(No Model.)

E. J. PRINDLE.

DEVICE FOR USE OF BASE BALL PITCHERS.

No. 590,113. Patented Sept. 14, 1897.

Fig. 1.

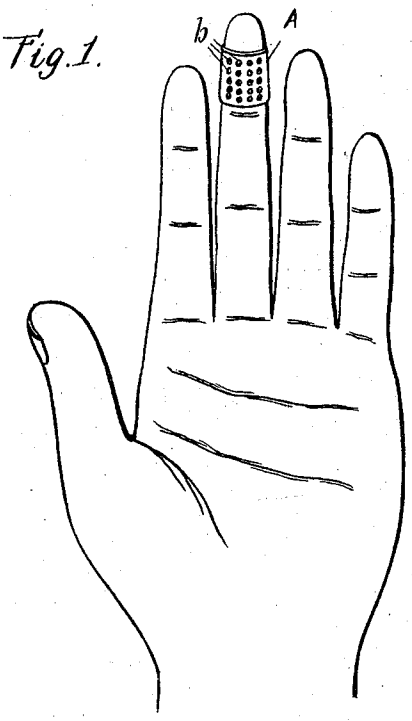


Fig. 2.

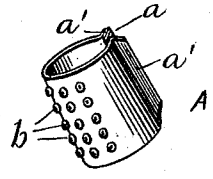
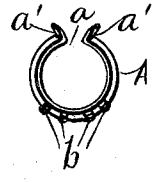


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. PRINDLE, OF TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT.

DEVICE FOR USE OF BASE-BALL PITCHERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 590,113, dated September 14, 1897.

Application filed November 5, 1896. Serial No. 611,163. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. PRINDLE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Torrington, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for the Use of Base-Ball Pitchers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a view showing the application of the invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of invention. Fig. 3 is a plan view of same.

This invention is designed to provide means which will enable ball-players to pitch what are termed "curved" balls with greater facility and with a greater deviation or degree of curvature than has heretofore been possible. The "curve," as it is termed in base-ball parlance, is produced by giving the ball a rotary motion around an imaginary axis just as it leaves the hand of the pitcher, which axis may be horizontal or perpendicular or at any angle between the two, but always at right angles to the line of flight. The rapidity of this rotation determines the degree of deviation from a straight line—the more rapid the rotation the greater being the deviation.

This invention consists, broadly, in a device capable of being attached in any suitable manner to the hand or finger which imparts the rotation and having a surface adapted to positively engage the covering of the ball to the end that when the peculiar movement of the hand or fingers necessary to pitch a curved ball is practiced such engagement will prevent the ball from slipping or turning with relation to the hand until the moment it leaves the hand, whereby, as will be readily understood, its rotation will be greatly accelerated.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown a simple form of a device embodying my invention which I have found to be practical and satisfactory in its operation. This device consists of a circular band A, of metal, preferably of inherent elastic character, and adapted to fit upon one of the fingers, being designed to retain itself in place by reason of its elasticity. To this end also and to the further end that it may be enabled to fit fingers of different sizes, the said band has an opening *a* at the back, the edge portions *a'* thereof being bent or flared outwardly.

Upon the opposite side the surface of the band is provided with an aggregation of small points or projections, such as indicated at *b*, and which may be conveniently formed by a small punch operated from the inside of the band before it is bent into circular form.

In use the device is slipped on the first or finger-nail joint of the middle finger with the projecting points on the inside. On grasping the ball for a curve these points are pressed firmly into the leather of the cover. The throw is then made in the usual manner.

The device should fit the finger tightly, being adjusted until a properly snug fit is obtained. After a little practice it will be found that a player can pitch a ball with the same accuracy as without the device and with a much greater degree of curve.

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

1. A device for the use of base-ball players in pitching curved balls, said device having means whereby it may be secured upon the hand, and provided with a roughened surface adapted to engage with the covering of a ball, substantially as specified.

2. A device for the use of base-ball players in pitching curved balls, said device having means whereby it may be secured upon a finger of the hand, and provided with an aggregation of small points or projections which are designed to positively engage the covering of a ball, substantially as specified.

3. A device for the use of base-ball players in pitching curved balls, said device having means whereby it may be secured upon a finger of the hand, and having also a surface

provided with a plurality of sharp points which are designed to positively engage the covering of a ball, substantially as specified.

4. A device for the use of ball-players in pitching curved balls, said device comprising a circular band of material having some elasticity and adapted to be slipped upon one of the fingers, said band being open at the back, and having at the opposite side an aggregation of metallic points or projections adapted to positively engage the covering of the ball, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD J. PRINDLE.

Witnesses:

HENRY I. JACKSON,

FRANK W. HUMPHREY.