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BASEBALL GLOVE OR MITT

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Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

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My invention relates to baseball gloves or mitts. The major object of my invention is the elimination of a seyse seam across the base of the thumb where it joins the palm. Such a seam is subject to considerable tearing strain and attrition by the impact of the ball as it strikes the pocket. For this reason, such thumb base seams have been the points on which baseball gloves and mitts first gave way. The elimination of the seam is calculated to avoid this weak spot by substituting a smooth continuous surface for the ball pocket.

My invention is more specifically concerned with the solution of problems in design arising from the use of a thumb front which is an integral continuation of the palm piece, and especially whereby the glove or mitt, although thus constructed, can be so tailored as to urge the thumb toward, and to hold it normally in, the proper angular position in reference to the palm to contribute its share toward the formation of the ball pocket.

A further object of my invention is a cutting pattern for such a glove or mitt, whereby the trunk, which includes the palm area, may also include the thumb front, or even the thumb front and back as integral portions of the trunk, without bringing the seams into the ball pocket forming portions of the glove or mitt.

The foregoing, together with further objects, features and advantages of my invention, are set forth in the following description of a specific embodiment thereof and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein,

Fig. 1 is a front or palm view of a baseball glove embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the glove;

Fig. 3 is a thumb end or side view of the glove;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary back view of the glove, showing the rear elevation of the thumb, the lower part of the index finger, and adjoining parts;

Fig. 5 is a flat view of the palm trunk;

Fig. 6 is a flat view of an inset piece; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the trunk of Fig. 5 with the inset of Fig. 6 stitched thereto and the thumb closed up, which is an intermediate stage in the manufacture of the glove.

Although I have here illustrated my invention as applied to a baseball glove, it will be understood that most of the features of my invention may be incorporated in a baseball mitt as well.

The outstanding feature of my glove 10 is that the thumb 11, or at least its front, is integral with the palm 12 to obviate a seam between the thumb and palm in the region of the ball receiving pocket 13, or at any place where the ball would ordinarily engage the glove (because a seam in such a place is a source of excessive wear or tearing), and yet the thumb is normally urged into such angular relationship with the palm that it contributes its share toward the formation of the pocket 13, without the necessity of exertion of any pressure by the wearer's thumb to hold the thumb in its proper normal pocket forming position.

Since Figs. 1 to 4 are largely self-explanatory of the general nature of the glove, I shall proceed with a description in terms of its principal component parts and the manner in which they are seamed together.

Fig. 5 shows the trunk 14, or main palm piece, together with its several integral extensions. The central portion of the trunk constitutes a palm portion proper 15, which extends from the heel 16 upwardly to the bases of the fingers and between the thumb base and the outer edge of the hand.

The upper portion of the trunk 14 is slitted downwardly to define the fronts 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the index, second, third, and little fingers, respectively. In the particular design shown, the trunk is further slitted to define the outer half 21 of the back of the index finger, while a partial indentation defines the outer half 22 of the back of the little finger. At its lower left-hand corner, the trunk 14 includes, as an integral extension thereof, a thumb front 23 and a thumb back 24. If, as here shown, some of the back of the index finger is included in the trunk, the base of the index finger back is severed from the adjacent lateral edge of the thumb front 23 by a cut or slit 25 along the latter. The base of the thumb back 24 is severed from the palm portion 16 adjacent its heel 16 by a cut or slit 26. The slit 26 preferably extends beyond the fold or boundary line 27 between the thumb front and thumb back and a short distance across the base of the thumb front 23, as shown at 25'. In practice, it is preferable to enlarge the end 26' of the cut into something of a teardrop contour.

Because of the cut 26, the thumb back 24 extends wholly from the thumb front 23; that is, it is only by way of the thumb front 23 that the thumb back 24 is an integral extension of the palm portion 16. The thumb back 24 carries a tongue 28, which projects in the direction of its lower edge (as viewed in the trunk of Fig. 5) and beyond the base of the thumb back. The
tongue 28, in the trunk, is spaced some distance below the heel edge 16. The inset 29, shown in Fig. 6, is employed to complement the trunk 14 in forming the thumb and front face of the glove. The inset 29 comprises a bottom edge 30, a back edge 31, a palm side 32, and a back lobe 33 separated by a U-shaped or V-shaped cutout 34. The back edge 31 constitutes the back edge of the lobe 33.

