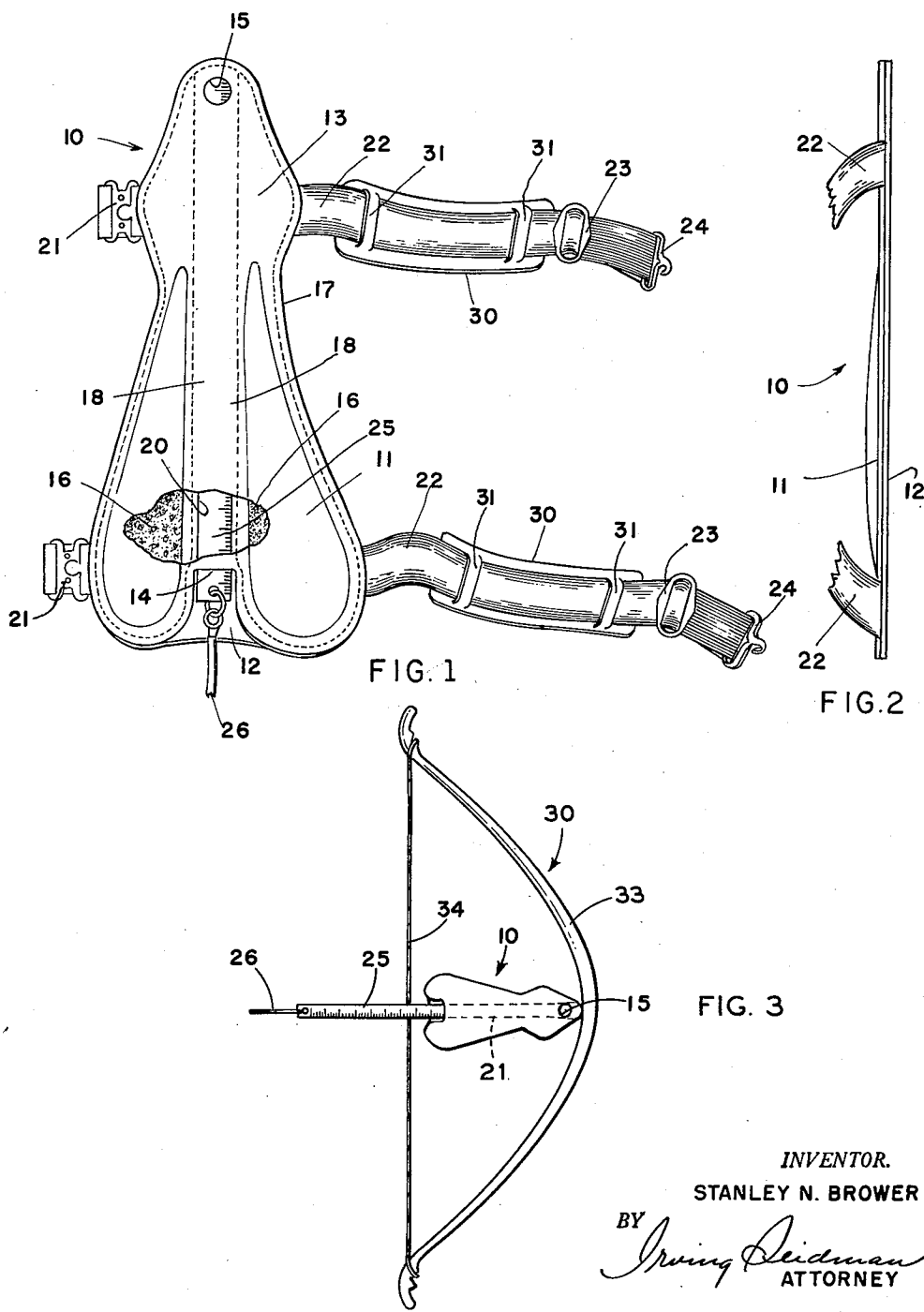


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S. N. BROWER
ARCHER'S ARM GUARD
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ARCHER'S ARM GUARD

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This invention relates to archers' arm guards and, more particularly, to a novel archer's arm guard incorporating improved constructional features including a metal insert functioning both as a stiffening reinforcement and as a tape for measuring the distance between the handle and string of a braced bow.

