April 6, 1943. C. G. WELLS 2,315,889

MITTEN

Filed July 28, 1942

Fig. 1

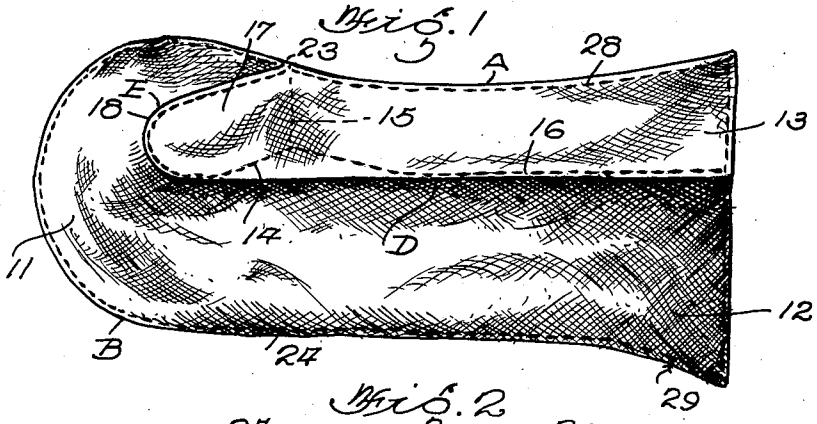


Fig. 2

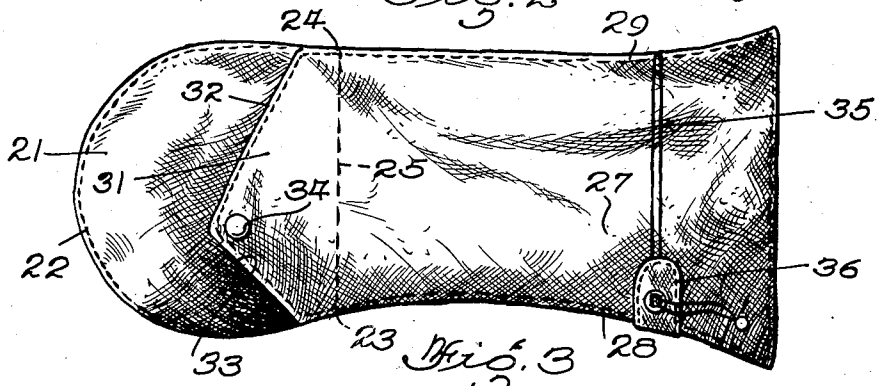


Fig. 3

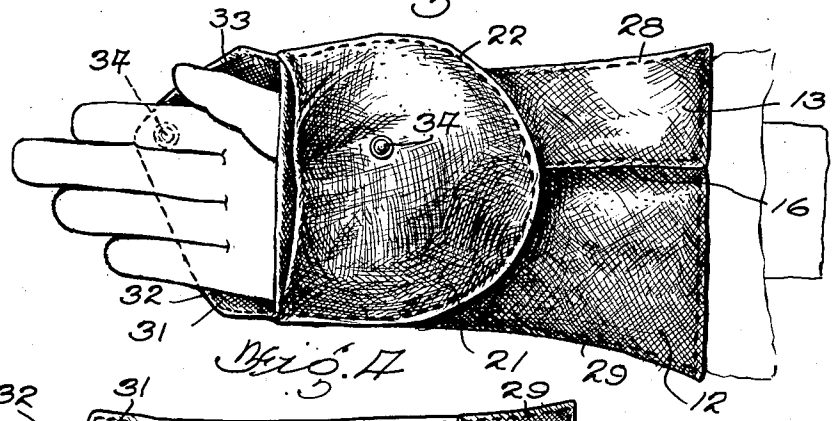
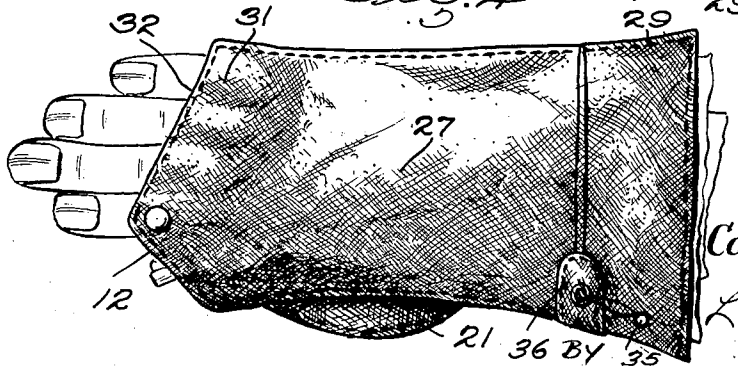


Fig. 4



INVENTOR.
Carroll G. Wells
L. F. Hammand
Attorney

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2,315,889

MITTEN

Carroll G. Wells, Washington, D. C.

