Nov. 1, 1955 W. T. TOMPKINS 2,722,007

BASEBALL GLOVES

Filed May 29, 1951

FIG. 1.

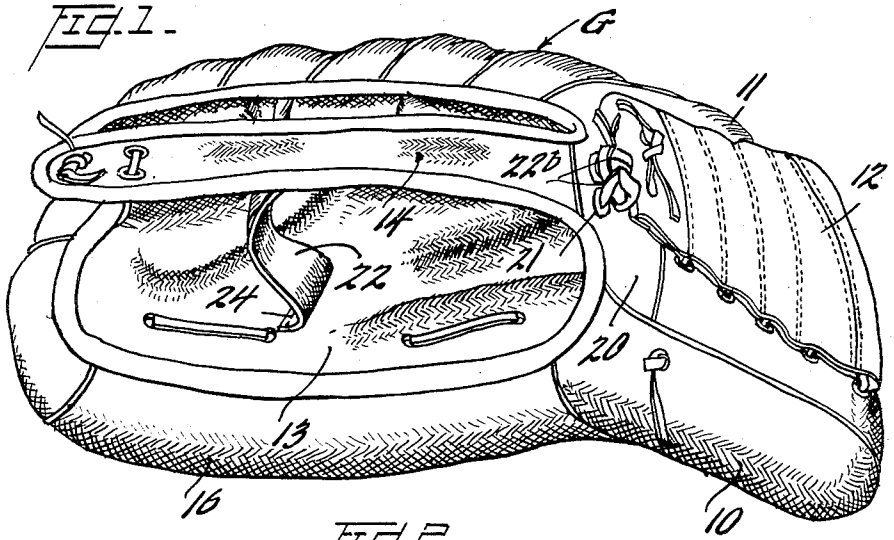


FIG. 2.

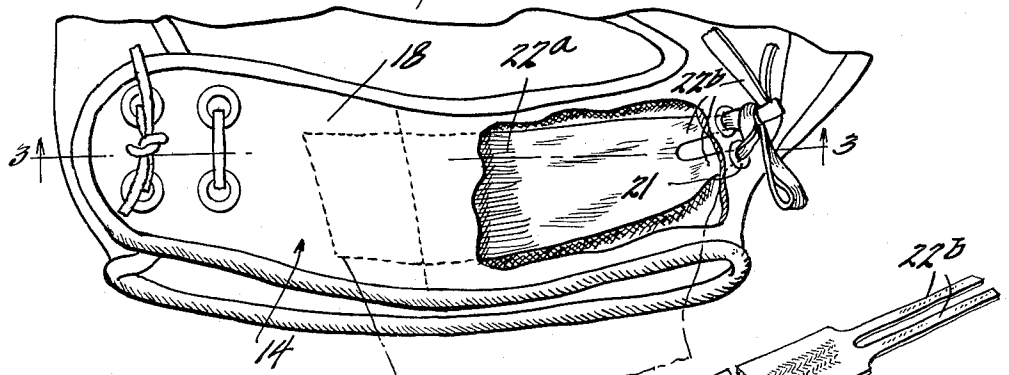


FIG. 3.

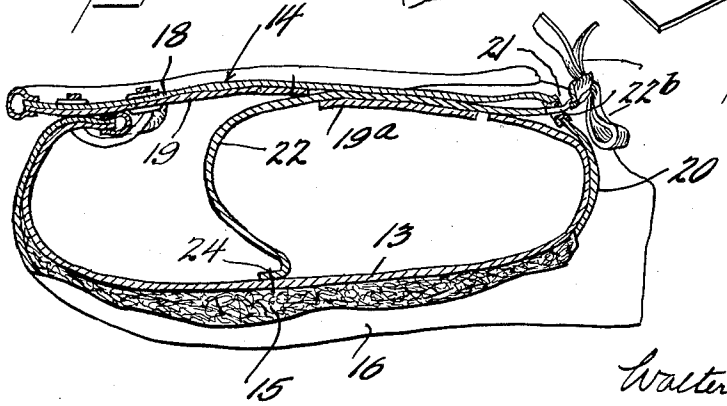


FIG. 4.

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BASEBALL GLOVES

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

This invention relates to gloves and particularly to the type of glove widely utilized by baseball players in the game of baseball.

The modern baseball glove is universally fabricated of leather and is of substantial size and weight as it is necessary to construct the glove in such manner that the baseball may be easily caught and to provide the hand of the wearer with a covering of substantial thickness in order to provide adequate protection against bruising and other injury which would otherwise result when the relatively heavy ball is to be stopped when moving at high speed. The most suitable and commonly used type of baseball glove is, in the average case, so much larger than the hand of the player who uses it that the player frequently has difficulty retaining the glove in proper position upon his hand, the opening provided for the passage of the player's hand and wrist customarily being very much larger than is necessary to accommodate the player's wrist alone. A hard hit or hard thrown ball may actually knock the glove off of the player's hand.