Archers use protectors on their arms to avoid possible injury when the string is released to project the arrow. The snap of the string toward the handle of the bow can cause injury to the hand or arm holding the bow, particularly when repeated as during discharge of a series of arrows.

As presently constructed, such arm guards comprise padding material covered with leather or fabric and having straps for securing the guard to the arm. Perspiration soaking into these straps greatly shortens their useful life. In addition, perspiration can cause softening and "wilting" of the guard pad so that it no longer maintains its proper disposition on the arm. There has been a demand for an improved and stiffer arm guard less subject to deterioration from exposure to perspiration and moisture generally.

For best marksmanship, it is important that the archer know the "brace height" of his bow. This is the distance between the string and handle of a strung but undrawn bow. Once the proper brace height for best results has been established, it is desirable to maintain it constant.

However, the brace height varies with weather or atmospheric conditions, due to stretching of the string under humid conditions. Also, bows are re-strung at intervals, and any variation in the effective string length will vary the brace height. There is a need for readily available means for constantly checking the brace height.

In accordance with the invention, a novel archer's arm guard is provided which is highly resistant to deterioration and loss of shape due to exposure to moisture, such as perspiration, and has incorporated therein, as a structural element thereof, means for readily checking the brace height of a bow.

More specifically, the improved arm guard comprises a cushion filler, of foam rubber or equivalent material covered on both faces by pieces of relatively strong and wear-resistant material, such as natural or artificial leather. The coverings are stitched together along their peripheries and also along a pair of parallel seams extending centrally along the guard. These parallel seams define an elongated pocket open adjacent one end of the guard, one covering having, adjacent the other end of the guard, an access opening into the pocket.

This pocket removably receives a graduated steel tape having a thong attached thereto and extending from the open end of the pocket. The steel tape is normally completely enclosed in the pocket, except for the thong, and acts as a stiffener retaining the arm guard in its proper shape. However, the steel tape may be withdrawn from the guard and utilized to measure the brace height of the bow, the tape thus constituting a single element having dual functions. The tape is of sufficient length that it need not be completely withdrawn from its pocket for use in measuring the brace height, which latter may be, for example, of the order of 8 inches.

The means for attaching the arm guard to the arm comprises a pair of buckles secured to one side edge of the guard and a pair of adjustable length elastic bands having means at their outer ends cooperable with the

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buckles. Each elastic band has adjustably mounted thereon a leather sweat band which underlies the elastic band.

For an understanding of the invention principles, reference is made to the following description of a typical embodiment thereof as illustrated in the accompanying drawing. In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is an outside elevation view of the improved arm guard for archers;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view thereof; and

FIG. 3 is an elevation view of a bow illustrating the arm guard as used in measuring the brace height.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the arm guard 10 comprises a pair of outer coverings 11, 12 of leather or equivalent wear-resistant material somewhat tapered, in plan, from end to end, except for a widened portion 13. The narrow end of covering 11 has a preferably circular opening 15 adjacent one end and preferably centered, and its opposite or wider end is centrally recessed as at 14.

Tapered cushion inserts 16, 16 of foam rubber or its equivalent are disposed between the wider ends of the coverings, in laterally spaced preferably symmetrical relation. The coverings 11, 12 are stitched together around their peripheries, as at 17, and also along a pair of spaced, parallel, central seams 18, 18 each forming a continuation of a seam 17.

Seams 18 define a pocket 20 closed at the narrow end of the guard and opening into recess 14. Pocket 20 receives a graduated spring steel rule 25 having a length somewhat less than that of pocket 20. A thong 26 is attached to the outer end of rule 25 so that the rule may be easily pulled out for use in measuring the brace height of a bow. Tape 25 acts as a reinforcing stiffener for the arm guard, resisting deformation and loss of shape thereof.

