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(54) **MULTI-USE CLEANING GLOVE**

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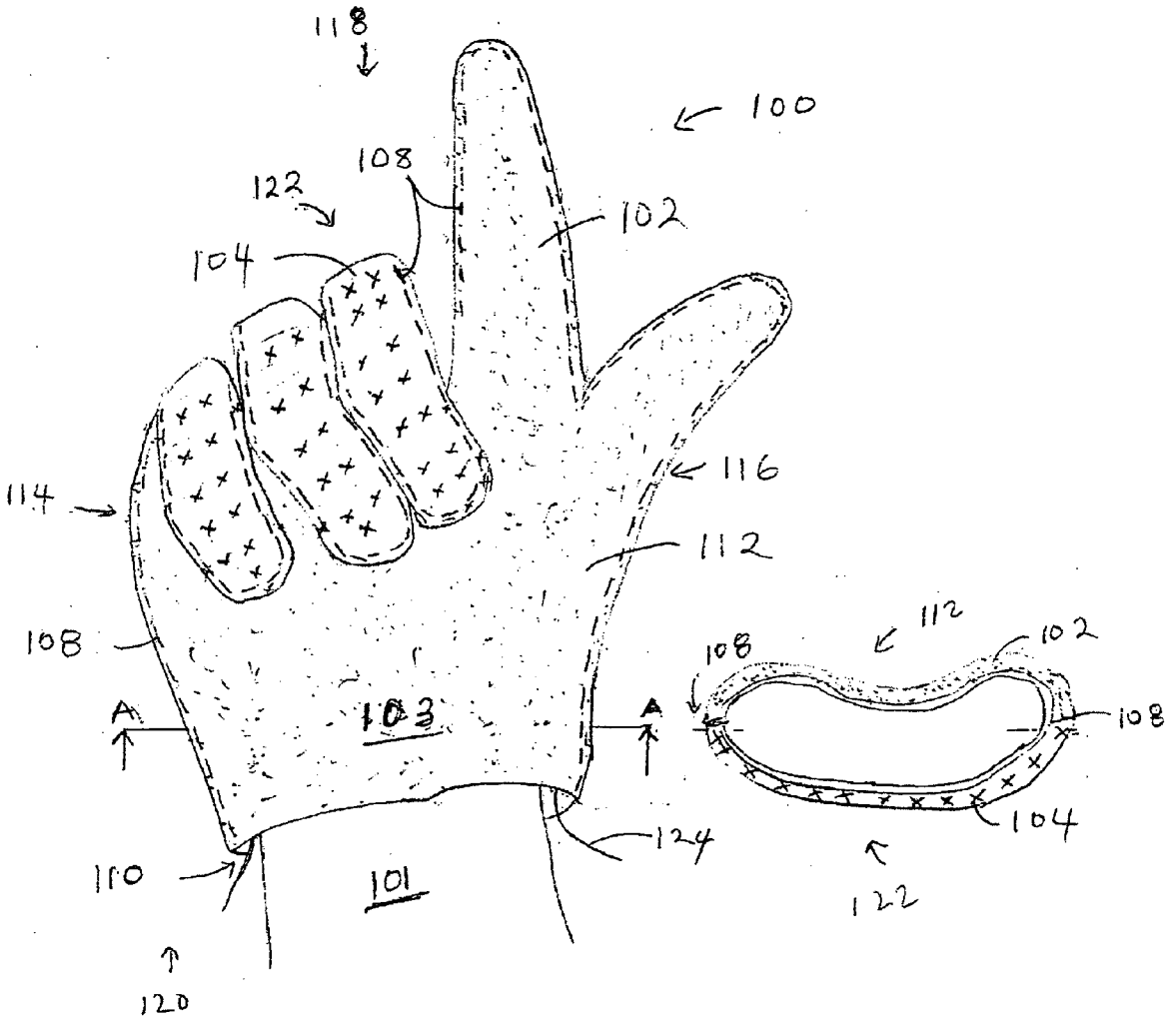
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multi-use cleaning glove with at least two cleaning materials including a first cleaning material such as a scouring pad and a second cleaning material such as a sponge and mesh material for household surfaces. The first cleaning material is located on a palm side of said glove while the second cleaning material is located on the back side of the glove. A water proof material that is attached to the first and second cleaning materials is configured to encapsulate a user's hand from water or other cleaning liquids. A user can also employ gloves for each of the right and left hand, each glove having the first and the second cleaning material. The two cleaning materials are located on alternate sides on both hands.



