Sept. 7, 1926. 1,598,718

D. J. HEALY

BOXING GLOVE

Filed Oct. 7, 1925

Fig. 1.

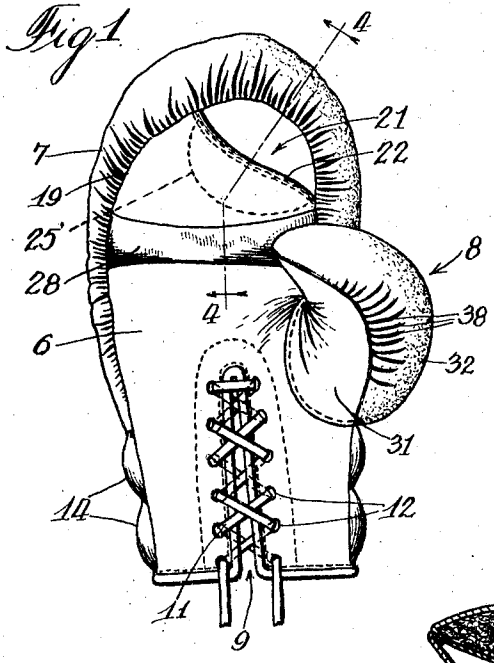


Fig. 2.

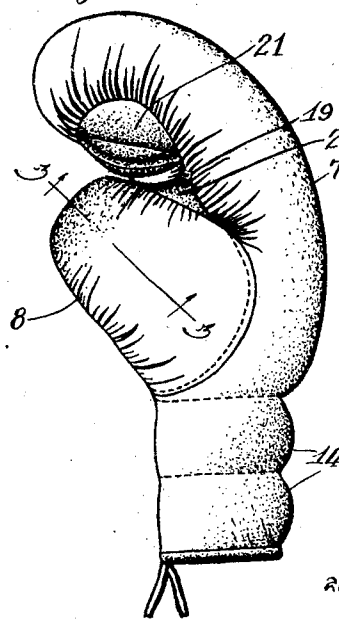


Fig. 3.

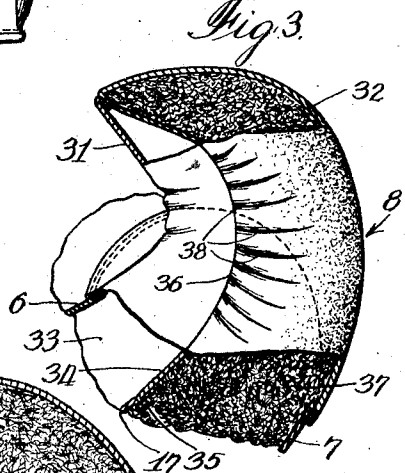
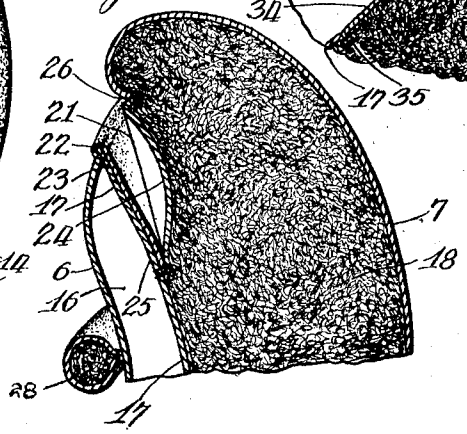


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BOXING GLOVE.

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The present invention relates to boxing gloves.

One of the most important rudiments in the art of boxing is the placing of the thumb in closing the hand. This is oftentimes difficult for the amateur to learn, and is often forgotten momentarily by the experienced boxer. If the thumb is left projecting upwardly alongside of the forefinger, it is likely to be strained or broken in striking a blow. Similarly, if the thumb is doubled across the outer sides of the fingers, on the outer striking side of the hand, or is tucked in under the fingers in the palm of the hand, there is always the likelihood of spraining or breaking one of the joints of the thumb from the force of a blow. The only proper place for the thumb when the hand is closed is across the front of the knuckles parallel to the palm of the hand.

The fundamental object of the present invention is to provide a boxing glove in which this position of the thumb will occur unconsciously or automatically from the mere closing of the glove. It is not practicable to sew or otherwise fixedly secure the thumb in this position, as it is often desirable to open the hand in blocking a blow. Likewise, it is not practicable in attaining this end to employ a construction in which the thumb or any other part of the glove might form a projection which would have the possibility of injuring the eye of an opponent. The rigid rules laid down by boxing commissions now controlling boxing in the majority of States would bar such a glove.

The present glove employs a unique arrangement of curved or "hooked" thumb and co-operating pocket for receiving the same. According to the present invention, this thumb has a normal hook-like curvature extending to the very extremity thereof, which curvature unconsciously deflects the thumb into proper position in the pocket in the act of closing the glove. Any other position of the thumb with the glove closed requires a conscious effort on the part of the boxer to straighten out or otherwise overcome the relatively definite curvature given the entire thumb of the glove. A glove constructed in accordance with the present invention has no projecting or unpadded portions which might cause serious injury to an opponent.

