May 7, 1940. R. LE MAT 2,200,204

BASEBALL GLOVE

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Fig.1.

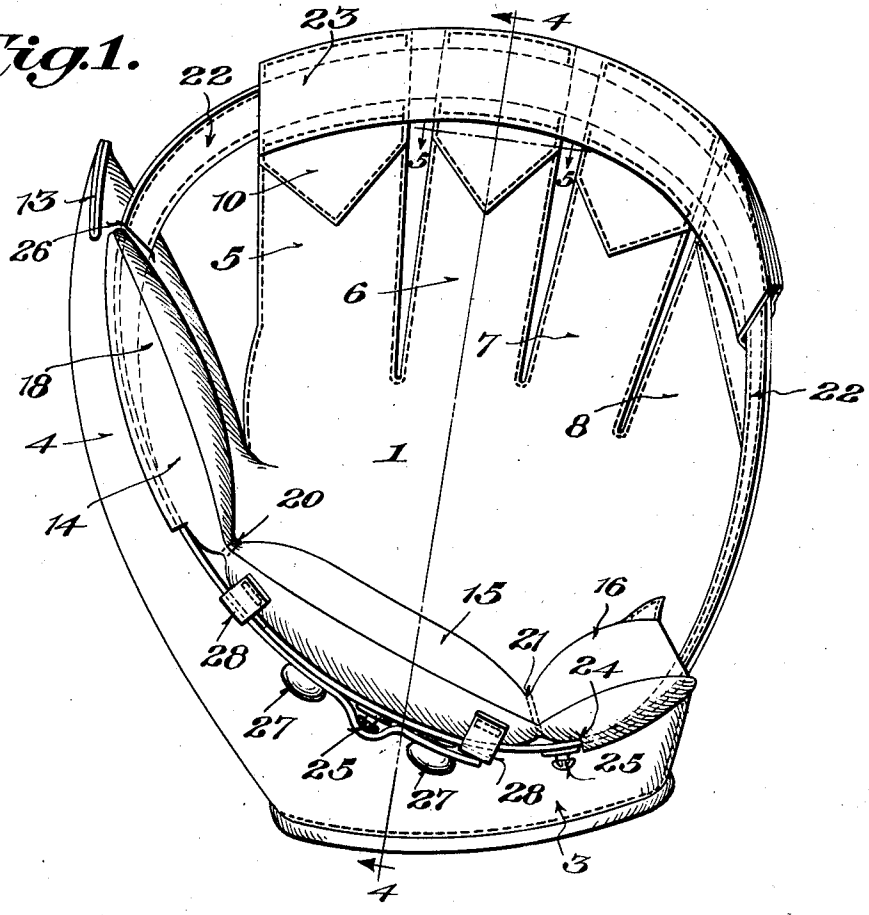


Fig.2.

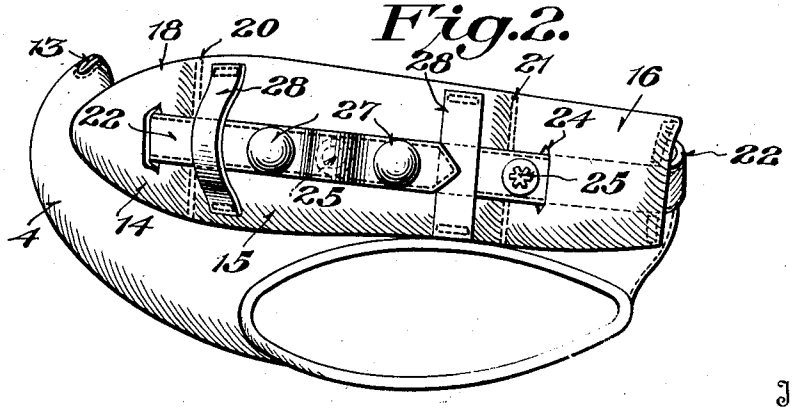
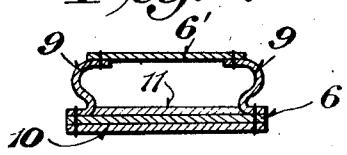


Fig.5.



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Fig. 4.