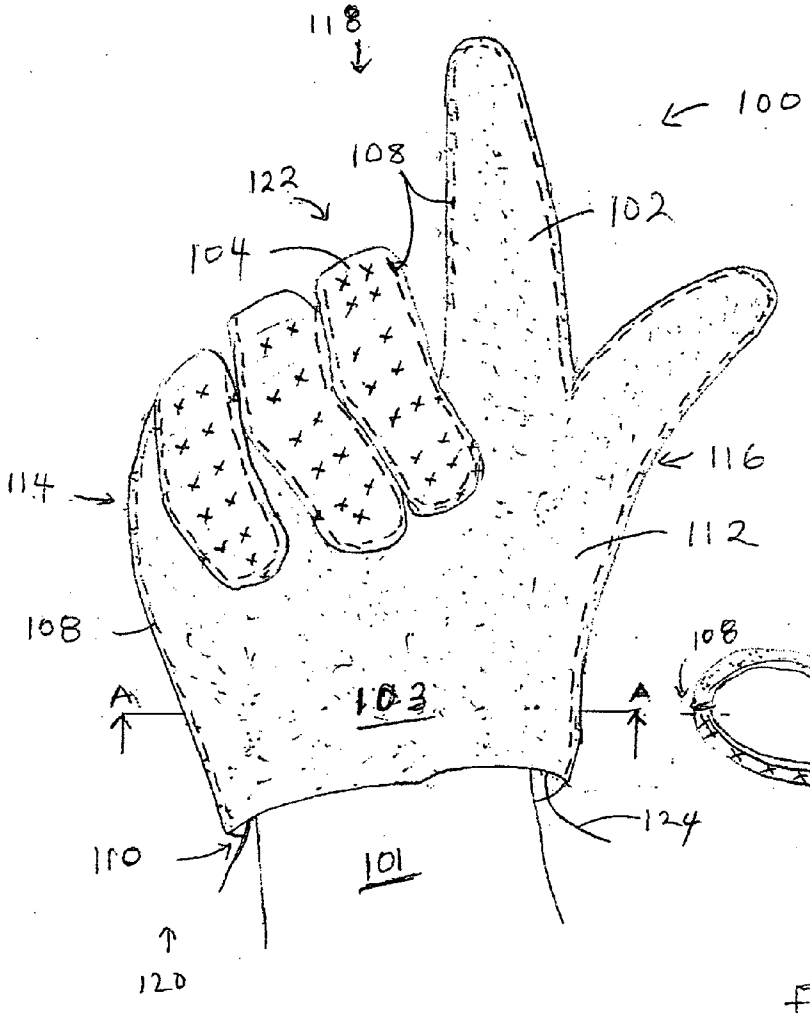

118
100
108
122
102
104
116
114
112
108
A
103
A
110
101
124
120

FIG 1A

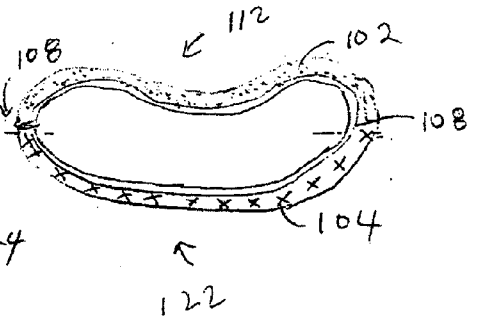

112
102
108
108
104
122

FIG 1B

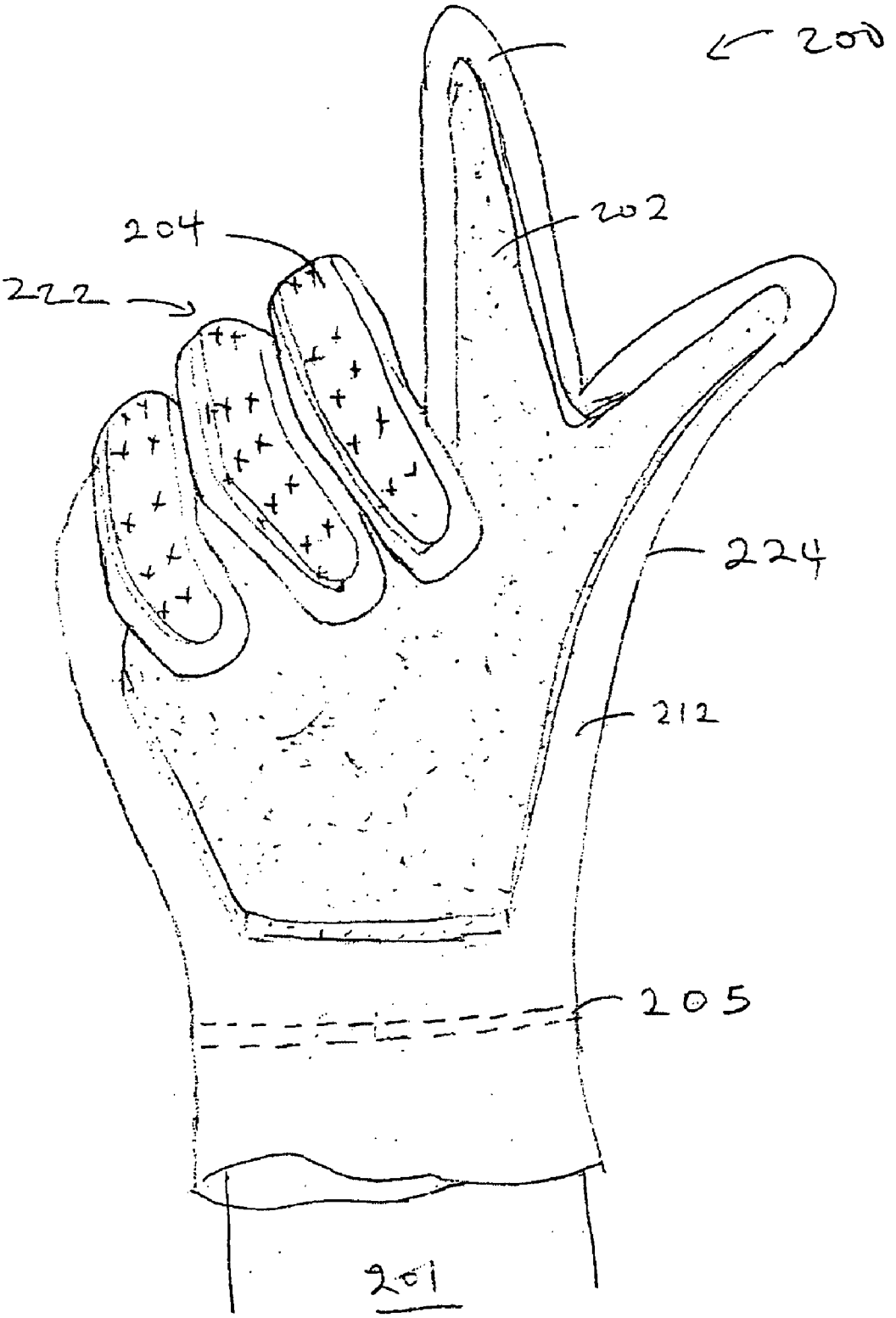


FIG. 2

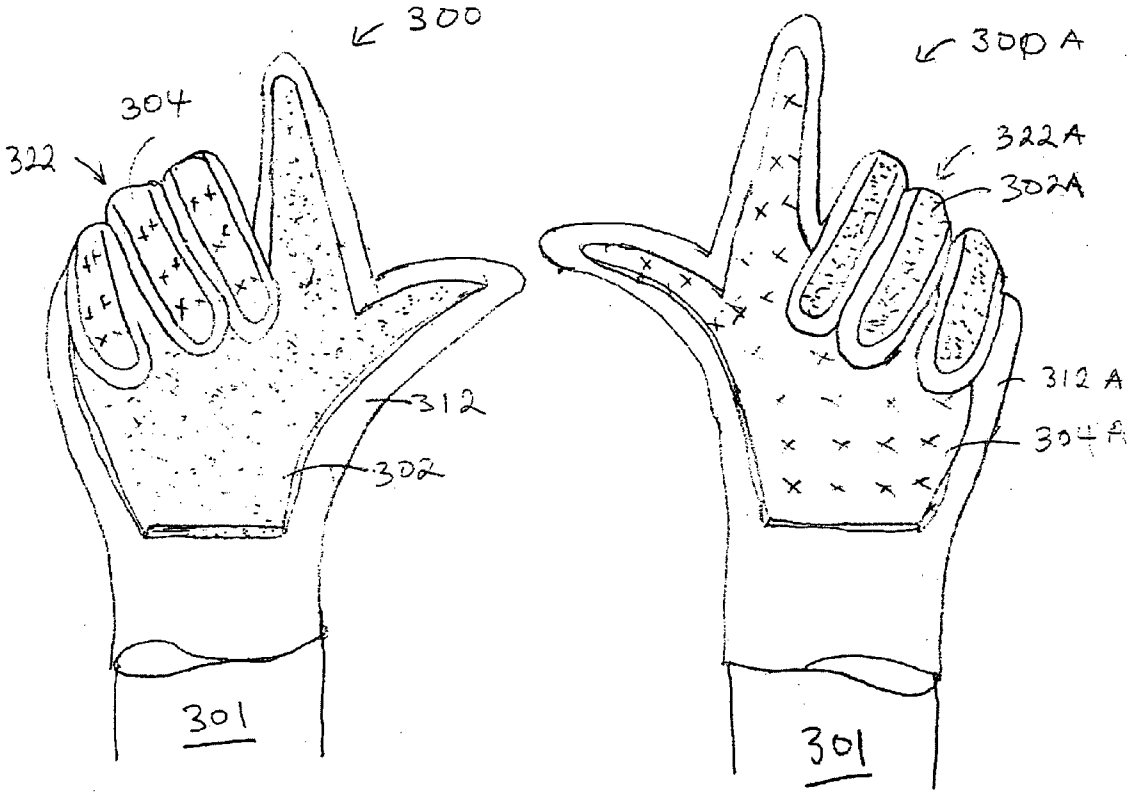


FIG. 3

MULTI-USE CLEANING GLOVE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to gloves and more specifically to gloves used for household chores such as dish washing, bathroom cleaning and the like.

[0002] Cleaning liquids and/or detergents are usually used for performing household chores. For example, dish washing liquids for dish washing and tile cleansers for bathroom cleaning are readily available. These cleaning liquids and cleansers can be detrimental to users with dry or sensitive skin. The cleansers' chemical content may cause rashes, skin dryness or other skin conditions. Even routine contact with water caused by regular dish washing can cause dry skin. It is for this reason gloves are worn when such household chores are performed.

