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 space 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 drawings, 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-
2,625,886

Having now described a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it should be understood that certain modifications and equivalents of the invention 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 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, lacings 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 thereof, 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, lacings 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 lacings 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 end, and said mitt having 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.
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 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.

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