June 30, 1936. H. B. LATINA 2,046,126

BASE FOR THE GAME OF BASEBALL

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FIG. 1.

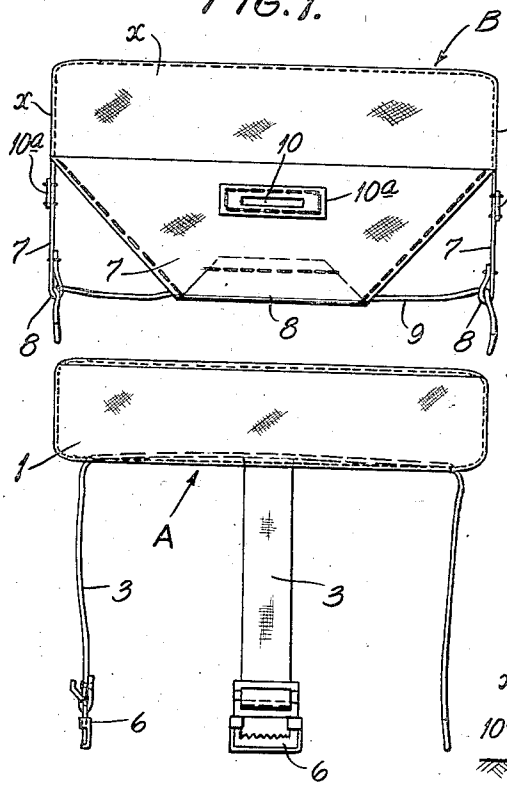



FIG. 3.

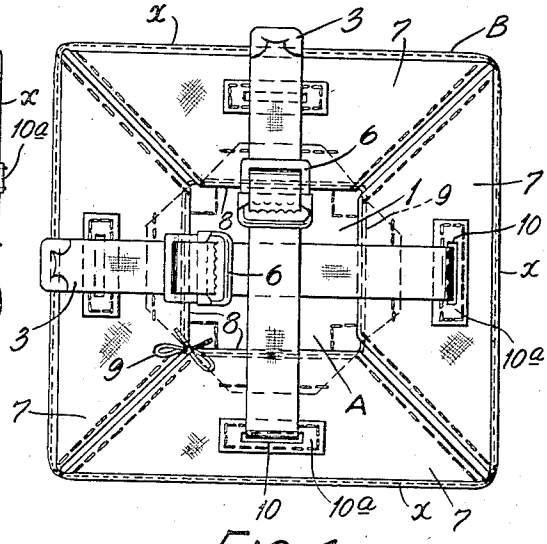



FIG. 4.

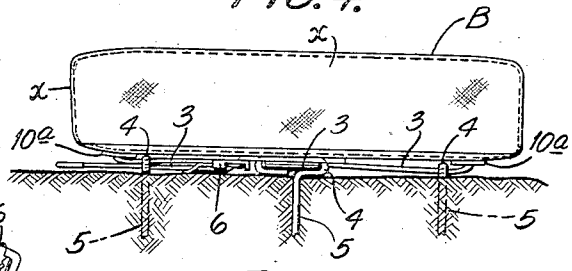



FIG. 2.

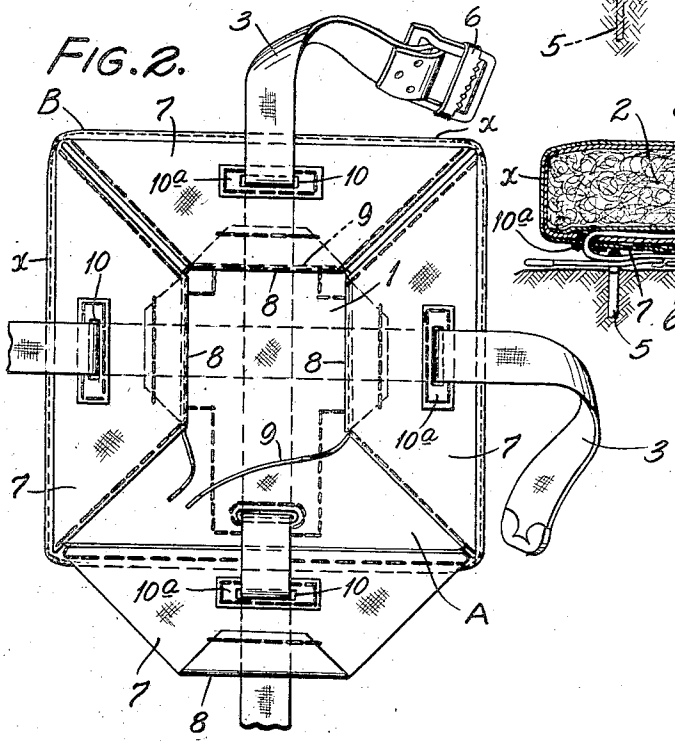
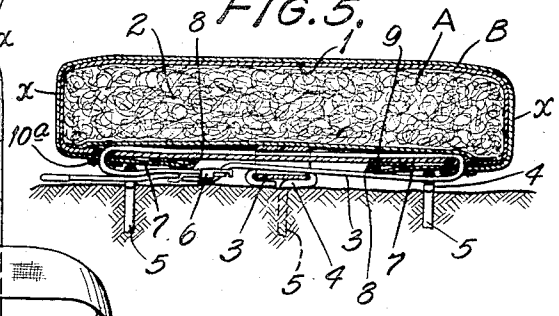