Subject to compensation for the spacing of seams back somewhat from the margins of the edges being sewn, the following relationships are maintained as between the various margins of the trunk 14 and the inset 29: The perimeter of the lobe 32 from the bottom edge 30 to the bottom of the cutout 34 equals the distance from the heel edge 15 along the cut 26 and around the margin of the teardrop-shaped extension 28 of the cut to the line 27. These two margins are sewn together by the portion 35a of the inset seam 35, as shown in Fig. 7. The margin of the cutout 34 along the back side lobe 33 is the same length as the margin of the base of the thumb back 24 from the line 27 to the tongue 28. These margins are sewn together by the portion 35b of the inset seam. The upper margin of the lobe 32 between the cutout 34 and the back edge 31 is of the same length as the tongue 28, and they are sewn together by the portion 35a of the seam 35. The seam 35, as well as the other seams mentioned, are here shown as of the welted type.

The margin of the thumb back 24 from the line 27 around its outer end and along its opposite margin to the end of the tongue 28 is of the same length as the margin of the thumb front 23 from the line 27 around its end and along the cut 25 to the inner end thereof, plus the length of the base of the index finger back half 21 defined by the cut 25. These margins are sewn together by the thumb seam 36. The portion 36a of the seam 36 joins the end of the thumb front and thumb back to close the thumb tip; the portion 36b joins the lateral margins of the thumb front and thumb back to close up the thumb along the inner lateral edge of the thumb; and the portion 36c joins the lateral edge of the tongue with the base of the index finger back half along the cut 25. The several seam portions 35a, 35b and 35c are formed successively as a continuous seam 35. The same is true of the seam 35. In fact, the seam 36 in the finished glove lies substantially within the plane which divides the thumb into front and back.

As indicated in Figs. 2 and 4, the other half of the index finger back and little finger back, as well as the halves for the backs of the other fingers, as collectively indicated by 27—are sewn to the appropriate finger margins of the trunk 14 after the preassembly of Fig. 7 has been completed. This gives finger backs longitudinally seamed along their medial lines, which may be in accordance with the finger constructions disclosed in my application Serial No. 240,696 filed January 7, 1939 on "Baseball gloves," issued as a Patent No. 2,255,726, filed January 11, 1941. As shown in Fig. 4, the thumb end of the back or wrist strap 38 is sewn to the back edge 31 of the inset, leaving thereon a hand back opening 39 margined by a suitable binding 40 extended along the top edge of the strap 38, the back edge 31 of the inset, the back edge of the tongue 28, and the bases of the finger backs. As shown in Figs. 2, 2,255,726

3 and 4, the heel edge 16 of the trunk and the bottom edge 30 of the inset 29 and the bottom edge of the strap 38—all of which then come into a horizontal plane in the finished glove—are finished with a continuous beaded binding 41.

The usual lining and padding for the glove are, of course, included, and also a web 42 between the thumb and index finger.

By my invention I obtain a desirable tailoring for the glove. The thumb is maintained in its proper normal configuration in reference to the ball receiving pocket 13. The seams are kept out of the region likely to be impacted by the ball. Yet the seaming operations are reduced to a minimum and are kept very simple. The seaming which involves the thumb is reduced to the two seams 35 and 36. They are not complicated by running into, or intersecting, one another. Instead, they terminate conveniently in edges which are subsequently finished by the 'bead bindings 40 and 41. One of the advantages of the use of the tongue 28 is that it permits certain seams 35 and 38 both to run to the opening 39 without coming together.

The use of the slit 26 in the trunk 14 to sever the base of the thumb back from the palm portion enables both the front and back of the thumb to be an integral part of the palm trunk. Then the seams 35 and 36, which are likely to be impacted by the ball, the lobe 33 of the inset piece spreads apart, and spaces, the margins of the cut 26 and its extension 28' in such a manner as to tend to throw the thumb into the desirable angular relation with the palm. This is easier aided by the additional stock added to the base of the back of the thumb by the inset lobe 33. This, in turn, further tends to swing the thumb toward the palm even though the thumb edge of the trunk is folded over to the back of the hand.

While I have illustrated and described this specific embodiment of my invention, I contemplate that numerous changes and substitutions may be made without departing from the scope or spirit thereof.

I claim:

1. A gloveless trunk for a baseball glove or mitt having a palm region, vertical finger fronting thereon, a palm heel at its bottom, a thumb front joined to the palm area at its base, a thumb back joined to one lateral edge to the lower lateral edge of the thumb front, the thumb front and back being disposed to extend downwardly and outwardly with the base of the thumb back abutting the palm region, and a slit extending upwardly and outwardly from the thumb end of the heel edge to sever the palm area from the base of the thumb back.

