

Jan. 4, 1949.

DE WITT A. PORTAL

2,458,025

BOXER'S HEADGEAR

Filed Feb. 1, 1946

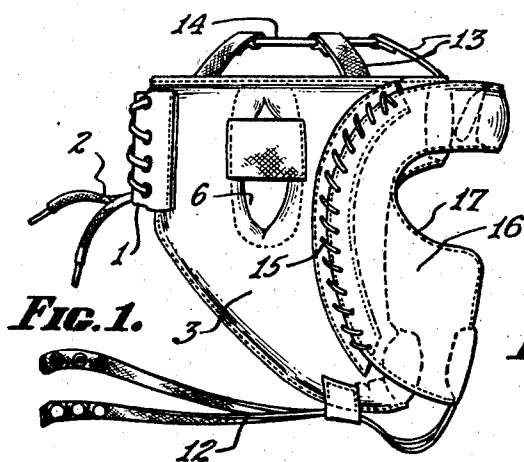


FIG. 1.

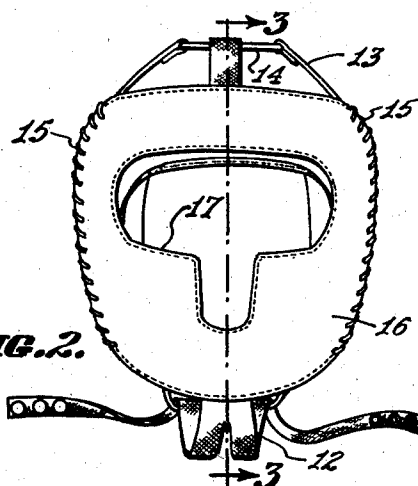


FIG. 2.

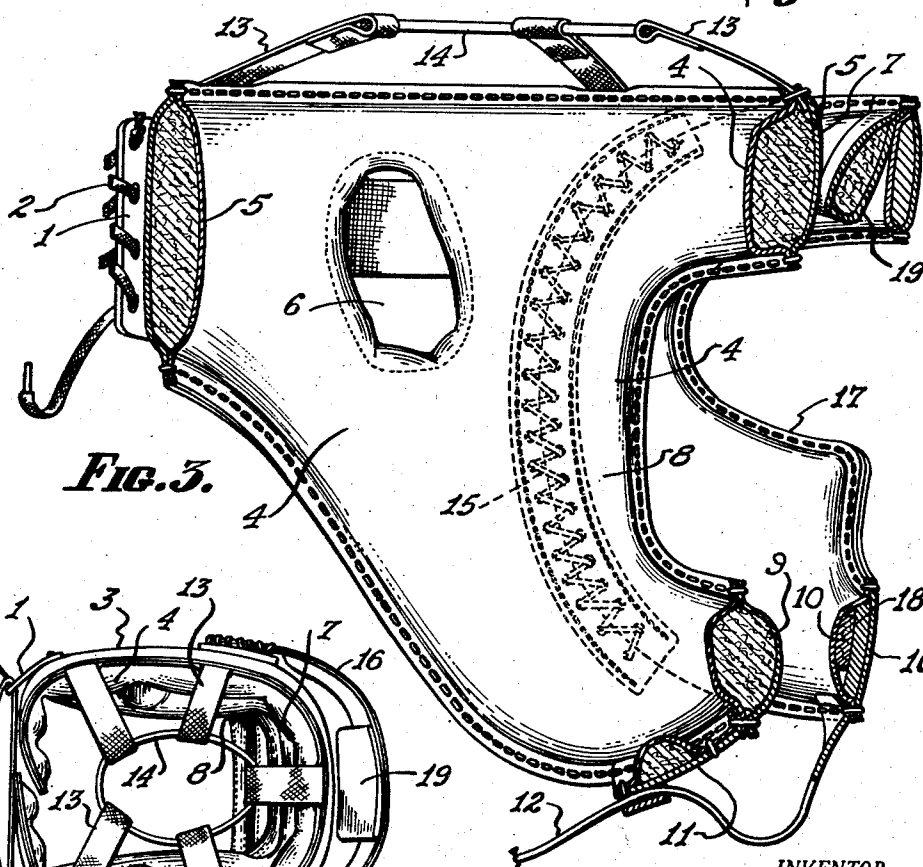


FIG. 3.

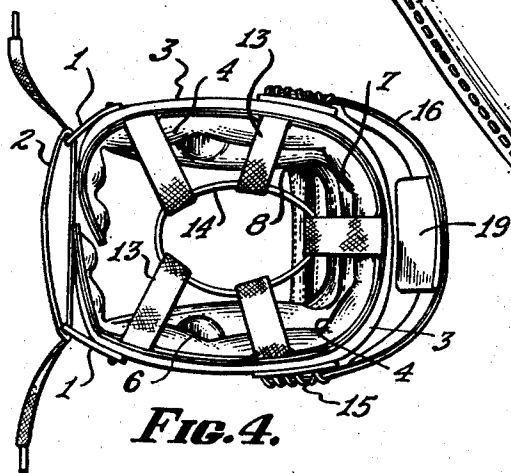


FIG. 4.

INVENTOR.
DEWITT A. PORTAL.
BY
Allen Allen
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,458,025

BOXER'S HEADGEAR

De Witt A. Portal, Madison, Wis., assignor to
Sport Products, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, a corporation of Ohio

Application February 1, 1946, Serial No. 644,905

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—3)

1

My invention relates to headgear for boxers. It is the object of my invention to provide headgear in the form of a shock insulated helmet wherein, due to the construction, the range of vision and the breathing of one wearing the device, will not be restricted, while at the same time complete protection is afforded.