FIG. 5.




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FIG. 6.

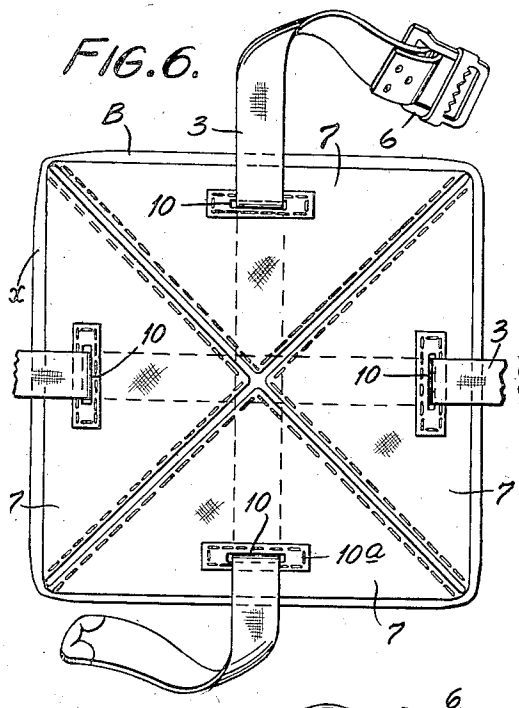



FIG. 8.

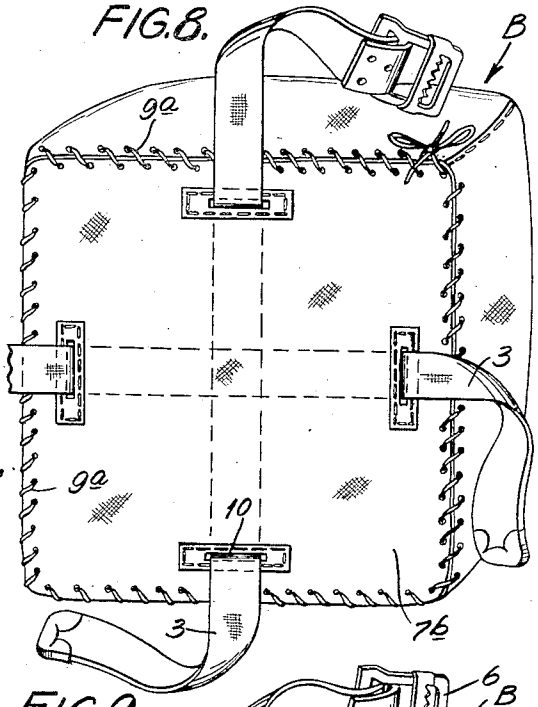



FIG. 7.