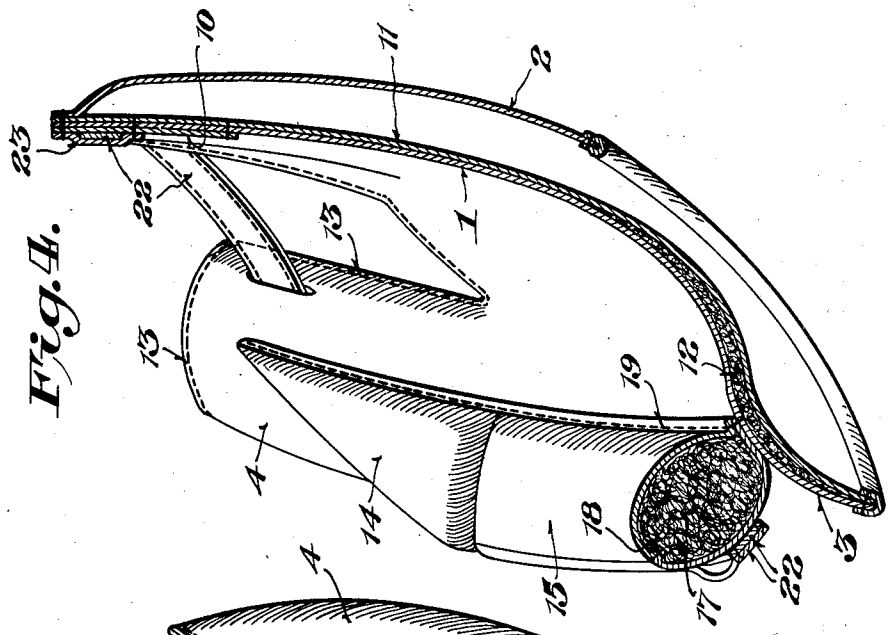
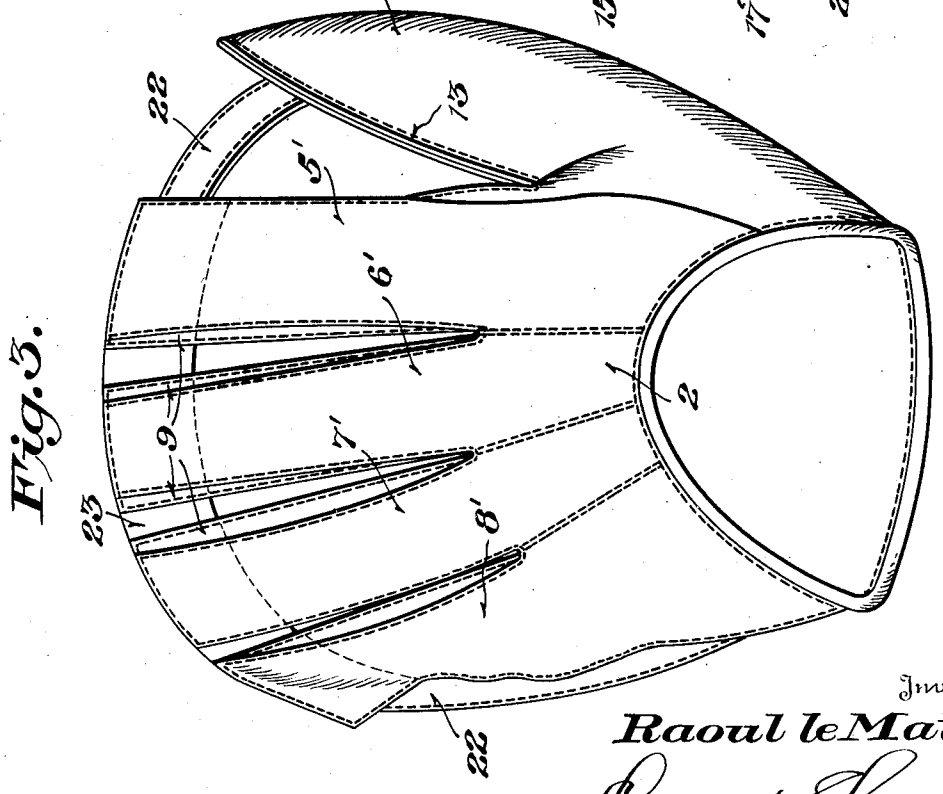


Fig. 5.



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BASEBALL GLOVE

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Application January 21, 1938, Serial No. 186,203

18 Claims. (Cl. 2—19)

This invention relates to baseball gloves, and has for its prime object to provide certain new and useful features of construction whereby the impact of a ball within the palm of the glove will effect an automatic inward folding of the finger and thumb portions of the glove causing a consequent automatic inward folding of the thumb and fingers of the hand, thereby producing an automatic and effective gripping of the hand around the ball in addition to the hand manipulation of the glove by the user thereof.

