May 30, 1933. A. L. GOWDY ET AL 1,911,500

FRUIT PACKER'S GLOVE

Filed Sept. 24, 1931

FIG. 1.

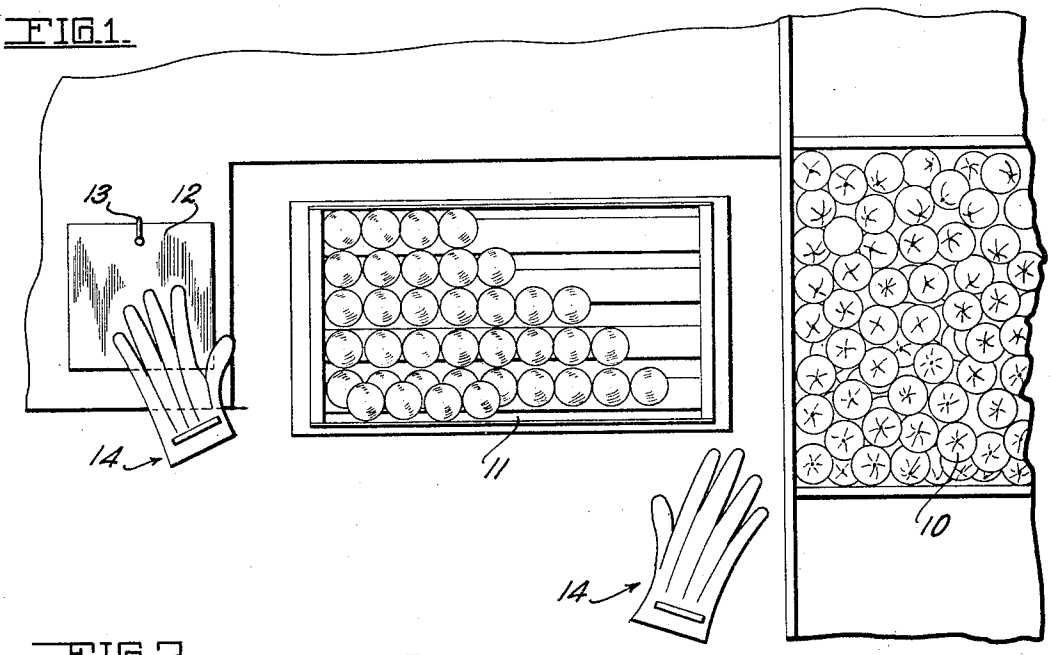


FIG. 2.

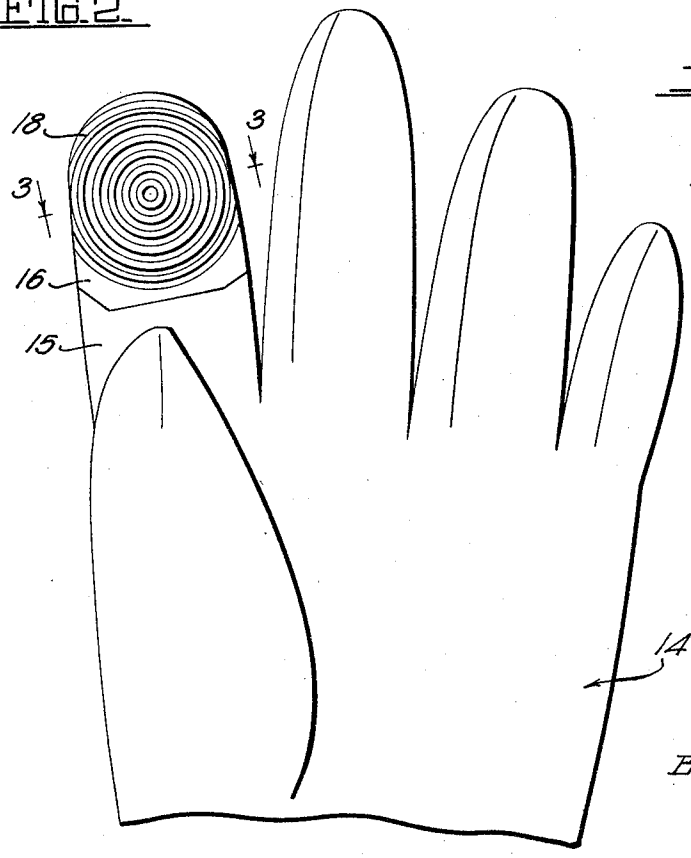
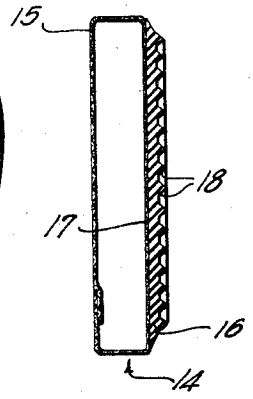


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FRUIT PACKER'S GLOVE

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Our invention relates to a fruit packer's glove.

