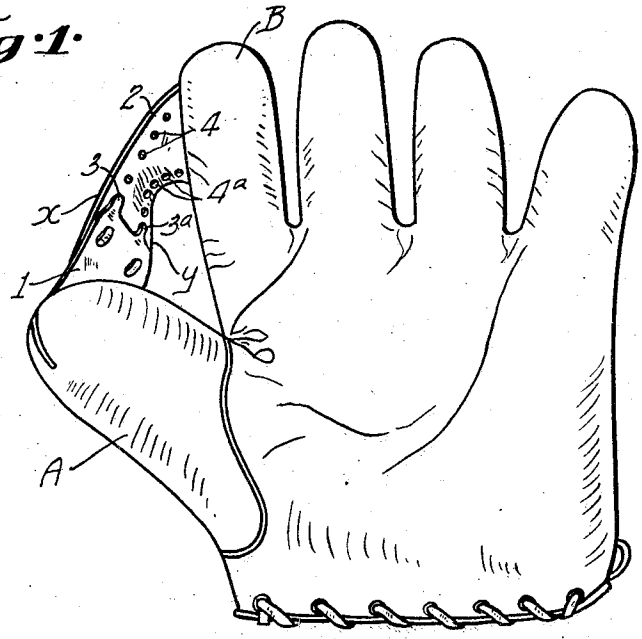
April 29, 1930. E. NOLTE 1,756,377

FIELDER'S GLOVE

Filed Oct. 14, 1926

Fig. 1.



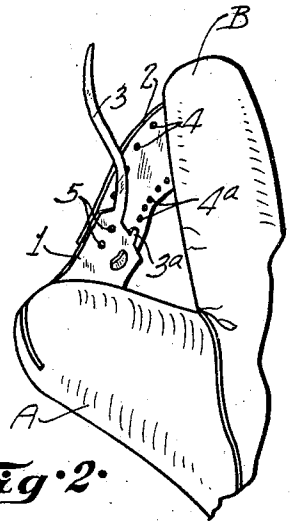


Fig. 2.

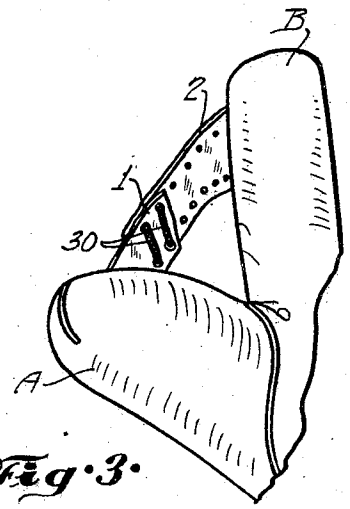


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR
Elmer Nolte.
By Bakewell & Church
ATTORNEYS

Patented Apr. 29, 1930 1,756,377

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ELMER NOLTE, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO RAWLINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, A CORPORATION OF MISSOURI

FIELDER'S GLOVE

Application filed October 14, 1926. Serial No. 141,511.

This invention relates to baseball gloves, and particularly fielders' gloves and first basemen's mitts of the type in which a relatively wide web is arranged transversely of the space between the thumb and index finger of the glove or corresponding portion of the mitt, so as to co-operate with said parts to form a pocket for a caught ball.

In conventional gloves and mitts of the particular type mentioned the web is formed from a straight strip of leather combined with the thumb and index finger in such a manner that the top and bottom edges of said web are disposed approximately parallel and lie in substantially the same plane as the body portion of the web when the glove is used to catch a ball. Accordingly, when a ball strikes the web, there is a tendency for the ball to slide upwardly and rearwardly over the top edge of the web. Moreover, as no provision is made for adjusting the web to vary the length of same, a glove or mitt of a particular make that is satisfactory to one user may not be satisfactory to a different user who holds his thumb and index finger in a different position during the operation of catching a ball.

The main object of my invention is to provide a fielder's glove or first baseman's mitt of the general type mentioned, in which the web between the thumb and index finger or corresponding portion is cupped forwardly sufficiently at its upper edge to overcome the tendency of a caught ball to slide upwardly out of the pocket formed by the web, the thumb and the index finger of a glove or the corresponding portion of a mitt.

Another object of my invention is to provide a glove or mitt of the general type mentioned, in which the web previously referred to is so constructed that it can be adjusted to vary the overall length of same and also to vary the degree of curvature or forward cupping of the top portion of the web. Other objects and desirable features of my invention will be hereinafter pointed out.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of a fielder's glove constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view, illustrating how the web can be adjusted; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view, illustrating another method of adjusting the web.

