

Nov. 5, 1968

F. J. GALLAGHER

3,408,657

FINGER LOCK DEVICE

Filed May 11, 1967

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

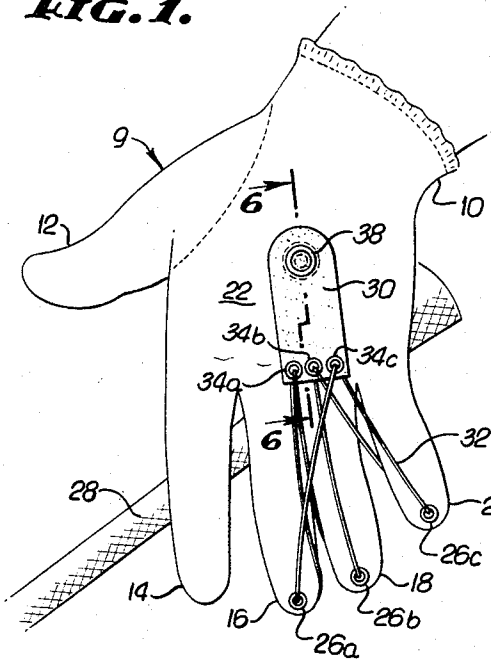


FIG. 2.

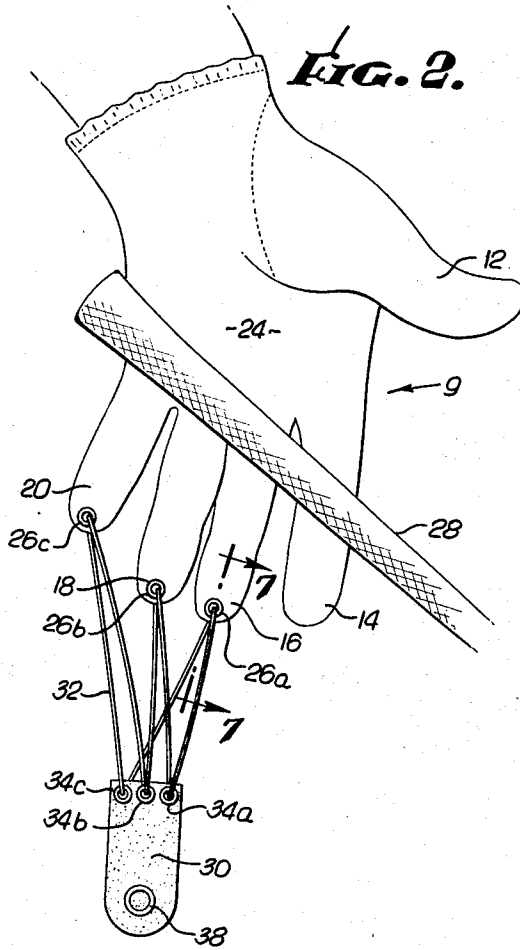


FIG. 3.

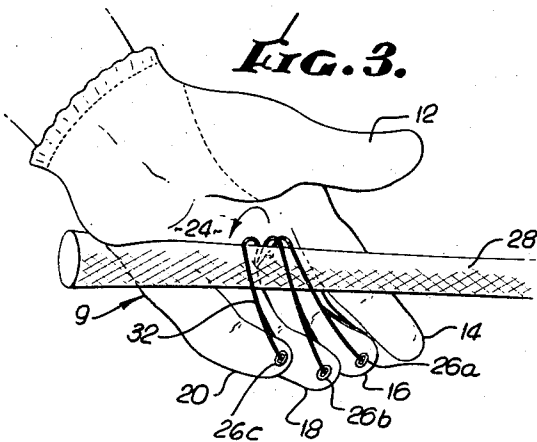


FIG. 4.

