

Jan. 20, 1953

H. B. LATINA
BASEBALL MITT

2,625,686

Filed June 7, 1950

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

FIG. 1.

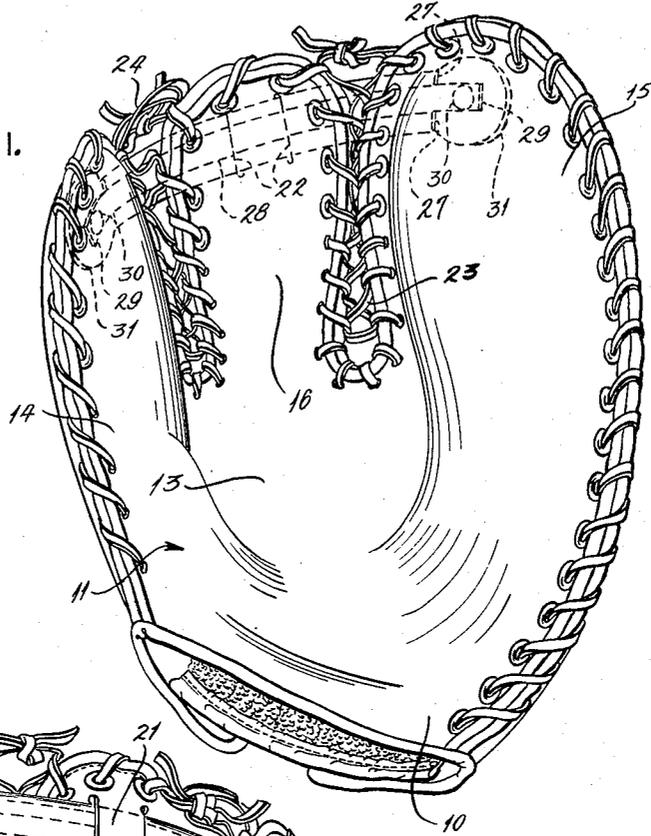
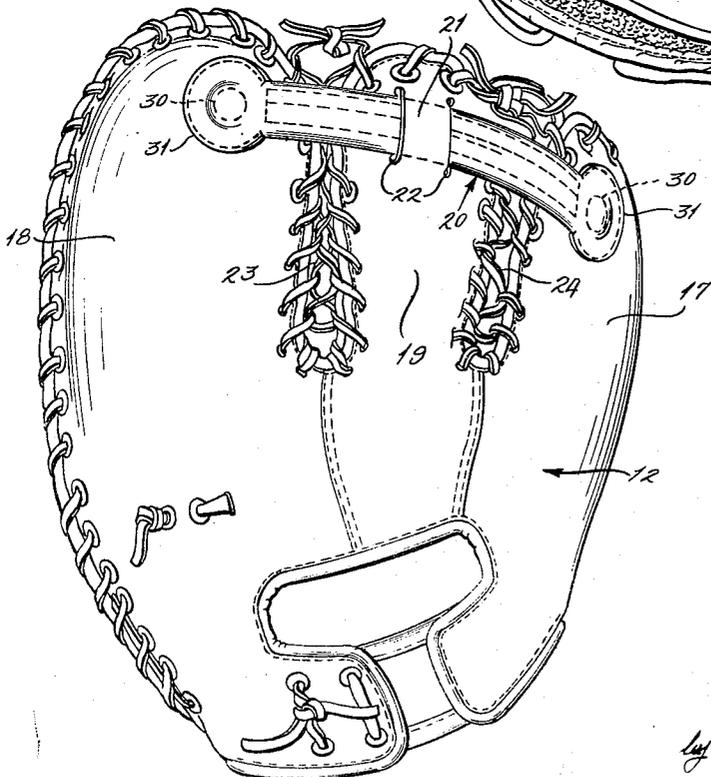


FIG. 2.



