July 19, 1966 E. M. OLSON 3,261,040

SWIMMER'S GLOVES

Filed Oct. 14, 1963

FIG_1

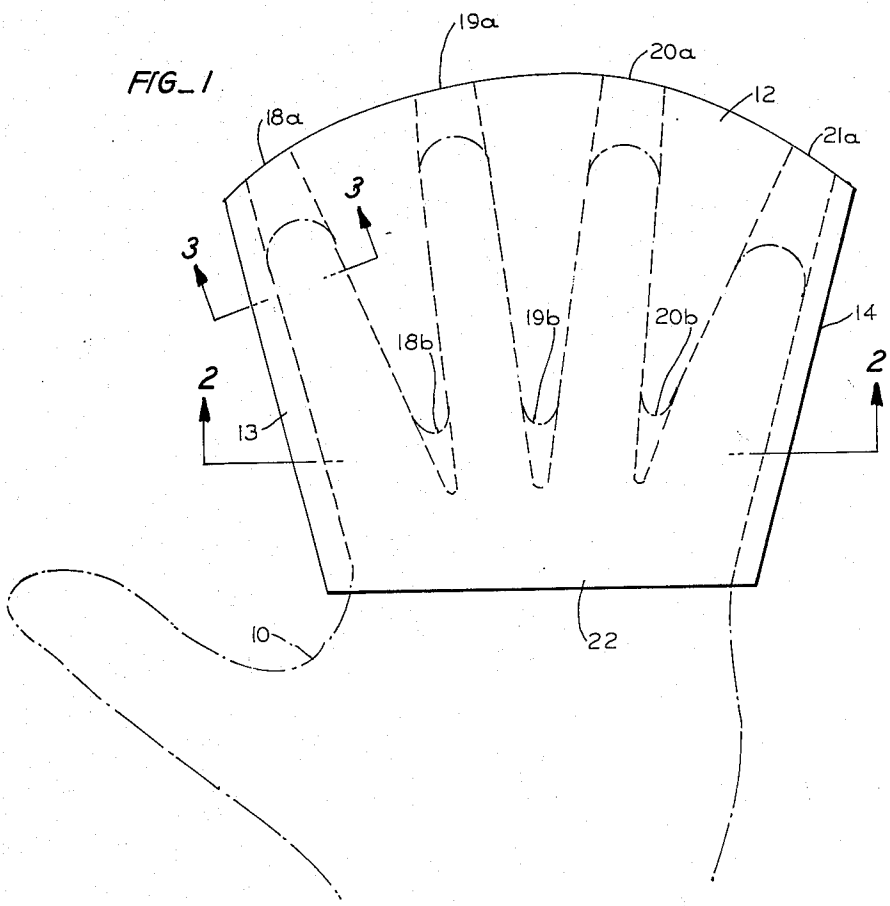


FIG_2

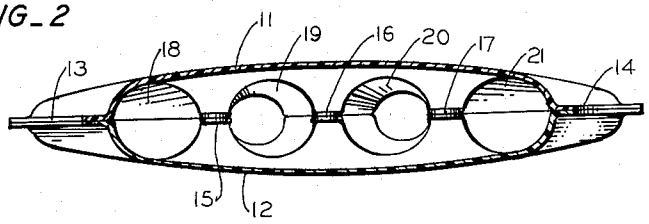
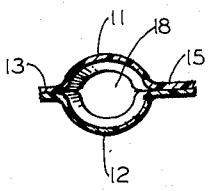


FIG_3



INVENTOR.
EVERETT M. OLSON

BY Allen and Chromy

ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office

3,261,040

Patented July 19, 1966

3,261,040

SWIMMER'S GLOVES

Everett M. Olson, 3535 Olsen Drive, San Jose, Calif.

Filed Oct. 14, 1963, Ser. No. 315,786
3 Claims. (Cl. 9—308)

This invention relates to plastic swimmer's gloves in general. More particularly this invention relates to a plastic swimmer's glove which leaves the thumb free.

An object of this invention is to provide a plastic swimmer's glove made of a material that sticks to the swimmer's fingers even when wet and won't accidentally slip off.

Another object of this invention is to provide a swimmer's glove which when pulled on the hand forms a tight fit and once in place will not slip off even when the swimmer is handling objects under water.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved plastic swimmer's glove shaped so that one embodiment thereof will snugly fit a range of hand sizes.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved plastic swimmer's glove in which the openings for the fingers are open at both ends so that water may be released from the finger holes when the glove is being applied to the hand under water.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved plastic swimmer's glove that is made of very light and pliable material so that it may be easily transported and folded into a small wad into a standard pocket of the swimmer's suit.

Still another object of this invention is to provide an improved plastic swimmer's glove that is shaped so that it may be applied either to the left hand or to the right hand.

Other and further objects of this invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which it relates from the following specification, claims and drawing.

In accordance with this invention, there is provided a plastic swimmer's glove of simple design that is made of two superposed sheets of suitable plastic such as vinyl. The side edges of these two sheets of superposed plastic are heat sealed as are also the web portions between the fingers. Thus suitable finger holes are provided between the superposed sheets for the four fingers of the hand and the thumb of the hand is left free. The glove is formed so that it forms a web over the four fingers and therebetween so as to provide a surface that may be stretched out when the fingers are spread apart.