2. A gloveless trunk for a baseball glove or mitt, according to claim 1, wherein the slit is extended upwardly and outwardly a short distance between the palm area and the base of the thumb front—adjoining its connection with the thumb back—along the lateral edge of the thumb, a tongue extending beyond the base of the thumb back joining the inside lateral edge of the thumb, a
slit severing the thumb back from the palm portion adjacent the base of the thumb back, a slit severing the finger back from the inside edge of the thumb front, and an inset piece sewn to the base of the thumb back and having an upward lobe at its palm end inserted in the first-mentioned slit to spread its edges divergingly apart, the tongue being inserted between and sewn to the other end of the inset piece and the severed bottom end of the index finger back portion, the thumb back and thumb front being sewn together along the inside lateral edge of the thumb to close the thumb.

4. A baseball glove or mitt, according to claim 3, whereby the inset is joined to the trunk by a continuous seam extending from along the tongue to the heel of the palm portion, and the joining of the tongue to the bottom of the finger back portion is by a continuation of the seam which joins the thumb front and thumb back along the inside lateral edge of the thumb.

5. A baseball glove or mitt formed from a palm trunk which includes the thumb front and thumb back, a wrist strap, an opening in the back of the hand above the wrist strap, a cut in the palm trunk severing the base of the thumb back from the palm area, an inset having a portion extending into the cut and interposed between the base of the thumb back and the opening, a continuous seam between adjacent margins of the thumb front and thumb back to close the thumb and extending to a terminus at the back opening, and a second continuous seam securing the inset to the margins of the cut and to the base of the thumb back terminating at the heel of the palm and also at the back opening, the two seams throughout their length being separated from each other.

6. A baseball glove or mitt comprising a palm piece extending to the heel edge, a thumb having a front and back, an inset extending from the base of the thumb to the bottom edge of the glove as a continuation of the heel edge and extending rearwardly of the base of the thumb back and beneath the index finger position, a back for the index finger position, and an integral tongue extending rearwardly from the thumb back and seamed to and between the inset and the finger back.

7. A baseball glove or mitt, according to claim 6, wherein the thumb front and thumb back are seamed together along the rear lateral edge of the thumb and the seam which seams the finger back to the tongue is a continuation thereof, and wherein the seam which seams the tongue to the inset is a continuation of a seam which seams the base of the thumb back to the inset.

8. A baseball glove or mitt, according to claim 6, wherein the thumb front and thumb back are seamed together along the rear lateral edge of the thumb and the seam which seams the finger back to the tongue is a continuation thereof.

9. A thumb trunk for a baseball glove or mitt which includes the thumb front and thumb back integrally joined along the lateral edge of the thumb with their opposite edges seamed together to close up the thumb along its inner lateral edge, the thumb back having an integral tongue whose margin constitutes an extension of its said seamed edge and is adapted to extend into the back of the glove or mitt below the back for the index finger region.

10. A palm trunk for a baseball glove or mitt comprising a palm, finger fronting thereabove, a horizontal heel edge at the bottom of the palm, a horizontal thumb front integral only at its base with the palm, a horizontal thumb back beneath the thumb front and joined thereto only at the juxtaposed lateral edges of the thumb front and thumb back, a slit extending upwardly from the heel severing the palm from the base of the thumb back, and a tongue extending along the lower edge of the thumb back beyond its base and a substantial spaced distance below the heel edge of the palm.

11. A palm trunk for a baseball glove or mitt, according to claim 10, wherein the trunk includes a covering for the back of the index finger, the base of which is seved from the upper edge of the thumb front by a horizontal cut of length approximating the length of the tongue.

12. A baseball glove or mitt, which obviates a thumb base seam in the ball-pocket-forming portion of the palm face, comprising a palm piece, a thumb front which is an integral continuation of the palm piece and which integrally joins the palm only at the base of the thumb front, a thumb back which is an integral continuation of the palm piece via only the thumb front and which integrally joins the thumb front only at the outer lateral edge of the thumb, the base of the thumb back being severed from the palm area of the palm piece by a slit adjoining the thumb edge of its heel, the thumb front and thumb back being joined along the inside lateral edge of the thumb to close the thumb, and an inset below the outer lateral edge of the thumb, which inset adjoins the adjacent base of the thumb and which has an upwardly extending lobe at its palm end sewn into the slit and of substantially greater width than the slit to spread the edges of the slit apart, and which also has a lobe at its outer end seamed to the base of the thumb back and extending to a point below the thumb crotch.