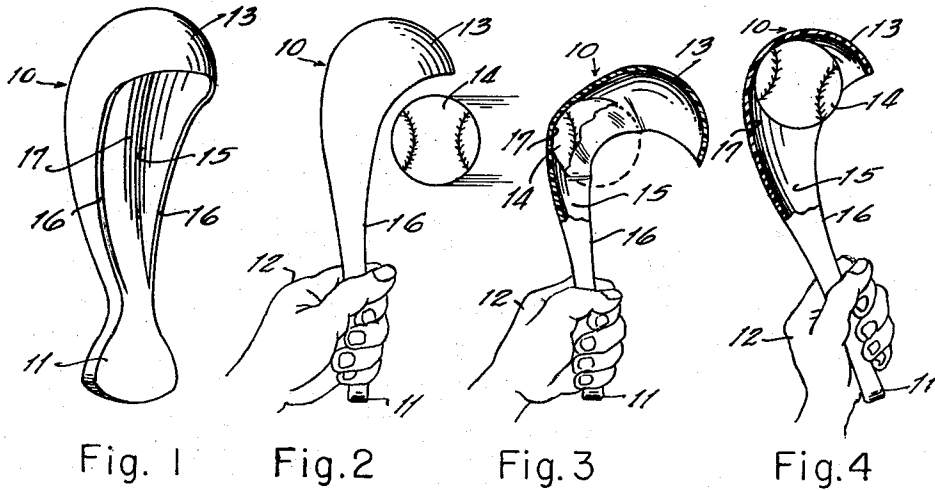
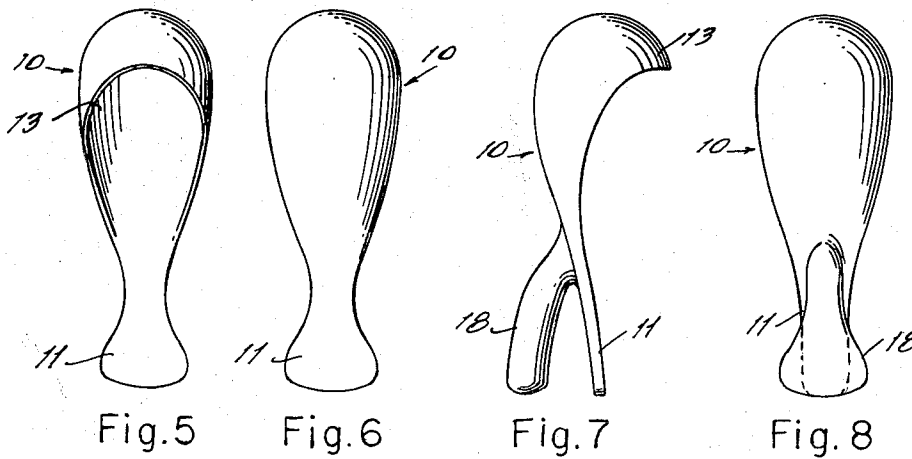
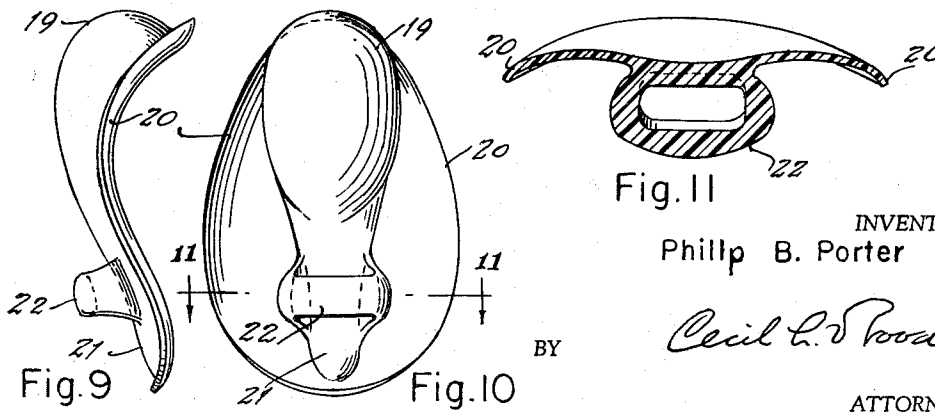


Feb. 23, 1965

P. B. PORTER
BALL CATCHING DEVICE
Filed March 1, 1962

3,170,688



INVENTOR
Phillp B. Porter

BY *Cecil L. Wood*
ATTORNEY

1

3,170,688

BALL CATCHING DEVICE

Philip B. Porter, 2503 Gilbert Circle, Arlington, Tex.

Filed Mar. 1, 1962, Ser. No. 176,717

3 Claims. (Cl. 273-25)

This invention relates to ball catching devices, as in the games of baseball, cricket, and other games in which balls are used in play, and it has particular reference to a device which can be manipulated by either hand to catch a thrown or pitched ball where two or more persons are engaged in play, and the principal object of the invention resides in the provision of a ball catching device which lends itself to both entertainment and recreation, as well as affording an article with which skill can be developed in its use.