Application July 28, 1942, Serial No. 452,601

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—158)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

The present invention relates to mittens, and more particularly to a novel camouflage mitten having an exterior surface of patterned fabric designed to blend with the appearance of the natural surroundings in which military troops may be operating and to thereby afford the greatest possible protection to the individual soldier; the mittens being arranged, however, so that the palm, the thumb, and back portion of the hand may be folded back along the wrist of the mitten so that the soldier may uncover the fingers of the hand and make possible the efficient use of fire arms.

In connection with the present disclosure, it may be pointed out that in many fields of modern warfare the use of camouflage uniforms is regarded as an absolute essential, and that in order to secure the best results it is necessary that all portions of a soldier's body be covered by large loose clothing having an irregular pattern of variegated colors. Preferably, all parts of the uniform are sufficiently large so as not to follow the lines of bodily contour closely, so that the camouflaging effect of the pattern of the cloth shall be as effective as possible.

The principal object of the present invention, therefore, resides in the provision of a large, over-sized, loosely fitting camouflaged mitten of novel design and construction such as to permit the complete concealment of the hands of a soldier and yet having a transverse joint so designed that a portion of the mitten may be separated and folded back to permit free use of the soldier's hands.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing attached to and forming a part of the present specification,

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a mitten constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present disclosure.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the thumb and hand portions of the mitten folded back to permit use of the fingers, and

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view of the mitten in the position illustrated in Fig. 3.

The entire mitten is preferably formed of thin fabric having an over-all camouflage pattern (not shown) that may be of any one of several designs formed to afford a high degree of protection against observation. The mitten illustrated in the drawings comprises the present preferred embodiment of the invention, and includes a front side, a back, and a thumb. The front side may be said, generally, to consist of a flat palm portion 11, a flat wrist portion 12, and a thumb insert 13. The upper side of the wrist portion 12 is cut away to form an inside thumb piece 14, which is folded on the fold line 15 to project forwardly in face to face relationship to the palm portion 11 of the mitten. The upper surface of the front of the glove is formed by an extension of the thumb insert 13 sewed to the wrist portion 12 along the seam 16, and the material 13 includes a forward extension 17 united to the thumb 13 by the stitching 18 to form the outside of the thumb.

The back side of the mitten consists of a back hand portion 21 united to the palm portion 11 of the front of the mitten by a line of stitching 22 extending from the point 23 at the base of the thumb completely around the palm 11 to the point 24 directly across from the point 23. Thus, the back portion 21 includes a straight edge 25 extending directly across the back of the mitten and at right angles to the edges of the palm or front and back sides, and this edge 25 is located to correspond with the fold 14 of the thumb for purposes that will hereafter appear. It will also be noted that the back hand of the portion of the mitten is entirely independent from the back wrist portion and is supported wholly by the stitching 22 to which it is joined to the palm 21.

The back wrist section 27 consists of a single piece of fabric material having one edge joined to the thumb and front wrist insert 13 by a line of stitching 28 and having its other opposite edge joined to the lower edge of the wrist portion 12 by the line of stitching 29. The stitching 28 extends from the point 23 to the rear extremity of the glove and the stitching 29 also extends from the point 24 to the rear extremity of the glove.

The rear wrist portion 27 includes a pointed flap 31 extending over the edge 25 of the rear hand portion 21 and including side edges 32 and 33 tapering inwardly to a snap fastner 34, which serves to unite the rear or back wrist portion with the back hand portion of the mitten so that the hand and palm thereof are usually maintained in position to cover the hand of the wearer. If desired, the wrist portion of the mitten may be provided with a take-up cord 35 and a flap 36 so that the mitten may be tightened around the wrist of the wearer.

