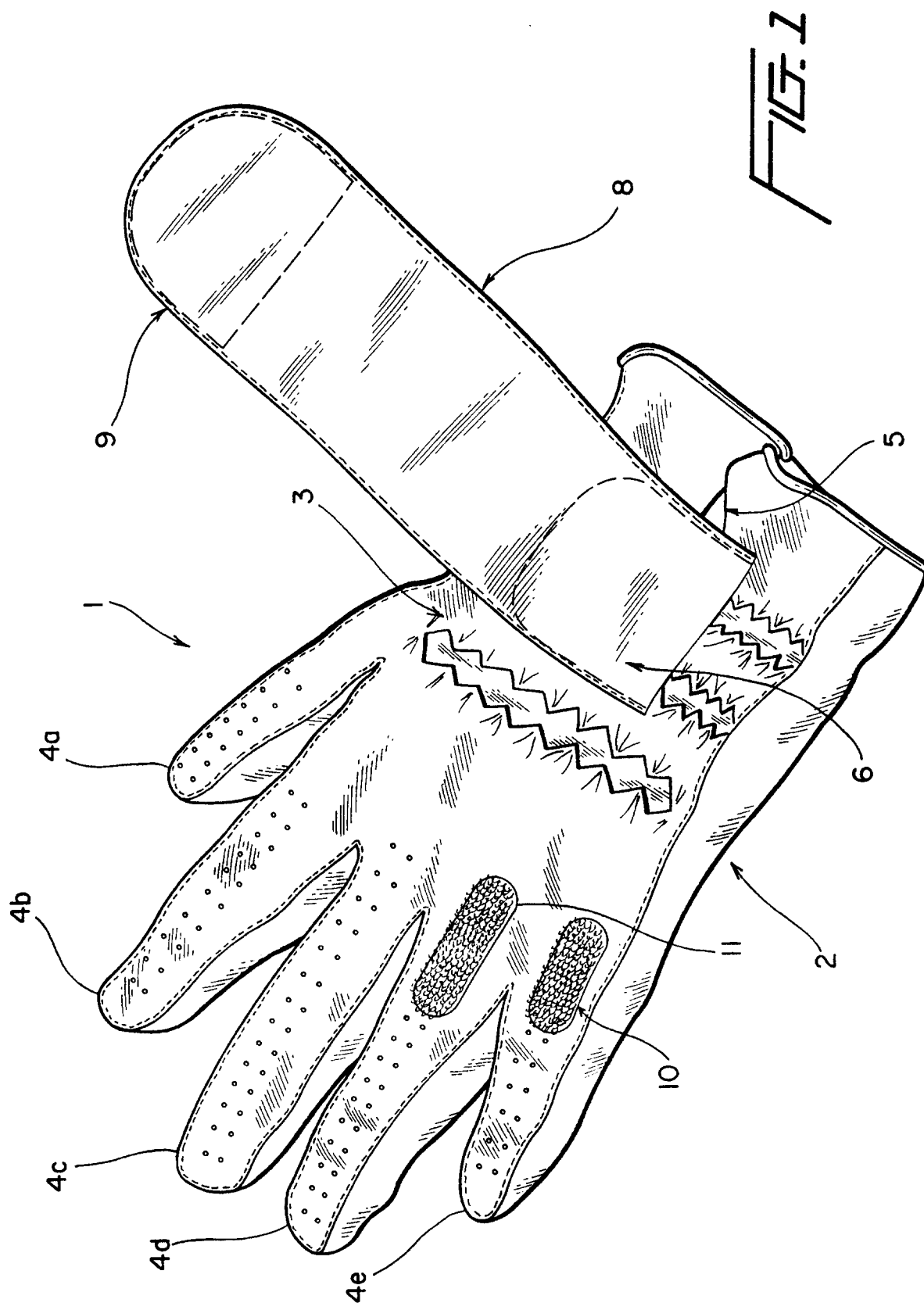
sewing a first stowage fastening means to said grip reinforcement strap; and,

sewing a second stowage fastening means to said backhand portion.