Referring to the accompanying drawing in which I have illustrated the manner of practicing my invention:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the inner side of the glove;

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the thumb side of the glove;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view through the curved thumb, similarly to a section on the plane of the line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view through the upper end of the glove taken approximately on the plane of the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

The glove comprises the usual palm portion 6, the back or outer portion 7, and the thumb 8, all preferably constructed of leather. The lower end of the palm portion is slitted at 9 and has the customary lacing 11 and lacing apertures 12 for lacing the glove onto the hand. The back of the glove is padded with any desired thickness of padding, and this padding may also be embodied in rolls or bands 14 extending across the back of the wrist. The hand fits into a pocket 16 formed between the palm piece 6 and an inner lining 17 of leather or fabric, preferably the latter. The back padding 18 is stuffed between this lining 17 and the back portion 7 of the glove. At the upper end of the glove the finger receptacle 16, which receives the four fingers, is sewed to the back portion of the glove across approximately one-half of this upper end, as indicated at 19. Across the other half of this upper end, the palm piece 6 is left free for providing an opening between the palm piece and the back padded portion of the glove, in which opening is formed a thumb stall or pocket 21 for receiving the end of the thumb 8. As clearly shown in Figure 4, this thumb pocket 21 thus occurs between the free edge 22 of the finger receptacle and the padded back portion of the glove. This thumb pocket is faced on each side by front and rear facings 23 and 24, preferably of leather. The lower edges of these facing pieces are sewed together, as indicated at 25, this sewing being also extended through the lining 17 for fastening the lower edge of the pocket. This lower edge or bottom of the pocket is curved, as indicated by the dotted line 25′ in Figure 1. The upper edge of the back facing 24 of this pocket is sewed at 26 to the edge of the back portion 7, where the latter is curved over the end of the glove. The upper edge of the front facing 23 of this pocket is sewed to the free

edge of the palm portion 6, and preferably to the upper edge of the lining 17, these two or three thicknesses being preferably curled or rolled to form the beaded outer edge 22 of the pocket.

A padded roll 28 preferably extends across the palm of the glove, and over which the fingers close when the hand is clenched. The ends of this padded roll 28 are sewed to the palm portion 6 and to the back portion 7 at the lateral edges of the palm portion.

Referring now to the thumb 8, as best illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, it will be noted that this thumb comprises an inner ply or facing 31 and an outer ply or facing 32, both preferably of leather. These inner and outer facings are sewed to the palm portion 6 and to the back portion 7, respectively. The thumb receptacle 33 is defined between this inner facing ply 31 and a strip of lining 34, preferably of fabric, which is sewed at 35 to the lining 17 of the main hand pocket or receptacle. The three thicknesses consisting of the inner facing 31, the outer facing 32, and the lining 34 are sewed together along the thumb seams 36 which extend up along both sides of the thumb and across the end thereof. Padding 37 is inserted between the back facing 32 and this lining 34, this padding being relatively thick over the two joints of the thumb and then having a graduated taper extending to the very extremity of the thumb, substantially as shown in Figure 3.

In giving the desired hook-like curvature to the thumb 8, the outer facing or ply 32 of leather is gathered along its lateral edges in sewing this outer facing to the inner facing 31. These lateral edges on both sides of the thumb are folded or gathered in pleats 38 before sewing to the inner facing 31. These pleats shorten the lateral edges of the outer covering 32 and give a definite curvature to the entire thumb. The pleats are preferably confined mostly to the intermediate part of the thumb to give the major portion of this curvature to this part of the thumb. The stuffing of the padding 37 down to the very extremity of the thumb co-operates with the gathering or folding 38 of these lateral edges in resiliently retaining this desired curvature of the thumb. In the absence of this padding at the end of the thumb, the extreme pliability of the leather itself would prevent the pleats 38 from maintaining this substantially definite curvature.

By virtue of this substantially definite curvature, resiliently maintained in the thumb, the mere closing of the glove in the act of clenching the hand unconsciously or automatically directs the thumb 8 into the thumb pocket 21. This properly positions the thumb across the back of the knuckles where it is least susceptible to injury. The folding of the fingers towards the palm in the act of clenching the hand draws the free edge 22 of the thumb pocket away from the back facing 24 of this pocket, thus opening wide the mouth of the pocket for the instinctive insertion of the thumb.

The resilient curvature which is normally maintained in the thumb 8 makes the straightening of the thumb an effort and thus reduces or avoids the likelihood of the thumb being held out straight across the forefinger in a position in which it might be broken. The extension of the padding out to the extremity of the thumb, in addition to maintaining the more or less set curvature of the thumb, protects the tip of the thumb from injury, and also avoids the possibility of the end of the thumb injuring the eye of an opponent. A glove, the thumb of which would have an unprotected end which might be extended at an angle to do injury to the eye of an opponent would be generally barred by boxing commissions.

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

1. In a boxing glove, the combination of a finger receptacle, a padded back portion, a padded thumb receptacle, and a thumb pocket between the finger receptacle and the padded back portion having a flexible wall in common with said finger receptacle, said padded back being sufficiently stiff so that said thumb pocket will gape open toward said thumb receptacle upon clenching of the fingers of the hand.

2. In a boxing glove, a padded back portion, a thumb receptacle, a finger receptacle closed at the end thereof which is nearest the tip of the glove, a pocket which is open at the end thereof which is nearest the tip of the glove, said pocket being located between the padded back portion and the finger receptacle and having a wall in common with the finger receptacle, whereby clenching of the fingers causes said pocket to gape open for the ready reception of said thumb receptacle.

3. In a boxing glove, the combination of a palm portion, a back portion, a lining portion co-operating with said palm portion in forming a finger receptacle, said palm portion and said lining portion being sewed to said back portion along a part of the upper end of the glove, said palm portion being left free along the other part of the upper end of said glove, a pocket between the free edge of said palm portion and the back portion of said glove, said pocket comprising front and rear facings, the lower edges of both facings being sewed to said lining portion, the upper edge of the rear facing being sewed to said back portion, the upper edge of said front facing being sewed to

said palm portion, a thumb comprising inner and outer portions and a lining portion, padding inserted between said lining portion and said outer portion and being extended to the extremity of said thumb, and pleats formed in said outer portion along the lateral seams between said inner and outer portions for giving a resiliently maintained curvature to said thumb throughout its entire length.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 21st day of September 1925.

DANIEL J. HEALY.