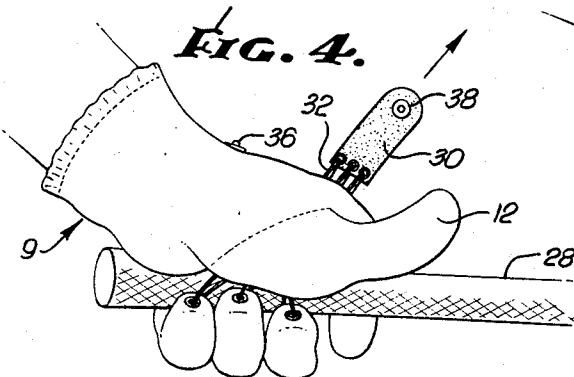
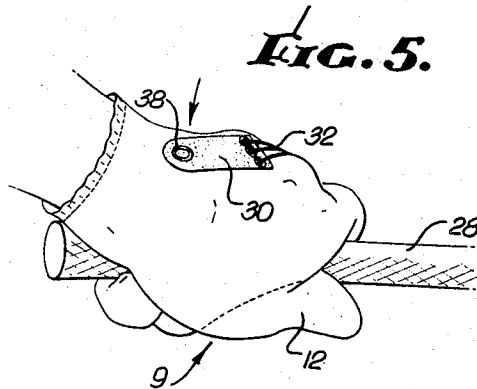


FIG. 5.



INVENTOR.
FRANK J. GALLAGHER

BY
Huebner & Worrel
ATTORNEYS.

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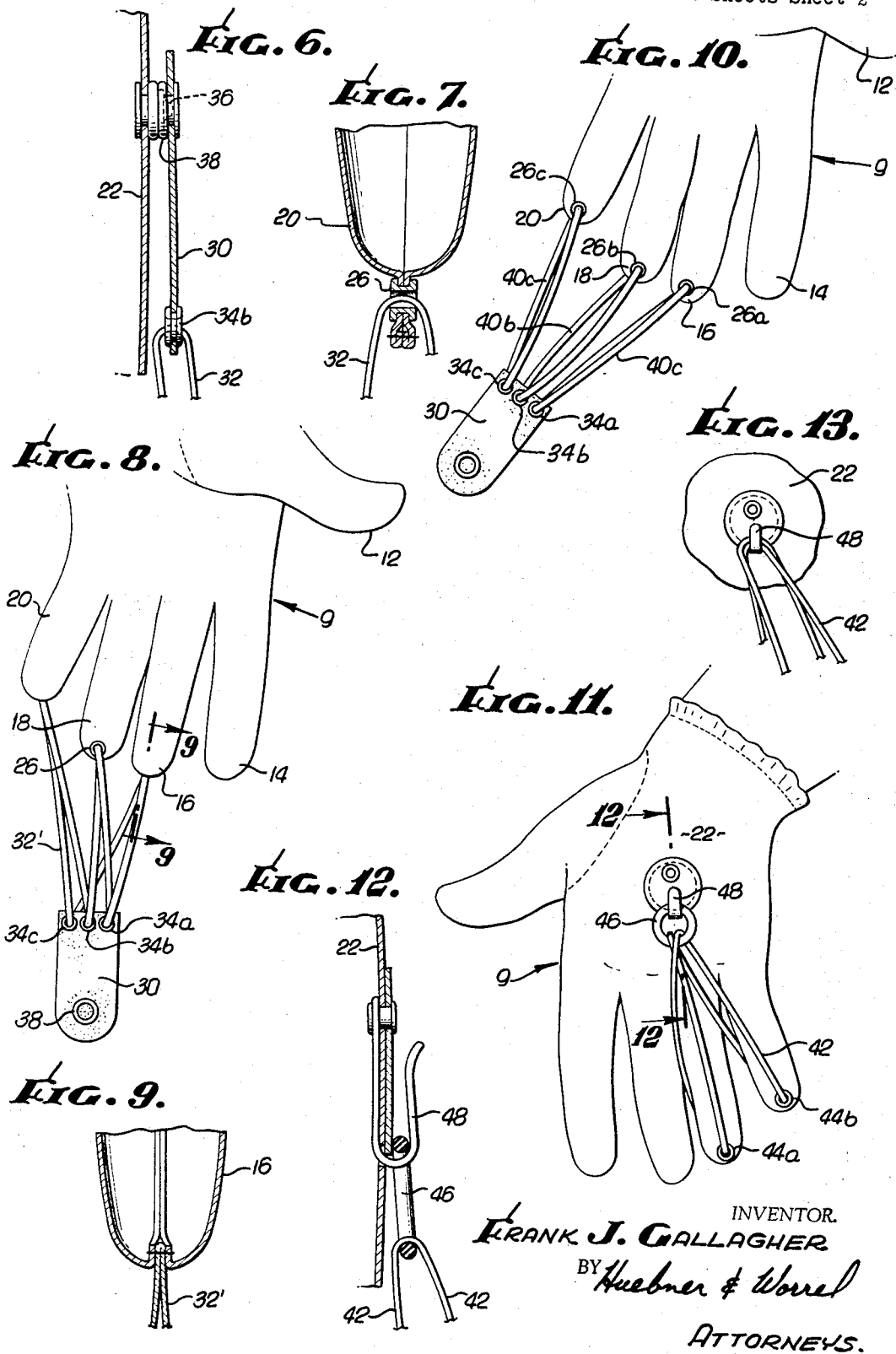
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3,408,657