[0003] Although traditional gloves can protect the hands, they cannot provide the cleaning functionality that is often required. For example, if scouring or dish wiping is required, traditional gloves cannot provide these functions. Users must still employ scouring pads, sponges, cleaners and the like for effective cleaning to be achieved. Even if traditional gloves did provide additional cleaning functionality, such functionality is usually limited. It is within the aforementioned context that the need for the present invention has arisen.

[0004] There is a need to address one or more of the aforementioned problems and the present invention meets this need.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Various aspects of a multi-use glove can be found in exemplary embodiments of the present invention. Unlike traditional gloves, this multi-use glove can be used for scouring and for wiping depending on the cleaning materials incorporated therein.

[0006] In a first embodiment, a glove with a central flexible body is disclosed. Preferably, this central flexible body is made of a resilient and waterproof material such as rubber or other comparable or polymer-type materials. The central flexible body has a palm side, a back side and a glove opening for receiving a user's hand.

[0007] Attached to the palm and back sides of the central flexible body are two congruent cleaning materials. Two cleaning materials are congruent if they coincide with one another when superimposed. Here, the first cleaning material may be a scouring material, for example. This scouring material is then attached to the palm side of the central flexible body. Although a substantial portion of the palm side's surface is covered by the scouring material, certain areas remain uncovered. Specifically, side areas between the palm side and back side as well as areas below the wrist of the central flexible body remain uncovered.

