

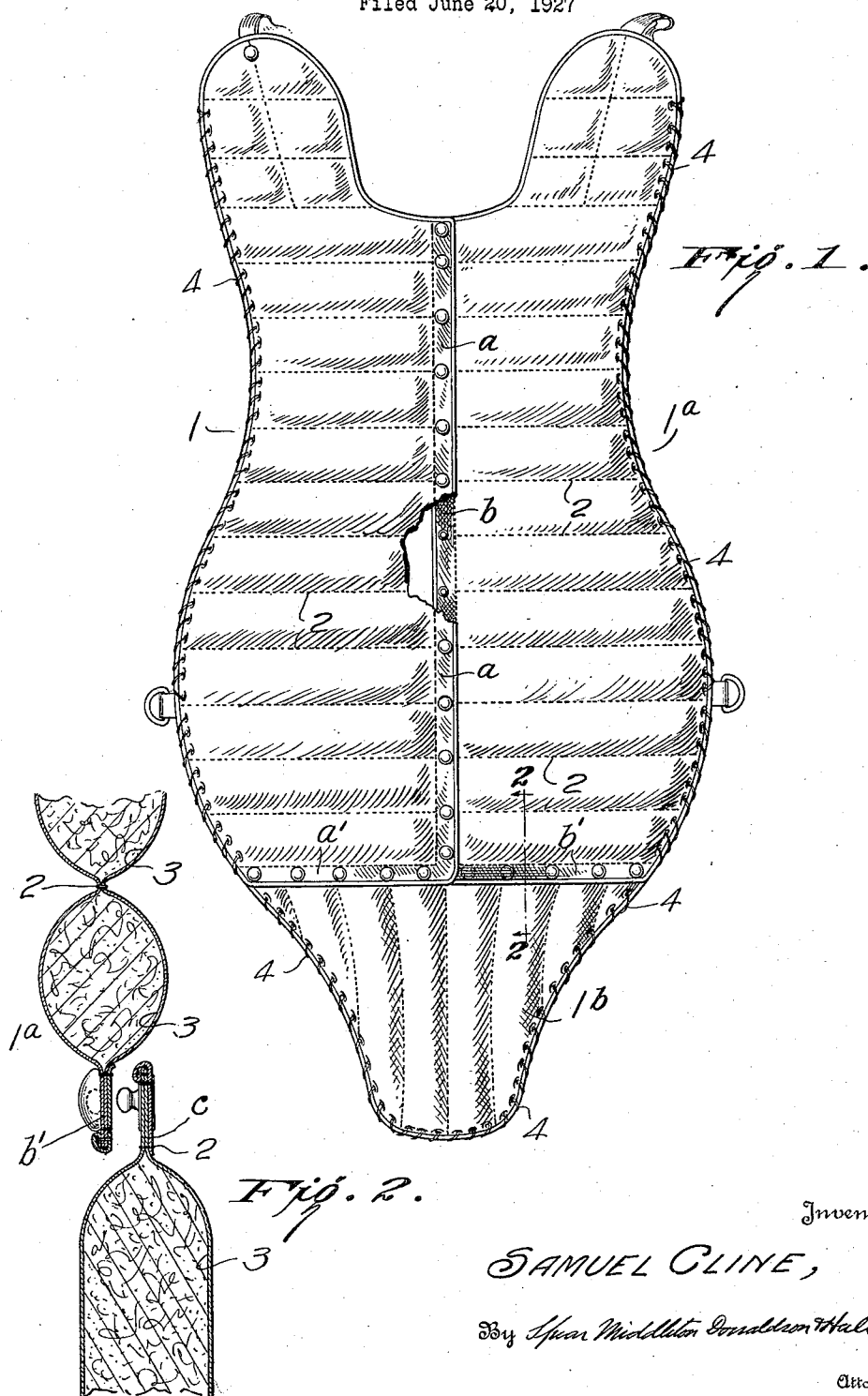
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BODY PROTECTOR

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BODY PROTECTOR.

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My said invention relates to improvements in body protectors such as are used by base ball catchers.

Such protectors as heretofore constructed have been one-piece or unitary articles, and as they are heavily padded to afford the desired protection from the impact of the ball, they are too stiff to fold and hence are so bulky as to require too much space when packed with the base ball equipment.

The present invention aims to provide a protector which will be free from such objections and be capable of being readily packed in a much smaller space.

With these and other objects in view, the invention includes the novel construction hereinafter described and defined by the appended claim.

What I at present consider the preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the protector with the attaching straps omitted, and

Fig. 2 is a sectional detail.

Referring by reference characters to this drawing, the protector is shown as comprising (for example) three sections designated respectively 1, 1^a and 1^b, the two former being separable along a vertical medial line, and the latter being connected to the lower edges of the two former.

Each of these sections is composed of front and back layers of material such as fabric of the requisite strength provided with rows of stitching 2 to form intervening pockets 3 which are stuffed with padding material inserted through the open outer ends of the pockets, which are closed by the lacing 4. The inner or juxtaposed edges of the sections 1 and 1^a are provided with narrow web extensions *a* and *b* (in-

tegral) and means are provided by which these edges may be readily attached and detached.

Such means may be of any suitable character, but I prefer to use snap fasteners of the ball and socket type, as indicated. Preferably these are arranged in substantial alinement with the rows of stitching, as thereby I can use narrower web extensions without interfering with the operation of the snap fasteners, and thus avoid undue space between the padded portions.

In a similar manner the lower edges of the sections 1 and 1^a are provided with the web extensions *a'* and *b'* which cooperate with the web extensions *c* on the lower section 1^b by means of similar fastening means. The ribs of the lower section formed by the stitches and padding in the intervening pockets, run vertically on the lower section instead of horizontally, as in the upper sections, and the male fastener elements of the lower section are likewise alined with the rows of stitching as shown.

A protector such as above described may be readily packed in a relatively small space for traveling by merely disconnecting the fastener means and superimposing the separated sections upon each other; and they may be as readily connected for use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A body protector for base ball catchers comprising a plurality of sections having cushion ribs, said sections having marginal web extensions, and fastener elements for detachably connecting said web extensions, said fastener elements being located in line with spaces between the ribs.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

SAMUEL CLINE.