FINGER LOCK DEVICE

Frank J. Gallagher, 13261 Prospect Ave.,
Santa Ana, Calif. 92705

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2-159)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A finger lock device for temporarily holding the wearer's finger in tight conformity to the handle portion of a swingable shaft, such as a golf club, baseball bat, or the like. The device preferably includes a finger stall with a lace connected thereto, and of sufficient length to wrap around the handle as a projection of the arc defined by the finger stall when the finger engages the handle in gripping attitude. The lace includes an extension which is drawn between the fingers to cinch it up and frictionally temporarily pinch it there between for tight lodgement.

Background of the invention

This invention relates to a finger lock device which can be part of a glove, and more particularly to a glove having finger stalls whereby fingers in said stalls can be securely locked against a handle of a swingable shaft, such as that of a golf club, which is held in a hand on which the glove is worn.

When a golfer moves his arms into the backswing position at the start of his golf swing, it is important that his fingers remain firmly wrapped around the handle of his club so that the club head will be maintained in correct alignment with the golf ball as it is swung downward. There is a tendency, however, for inexperienced golfers to inadvertently relax the grip of certain fingers of their hands upon a club handle as they raise their arms into the backswing position, thereby causing their shots to be misdirected. A device that will train a golfer to keep his fingers clinched during his swing is obviously advantageous to the great number of persons who play golf. Also, there are other sports in which a glove constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention can be used to advantage, for example, baseball and tennis.

Summary of the invention

It is accordingly an object of this invention to provide a glove having finger stalls whereby fingers inserted in said stalls can be locked around a handle of a swingable shaft, such as that of a golf club, baseball bat, or tennis racket, and stabilize such club, bat or racket during the swing thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a golf glove with means which are capable of locking fingers in the glove about a golf club handle, and which are also capable of conveniently being placed in an out-of-use position that permits the glove to be used in the same manner as conventional golf gloves.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a glove with finger locking means that can readily be adjusted to maintain a grip of any desired tightness on a handle held in the hand on which the glove is worn.

A further object of the invention is to provide a glove wherein finger stalls of the hand inserted therein can quickly and conveniently be locked around a handle, and which can also rapidly be unlocked for free movement thereof.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a glove of the type described, which is uncomplicated in design and construction and thus economical to manufacture.

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The foregoing and other objects of the invention are achieved by means of a glove comprising at least two finger stalls joined to a back portion (and preferably to a palm portion) which in turn is joined to a wristband, at least one flexible lace attached to the distal end of each of the aforesaid finger stalls, and preferably, means for detachably securing the laces to the back portion of the glove.

Brief description of the drawings

In the accompanying drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a pictorial view of the back side of a glove constructed in accordance with the invention, illustrated as it appears on a golfer's left hand when the golfer prepares to grasp the handle of a golf club without the use of finger locking means;

FIGURE 2 illustrates the same glove as it appears when viewed from its palmar side and with finger locking means of the glove in position to be locked around the handle of a golf club;

FIGURE 3 illustrates the same glove as it appears when viewed from its palmar side and with laces of its finger locking means shown looped around the handle of a golf club and passed between the middle and ring fingers of the golfer's left hand;

FIGURE 4 illustrates the same glove as it appears when the aforesaid laces have been pulled to cinch three finger stalls of the glove around the handle of a golf club;

FIGURE 5 illustrates the same glove as it appears when a tab to which the aforesaid laces are attached has been fastened to the back portion of the glove;

FIGURE 6 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 6-6 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 7-7 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary view of a modified glove constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 9 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 9-9 of FIGURE 8;

FIGURE 10 is a fragmentary view of a second modified glove constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 11 is a view of a third modified glove constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 12 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 12-12 of FIGURE 11; and

FIGURE 13 is a fragmentary view illustrating a modification of the means for fastening the laces of the glove shown in FIGURE 11.