[0008] The second congruent cleaning material might be a sponge and mesh material that is essentially different from the first cleaning material. By essentially different, it is meant that the cleaning materials are made of dissimilar materials or that they accomplish cleaning in very distinct ways. Here, this sponge and mesh material can be attached to the back side of the central flexible body. Although a substantial portion of the back side's surface is covered by the sponge and mesh material, certain portions noted above of the central flexible body remain uncovered.

[0009] In this manner and unlike traditional gloves, a glove having a waterproof and central flexible body with two different cleaning materials attached on either side is thus provided. An advantage of the present invention has now become apparent. The waterproof and resilient central flexible body can protect a user from water, cleaning liquids and other cleansers that are detrimental to users with dry or sensitive skin. Not only can the glove of the present invention protect users' hands, it can also provide cleaning functionality without the need for separate cleaning pads. Further yet, the glove has dual cleaning surfaces providing for multiple cleaning functions such as scouring and wiping function with a single cleaning glove.

[0010] Another embodiment of the present invention discloses a multi-use glove cleaning system. This multi-use glove cleaning system includes a right hand glove and a left hand glove. By so doing, users can wear both gloves simultaneously for two separate tasks. The right hand glove is such that the scouring material (first cleaning material) is located on the palm side and the sponge and mesh material (second cleaning material) is located on the back side as earlier described.

[0011] On the left hand glove, however, the cleaning materials are located on sides opposite their location on the right hand glove. Specifically, the scouring material is located on the back side of the left hand glove while the sponge and mesh material is located on the palm side so that the left hand glove and the right hand glove have the same cleaning materials but on alternate sides. Note that both cleaning materials are configured to clean household surfaces and that a water proof material configured to encapsulate a user's hand from water or other cleaning liquids is also incorporated into both the left and right hand gloves.

[0012] Another advantage of the present invention has now become apparent. Users need not be limited to using a single hand for scouring and for wiping. Here, users can utilize both hands simultaneously for performing two separate tasks, i.e. using the right for scouring and simultaneously or contemporaneously using the left hand for wiping.

[0013] A further exemplary embodiment of the present invention is a multi-use cleaning glove. Here, two cleaning materials such as the scouring material and the sponge and mesh material are attached their edges. Specifically, in one aspect, the materials are attached around the palm and finger edges so that a glove opening, a palm side and a back side are formed. In another aspect, the materials are attached around the palm and finger tips to form a mitten. As a result, the palm side consists of the scouring material. And the back side consists of the sponge and mesh material. Conveniently, a water proof material forming an inner lining is incorporated into the glove. A further advantage of the present invention is that additional cleaning material surfaces for manipulation by a user's fingers is provided.

[0014] A further understanding of the nature and advantages of the present invention herein may be realized by reference to the remaining portions of the specification and the attached drawings. Further features and advantages of the present invention, as well as the structure and operation of various embodiments of the present invention, are described in detail below with respect to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings, the same reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] FIG. **1**A illustrates a glove for performing household cleaning functions according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. **1**B is a cross-sectional diagram of the glove of FIG. **1**A when viewed from line A-A of FIG. **1**A.

[0017] FIG. **2** illustrates a glove for household cleaning according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] FIG. **3** shows gloves for two-handed household cleaning according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] Reference will now be made in detail to the embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the invention will be described in conjunction with the preferred embodiments, it will be understood that they are not intended to limit the invention to these embodiments. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover alternatives, modifications and equivalents, which may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Furthermore, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding. However, it will be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well known aspects have not been described in detail as not to obscure aspects of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. **1**A illustrates glove **100** for performing household cleaning functions according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0021] In FIG. **1**A, user **101** can wear glove **100** on either hand. Glove **100** includes at least two essentially congruent materials namely scouring material **102** and sponge and mesh material **104**. Two cleaning materials are congruent if they coincide with one another when superimposed. In this example, scouring material **102** may be any material with sufficient strength and durability for scouring pots and pans and other surfaces that can be abrasively cleaned. Scouring material **102** can be made of synthetic fibers woven or non-woven, some or all of which may be crimped.