The arm guard 10 has a definite length, for example 6 inches, and thus forms a part of the measuring means. The rule 25 is pulled out so that the measurement indicated by the pulled-out portion thereof, with reference to the end of the arm guard adjacent the open end of pocket 20, plus the length of the body portion of the arm guard, gives the desired brace height.

On one side of the arm guard, a pair of buckles 21 are attached thereto by tapes sewn between the coverings by one seam 17. One buckle is adjacent portion 13 and the other adjacent the wider end of guard 10. On the opposite side of the guard, a pair of elastic bands or straps 22 have their inner ends stitched between the coverings 11 and 12 by the other seam 17, each band 22 being aligned with a buckle 21. Bands 22 are passed through length adjusters 23 and hooks 24, and have their free ends secured to adjusters 22, the effective lengths of bands 22 being thus easily adjustable. Hooks 24 are adapted to engage buckles 21.

Between its inner end and its associated adjuster 23, each elastic band 22 has slidably mounted thereon a leather sweat band 30 which underlies the elastic band, bands 22 passing beneath strap portions 31 of sweat bands 30. Sweat bands 30 protect elastic bands 22 against absorption of perspiration.

To use rule 25 to measure the brace height of a bow, the rule is extended from pocket 20 by pulling thong 26 outwardly. The rule may then be placed between the handle 33 and string 34 of a bow 30. Should thong 26 become detached from rule 25, access to the rule is provided through hole 15 in covering 11, this hole intersecting pocket 20.

While a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the invention principles, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

1. An arm guard for archers comprising, in combination, a pair of elongated mating coverings of wear-resistant material of a length and width to substantially cover the forearm of the archer, said coverings secured together along a pair of laterally spaced parallel longitudinal lines defining a longitudinally extending pocket; an elongated substantially flat strip of resilient metal within said pocket and acting as a stiffening reinforcement for the archer's arm guard; and tie means attached to the sides of the arm guard to secure the latter on an archer's arm.

2. An arm guard for archers comprising, in combination, a pair of elongated mating coverings of wear-resistant material of a length and width to substantially cover the forearm of the archer, said coverings secured together along a pair of laterally spaced parallel longitudinal seams defining a longitudinally extending pocket, and along their peripheral margins; an elongated substantially flat strip of resilient metal within said pocket and acting as a stiffening reinforcement for the archer's arm guard; and means attached to the sides of the arm guard to secure the latter on an archer's arm.

3. An arm guard for archers comprising, in combination, a pair of elongated mating coverings of wear-resistant material of a length and width to substantially cover the forearm of the archer, said coverings secured together along a pair of laterally spaced parallel longitudinal seams defining a longitudinally extending pocket, and along their peripheral margins; an elongated substantially flat strip of resilient metal within said pocket and acting as a stiffening reinforcement for the archer's arm guard; pads of cushioning material disposed between said coverings on each side of said pocket; and tie means attached to the sides of the arm guard to secure the latter on an archer's arm.

4. An arm guard for archers comprising, in combination, a pair of elongated mating coverings of wear-resistant material of a length and width to substantially cover the forearm of the archer, said coverings secured together along a pair of laterally spaced parallel longitudinal seams defining a longitudinally extending pocket, and along their peripheral margins; an elongated substantially flat strip of resilient metal within said pocket and acting as a stiffening reinforcement for the archer's arm guard; tie means attached to the sides of the archer's arm guard to secure the latter on an archer's arm; and sweat bands mounted on said tie means.

5. An arm guard as claimed in claim 1 in which said pocket has an open end and said strip is removable from said pocket.

6. An arm guard as claimed in claim 3 in which said strip is a graduated spring steel rule useable conjointly with the archer's arm guard in measuring the brace height of a bow and a thong attached to said rule and extending from said pocket.

7. An arm guard as claimed in claim 6 in which said rule is shorter than said pocket, one covering having a pocket access opening adjacent the closed end of said pocket.

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