Throughout the following specification and the drawings, like numbers designate like parts.

Description of the preferred embodiments

As illustrated in FIGURE 1, one embodiment of the present invention is a golf glove, generally designated 9, comprising a wrist portion 10, a thumb stall 12, four finger stalls 14 through 20, and a unitary back portion 22 and palm portion 24 (the latter being illustrated in FIGURE 2). Grommets 26a, 26b and 26c are fixedly mounted on the distal end of each of the middle, ring and little finger stalls 16, 18 and 20, a typical one of these grommets being illustrated in detail in FIGURE 7. The glove 9 is provided with finger stall locking components, preferably in the form of a tab 30, an endless lace 32 that is threaded through grommets 26a, 26b and 26c, and through three grommets 34a, 34b and 34c, fixedly mounted on the tab 30 adjacent one end thereof, and a snap-type fastener, the eye 36 (see FIGURES 4 and 6) of which is fixedly secured to back portion 22 of the glove, and the socket 38 of which is fixedly secured to the tab 30. The arrangement of lace 32 is such that each of the middle, ring and little finger stalls is connected to tab 30 by two lace

segments, the length of the latter being adjustable by pulling the lace through grommets 26 and 34 so that tab 30 can be disposed at different positions relative to finger stalls 14-20 when the tab is detached from back portion 22 of the glove and the lace segments are pulled taut, as illustrated in FIGURE 2.

An advantage of the aforescribed glove is that it can be used, if desired, with its finger stall locking components secured as illustrated in FIGURE 1, in which configuration the segments of lace 32 extending from grommets 26 to the palmar side of the glove are disposed between adjacent finger stalls as illustrated in the drawing, and tab 30 is fastened to back portion 22 of the glove. Thus, in this configuration of tab 30 and lace 32, the glove can be used in the same manner as a conventional golf glove. When a wearer of the glove wishes to lock his middle, ring and little fingers around the handle 28 of a golf club, or other swingable shaft, he merely detaches tab 30 from the back portion 22 and, with the handle disposed transversely adjacent the palmar side of finger stalls 14-20, as illustrated in FIGURE 2, he then loops all segments of lace 32 over the handle, as illustrated in FIGURE 3, in a projection of the arc defined by the finger stalls when the fingers engage the handle 28. The tab 30 is next preferably passed between the middle finger stall 16 and the ring finger stall 18, after which it is pulled in the direction illustrated by the arrow in FIGURE 4, to draw and cinch the middle, ring and little finger stalls 16, 18 and 20, and fingers therein around handle 28. The middle, ring and little fingers of the user's left hand will now be firmly wrapped around and locked on the handle of his club. The socket 38 on tab 30 may then be pressed upon eye 36 to prevent the tab from flopping, and to keep it out of the way during the golf swing. Additionally, by snapping the socket 38 of tab 30 on eye 36, the locked finger position, such as shown in FIGURE 5, may be maintained until it is desired to release the locking components. However, the club handle can be quickly released by detaching tab 30 from eye 36, as described hereinbefore.

While the preferred embodiment illustrates a complete glove 9, it must be realized that the lace locking components could be utilized equally effectively with a partial glove commonly used by some golfers. Such a partial glove normally does not include a back portion, and the finger stalls are united with the wrist portion. If such glove were utilized, the lock fastening means could either be eliminated or secured to the wrist portion. Further, mere finger stalls and laces could also be used with equal effect.

While the material which composes the lace 32 is not critical to the invention, it should preferably be of such thickness and texture adequate to avoid cutting of the hand when in a locked position, and to provide a surface for temporary tight lodgment between the fingers.

It will be obvious that many modifications of the aforescribed glove can be made without departing from the basic principles of its construction and use. For example, as illustrated in FIGURES 8 and 9, the lace 32' which connects tab 30 to the middle, ring and little finger stalls 16, 18 and 20 of the glove, can be fixedly secured to the middle and little finger stalls 16 and 20, and arranged to pass through a grommet 26 mounted on the ring finger stall.