The outer ends of the finger holes are left open so that when the glove is being pulled over the fingers of the hand water is not trapped in the finger holes. Also, the webs between the fingers need not extend all the way into the crotches between the fingers so that the plastic forming the finger holes may be drawn over the fingers until it snugly engages the fingers without interference from the webs. The finger holes are substantially uniformly spaced whereby the glove may be worn on either the left hand or the right hand. The swimmer's thumb is also left free so that a swimmer wearing these gloves may easily handle such objects as boat oars and swimmer's accessories as well as objects under water.

Further features and details of this invention will be set forth in the specification, claims and drawing in which briefly:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a glove of this invention shown applied to a swimmer's hand; which is shown in broken outline, the four fingers of the swimmer's hand being spread apart to show the webs between the fingers;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

Referring to the drawing in detail, there is shown in FIG. 1 a plan view of a swimmer's glove made of light and pliable plastic material such as vinyl or polyethylene adapted to be worn over the four fingers of either the right or left hand **10** leaving the thumb free. This glove is made of two overlying plastic sheets **11** and **12** and the edge portions **13** and **14** of these sheets are heat sealed or cemented together a short distance so that these edge portions provide strong, narrow flaps along the sides of the gloves. Also the plane between the sheets **11** and **12** forms a plane of symmetry of the glove so that the glove may be worn either on the right hand or the left hand. This is an advantage to a swimmer particularly where he desires to put the gloves on while swimming under water.

Double thickness web portions **15** and **16** and **17** are formed by heat sealing or cementing together the areas of the sheets **11** and **12** that are between the finger holes **18, 19, 20** and **21**. Thus the web portion **15** is provided between the finger holes **18** and **19**, web portion **16** is provided between finger holes **19** and **20**, and web portion **17** is provided between finger holes **20** and **21**. These web portions are all of substantially the same area and shape so that the finger holes are spaced apart substantially equally. Thus the glove is shaped so that it may be worn either upon the right hand or upon the left hand and finger holes **18** and **21** are each adapted to receive either the forefinger or the little finger of the hand. In this way, the swimmer does not have to examine the glove to determine which hand it is prior to wearing it.

The finger holes **18, 19, 20** and **21** are each tapered so that the outer ends **18***a*, **19***a*, **20***a* and **21***a* thereof respectively are the small ends thereof. These small ends are open and water cannot be trapped in the finger holes when the glove is being pulled onto the hand. The tapered finger holes provide for a snug fit therein of the swimmer's fingers since the light and pliable plastic clings to and conforms to the shapes of the fingers. The glove may be applied to the hand simply by gripping the portion **22** with the other hand and pulling it over the fingers until the fingers engage the inner walls of the finger holes snugly. Thereafter the glove sticks to the wearer's skin even when wet and will not slip off. Also with this construction a glove of one size may be applied to hands of different sizes as long as the crotch portions **18***b*, **19***b* and **20***b* thereof do not engage the corresponding crotch portions between the fingers of the swimmer's hand so as to prevent the glove finger holes from fitting the swimmer's fingers closely.

While I have shown a preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that the invention is capable of variation and modification from the form shown so that its scope should be limited only by the scope of the claims appended hereto.

What I claim is:

1. A swimmer's glove made of two sheets of light and pliable plastic material that are overlaid and extend over the four outstretched fingers of the swimmer's hand leaving the thumb free, said overlaid sheets being joined together along opposite edge portions so that these edge portions form strong narrow flaps, web portions formed by joining said sheets between adjacent finger receiving portions, said web portions being of V-shape and substantially uniform size and said finger receiving portions being tapered so that the swimmer's fingers are adapted to be inserted therein far enough so that the light, pliable plastic sheet material conforms to the shape of the fingers and clings thereto even when wet, corresponding parts of said finger receiving portions also being uniformly spaced so that the glove will fit either on the left or the right hand.

2. A swimmer's glove made of two sheets of light and pliable plastic material that are overlaid and extend over the four outstretched fingers of the swimmer's hand leaving the thumb free, said overlaid sheets being sealed together along opposite edge portions so that these edge portions form strong double thickness narrow flaps, web portions formed by sealing said sheets between adjacent finger receiving portions, said web portions being of V-shaped and substantially uniform size and said finger receiving portions being tapered and open at the smaller outer ends thereof so that the swimmer's fingers are adapted to be inserted therein far enough so that the light, pliable plastic sheet material conforms to the shape of the fingers and clings thereto even when wet, corresponding parts of said finger receiving portions also being uniformly spaced so that the glove will fit either on the left or the right hand.

3. A swimmer's glove made of two sheets of light and pliable plastic material that are overlaid and extend over the four outstretched fingers of the swimmer's hand leaving the thumb free, said overlaid plastic sheets being heat sealed together along opposite edge portions so that these edge portions form strong narrow flaps of double thickness of the plastic material, web portions formed by heat sealing said sheets together between adjacent finger receiving portions, said web portions being of V-shaped and substantially uniform size and said finger receiving portions being tapered and open at the smaller outer ends thereof so that the swimmer's fingers are adapted to be inserted therein far enough so that the light, pliable plastic sheet material conforms to the shape of the fingers and clings thereto even when wet, corresponding parts of said finger receiving portions also being uniformly spaced so that the glove will fit either on the left or the right hand.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,684,714	9/1928	Perry	9—308
2,692,995	11/1954	Bihan	9—308
2,845,628	8/1958	Dell	2—20
3,063,070	11/1962	Nichol	9—308

FERGUS S. MIDDLETON, *Primary Examiner.*

A. E. CORRIGAN, *Assistant Examiner.*