An object of the invention is that of providing a simple and inexpensive device which is adapted to function in the place of the conventional baseball glove, or catcher's mit, and provide an instrument which, with a minimum of practice, can be manipulated with considerable skill by both children and adults to catch a ball with a minimum of hazard to the hands.

A further object of the invention is that of providing a semi-rigid or flexible pocket device by which a pitched ball can be captured in flight, and having a shape which insures retention thereof, and affording sufficient resilience to receive the ball without the rebound attributable to some types of ball catching devices, such as used in the game of lacrosse, and other ball catching and handling devices.

Broadly, the invention contemplates the provision of a play and recreation device of light but durable structure, capable of being molded from resilient or flexible plastic or rubber-like material, and formed with a suitable handle and ball receptacle by which a ball in flight can be caught and retained.

While the foregoing objects are paramount, other and lesser objects will become manifest as the description proceeds, taken in connection with the appended drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective illustration of the preferred form of the invention.

FIGURE 2 illustrates the invention as held in the hand, and showing a ball in flight about to enter the pocket.

FIGURE 3 illustrates, in partial section, the nominal distortion of the invention upon impact of the ball therewith, the latter being shown partially in dotted line.

FIGURE 4 is another illustration of the invention, showing the pocket portion in section, and showing the ball seated in the pocket.

FIGURE 5 is a front elevational view of the invention illustrating the handle portion.

FIGURE 6 is a rear elevational view.

FIGURE 7 is a side elevational illustration of the invention modified to include a gripping element formed rearwardly thereof.

FIGURE 8 is a rear elevational view of the structure shown in FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 9 is a side elevational view of a modified form of the invention having a loop element formed with the handle.

FIGURE 10 is a rear elevational view of the structure shown in FIGURE 9, and

FIGURE 11 is a cross-sectional illustration, on lines 11-11 of FIGURE 10, showing loop element and the flared sides of the invention.

Accordingly, the invention in its preferred form com-

2

prises a resilient body 10 having a handle portion 11 which can be conveniently gripped in the hand 12, as illustrated in FIGURES 2, 3 and 4, and having a pocket 13 in which a ball 14 is received.

The receptacle or pocket 13 is substantially spherical and a gradually deepening channel 15 is defined between the elliptically curved edges of the walls 16 which merge into the opposing edges of the handle 11, as apparent in FIGURES 1, 5 and 6.

In manipulating the invention to catch the ball 14, as depicted in FIGURES 2, 3 and 4, the device is held in the path of the ball 14 so as to cause the same to enter the channel 15 at a point intermediate the ends thereof, the impact occurring at what may be called the throat 17 of the pocket 13, in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 2 and 3, the momentum of the ball 14 carrying the same into the pocket 13 as shown in FIGURE 4. The body 10, being resilient, will flex at the point of impact, as depicted in FIGURE 3, to prevent the ball 14 from rebounding.

The modified structure shown in FIGURES 7 and 8 are identical with those shown in FIGURES 1 to 6, inclusive, except that a handle 18 is formed on the rear surface of the portion 11 which, when this structure is used, will function as a guard for the hand and wrist.

The form of the invention shown in FIGURES 9 and 10, while embodying a pocket 19 similar to the pocket 13 of the structures illustrated in FIGURES 1 to 8, inclusive, includes relatively wide flanged portions 20 extending from each side of the handle portion 21 and the pocket 19. Such an arrangement provides a more ample surface against which the ball 14 may be caused to impinge, and provides a guard for the hands. A loop 22 is formed with the rear surface of the handle portion 21 providing a hand grip, as best shown in transverse section in FIGURE 11.

The invention is capable of substantial modification in form, by persons skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and intent thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A ball catching device comprising a flexible body of resilient material having a handle portion formed on one end, a semi-spherical pocket formed on said body opposite said handle capable of receiving a ball in flight, the said body being semi-circular in transverse section between said handle and said pocket defining a channel gradually widening and deepening into said pocket.

2. In an article of manufacture, a ball catching device formed of resilient material and having a handle portion on one end, a semi-spherical flexible pocket formed opposite said handle portion adapted to receive and retain a projected ball, and a semi-circular channel formed between said handle portion and said pocket and defining the sides of said pocket, the said channel becoming progressively wider toward said pocket.

3. In a device for catching a pitched ball in play, a flexible body formed with a handle on one end, a flexible semi-spherical pocket formed on said body opposite said handle providing a receptacle for said ball, the said pocket having side elements extending toward said handle and gradually curved inwardly toward said handle defining a channel for guiding said ball into said pocket.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

642,638	Smith	Feb. 6, 1900
2,029,790	Phillipp	Feb. 4, 1936