It has, of course, been proposed that various retaining devices may be employed for the purpose of adequately securing gloves of various types upon the hands of their wearers, adjustable wrist bands, for instance, being provided for this purpose. The present invention relates particularly to a baseball glove which is provided with a novel adjustable wrist strap which has been found to be particularly effective for the purpose intended, being capable of maintaining, when properly adjusted, the baseball glove in proper position upon the hand of the wearer despite blows, or actions on the part of the player which would otherwise displace it.

The novel and improved adjustable securing means is applied to a glove which has any conventional type of baseball glove body provided that the glove body includes a wrist piece of the type which is positioned to extend across the back of the player's wrist. The improved wrist strap is supported in part by this wrist piece, being disposed between two plies of the wrist piece. One end of the wrist strap is connected to the lining of the glove and the other end extends to the exterior of the glove body, where that end may be grasped by the player for the purpose of adjustment. The strap thus bridges or extends across the relatively large aperture defined by the glove lining and the wrist piece and forms, with the lining and the wrist piece, an aperture of less cross sectional area, the cross sectional area being made exactly the same as that of the wrist of the wearer, the glove lining, wrist piece and wrist strap together forming a wrist encircling band which may be caused to closely engage the wearer's wrist.

In the accompanying drawings one embodiment of the invention is illustrated by way of example.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows in perspective a typical baseball glove, as seen from a point in rear of the base of the glove, so that the aperture into which the player inserts his hand is prominently shown;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of portion of the glove, showing the wrist piece partially broken away in order that the wrist strap may be more clearly observed;

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the wrist strap.

It will not be necessary to describe in detail all of the features of the glove, which is generally indicated at G, since many of these features may be modified or varied at will and have no bearing upon the present invention. It may be said, however, that the glove shown is of the type which includes separate fingers and thumb, that the thumb is indicated at **10** in the drawings and is connected to the first finger **11** by means of a web member **12**. The aperture through which the player inserts his hand when putting on the glove is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 3 and may be said to be defined by the leather sheet **13** which may be designated a lining member for the palm of the glove, and the wrist piece generally indicated at **14**. The sheet **13** is backed, at the heel of the glove, by padding indicated at **15**, interposed between that sheet and the palm piece **16**.

The wrist piece **14** includes an upper ply **18** and a lower ply **19**, the upper ply being in the nature of an extension of the outer covering sheet member **20**, it being understood that the outer covering of the glove comprises a plurality of sheets of leather stitched together, such as sheets **16** and **20**. The lower ply **19** of the wrist piece is preferably a tongue-like member, the outer or free end of which is closely adjacent the outer free end of the upper ply **18**. There is formed in the lower ply **19** of the wrist piece, at a point spaced from the free end thereof, a slot which extends transversely of the wrist piece and which is of sufficient width to accommodate the wrist strap. The slot thus divides the lining **19** of the wrist piece into two portions, that portion which is remote from the free end of the wrist piece being designated **19*a***.

The wrist strap is, as clearly shown in Figure 4, formed in two portions, a generally rectangular portion **22*a*** and a terminal portion which comprises two thongs or laces **22*b*** which are integral extensions of the major portion **22*a***. That end of the major portion **22*a*** of the wrist strap which is remote from the thongs **22*b*** is firmly attached to the lining **13** of the glove by stitching indicated at **24** (Figure 3) and the opposite end of this body portion is disposed within the flat tubular passage intermediate and defined by the upper and lower plies **18** and **19*a*** of the attached end of the wrist piece, the strap passing through the transverse slot formed in the lower ply of the wrist piece, as shown in Figure 3. The strap is therefore, so to speak, snubbed at this point, or constrained to pass around the edge of the lining ply **19*a*** at the slot, and to be guided thereby. The thongs **22*b*** at the free or unattached end of the body portion **22*a*** of the wrist strap project through apertures in the outer sheet of the glove body, which apertures are protected by eyelets **21**, and are tied together exteriorly of the glove as shown in the drawings.

The portion **19*a*** of the lower ply **19** of the wrist piece is adapted to engage the back of the wrist of the wearer of the glove and the wrist strap is longitudinally slidable through the flat tubular channel defined by this portion **19*a*** of the lower ply of the wrist piece and the upper ply **18** thereof so that the wearer, after having placed the glove in position upon his hand, may tighten the wrist strap by applying tension to the protruding ends of the laces or thongs **22*b***, this tensioning causing the wrist strap to closely engage one side of the wearer's wrist, drawing the lining **13** upwardly into contact with the undersurface of the wearer's wrist and drawing the sheet **19*a*** downwardly, the result being that the wrist of the wearer is closely engaged by an encircling band and the glove thus secured upon his hand in such manner as to avoid all pos-

sibility of accidental loss. It may, of course, be easily released by untying the thongs.

While the wrist strap of the glove has been described as capable of being tightened to such an extent as to closely engage the wrist of the wearer, it will be understood that in many cases the wearer will desire only to tighten the strap to such extent that the sidewise movement of the wrist within the wrist opening will be restricted, not prevented entirely, so as to avoid the untying and retying of the strap each time the glove is removed or put on. When such an adjustment is to be made the wearer will select that position of the strap that is most suitable to his needs, i. e. to confine the wrist sufficiently closely to prevent inadvertent dislodgment of the glove, yet sufficiently loose to permit the hand to be inserted therethrough and removed therefrom, and allow the strap to remain in that position of adjustment until there is reason to make a change.