20. The method of claim 18 further comprising of the step of:

sewing a third stowage fastening means to said grip reinforcement strap.

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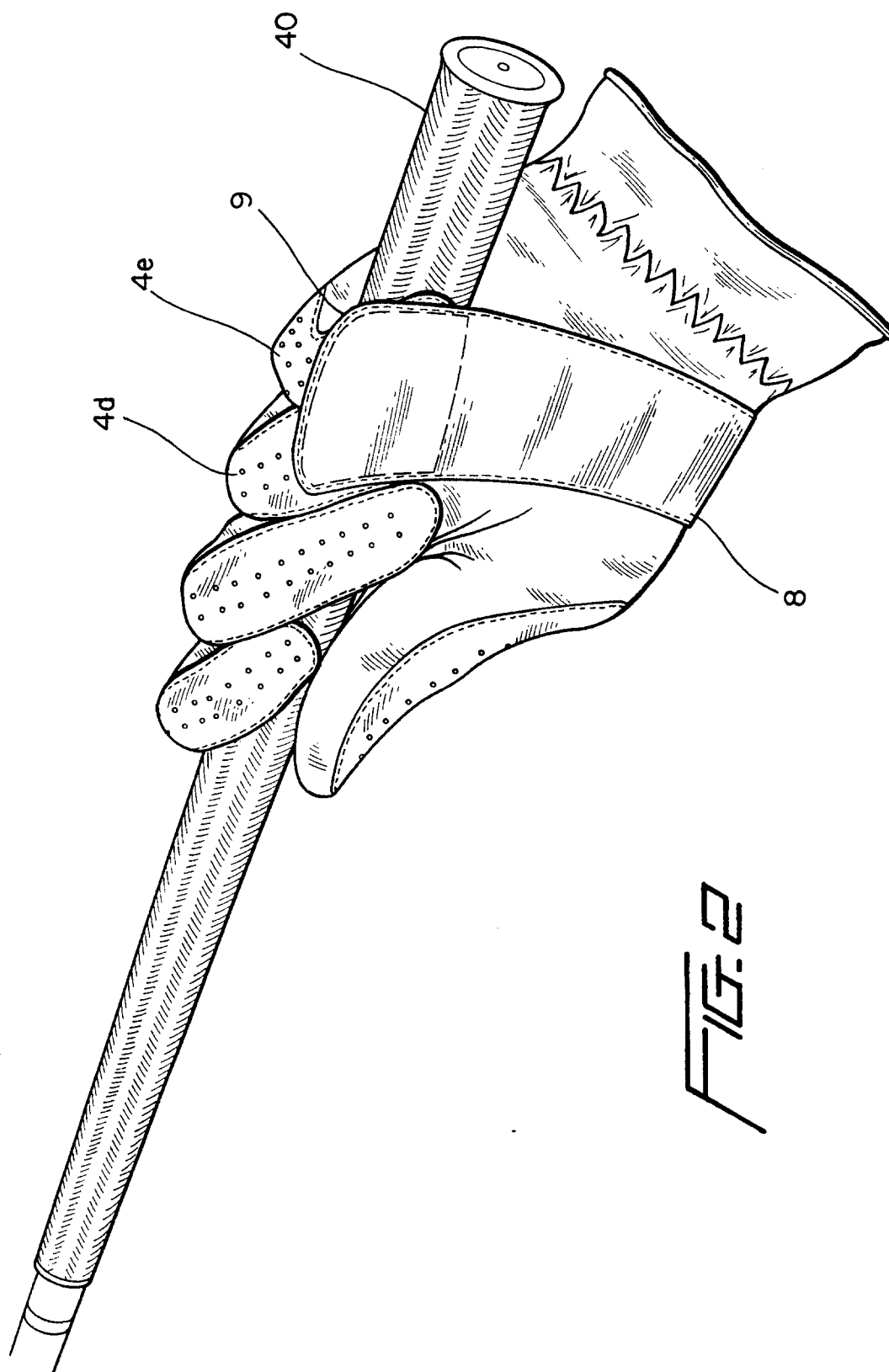
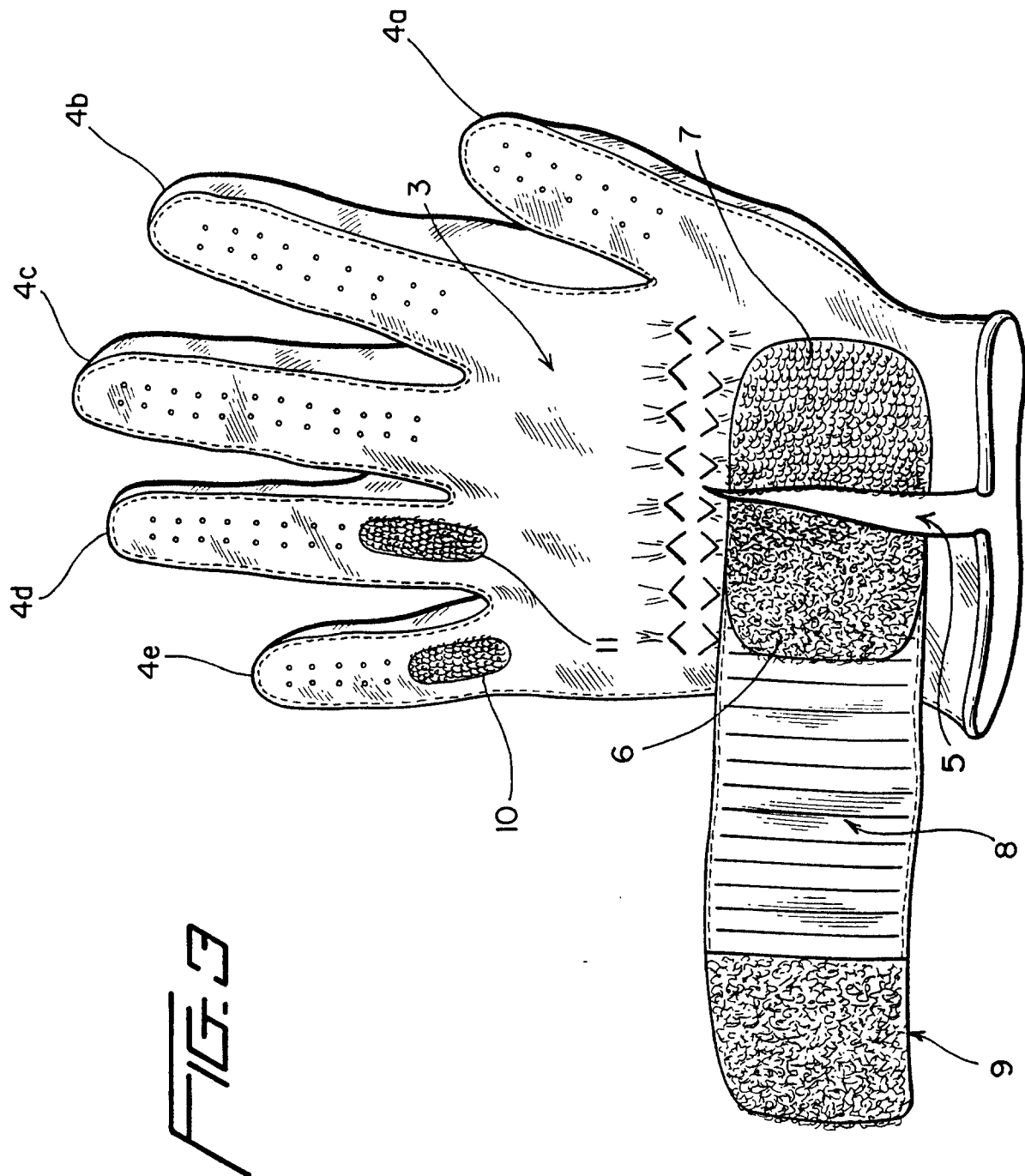