[0022] Sponge and mesh material **104** may be a sponge and mesh material for wiping and washing more delicate surfaces and items such as glassware, plates, bathtubs, etc. Sponge and mesh material **104** can be made from any suitable material such as polyester foam, cellulose, absorbent arrays of synthetic fibers, etc. or any combination thereof. Although the thickness of sponge and mesh material **104** may vary, a 4 mm thickness is preferable. This thickness is accounted for mostly by the sponge material portion with a thin resilient surface mesh material for holding the more delicate sponge material in place.

[0023] Scouring material **102** and sponge and mesh material **104** are bonded along their lateral edges and along the finger edges by stitching **108**. Although not shown, other fastening methods consistent with scope and spirit of the present invention may be used. By bonding the cleaning materials along the edges, receptacle **103** and glove opening **110** for receiving the user's hand are formed. Glove palm side **112** is also formed. As shown, glove palm side **112** is formed by scouring material **102**. Scouring material **102** runs transversely between little finger side **114** and thumb side **116** and also runs longitudinally between distal end **118** and proximal end **120**. As used herein, the terms proximal and distal are defined relative to user **101**'s position when glove **100** is in normal use.

[0024] Glove back side **122** is also formed when the cleaning materials are bonded along the edges. As shown, glove back side **122** is formed by sponge and mesh material **104**. Sponge and mesh material **104** runs transversely across glove back side **122** from little finger side **114** to thumb side **116**. Sponge and mesh material **104** also runs longitudinally between distal end **118** and proximal end **120**.

[0025] In FIG. **1**A, glove **100** also incorporates interior lining **124** for receiving the user's hand (user **101**). Interior lining **124** is a water proof material for encapsulating the user's hand when inserted within the glove **100** interior. In this manner, user **101**'s hand can remain dry when dishwashing and other household cleaning operations are performed.

[0026] In operation, user **101** can employ glove **100** for any number of household cleaning functions. For example, user **101** may wish to scrub heavily soiled pots and pans employed for cooking dinner. User **101** begins by inserting a hand into glove **100**. Specifically, user **101** inserts the right hand through glove opening **110**, through which the glove interior is encapsulated by interior lining **124**. After the right hand is fully inserted, scouring material **102** is now located on the glove's palm side. Note that sponge and mesh material **104** (not used for current task) is located on the glove backside. User **101** can then begin to utilize scouring material **102** for cleaning.

[0027] Specifically, user **101** uses a to and fro motion for scouring the heavily soiled pots and pan in a regular manner. This cleaning process is continued until the task is accomplished. Conveniently, the scouring material is incorporated with glove **100**. This is an advantage of the present invention in that a separate scouring pad as in the conventional arts need not be employed. Not only can the glove of the present invention protect users' hands, it can also provide cleaning functionality without the need for separate cleaning pads.

[0028] If delicate items i.e., wine glasses and the like are slated for cleaning, sponge and mesh material **104** would be needed. Here, glove **100** is simply switched from one hand to the other. As previously noted, because glove **100** is configured for either hand, user **101** simply switches glove **100** to the left hand. By so doing, the location of sponge and mesh material **104** is changed to the palm. User **101** can now use sponge and mesh material **104** for cleaning the glassware until the task is completed.

[0029] Thus, another advantage of the present invention is now apparent. Not only is a first material (scouring material **102**) incorporated on to glove **100**, a second material (sponge and mesh material **104**) is incorporated as well. With two cleaning surfaces incorporated, user **101** can conveniently complete different tasks while protecting the user's hands from harsh chemical detergents. The user need not utilize separate two-sided pads for cleaning as might be known in the prior art.

[0030] Note that the configuration of glove **100** is not limited to the FIG. **1**A illustration. Thus, scouring material **102** may be located on glove back side **122** while sponge and mesh material may be on glove palm side **112**. In fact, cleaning materials different from those illustrated may be located on either side. For example, glove back side **112** may have an electrostatic cloth for dusting while glove palm side **112** might have a microfiber cloth for smudges.

