Dec. 29, 1931. W. D. MITCHELL ET AL 1,839,113

UMPIRE'S SIGNAL JACKET

Filed Jan. 4, 1930

Fig. 1.

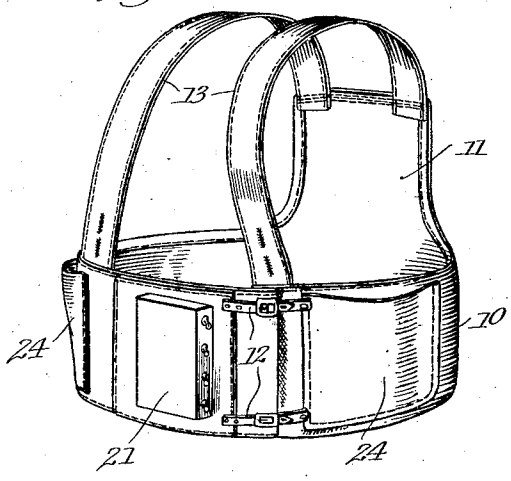
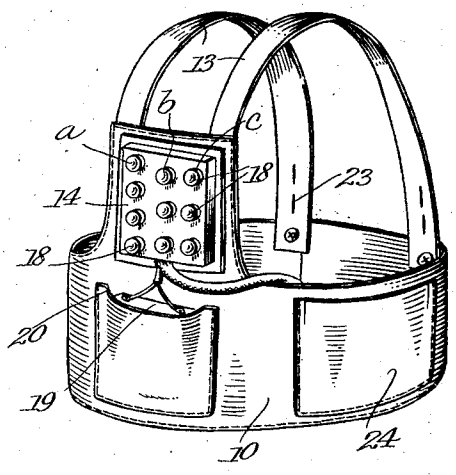


Fig. 2.



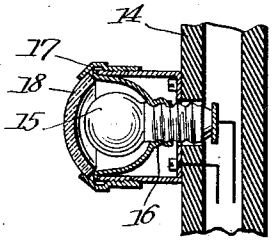
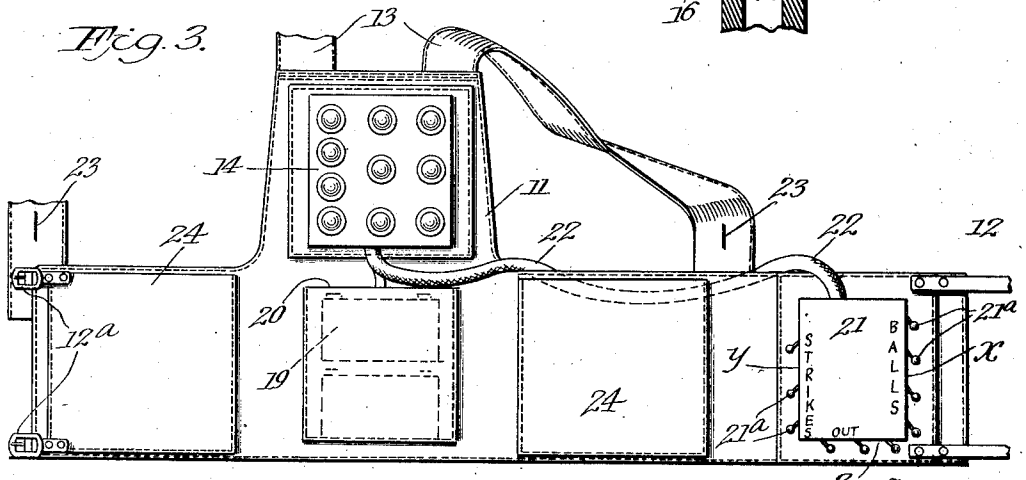


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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UMPIRE'S SIGNAL JACKET

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The present invention is an indicating or signal device to be worn by persons. The invention is of general application and may be used by umpires or referees of various sports or games, traffic officers, or by such person who desires to communicate certain signals to others. However, for the present disclosure, the device is shown in the form of a baseball umpire's signal, which will indicate the number of "balls", "strikes" or "outs" which occur during the game.

So far as it is known at present, a signal device in the form of a jacket has not been provided heretofore, particularly as a referee or umpire signalling device.

The object of the present invention is the provision of a signalling device, for the purposes above indicated, which is in the form of a body attachment to be worn by and supported on the body of a person with signal devices thereon, which may be selectively operated at will to give the desired information to others at a distance, and which may be readily adjusted to proper position on the body of the wearer and detached therefrom.

Another object of the invention is a signalling device of the stated character, which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture and which will be durable in use and effective for the purposes intended.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a signalling device of the above stated character for use by umpires and referees with the signal indicating elements thereon to be positioned at the back of the wearer, and with a signal control device thereon located for convenient operation by the hands of the wearer, and which device will not impede the movement or locomotion of the wearer, and which permits free use of the hands for other purposes and functions.

The invention further resides in sundry details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the appended claims.

In order that a more definite understanding of the present invention may be had, one form of the invention, particularly adapted for referees and umpires, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the signalling device in its extended form and as it would appear when on the body of an individual, and illustrating in particular the front and one side of the device;

Fig. 2 is another perspective view of the device in extended form and illustrating particularly the back and the other side of the device; and

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the device when opened up and not being worn, and illustrating the details of construction and arrangement of its various parts.