INVENTOR:
HARRY B. LATINA

by Carr & Carr & Gravelly
ATTORNEYS

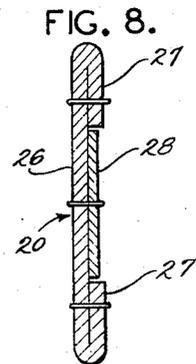
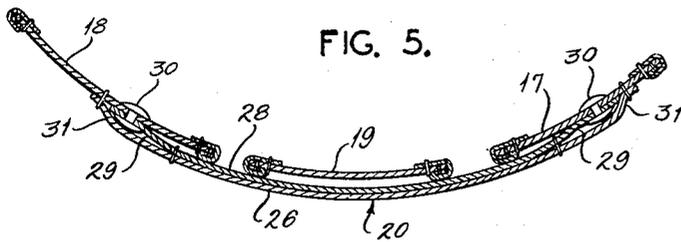
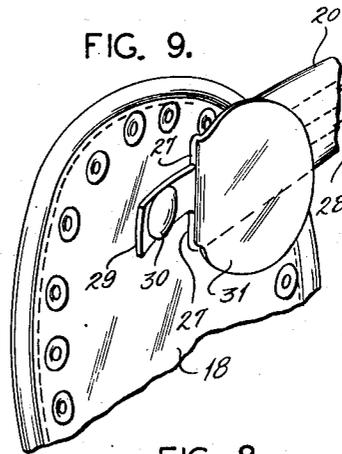
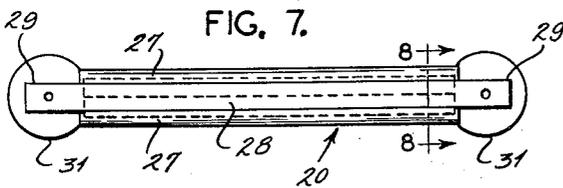
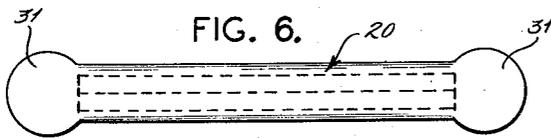
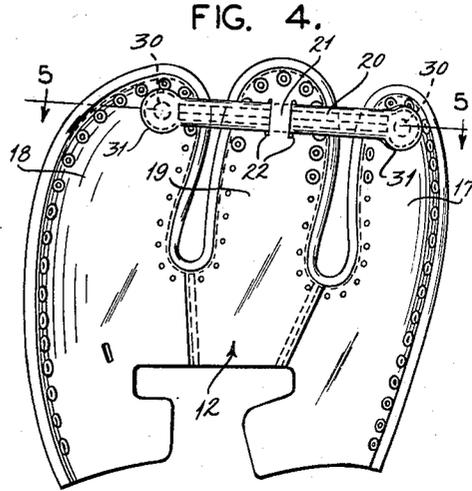
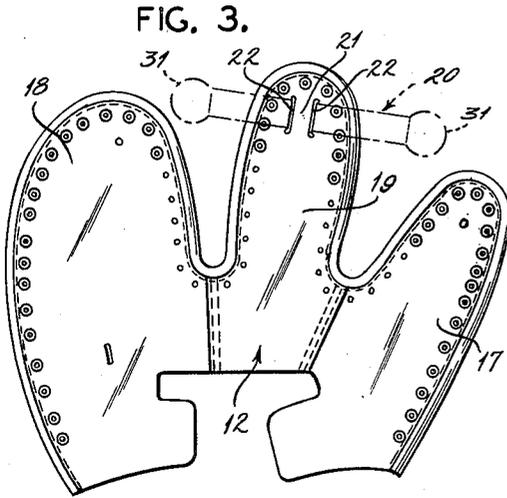
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H. B. LATINA
BASEBALL MITT

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



INVENTOR:
HARRY B. LATINA

by Carr & Carr & Govey
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,625,686

BASEBALL MITT

Harry B. Latina, East St. Louis, Ill., assignor to Rawlings Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, Mo., a corporation of Missouri

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6 Claims. (Cl. 2-19)

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This invention relates to baseball mitts of the type shown in my prior Patent No. 2,281,315, issued to me April 28, 1942, and wherein the baseball mitt is characterized by the formation of a thumb pocket, a pocket spaced therefrom and designed to accommodate the four fingers, and an intermediate glove projection which constitutes a backstop for the ball receiving pocket of the mitt.

It is an object of this invention to provide a baseball mitt of the above character which will meet the rules, regulations and other requirements of the professional organizations by having means which will maintain the distance or spacing between the respective finger and thumb projections of the mitt within the maximum dimension specified.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a baseball mitt having separate pocketed projections for the thumb and for the fingers, and an intermediate backstop projection against which the impact of a caught ball is taken, and in the further provision of means for cooperatively interconnecting all of the projections for the purpose of distributing impact strains throughout the mitt and greatly to increase the wearing life thereof.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a baseball mitt, of the character above indicated, wherein the thumb and finger projections are fixed in a definite spaced relation and the backstop or intermediate projection is flexibly and adjustably connected with the respective thumb and finger projections to facilitate the initial shaping of the mitt to a player's hand and thereafter to assist in the retention of such shape.