It will be appreciated that the apertures formed in the outer covering of the glove for the passage of the thongs or laces may be located at various distances from the free end of the wrist piece but, when located in the approximate positions in which they are shown in the drawings, the knot formed by the tying together of the projecting thongs is advantageously located.

The invention is of great simplicity and may be embodied in baseball gloves which vary substantially in details of design. In each instance, however, the wrist strap is in cooperative relationship with the wrist piece of the glove, substantially in the manner shown in the drawings.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A baseball glove having a body comprising a padded front portion and a back portion secured together to provide finger and thumb stalls having adjacent open ends, said back portion being formed to provide side marginal portions between which is exposed, at least in part, the back of the hand of one wearing the glove, a wrist piece extending from the lower edge of one marginal portion to the other to overlie the wrist of the wearer, said glove body being of substantially greater width than the hand of the wearer and forming with said wrist piece an elongated aperture for the passage of the hand of the wearer, and within which the wearer's wrist is disposed when the glove is in use, and a wrist strap extending transversely across said elongated aperture, intermediately of the ends thereof, from said body to said wrist piece and defining with said wrist piece and adjacent areas of said body, a wrist receiving aperture which is smaller in area than said elongated aperture, and means for anchoring said wrist strap in its transversely extending position.

2. A baseball glove comprising a body including a shell and a lining in the shell, said shell having spaced side marginal portions partly defining a hand opening substantially the width of said body, said body being substantially wider than the hand of a player wearing the glove, a wrist piece secured to said shell extending from one side margin to the other across said hand opening, a wrist strap adjusting the effective width of the hand opening, said wrist strap including a sling portion in the hand opening between said wrist piece and lining and having two anchoring portions for said sling portion, one of said anchoring portions being in said body and the other anchoring portion adjustable in said wrist strap for tightening and slackening said sling portion in the hand opening, and a fastening knot for said adjustable anchoring portion for fixing the latter in adjusted position, said sling portion being located substantially a hand's breadth from the thumb side of the hand opening and inwardly of the side margin of the little finger side.

3. A baseball glove having a glove body comprising a padded front portion and a back portion secured together to provide finger and thumb stalls having adjacent open ends, said back portion being formed to provide side marginal portions between which is exposed, at least in part, the back of the hand of one wearing the glove, a wrist piece extending from one said marginal portion to the other to overlie the wrist of the wearer, a portion of said wrist piece being formed as a flat tube, said wrist piece and said glove body together defining an elongated aperture for the passage of the hand of one wearing the glove and within which the wearer's wrist is disposed when the glove is in use, and a wrist strap extending transversely across said aperture intermediately of the ends thereof from said body portion to said wrist piece, and defining with said wrist piece and adjacent areas of the glove body a wrist receiving aperture which is smaller in area than said elongated aperture, said wrist strap in part being within said flat tube defined by said wrist piece, means securing one end of said wrist strap to said glove body, the opposite end thereof comprising thongs extending outwardly from said flat tube for tying the wrist strap to the glove body.

4. A baseball glove having a glove body comprising a padded front portion and a back portion secured together to provide finger and thumb stalls having adjacent open ends, said back portion being formed to provide side marginal portions between which is exposed, at least in part, the back of the hand of one wearing the glove, a wrist piece extending from one side marginal portion to the other to overlie the wrist of the wearer, said glove body being substantially wider than the hand of the wearer and together with said wrist piece defining an elongated aperture for the passage of the hand of the wearer and within which the wearer's wrist is disposed when the glove is in use, a means for aiding the wearer to retain the glove on his hand comprising a wrist strap at one end fixed to the glove body and extending from the body to said wrist piece, intermediate the ends of said elongated aperture, at a point to position the strap alongside the little finger side of the wrist of the wearer, said wrist strap defining with said wrist piece and adjacent areas of said glove body a wrist receiving aperture which is smaller in area than said elongated aperture, the other end of said wrist strap being anchored to said glove in position thereon to retain said wrist strap in said position alongside the wrist of the wearer.

5. A baseball glove having a glove body comprising a padded front portion and a back portion secured together to provide finger and thumb stalls having adjacent open ends, said back portion being formed to provide side marginal portions between which is exposed, at least in part, the back of the hand of one wearing the glove, a wrist piece extending from one side marginal portion to the other to overlie the wrist of the wearer, said glove body being substantially wider than the hand of the wearer and together with said wrist piece defining an elongated hand opening for the passage of the hand of the wearer and within which the wearer's wrist is disposed when the glove is in use, a means for aiding the wearer to retain the glove on his hand comprising a wrist strap, including a sling portion, at one end fixed to the glove body and extending from the body to said wrist piece, intermediate the ends of said elongated hand opening, at a point to position the said sling portion alongside the little finger side of the wrist of the wearer, said wrist strap defining with said wrist piece and adjacent areas of said glove body a hand opening smaller in area than said elongated hand opening, said wrist strap being adjustably anchored on said glove for tightening and slackening said sling portion in the said hand opening.

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