While the glove of the present invention may be padded to any preferred degree, it is an important object of the invention to materially reduce the amount of padding, particularly in the palm and the finger portions of the glove, thereby providing a more flexible glove capable of quicker and more effective manipulation, while at the same time affording ample protection for the hand of the user.

Another object of the invention is to limit spreading and separation of the thumb and finger portions from one another and also from the wrist portion of the glove under the impact of a ball in the palm of the glove, thereby insuring an effective and satisfactory cupping of the glove so necessary to the catching of a ball.

A further object of the invention is to provide for adjustably tying together the free ends of the finger, thumb and wrist portions of the glove, whereby the user may adjust the limiting connection between the several portions of the glove in accordance with the desire of the user of the glove.

With these and other objects in view, the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it of course being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the present invention.

In the drawings

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a baseball glove embodying the features of the present invention.

Figure 2 is an end view of Figure 1 looking at the wrist end of the glove.

Figure 3 is an elevation looking at the back of the glove.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

The glove of the present invention includes a front or palm section 1 and a back section 2 of leather or other suitable material. The palm section has a wrist portion 3, a thumb portion 4, and finger portions 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively. The finger portions are straight and flat, are successively spaced and radiate from the center of the palm. The back member 2 has radiating finger portions 5', 6', 7' and 8' successively spaced and disposed opposite the corresponding finger sections of the front member 1. As best shown in Figure 5, it will be seen that the back finger section is slightly narrower than the front finger section, and corresponding longitudinal edges of the sections are connected by a flexible side member 9 stitched or otherwise connected to the front and back members of the finger and constituting a bellows element to permit movement of the front and back members of the finger towards and away from one another. A reinforcing finger tip 10, of leather or other suitable material, is stitched or otherwise secured to the outer face of each front finger portion and extending from the outer free extremity of the finger section inwardly towards the palm for a suitable distance, the inner end of the part 10 being pointed or V-shaped with the point extending inwardly along the finger.

Within the interior of the glove there is a lining 11 which extends over the palm and along the finger sections thereof, there being suitable padding 12 included between the palm member and the lining, as best shown in Figure 4 of the drawings, and extending from the wrist end of the glove for a suitable distance into the palm portion of the glove. If desired, this padding may extend throughout the length of each finger section, but it has been found practicable to stop the padding at about the transverse mid portion of the palm, the lining 11 lying in contact with the other half of the palm and the finger sections, thereby producing a very flexible structure capable of quick and effective manipulation under flexing or bending of the fingers of the hand of the user.

As best shown in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings, it will be understood that the thumb portion 4 is contained entirely in the palm member or blank of the glove, and the free edges thereof are brought together to form a tubular thumb member and said edges are connected together by a stitched seam 13 extending across the outer end of the thumb member and down along the inner edge thereof.

An important feature of the present invention

resides in the provision of an abutment extending along the front side of the thumb 4 and transversely across the base portion of the palm to the outer edge thereof opposite the thumb. This abutment is shown as including three sections designated 14, 15 and 16, each section being hollow or tubular, as best shown in Figure 4, and provided with padding 17. The exterior or casing portion of each abutment section is of leather or other suitable material, preferably in opposite longitudinal sections with their corresponding edges connected together by stitched seams 18 and 19. Preferably the outer seam 18 has the edge elements thereof turned inwardly so as to present a smooth exterior, while the other edges are turned outwardly to provide a seam which is in the form of an exterior flange, and this flange is stitched or otherwise secured to the palm section, including the thumb portion thereof. This abutment stands out at substantially right angles to the front or palm side of the glove, and the successive abutment sections taper towards one another and are flexibly connected together at 20 and 21, whereby the abutment section 18 may move readily with the thumb 4, and the other opposite intermediate abutment section 15 may flex with the rear end or heel portion of the palm on the more or less stationary or fixed abutment section 16. In other words, the parts 20 and 21 constitute in effect hinges so as to enable the flexing or swinging of the abutment sections one upon the other during the flexing of the glove under the impact of a ball in the palm of the glove and under the manipulation of the glove by the hand of the user. It will here be explained that when a ball is received within the palm of a glove, it will contact the forward side of the abutment which will materially assist in preventing the passage of the ball rearwardly across the wrist portion of the glove. Moreover, the height or depth of the abutment with respect to the palm of the glove will add to the depth of the pocket produced by the cupping of the glove under the impact of a ball and thereby aid materially in retaining the ball in the palm of the glove.