When in use, the wearer will place his hand within the mitten and tighten the cord **35** to secure the mitten in position. When this has been done it will be apparent that the wearer's hands will be completely concealed since the mottled, irregularly colored surface of the fabric will blend with the surroundings and since the mitten is sufficiently large (approximately 6 x 16 inches) so that it does not show the configuration of the wearer's hands accurately enough to aid in recognition. When in this position the hand of the wearer will be not easily susceptible to observation and (since it is contemplated that the entire uniform of the soldier is to be of similar material and similarly camouflaged) the individual wearer will be quite well protected against hostile observation. This type of camouflage provides excellent protection, but it will be understood that it is highly desirable to provide some means whereby the fingers of the hand may be used freely and without any obstruction, so that fire arms may be used without interference due to the loose, over-size design of the mitten. This is accomplished in the present invention by unfastening the snap **34** and folding the entire hand of the mitten, including the back hand portion **21**, palm **11**, and thumb sections **13** and **17**, back into flat face-to-face relationship with the wrist portion **12** as shown in Fig. 3. This allows the wearer's hand (that is, the palm, thumb and fingers) to extend from the body of the mitten so as to be entirely free for use. It will be seen from an examination of Fig. 4, however, that even with the hand in this uncovered position the flap **31** of the rear wrist portion **27** will extend along the back of the hand so that the edges **32** and **33** lie adjacent the base of the fingers and thus conceal all of the back of the hand except the fingers and thumb.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that by following the teachings of this invention it is possible to provide an effective camouflage mitten that is of great value in protecting military troops against hostile observation, since it is effective to afford concealment to the hands of the wearer irrespective of whether the individual is barehanded or whether he is equipped with gloves. In this connection it may be pointed out that it is contemplated that the present type of mitten is not limited to use over the bare hands of the wearer but is equally well adapted to use over any types of gloves that might otherwise be easily recognizable and therefore require some type of cover.

Further, the mittens of the present invention provide adequate concealment and yet afford instant freedom of the hands so that when the mitten is folded backwardly on its transverse joint the wearer will be able to manipulate fire arms, et cetera, without any interference from the fabric of the mitten. In addition, the flap on the rear wrist portion extends well up over the back of the hand and serves to partially conceal the hand of the wearer even when the palm is completely uncovered.

It may be noted also that the present invention has been developed in the United States Army to meet military needs and that the exact formation illustrated in the drawing is believed to be the most satisfactory for the purpose. It is recognized, however, that deviations from the exact structure shown in the drawing may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, and it is accordingly requested that the scope of the present invention be determined by the language of the appended claims.

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

1. As an art of manufacture, a mitten comprising, in general, a front side, a back side and a thumb portion; the front side consisting of a palm section the full width of the mitten, a thumb, and a wrist section extending rearwardly from the palm to the end of the mitten; the back side of the mitten consisting of a back hand portion corresponding in shape to the palm portion of the front side and united therewith by a line of stitching extending completely around the palm from a point adjacent the base of the thumb to a point directly opposite the thumb base; said back hand portion terminating at the rear in a straight edge extending across the mitten from the opposite ends of said stitching, and arranged to permit folding against the front wrist to expose the hand of the wearer, and a wrist portion the full width of the mitten and having its edges united with the opposite edges of the front side of the mitten by opposite lines of stitching; the wrist portion including a flap extending forwardly over the back surface of the back hand portion, said flap being pointed and having a fastener adjacent the point; the arrangement being such that the flap of the rear wrist portion extends over the back of the hand and conceals the hand to the base of the fingers.

2. As an art of manufacture, a mitten comprising, in general, a front side, a back side and a thumb portion; the front side consisting of a palm section the full width of the mitten, a thumb, and a wrist section extending rearwardly from the palm to the end of the mitten; the back side of the mitten consisting of a back hand portion corresponding in shape to the palm portion of the front side and united therewith by a line of stitching extending completely around the palm from a point adjacent the base of the thumb to a point directly opposite the thumb base; said back hand portion terminating at the rear in a straight edge extending across the mitten from the opposite ends of said stitching, and a wrist portion the full width of the mitten and having its edges united with the opposite edges of the front side of the mitten by opposite lines of stitching; the wrist portion including a flap extending forwardly over the back surface of the back hand portion, said flap being pointed and having a fastener adjacent the point; the arrangement being such that the back hand section of the mitten is supported only by stitching interconnecting it with the palm so that the straight rear edge of the back hand section forms a transverse joint to permit the palm and thumb to be folded back into flat relationship with the wrist of the mitten to uncover the palm and fingers of the wearer's hands.

CARROLL GEORGE WELLS.