Further objects and advantages hereof will be more particularly pointed out and described in connection with the accompanying drawing, illustrating a preferred embodiment of a baseball mitt and wherein,

Fig. 1 is a front view of a baseball mitt formed and constructed in accordance with the present invention and in which the facing piece of the mitt is shaped to define the ball receiving pocket,

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the present baseball mitt illustrating further details thereof and particularly showing the means for interconnecting the projecting portions of the mitt body to control the desired shape of the mitt,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail of a mitt backing piece which illustrates the form and relation of projections which are herein provided for forming thumb and finger pockets,

Fig. 4 is a view similar of Fig. 3, but particu-

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larly illustrating the mitt backing piece when drawn together by a control strap means,

Fig. 5 is a sectional detail taken at line 5-5 in Fig. 4,

Figs. 6 and 7 are front and rear views respectively of a preferred construction of the strap means illustrated in Fig. 4,

Fig. 8 is a transverse sectional elevational view at line 4-4 in Fig. 7, and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a method of attachment of the strap means of Fig. 4.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 in particular, the presently preferred baseball mitt is comprised of a casing or body 10 in which the facing and backing pieces 11 and 12 respectively constitute the principal casing or body portions. In view of Fig. 1 the mitt body 10 may be seen to comprise a palm area 13, a thumb projection 14, a spaced finger projection 15, and a backstop projection 16 which is preferably located intermediate the thumb and finger projections and constitutes the rear area of the ball receiving pocket.

As shown in Fig. 2, the backing piece 12 for the present baseball mitt includes a thumb projection 17, a finger projection 18, and an intermediate projection 19, and all of these projections have a similar form or shape to those of the facing piece 11 illustrated in Fig. 1. Suitable lacings or thongs may be employed to secure the facing and backing pieces 11 and 12 in the formation of the mitt body. In order that the mitt body may have a suitable curvate form for the purpose of defining a ball receiving pocket, it can be seen from Figs. 1 and 2 that the backing piece 12 may be made somewhat larger in its general proportions than the facing piece 11 to accommodate a curving form in which the facing piece is generally concave. It is obvious that in the securing of the facing and backing pieces 11 and 12, suitable padding is provided at the rear of the facing piece and that the securing of the superposed projections 14-17 and 18-19 results in the formation of the stalls to accommodate the thumb and fingers respectively. The intermediate projections 16-19 are suitably united to form a projection acting as a backstop for the ball recess in the palm 13 of the mitt.

In a mitt of the present character, it is highly important that the respective thumb and finger projections be maintained in proper alignment and cooperative adjacency to the intermediate backstop so that the impact of a caught ball in the ball receiving pocket will not be absorbed entirely by the backstop, but impact strain will be transmitted into the thumb and finger pro-

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jections so that all portions of the mitt body will be subjected to impact strains. In order to obtain this intercooperation between the several body projections, a strap means 20 is arranged adjacent the backing piece of the mitt body and is adapted to be secured in fixed relation to the projections 17 and 18 and to extend through a loop element 21 provided in the projection 19. The loop 21 is conveniently formed by providing laterally spaced and parallel slots 22, cut or otherwise formed near the outer end of the projection 19. In addition to the provision of strap 20, the backstop projection formed by the respective facing and backing projections 16 and 19 may be flexibly and adjustably interconnected with the adjacent thumb and finger projections of the mitt body by means of the lacings shown at 23 and 24. It thus will be apparent that the strap means 20 has a sliding or loose fit in the loop 21, and that the lateral positionment of the backstop is effectively determined by selectively tightening or loosening the lacings 23 and 24.

The strap means 20, of Figs. 6, 7 and 8, comprises an elongated body 26 which acts as a protective covering by having its longitudinal margins folded or lapped as at 27 to form a suitable elongated space for a tension strip 28. The strip 28 is formed of an inelastic or non-stretchable material and is suitably secured to the body 26 between the folded margin portions 27 thereof, but it is obvious that the folded parts 27 could be extended to cover strip 28. The tension strip or element 28 is extended beyond the opposite ends of the strap body 20 to provide end portions 29 which are utilized to secure the strap to the respective thumb and finger projections 17 and 18 of the backing piece. The means for securing ends 29 is shown at 30, in the form of a suitable rivet. The exposed riveted connection between the strap and the backing piece is adapted to be covered by an enlarged tab 31 formed at each end of the strap 20 through the provision of an extension of the material of the body 26. References are also made to Fig. 9, wherein details of securement of one end of the strap 20 is fully shown, it being noted that the covering tab 31 has been lifted or turned back to illustrate the riveted anchorage of the strap tension element 28. Additional details of the preferred manner securing strap 20 may be had upon references to Fig. 5.