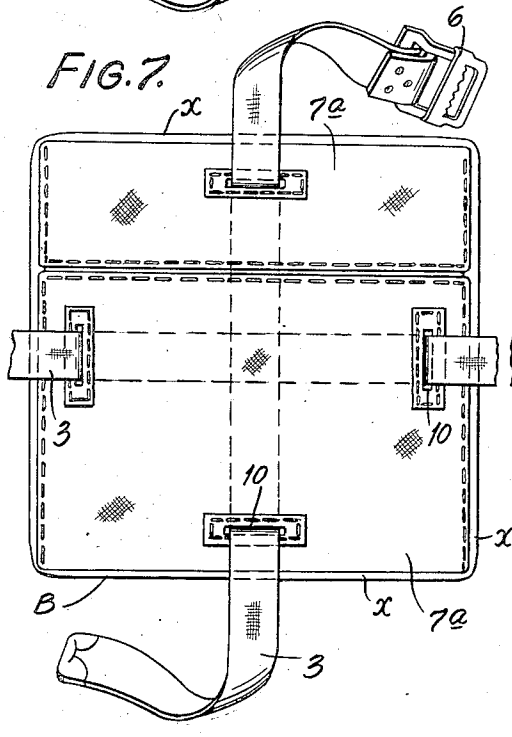
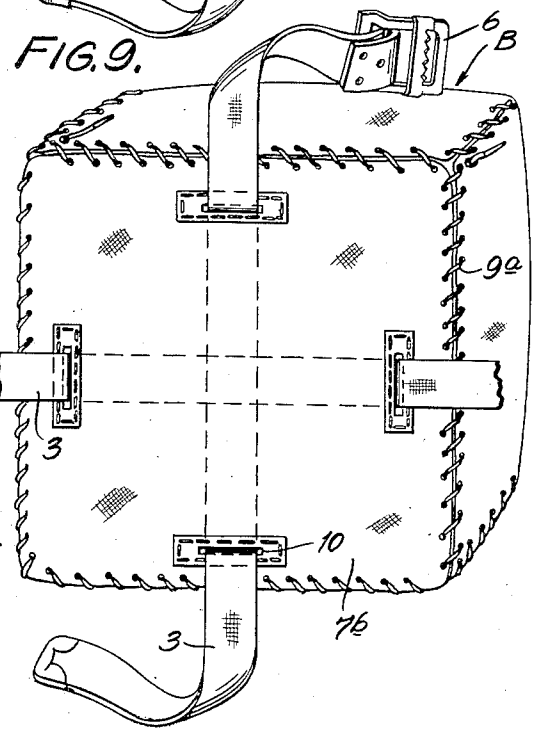



FIG. 9.




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FIG. 10.

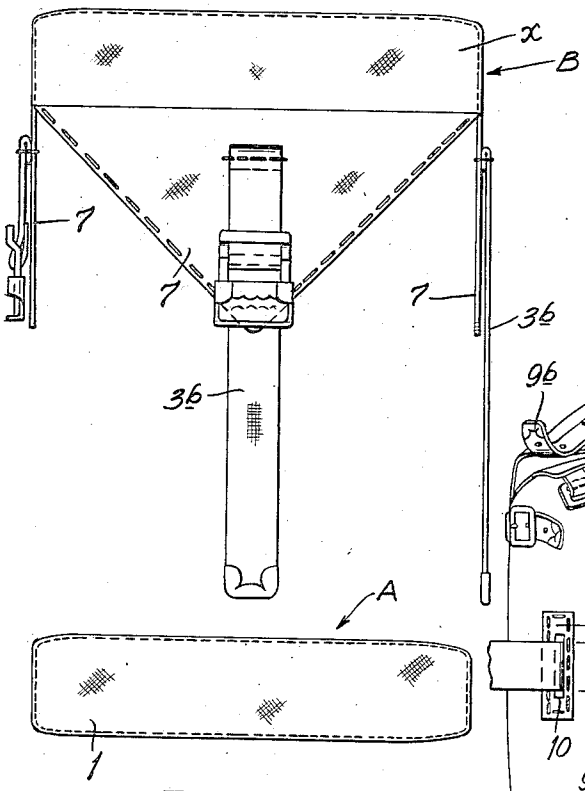



FIG. 12.

