FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

PATENT DRAWING
The present invention relates to the provision of sterile gloves for use by surgeons, physicians, and the like, wherein the glove is molded wholly inside out by inverting or folding the wrist and arm portion of the glove over the hand and finger portion and closing the glove at the open end as by heat sealing, for example. In this way a packaged sterilized exterior glove surface is provided on the inside of the package. The surgeon can cut off the heat-sealed arm portion, then place his hand in the hand and finger portion, and refold the glove over his wrist and arm so that an exterior surface in sterile condition is available for use.

It is a general object of the invention to provide a packaged sterilized glove of vinyl, rubber, or the like wherein the glove itself forms the package.

Another object of the invention is to provide a method of fabricating a glove package in which the exterior surface, in sterile condition, is totally enclosed by the glove as a package.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention and a preferred method of carrying out the invention as disclosed in the accompanying description made with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a surgeon or physician's glove as initially dip-molded or otherwise manufactured;

FIG. 2 illustrates the glove with wrist and arm portion folded inside out over the hand and finger portion and with a suitable indicator placed within the glove to indicate whether the sterility still obtains;

FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2 but illustrating the glove as closed as, for example, by heat sealing.

Referring to the drawings, the glove of the instant invention is indicated at 10, and may comprise, for example, a dip-molded vinyl glove of the type employed by surgeons and physicians and it comprises the usual finger and hand portion 11 and a wrist and arm portion 12 extending therefrom. In accordance with the instant invention the glove is first sterilized, and then in a sterile manner the wrist and arm portion is folded inside out and drawn over the finger and hand portion as shown in FIG. 2 for example. In this way the sterile outside surface of the glove has been placed wholly on the inside of the package formed by the glove itself.