Having now described a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it can be readily appreciated that the strap means 20 performs the important functions of maintaining the distance between the respective mitt projections, greatly aiding the respective mitt projections to retain a desired alignment and distributing the impact strains on the intermediate projection or backstop to each of the adjacent projections of the mitt body. The strain distribution through the projections of the mitt materially increases the wearing life of the material. The strap means 20 also and importantly retains the thumb and finger projections in cooperative relation to the backstop to enable a more positive ball trapping reaction of the several projections during the act of catching a ball. In other words, the impact of a caught ball, being transmitted from the backstop to the strap 20 and lacings 23 and 24, acts to draw the thumb and finger projections around the ball. The advantage provided by strap 20 is in no wise offset by its connection with the backstop, and it is now obvious from the above description that the backstop may be laterally adjusted through resetting the lacings 23 and 24.

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Having now described a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it should be understood that certain modifications and alterations may be made herein without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A baseball mitt comprising facing and backing pieces together forming a mitt body characterized by the provision of body projections defining thumb and finger stalls and a backstop therebetween, lacings between and flexibly attaching said backstop to said thumb and finger stalls to shape the mitt body and provide a ball receiving pocket, and inelastic strap means secured to said body projections and movably connected with said backstop for retaining said projections in spaced, ball catching cooperation.

2. A baseball mitt comprising a facing and a backing together forming a mitt body, and in which the facing and backing thereof are cut to provide superposed projections defining respectively a thumb stall, a backstop, and a finger stall, lacings between and interconnecting said backstop and said thumb and finger stall projections for forming a ball receiving pocket in the mitt body, a strap fixed to each of said thumb and finger stall projections and extending across the back of said backstop for fixing the spacing of said thumb and finger stall projections against increased spacing under impact of a caught ball.

3. In a baseball mitt, a body formed to provide three projections extending in side-by-side relationship to define a ball receiving pocket, outer ones of said projections providing thumb and finger stalls and an intermediate one of said projections providing a backstop for the ball-receiving pocket, lacing means interconnecting said projections along the adjacent margins thereof to provide flexibility of movement of said outer projections relative to said backstop projection for closing on a ball striking in the ball receiving pocket, and a control strap anchored at its ends in the back of said outer projections to limit the maximum distance therebetween, said control strap being positioned to pass behind said intermediate projection.

4. In a baseball mitt, a body formed of pliable material shaped to provide three projections defining a ball-receiving pocket, said body projections consisting of spaced projections having thumb and finger stalls and an intermediate projection forming a backstop for the ball-receiving pocket, lacing means joining the lateral margins of said intermediate projection with the adjacent margins of said spaced projections along substantially the full length thereof to near the outer extremities, said lacing means permitting flexibility of movement of said outer projections relative to said backstop projection and interconnecting said projections for conjoint action to close on a ball striking in the ball-receiving pocket, and a control strap extending across the back of said intermediate projection near the outer extremity thereof and having its ends connected into the back of said spaced projections to fix the maximum distance between said spaced projections.

5. In a baseball mitt, a body having two spaced projections providing thumb and finger stalls at each side of a ball-receiving pocket and an intermediate projection substantially filling the space between said two projections and providing a backstop for the ball-receiving pocket, lacings interconnecting the opposite margins of said intermediate projection with the adjacent margins

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of said two projections to provide relative movement between said projections for closing about a ball striking in said pocket, and a substantially inelastic control strap slidably connected with said intermediate projection adjacent the outer end thereof, said strap being anchored at its ends in the back of said two projections to fix the maximum distance between said two projections.

6. In a baseball mitt, a body having a ball-receiving pocket formed with a projection having a thumb stall, a projection having a stall for the four fingers and a backstop projection separating the first mentioned projections and occupying a substantial area of the space therebetween; lacings interconnecting the opposite margins of said backstop along the adjacent margins of said first mentioned projections, said lacings allowing hinging movement of said first mentioned projections relative to said backstop in closing about

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a ball striking in the ball-receiving pocket; and a control strap slidably connected at the back of said backstop projection and anchored at its ends in the back of said first mentioned projections, said strap being located adjacent the outer ends of all said projections to maintain said first mentioned projections against spreading to increase the width of the ball-receiving pocket.

HARRY B. LATINA.

REFERENCES CITED

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

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