In some applications of the invention, it may be advantageous to connect each of the middle, ring and little finger stalls to tab 30 by means of a separate lace, as illustrated in FIGURE 10, wherein each of three endless laces 40a, 40b and 40c is threaded through a grommet 26a, 26b and 26c on the end of an associated finger stall, through one of three grommets 34 mounted on the tab.

The invention is not limited, of course, with respect to the means employed to detachably fasten the lace or laces to the back portion 22 of a glove after finger stalls of the latter have been locked around a handle. Furthermore, any number of finger stalls of a glove can be connected

with a lace or laces so that they can be locked as described. Thus, FIGURES 11 and 12 illustrate a glove having an endless lace 42 threaded through two grommets 44a, and 44b, respectively, mounted on the distal end of the ring and little finger stalls of the glove, and through a ring 46. Fixedly mounted on the back portion 22 of the glove is a hook 48, with which ring 46 can be detachably engaged. It will be understood that the segments of lace 42 can be looped over a handle, as previously described in connection with the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGURE 1, after which ring 46 can be passed between the ring and little finger stalls and pulled to draw the latter around the handle, and the ring then engaged with hook 48. If desired, ring 46 can be omitted from the arrangement illustrated in FIGURES 11 and 12, and lace 42 can itself be looped over hook 48, as illustrated in FIGURE 13.

Hooks or snap-type fasteners may be spaced lengthwise at which a lace or laces can be fastened, depending upon the angle of the laces caused by variations in the tension applied to the finger stalls. Variations of the tension on finger stalls can also be attained, of course, by wise of the back of a glove so as to provide a plurality of varying the length of the lace segments.

While the preferred embodiments of this invention have illustrated and recited the use of detachable fastening means for the lace 32 to the glove 9, the lace 32 may also be permanently attached to the back portion 22 of the glove without departing from the spirit of the invention.

When the lace 32 is permanently attached to the back portion 22 of the glove 9, the lace 32 should be of sufficient length to freely accommodate a handle between the lace and finger stalls. Thus, when the handle is slipped between the lace and finger stalls, the lace can be cinched up and pulled taut between the fingers to achieve the finger lock.

It can be seen that with the permanently attached lace 32, the glove 9 may also be used without the finger lock feature by merely pressing the lace 32 against the palm out of the way.

Although the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to preferred embodiments, it will be apparent that other embodiments, as well as modifications to those disclosed, can be made without departing from the scope of the invention, for the limits of which reference must be made to the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a glove comprising a wrist portion, palm and back portions, a thumb stall and four finger stalls, the combination comprising a grommet fixedly mounted on the distal end of each of the middle, ring and little finger stalls, a tab, three grommets fixedly mounted on said tab adjacent one end thereof, an endless lace threaded through said grommets on said finger stalls and said tab so as to form lace segments of adjustable length therebetween, and fastening means for detachably securing said tab to the back portion of said glove at a selected point thereon, whereby when said glove is on a user's hand, said lace segments can be looped over a handle disposed transversely adjacent the palmar side of said finger stalls in the projection of the arc defined by the finger stalls when the fingers engage the handle in gripping attitude, and said lace is passed between the middle, and ring finger stalls adjacent the point of their juncture with the palmar and back portions of said glove, and said tab then secured to said back portion.

2. In a glove as defined in claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises a first fastening member fixedly attached to said back portion of said glove, and a second fastening member fixedly attached to said tab, and said first and second fastening members adapted to be detachably secured to each other.

3. A glove and finger lock combination adapted to be worn on the hand to lock fingers of the wearer on a handle of a swingable shaft, comprising at least two finger

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bearing stalls having distal portions and open portions remote from said distal portions, a wristband secured to said finger bearing stalls, said stalls and wristband forming said glove, a lace attached to the distal portion of at least one of said finger bearing stalls and being of sufficient length to loop over said handle portion disposed transversely adjacent the palmar side of each of said finger bearing stalls and extending between said finger bearing stalls adjacent said open portions and adapted to be drawn outwardly away from the back of said hand and temporarily tightly lodging said lace between said finger bearing stalls adapted to lock said fingers in said finger bearing stalls about said handle.

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4. A glove and finger lock combination as defined in claim 9, wherein said lace is attached to the distal portion of both finger bearing stalls.

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10 JORDAN FRANKLIN, *Primary Examiner*.
GEORGE V. LARKIN, *Assistant Examiner*.