It is my object to provide a light durable helmet wherein a spaced guard plate having cut out areas protects the helmet from the shock of blows from the glove of an adversary without impairing full vision and without a nose covering which makes breathing restricted.

The principle of my proposed construction lies in the discovery of the possibility of using a semi-rigid plate spaced from a padded helmet with slots provided in the plate which, though they allow freedom of vision and freedom of breathing, and protection for the nose, are not large enough to permit a clenched glove to penetrate the slot. It will be understood that a clenched glove has a certain contour and describes an arc of a certain curvature. By extending a slot in the spaced plate crosswise of the eyes and extending down like the base of a T, the eyes, nose and mouth of the wearer are protected. If the plate is placed sufficiently forward of where the face of a wearer is maintained in the helmet, no blows can strike through the slot. Blows falling against the front panel will be dissipated throughout a broad range of the helmet.

Thus boxing can become a sport indulged in more generally by the youth of the country without the likelihood of broken noses, disfigured lips and cauliflower ears.

In my experience in physical training in a large military camp, boxing as an interesting sport, to be indulged in by many young men, has had a severe handicap in the reasonable likelihood of facial mutilation of the young men who would ordinarily enjoy this athletic activity. The blows of any young men of 19 or 20 are so powerful that beginners cannot safely participate in boxing practice because of the almost certainty of facial mutilation. So broadly it may be stated to be my object to provide headgear which will make boxing no more likely to result in facial injury than football, hockey or any of the other athletic contests in which there is bound to be bodily physical contact.

The foregoing object, and other objects to be described, I accomplish by that certain combination and arrangement of parts of which I have illustrated a preferred embodiment.

Referring to the drawings:

2

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a preferred form of headgear.

Figure 2 is a front elevation.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view as would appear along the lines 3—3 in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the construction shown in the other figures.

First referring to the helmet per se, an open topped, open bottomed, padded head covering is provided having straps 1 secured at the sides in back with lacing 2 to draw the helmet tightly about the head. The outer surface 3 is covered with leather or semi-stiff type like that ordinarily used on shoe uppers. The inner surface 4 of the helmet is covered with soft leather. Between the two surfaces padding 5 is retained. The padding is arranged in tufted cushioned layers around certain areas to protect the ears, forehead, cheeks and front of the chin. Thus the ear openings are shown at 6, protected by tufted layers of padding. The forehead portion 7 is protected by padding as are the cheek portions 8 and front chin portion 9. Small pads are arranged as shown at 10 to protect the mouth from sideways blows.

Underneath the pads for the front of the chin there is an auxiliary pad 11 and to be sure that the chin is held back, adjustment straps 12 which extend around the neck have snap fasteners. The straps are secured to the sides of the pad 11 to draw the chin back. This gives protection against upper cuts and a wearer carelessly extending his chin. With the straps 12 in position, a boxer cannot stick his chin out. Use of the device also trains the wearer to keep his chin down against his chest.

Across the top opening in the helmet there are canvas straps 13 held together by a lacing 14. By lengthening the lacing the straps 13 will permit the helmet to be drawn further down on the head.

Secured by stitching or lacing 15 extending in a curved arc down around the sides of the face portion of the helmet, I have mounted a stiff moulded panel 16. The panel is spaced in front so that a wearer's nose will not extend to the T-shaped slot 17, which is provided. It will be noted that this T-shaped opening or slot allows ample clearance for vision. It also allows no restriction to breathing through the nose or mouth. The slot extends horizontally across the panel being 2½ inches or less, wide across from edge to edge. The slot where it extends down vertically to provide clearance for air to the nose is about 1½ inches wide.

When a blow is struck against the front panel

the force of it is distributed throughout the entire area where the lacing or stitching 15 is placed.

The front panel may be of stiff leather but preferably it is of leather backed up by molded plastic 18 or light weight metal. The front panel must be sufficiently rigid not to yield to a blow from an opponent's glove and various materials may be used to make it sufficiently stiff and resistant. Further pads such as the pad 19 may be secured between the front panel and the outer surface of the helmet per se.

Variations in the method of securing the front panel or guard plate to the sides of the helmet will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Also the shape of the slot in the front of the panel may be varied within wide ranges as long as it does not allow enough of an opening for a portion of an opponent's glove to penetrate far enough to cause the force of the blow to actually strike the face, nose, cheeks, eyes or mouth of the wearer.

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

1. A boxer's headgear comprising a padded helmet having an oval opening in front for the face, a stiff panel having a T-shaped unobstructed front opening secured to the helmet adjacent the sides of the face opening, and spaced forwardly thereof, and means forming part of the helmet independently adjustable for holding back the chin of a wearer of the headgear.

2. A boxer's headgear comprising a padded helmet having an oval opening in front for the face, and a stiff panel having a T-shaped unobstructed front opening secured to the helmet adjacent the sides of the face opening and spaced forwardly thereof.

3. A boxer's headgear comprising a padded helmet having an oval opening in front for the face and means forming part of the helmet independently adjustable for holding back the chin of a wearer of the headgear.

DE WITT A. PORTAL.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,176,901	Jessup	Mar. 28, 1916
1,488,812	Goodman	Apr. 1, 1924
1,843,585	Van Orman	Feb. 2, 1932
1,855,118	Rizer et al.	Apr. 19, 1932
1,887,636	Hamby	Nov. 15, 1932
2,364,571	Turner	Dec. 5, 1944
2,376,345	Baiber	May 22, 1945

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
130,756	Austria	Dec. 10, 1932