[0031] Moreover, although not shown, in an alternate embodiment, glove **100** need not incorporate interior lining **124**. In this case, glove **100** is used with a conventional latex glove, for example. Here, user **101** wearing the latex glove

simply slips glove **100** over the latex glove, which can then provide waterproof protection for the hands. After usage, user **101** can separately remove glove **100** and the latex glove. I

[0032] FIG. **1**B is a cross-sectional diagram of glove **100** when viewed from line A-A of FIG. **1**A.

[0033] In FIG. **1**B, palm side **112** formed by scouring material **102** is shown. Glove back side **122** formed by sponge and mesh material **104** is also shown. Both materials are bonded at their edges by stitching **108** as can be seen.

[0034] FIG. **2** illustrates glove **200** for household cleaning according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] In FIG. **2**, user **201** can also wear glove **200** on either hand as in FIG. **1***a*. Unlike FIG. **1**A, however, glove **200** comprises glove body **224** forming the main portion of glove **200** to which other components are attached. Glove body **224** is preferably made of a flexible, waterproof and resilient material such as rubber or other comparable or polymer-type materials. Glove body **224** might also incorporate a breathable and stretchable material and is tapered at the wrist. As shown, glove body **224** encapsulates user **201**'s fingers, palms and extends well below the wrist.

[0036] In FIG. **2**, glove **200** includes scouring material **202** and sponge and mesh material **204** similar to corresponding materials described with reference to FIG. **1**A. Unlike FIG. **1**A, however, wherein the cleaning materials are bonded along their edges, scouring material **202** and sponge and mesh material **204** are bonded to the surface of glove body **224**. Specifically, scouring material **202** is bonded to palm side **212** and sponge and mesh material **204** is bonded to back side **222** of glove body **224**. Bonding may be either fixed or detachable. When detachable, a detachable fastener sold under the trademarked name Velcro can be utilized. This allows for worn-out materials to be easily replaced.

[0037] In FIG. **2**, scouring material **202** covers palm side **212** as described with reference to FIG. **1**A except as shown herein wherein lateral areas of the palm and fingers as well as finger tips remain uncovered. Areas on glove **200** corresponding to laugh lines and finger creases (not shown) can be pre-creased for flexibility such that the palm and fingers can be easily clenched. Glove **200** of FIG. **2** also includes elastic band **205**, running transversely around the proximal or wrist portion of glove **200**. Elastic band **205** is configured to form a water tight seal around user **201**'s wrist. Although not shown, glove body

[0038] In operation, user **201** can employ glove **200** for any number of household cleaning functions as described with reference to FIG. **1**A.

[0039] FIG. **3** shows gloves **300** and **300**A for two-handed household cleaning according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0040] In FIG. **3**, gloves **300** and **300**A have the same cleaning materials on alternating sides. Specifically, scouring material **302** of glove **300** is located on palm side **312** while the corresponding scouring material **302**A of glove **300**A is located on glove back side **322**A. Similarly, sponge and mesh material **304** of glove **300** is located on back side **322** while the corresponding sponge and mesh material **304**A of glove **300**A is located on palm side **312**A.

[0041] Although not shown, gloves **300** and **300**A can be configured as shown in FIG. **1**A, with each glove having alternating materials on both sides. Note also that the glove **200** (FIG. **2**) and gloves **300** and **300**A are similar except that the cleaning materials of glove **200** and glove **300**A are on opposite sides. For example, scouring material **202** of glove **200** is on the palm side while scouring material **302**A of glove **300**A is on the glove back side.

[0042] In operation, user **301** can simultaneously wear both glove **300** and glove **300**A to perform two separate tasks. User **301** might for example desire to clean a counter top with hardened food crumbs located thereon. User **301** initiates this cleaning process by using the right hand and scouring material **302** to scour the countertop surface; this is immediately followed by the left hand having sponge and mesh material **304**A to wipe the countertop surface.

[0043] An advantage of the present invention is thus immediately apparent. User **301** need not be constrained by employing a single hand and a separate scouring pad for scouring and then using the same hand and a separate sponge for cleaning. Here, user **301** can use both hands simultaneously for performing two separate tasks, i.e. using the right for scouring and simultaneously or contemporaneously using the left hand for wiping.