Referring to the drawings in detail, in which like characters refer to similar and like parts throughout the several views, 10 denotes a body-encircling part of flexible material, this part being in the form of a belt which will surround the abdominal section of the wearer's person. An upper edge of the body-encircling part 10 is formed with an upward extension 11 designed to be positioned and lie against the back of the wearer and to terminate at any point below the neck thereof. The body-encircling portion 10 has fastener means 12, such as, in the present instance, a strap and buckle, at its opposite ends, which will secure the portion 10 about the abdominal section of the wearer, when positioned thereabout. The device is supported, preferably but not necessarily, from the shoulders of the wearer, and in this connection, it is preferred to use a pair of shoulder straps 13, which have one of their opposite ends secured to the upper edge of the back extension 11 and their other ends secured to suitable portions of the body-encircling part 10 at or near those portions thereof which will lie in front of the wearer.

Thus it will be seen that the device takes the form of a jacket which may be worn over the clothes of the wearer and which may be readily slipped on and off without difficulty.

Secured to the outer face of the back extension 11 is an indicator 14, in which is arranged signal members. These signal members may be of any particular form, construction or design, but for the purposes of the

present disclosure, consist of electric lights 15, which are mounted in suitable sockets 16 positioned and suitably located in the signal box. The lights may be covered by caps 17 having translucent lenses or covers 18, and which caps are detachably secured to the box.

The electric lights 15 are supplied with suitable current from a battery 19 disposed in a pocket 20 positioned on the outer face of the body-encircling part 10 and below the indicator 14.

Since the device herein illustrated is a baseball umpire's signalling device, the signal members 15 are positioned in three rows, *a*, *b* and *c*, and for convenience and to permit the signals to be easily discerned, the lights 15, or the translucent members 18, in the various rows are of different colors. In the row *a*, there are four signal members, which will indicate the number of "balls". In row *b* there are three signals to indicate the number of "outs" and similarly in row *c* to indicate the number of "strikes". There may be additional rows of signal members 15 to indicate any other information it is desired to communicate.

The signal members 15 in each row, *a*, *b* and *c*, are operatively connected with a signal control device 21 positioned on the front portion of the body-encircling part 10, so that the same may be easily reached and manipulated by the wearer. Since the present disclosure shows the signal members as electric lights 15, the operative connection between them and the signal control device 21 are electrical connections which extend through a cord or cable 22 from the signal box or indicator 14 to the control device 21.

On the control device are arranged a plurality of manually operable members 21*a*, each in circuit with one of the electric lights 15. The control device 21 is in the form of a flat box or receptacle in which the electric conductors in the cable 22 extend and have connection with a suitable switch operated by the manually operable members 21*a*.

On one side *x* of the central device 21 is arranged four control members 21*a*, each of which is connected with one of the signals 15 in the row *a* of the indicator 14. On the side *y* of the control device 21 are three manually control devices 21*a*, each having connection with one of the signals 15 in the row *c* of the indicator 14, and on the bottom side *z* of the control device 21 are three manually controlled members 21*a*, each having connection with one of the signals 15 in the row *b* of the indicator 14.

From the above, it will be obvious that when a strike, ball or out is made, the umpire will actuate the proper manually operable element 21*a* and the proper indication will appear on the indicator 14 on his back, which indications will be clearly visible to those in the grand-stand in the back of the umpire.

The present device is of such construction that it will not hinder or prevent the umpire from wearing a chest protector under or over the indicating device.

On the side portions of the body-encircling part 10 are provided pockets 24, in which the umpire may retain balls or other accessories incident to the game. The indicating jacket may be made vertically adjustable on the body of the wearer through the button-hole connection 23, or any other suitable means of adjustment.

It is now a common practice among umpires to use small pebbles, or other hand indicator, for keeping them constantly reminded as to the number of "balls" and "strikes". The signal control device 21 and its manually operable switch members 21*a* serve a three-fold purpose; namely, first, as an indicator for the umpire sensitive to touch by which he can readily determine, play by play, by the position of the manual control members 21*a*, the number of "strikes" or "balls" against the player, as well as the number of "outs" in each inning, and, secondly, as a selective operable switch for the signals 15 on the indicator 14; and, thirdly, as an indicator sensitive to the touch by which the operator may determine what signals have been made or are showing to the rear of him.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A referee's signal device including a support of flexible material to be worn on the body of a person and having front and rear portions, means for detachably securing the support in place on the body, an indicator mounted on the rear portion of the support and having a plurality of signal members thereon arranged in groups to indicate certain related score points of a contest and positioned to be visible to those in back of the wearer, signal control means for each group of signals disposed on the front portion of the support to be readily accessible to the hands of the wearer, and an operative connection between said signal control means and said signals, said signal control means comprising a plurality of operable elements capable of assuming and retaining a signalling and non-signalling position whereby the signals may be selectively operated and the operator may determine by touch signals previously made.

2. A referee's signal device including a body-encircling member of flexible material to be worn on the body of a person, an indicator mounted on the rear portion of said body member so as to be disposed in the back of the wearer, when the device is worn, a plurality of electric lights on said indicator arranged in groups each indicating respectively balls, strikes, and outs or the like, a signal control device positioned on the front part

of said body-encircling member and comprising a plurality of snap switches arranged in groups corresponding to said signal lights and each movable by a plurality of positions determinable by touch, a source of electrical energy removably disposed on said body-encircling member, electric circuits between each of said switches, a corresponding signal light and said source of electrical supply, and means for detachably securing the body member in position on the wearer.

3. An umpire or referee signalling device comprising a body-encircling belt having an upward extension at its rear portion, supporting shoulder straps connecting the front portion and rear extension of said body-encircling member, a plurality of electric lights mounted on said extension and arranged in groups to indicate balls, strikes, and outs respectively, each group of lights being of different color than that of the other groups, a plurality of counting pieces positioned on the front part of the belt portion to be readily accessible to the hands of the wearer and arranged in groups corresponding to said lights, and each movable to a plurality of positions determinable by touch, switches operable by said counting pieces, a source of electrical energy carried by said belt, and electric circuits between each of said switches, a corresponding signal light and said source of electrical supply.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

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