FIG. 2

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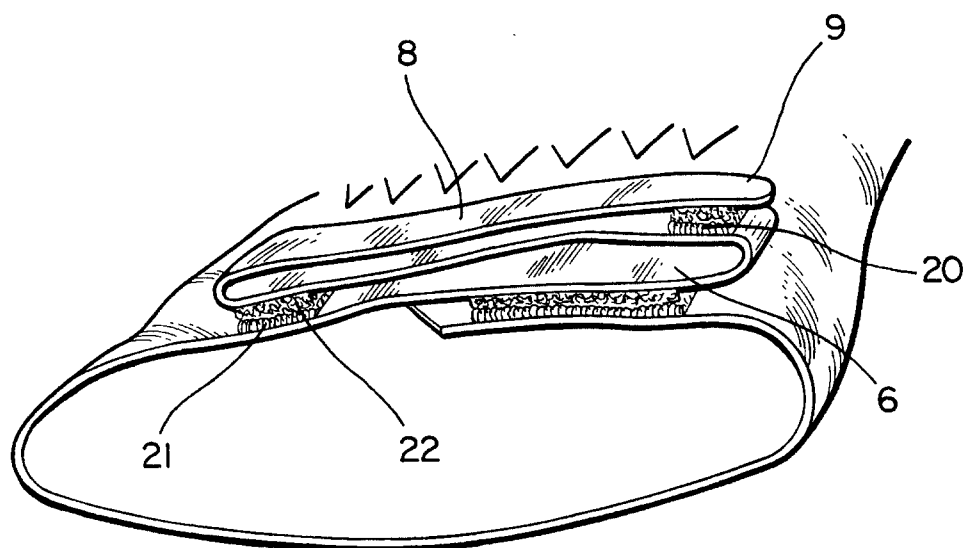


FIG. 4

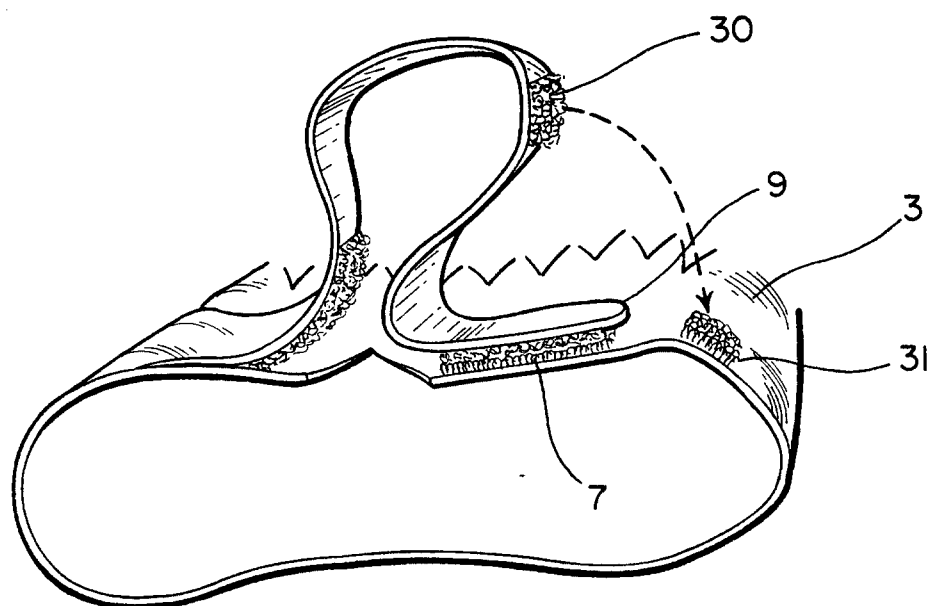


FIG. 5

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