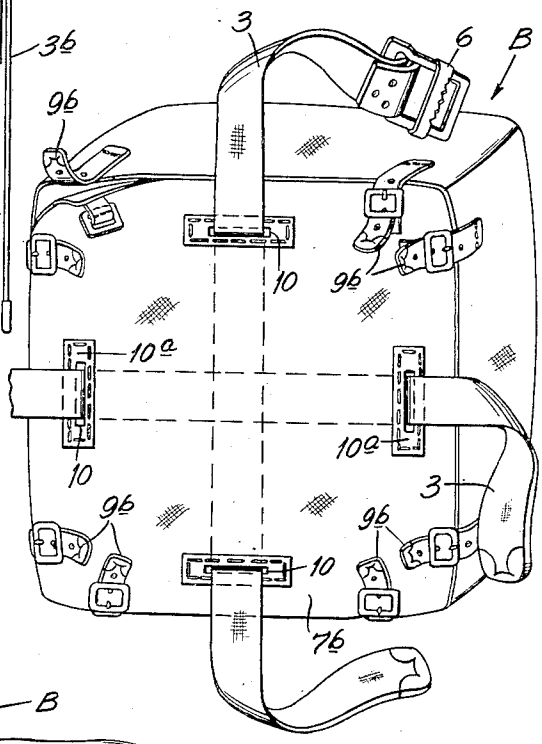
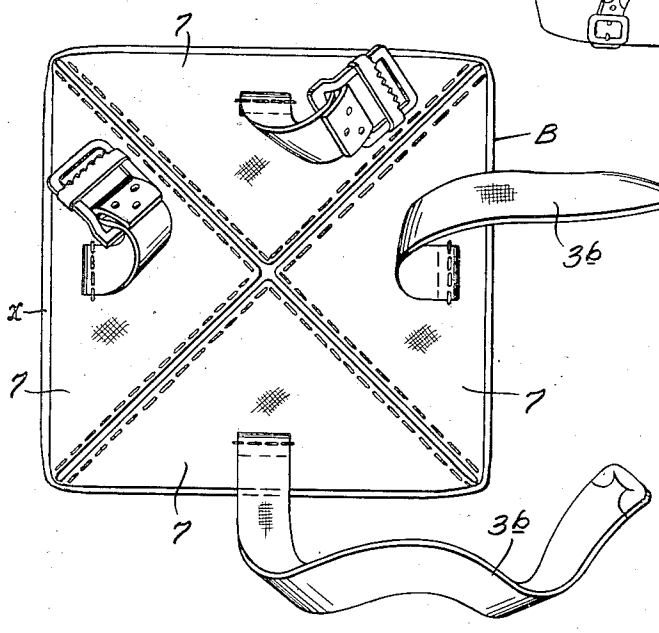



FIG. 11.




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Patented June 30, 1936 2,046,126

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,046,126

## BASE FOR THE GAME OF BASEBALL

Harry B. Latina, East St. Louis, Ill., assignor to Rawlings Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, Mo., a corporation of Missouri

Application July 15, 1935, Serial No. 31,344

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—25)

This invention relates to a novel baseball base.

The conventional base used in the game of baseball is composed of a casing made of canvas or other suitable fabric filled with hair or the like, and provided with one or more straps or strips of webbing that pass through eyes or loops in retaining pins or pegs which are inserted in the ground to hold the base in position. Due to the fact that the shoes of baseball players are invariably equipped with cleats or other sharp metallic anti-slipping devices, the casing of a baseball base is very apt to become cut or torn by the shoes of the players. When this happens, it is necessary to completely rebuild the base, as it is impossible to repair or renew the casing without first removing the padding or stuffing material. Hence, the cost of keeping baseball bases in a usable condition is an item of considerable expense to a ball club.

My invention has for its main object to provide a baseball base that can be repaired quickly and easily and at a fraction of the cost of repairing a conventional base whose casing has become torn or cut.

Another object of the invention is to provide a baseball base, which is of such design or construction that the straps or strips which secure the base to the ground are concealed from view and disposed in such a way that they cannot possibly form an external projection on the base that is liable to trip and throw a player.

To this end I propose to equip a baseball base with a removable cover or outer casing, separate and distinct from the casing that confines the hair or other padding material of the base, and mounted on or combined with the stuffed or padded part of the base in such a way that it conceals the portions of the retaining straps or strips used to secure the base to the ground. Said outer casing is preferably made of heavy canvas or other relatively strong, closely woven fabric, and it can be combined with the padded part of the base or held in operative position thereon in various ways without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Figure 1 of the drawings is an exploded view of my improved base, showing the inner, padded or stuffed part of the base, and the outer part consisting of a removable cover or casing separate and distinct from the casing of said inner part.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view, illustrating the method of applying the outer part or cover to the inner, padded part of the structure.

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of the structure shown in Figures 1 and 2, after the removable outer casing has been installed and confined in position.

Figure 4 is an edge view of my improved base, showing it attached to the ground.

Figure 5 is a vertical transverse sectional view of said base.

Figures 6 and 7 are bottom plan views.

Figures 8 and 9 are perspective views, illustrating other forms of my invention.

Figure 10 is an exploded view of a base constructed in accordance with my invention, in which the retaining straps or strips that secure the structure to the ground, are attached directly to the removable outer casing.

Figure 11 is a bottom plan view of the structure shown in Figure 10, after the removable outer casing has been installed; and

Figure 12 is a perspective view of still another form of my invention, in which the removable outer casing is composed of a top piece and a bottom piece detachably connected together by straps and buckles.