In the drawings A and B designate the thumb and index finger, respectively, of a baseball glove of the kind commonly referred to as a fielder's glove. Said thumb and index finger are joined together by a relatively wide web arranged transversely of the space between said parts and disposed so that the top edge portion x of same will be cupped forwardly, or, in other words, will project forwardly slightly beyond the plane in which the bottom edge y of said web lies, thereby forming a back stop for a caught ball that overhangs the top portion of the ball sufficiently to overcome the tendency of the ball to slide upwardly out of the pocket formed by said web, thumb and index finger. As shown in the drawings, the bottom edge of said web is spaced away from the crotch between the thumb and index finger. Stated in another way, the web of my improved glove is provided with a top edge x that is shorter or stretched tighter between the thumb and index finger of the glove than the bottom edge y of said web, thereby causing the lower edge portion of the web to bulge rearwardly sufficiently to form a back stop or back wall that is curved in two planes at right angles to each other and which will partly surround a caught ball and also project forwardly slightly over the ball.

It is immaterial, so far as my broad idea is concerned, how the web is formed and attached to the thumb and index finger of the glove, so long as it has this distinguishing characteristic, i. e., a top edge portion disposed in such relation to the bottom edge portion of the web that it will slightly overhang a caught ball. I prefer, however, to construct the web so that it can be adjusted easily to change the overall length of the web, and to vary the length of the top edge of the web relatively to the bottom edge.

To this end I propose to form the web from an element 1, attached preferably to the terminal portion of the thumb A, and an element 2 attached preferably to the termi-

nal portion of the index finger B, and provide an adjustable means for detachably connecting the free ends of said elements 1 and 2 together and hold them in overlapping relation. In the form of my invention shown in Figures 1 and 2 the element 1 of the web is provided at one end with a plurality of integral thongs 3 and 3^a arranged adjacent the top and bottom edges of same and adapted to be inserted through holes 4 and 4^a in the element 2 and then secured in any manner, as, for example, by drawing said thongs taut and lacing them back and forth through holes 5 in the element 1 and aligned holes (not shown) in the portion of the element 2 that is overlapped by the element 1.

The forward cupping of the top edge portion of the web is obtained by inserting the top thong 3 of the element 1 through one of the top holes 4 of the element 2 that is located closer to the index finger of the glove than the bottom hole 4^a in the element 2 through which the bottom thong 3^a is inserted. Thus, if the element 2 is provided with a group of top holes 4 and a group of bottom holes 4^a spaced the same distance apart, the bottom thong 3^a can be inserted in the sixth hole of the bottom group 4^a to the left of the index finger, and the top thong can be inserted in the fifth hole, or even the fourth hole of the top group 4, thereby making the top edge of the web considerably shorter than the bottom edge of the web when the thongs 3 and 3^a are drawn taut and secured. It will, of course, be obvious that the overall length of the web can be changed by inserting both the top and bottom thongs in holes of the element 2 located closer to or farther away from the index finger of the glove. A web adjusting means of the kind referred to is easy to operate, it is inexpensive to construct, and as the thongs 3 and 3^a are integrally connected to the element 1, they hold the free end of said element snugly down against the part of the element 2 over which the element 1 laps.

It is not essential that the glove be provided with a web adjusting means of the kind above described, for any other means that will permit the overall length of the web to be changed and the length of the top edge of the web relatively to the bottom to be varied can be used without departing from the spirit of my invention. For example, instead of providing one element of the web with one or more integral thongs that are adapted to be laced through holes in the other element of the web, a separate or removable thong or lacing 30 can be laced back and forth through aligned holes in the overlapping elements 1 and 2 of the web, as shown in Figure 3 of the drawing. I have not illustrated my invention embodied in a mitt, but I wish it to be understood that it is applicable to mitts.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A baseball glove or mitt provided with a thumb, an index finger or corresponding portion, a web arranged transversely of the space between said parts and consisting of a relatively wide, strip-like member and an adjustable means for enabling the top edge portion of said web to be shortened or drawn tighter than the bottom edge of said web.

2. A baseball glove or mitt provided with a thumb, an index finger or corresponding portion, a relatively wide transversely disposed member attached to the terminal portions of said parts so as to form a web between said thumb and finger, and means for enabling said member to be adjusted so as to vary the overall length of same or to make the top edge of said member shorter than its bottom edge.

3. A baseball glove or mitt provided with a thumb, an index finger or corresponding portion, a relatively wide web attached to the terminal portions of said parts and composed of two elements having overlapped portions, horizontally disposed rows of spaced holes in one of said elements located adjacent the top and bottom edges of the web, and a securing means carried by the other element that is adapted to co-operate with said holes to connect said elements together.

4. A baseball glove or mitt provided with a thumb, an index finger or corresponding portion, a relatively wide web attached to the terminal portions of said parts and composed of two elements having overlapping portions, integral thongs on one of said elements, and groups of spaced holes in the other element located adjacent the top and bottom edges of same that are adapted to receive said thongs.

5. A baseball glove or mitt provided with a thumb, an index finger or corresponding portion, and a web consisting of a relatively wide member arranged transversely of the space between said parts, with its bottom edge spaced away from the crotch between said thumb and finger, the top edge of said web being cupped forwardly so as to overcome the tendency of a ball to slide upwardly out of the pocket formed by said web, thumb and index finger.

ELMER NOLTE.