Fruits, such as citrus fruits, pears, apples and the like, are put on the market in packing boxes, each fruit being wrapped in an envelope of tissue paper. Attempts have been made to wrap the fruit, especially citrus fruit, by machinery but up to the present time such attempts have not been successful and consequently the fruit is wrapped in tissue paper and placed in the fruit boxes by hand. The operator is in front of the fruit box with a supply of citrus fruit on the right hand side and a pile of tissue paper arranged in squares and held by a pin passing through the pile. The operation is to have the left hand pull off the topmost sheet of tissue paper from its pile, seize the citrus fruit in the right hand and by a quick motion and turn of the hand the two hands wrap the tissue paper about the fruit, give it a twist, and place it in the box. The operators become exceedingly skillful and can pack a large number, exceeding 20,000 citrus fruits, in one day. It is required by the packing houses that the operators wear gloves in order to avoid bruising the skin of the fruit which, if injured in the slightest degree, is apt to cause blue mold. Therefore, the operators wear cotton gloves. The cotton gloves, however, do not have sufficient frictional contact with the sheet of tissue paper. Therefore, it is a practice to cut off a finger of the glove and use a rubber finger stall which fits tightly over the finger. The rubber finger stall is objectionable for the reason that in order for it to be retained on the finger it must be quite tight, which shuts off blood circulation to the end of the finger, resulting in the so called "cold finger". If the finger stall is so loose as not to shut off the blood circulation, it slips off of the end of the finger during continued use. By our invention this difficulty is entirely overcome by providing a frictional element fastened to the tip of the finger of the glove.

It is an object of this invention to improve the packer's glove so as to prolong its life and at the same time provide it with an element which will positively engage and pull off the sheet of tissue paper from its pile with a minimum effort, thus facilitating the packing of the fruit.

For this purpose we provide one or more of the finger tips on the inside with a flexible plastic element, preferably in the form of a sheet of corrugated rubber which is fastened to the tip of the finger of the glove by vulcanization. The operator then by merely touching the topmost sheet of tissue paper with the finger tip provided with the sheet of corrugated rubber will with a minimum effort, because the rubber tip does not slide on the tissue paper, tear the sheet off its pin and then holding in the usual manner the tissue paper in the left hand will place the citrus fruit against it with the right hand and wrap it to be placed in the box.

Our invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of the specification, we have illustrated a packer's glove embodying our invention and in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic plan view showing the arrangement of the supply of citrus fruit, the fruit box, the pile of tissue paper, and the position of the hands of the operator provided with the gloves of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the upper part of the glove showing the rubber tip applied to one of the fingers.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawing, 10 indicates the supply of oranges on the right hand side, the fruit box 11 in the middle, and the pile of tissue paper at 12 on the left which is fastened by means of a pin 13.

The glove which is the object of this invention is indicated at 14 and may be of any suitable fabric, usually cotton, in which the front finger tip of the index finger 15 is provided with a sheet of rubber 16 vulcanized thereto as indicated at 17. The outer surface of the sheet of rubber 16 is preferably provided with minute corrugations 18 to provide a better frictional grip on the tissue paper. Ordinarily the left hand glove only

will be so constructed. It is obvious that for left handed operators the right hand glove may be so provided with rubber finger tips.

While we have described the use of a sheet of rubber vulcanized to the glove, the rubber tip 16 may be sewed thereto or fastened by any other suitable means and in place of rubber any wear resisting flexible material providing a good frictional contact with the sheet of tissue paper may be substituted therefor.

Our improved glove not only facilitates the operation of packing the fruit but it prolongs the life of the gloves indefinitely.

As the rubber tip is located near the extreme outer end of one of the fingers of the glove, it leaves the remainder of that finger, the remaining fingers and thumb and the palm of the glove presenting the soft cotton surface of the fabric. This soft cotton surface is relatively frictionless. In work of this character it is important that the major portion of the palm of the glove be relatively frictionless in that the operator after applying the sheet of tissue paper to the fruit then folds his hand around the fruit to complete the wrapping. During this folding of the tissue paper wrapper, the soft cotton palms and undersides of the fingers of the gloves merely slide over the tissue paper wrapper without tearing it. During this folding the finger carrying the rubber tip is ordinarily held by the operator out of engagement with the wrapper as it surrounds the fruit.

Various changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of our invention as claimed.

We claim:

A fruit packer's glove for use in wrapping fruit with tissue paper comprising a soft cotton glove presenting a relatively frictionless surface on its palm and most of its fingers, one finger having a rubber layer applied to its under surface and fastened thereto adjacent its extreme outer end only designed to develop sufficient friction to remove the uppermost sheet of a stack of tissue paper wrappers, the remainder of the palm side of the glove presenting the relatively frictionless surface of the cotton to enable the tissue paper to be wrapped about the fruit without danger of tearing the paper.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification.

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