Referring to Figures 1 to 5, inclusive, of the drawings, A designates a conventional baseball base composed of a fabric casing 1 filled with curled hair 2 or other suitable stuffing or padding material, and provided on its under side with slits through which one or more straps or strips 3 of webbing or the like are inserted in such a way that said strips extend transversely of the base on the interior of same, and then transversely across the underside of the base through loops or eyes 4 in pegs 5 that are adapted to be forced into the ground, so as to hold the base in position, said retaining straps or strips 3 being provided with buckles 6. In order to protect the base A from injury, it is provided with a removable outer cover B, made of canvas or other suitable fabric, and constructed in such a way that it can be easily removed from or applied to said base. In the event said cover B becomes torn or ripped, it can be easily removed and repaired or replaced at a fraction of the cost of repairing or replacing the casing 1 of a conventional baseball base which surrounds and confines the padding or stuffing material of the base. To state it in another way, a tear or rip in the fabric casing of a conventional base makes it necessary to remove the stuffing material 2, then repair the casing 1 or substitute a new casing, and then refill or restuff said casing, which procedure is relatively costly. With my improved base, if the outer casing B becomes torn or ripped, it can be easily taken off and repaired, and replaced without disturbing the stuffing material 2 of the base, due, of course, to the

fact that said stuffing material is confined in a separate casing 1. Moreover, a tear or rip in the outer casing B will not render the base unusable, because said outer cover B is not relied upon to hold or confine the stuffing material of the base. In the form of my invention illustrated in Figures 1 to 5, inclusive, the outer casing B is of substantially box shape in general form or outline, and the sides or edge portions $x$ of same which depend from the top piece, are provided with a plurality of tapered or wedge-shaped flaps 7, which are disposed on the underside of the inner part A of the structure, said flaps being provided with open-ended casings 8 through which a drawstring 9 is inserted, as shown in Figure 2. The flaps 7 are also provided with slits 10 through which the retaining straps 3 pass, as shown in Figure 2, said slits 10 preferably having reinforcements $10^a$ of leather or other suitable material. After the outer casing B has been slipped over the base A, the drawstring 9 is tightened so as to confine said casing in position and cause it to snugly embrace the base A and lie smooth thereon. The retaining straps or strips 3 are then inserted through the slits in the flaps of the outer casing and throught the slits in the inner stuffed part A of the structure, and after the pegs 5 have been strung on said retaining straps 3, the buckles 6 of said straps are tightened, thereby securely binding the removable outer casing B to the stuffed or padded part A of the base in such a way that it is impossible for said outer casing to become accidentally displaced.

Inasmuch as the retaining straps 3 pass through the flaps 7 of the removable outer casing B, the drawstring previously mentioned may be omitted, as shown in Figure 6. Nor is it essential that the flaps on the side or edge pieces $x$ of the removable outer casing B be made of tapered form. If desired, the underside of the removable outer casing of the structure may be formed by two flaps $7^a$, as shown in Figure 7.

In Figure 8 I have shown the removable outer casing B as being formed by a top part that covers the top face and side edges of the base A, and a bottom part $7^b$ that is detachably connected to said top part by a lacing $9^a$. Figure 9 illustrates a similar structure in which the top part of the outer casing has slit corners that are laced together. Instead of using a lacing or lacings to detachably connect the top and bottom parts of the outer casing B together, said parts may be held together by straps $9^b$ provided with buckles, as shown in Figure 12.

While I prefer to construct my improved base so that the retaining straps or strips which connect the structure to the ground, pass through the stuffed inner part A of the structure, as previously explained, this is not absolutely essential. If desired, retaining straps $3^b$ that are adapted to be inserted through eyes or loops in retaining pegs, may be secured directly to flaps 7 on the removable outer casing B, as shown in Figures 10 and 11. In all of the various forms of my invention above described, the stuffed or padded part A of the structure, is effectively protected by a rugged outer casing B that can be easily removed for repair or replacement, and which conceals the retaining straps or strips and prevents them from forming external projections on the structure that might be liable to trip and throw a player.

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

1. A removable casing for a baseball base, made of canvas or the like and provided with flaps adapted to be positioned on the underside of said base, said flaps having reinforced slits that are adapted to receive a retaining strap for securing the base to the ground.

2. A removable casing for a baseball base, made of canvas or the like and provided with flaps adapted to be positioned on the underside of said base, and a drawstring arranged in casings in said flaps for drawing said casing into snug engagement with the base.

3. A removable casing for a baseball base provided with a portion that is adapted to lie on the underside of the base, said portion having slits in same, and a retaining means for securing the structure to the ground, adapted to be positioned in said slits.

4. A removable casing for a baseball base provided with a plurality of flaps adapted to be positioned on the underside of the base, and a retaining strap for securing the structure to the ground, adapted to be arranged transversely across the underside of the casing and positioned in slits in some of said flaps.

HARRY B. LATINA.