[0044] While the above is a complete description of exemplary specific embodiments of the invention, additional embodiments are also possible. For example, although gloves **100**, **200**, **300** and **300**A have been depicted as gloves, they may be mittens consistent with the scope and spirit of the present invention. Thus, the above description should not be taken as limiting the scope of the invention, which is defined by the appended claims along with their full scope of equivalents.

I claim:

1. A multi-use cleaning glove comprising:

at least two essentially congruent materials including

a first material and a second material different from said first material,

wherein said first material and said second material are bonded at least along lateral edges resulting in formation of a glove opening, and resulting in formation of a glove palm side consisting essentially of the first material running transversely from a little finger side to a thumb side of said glove and longitudinally from a distal end to at least a proximal end of said glove, and

wherein said bonding along the lateral edges also results in formation of a glove back side consisting essentially of the second material running transversely from said little finger to side to said thumb side and running longitudinally from said distal end to at least said proximal end.

2. The glove of claim **1** further comprising a water proof material forming an interior lining within said glove.

3. The glove of claim **1** wherein said first material is a scouring material.

4. The glove of claim **1** wherein said second material is a sponge and mesh material.

5. The glove of claim **1** wherein said first material is a micro-fiber cloth.

6. The glove of claim **1** wherein said second material is an electrostatic cloth.

7. The glove of claim **1** wherein said water proof material includes an elastic band at said proximal end, said elastic band configured to form a water tight seal around a user's wrist.

8. A glove having a central flexible body, said central flexible body being water proof, and said central flexible body being formed of a glove opening, a palm side and a back side, said glove comprising:

at least two essentially congruent materials including a first material and a second material that is different from the first material;

said first material being attached to a surface of said palm side of said central flexible body, said first material running transversely from a little finger side to a thumb side of said glove and running longitudinally from a tip of said glove fingers to above a wrist end of said glove, said second material being attached to a surface of said back side of said glove, said second material running transversely from said little finger side to said thumb side of said glove and running longitudinally from said tip of said glove fingers to essentially above a wrist end of said user, and

wherein lateral areas between said palm side and said back side, lateral areas of fingers remain uncovered by the first material and the second material.

9. The glove of claim **8** wherein said first material is a scouring material.

10. The glove of claim **8** wherein said second material is a sponge and mesh material.

11. The glove of claim **8** wherein said second material is a dish cloth material.

12. The glove of claim **8** wherein said first material is a micro-fiber cloth.

13. The glove of claim **8** wherein said second material is an electrostatic cloth.

14. The glove of claim **8** wherein said water proof material includes an elastic band at said proximal end, said elastic band configured to form a water tight seal around a user's wrist.

15. A multi-use cleaning glove comprising:

at least two essentially congruent materials including

a first cleaning material configured to clean household surfaces, wherein said first cleaning material is located on a palm side of said glove,

a second cleaning material different from said first cleaning material, wherein said second cleaning material is configured to clean household surfaces,

wherein said second cleaning material is located on a back side of said glove; and

a water proof material attached to said first and second cleaning materials, said water proof material configured to encapsulate a user's hand from water or other cleaning liquids.

16. The glove of claim **15** wherein said water proof material includes an elastic band at a proximal end, said elastic band configured to form a water tight seal around a user's wrist.

17. A multi-use glove cleaning system comprising:

a right hand glove consisting of at least two essentially congruent materials including

a first cleaning material configured to clean household surfaces, wherein the first cleaning material is located on a palm side of said right hand glove, and

a second cleaning material, different from said first cleaning material, configured to clean household surfaces, wherein said second cleaning material is located on a back side of said right hand glove, and

a right hand water proof material configured to encapsulate a user's hand from water or other cleaning liquids; and

a left hand glove

having said first cleaning material located on a back side of said left hand glove so that the left hand glove and the right hand glove have said first cleaning material on different sides,

wherein said second cleaning material is located on a palm side of said left hand glove so that said left hand glove and said right hand glove have the second cleaning material on different sides, and

a left hand water proof material configured to encapsulate a user's hand from water or other cleaning liquids.

18. The glove of claim **17** wherein said right hand water proof material and said left hand waterproof material includes an elastic band at a proximal end, said elastic band configured to form a water tight seal around a user's wrist.

19. The glove of claim **1** wherein said second material is a dish cloth material.

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