The free ends of the thumb and the fingers are flexibly connected or tied to the wrist or heel portion of the front of the glove by a tie or strap member 22. As best shown in Figure 4, it will be seen that each finger member is provided on its front side with a guideway slidably receiving the strap, this slideway consisting of a strip of leather or other material 23 extending across the front sides of the fingers at the outer ends thereof to which its upper and lower edges are connected by stitching. The opposite ends of the strip 23 are not connected to the adjacent fingers in order that the slideway may be open at its opposite ends to enable the introduction of the strap 22 and to enable the endwise movement of the strap through the slideway in order that the various parts may accommodate themselves in the use of the glove and that the strap may be moved through the slideway for adjustment purposes. One end portion of the strap 22 extends rearwardly from the finger portion 8 and passes through a slit or slideway 24 in the abutment section 16 and extends along across the rear face of the abutment section 15 and is provided with a plurality of snap fastener elements 25. The opposite end portion of the strap 22 passes through a slideway 26 extending through the thumb 4 and the abutment section 14, from which it extends across the abutment section 15, overlapping the first mentioned end portion of the strap and is provided with snap fastener elements 27 for cooperation with the snap fastener elements 25 whereby the ends of the strap may be adjustably connected together. By this arrangement the spreading and the rearwardly bending of the thumb and the finger portions are limited, and therefore a proper cupping of the glove is insured under the impact of a ball against the palm of the glove. By adjusting the overlapping of the free ends of the strap 22, the thumb and the fingers may be bent inwardly more or less towards the palm of the glove in accordance with the desires of the user of the glove. As well shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, it will be seen that the strap or tie 22 extends continuously around the periphery of the glove at the front side thereof and limits spreading and distortion of this peripheral portion of the glove under the impact of a ball in the palm of the glove, the palm being free to bend and cup, whereby the cupped shape of the glove is effectually retained resulting in effectually retaining of the ball in the palm of the glove.

The padded abutment section 15 is of course provided with a suitable slideway for the overlapped ends of the tie member 22, one form of slideway being shown made up of a plurality of loops 28 through which the respective ends of the tie member are lapped, thereby leaving the overlapped ends of the tie members exposed for convenience in adjusting the same.

While the present invention has been illustrated in the drawings and described in the foregoing specification in connection with a finger glove, it will of course be understood that it is equally applicable to catcher's mitts and first baseman's mitts.

I claim—

1. A readily flexible baseball glove having a flexible tie member slidably extending transversely across the finger and thumb portions of the glove and also peripherally around the palm of the glove.

2. A readily flexible baseball glove having a flexible tie member slidably extending transversely across the finger and thumb portions of the glove and also peripherally around the palm of the glove, and means for adjusting the affective length of the tie member.

3. A baseball glove having a slideway extending transversely across the finger portion of the glove, another slideway provided along the thumb of the glove, another slideway extending transversely across the front of the glove at the base of the palm portion thereof, and a flexible tie member extending slidably through said slideways.

4. A baseball glove having a slideway extending transversely across the finger portion of the glove, another slideway provided along the thumb of the glove, another slideway extending transversely across the front of the glove at the base of the palm portion thereof, a flexible tie member extending slidably through said slideways, said tie member having its opposite end portions lapped and provided with means for adjustably connecting said lapped portions together.

5. A baseball glove having a flexible strip extending transversely across the finger portion of the glove and secured thereto along the opposite longitudinal edges of the strip, the ends of the strip being free from the finger portion of the glove, said strip and the adjacent glove portion constituting an open ended slideway, and a flexible tie member extending slidably through said slideway and having its end portions connected

to the front of the glove at the base of the palm thereof.

6. A baseball glove provided with a padded abutment extending longitudinally along the thumb of the glove and transversely across the base of the palm portion of the glove to the opposite edge of the glove, said padded abutment being divided into flexibly connected sections to accommodate the abutment to the flexing of the glove.

7. A baseball glove provided with a padded abutment section extending transversely across the front of the glove at the base of the palm thereof, another padded abutment section extending along the thumb of the glove and flexibly connected to the first mentioned abutment section, and a third abutment section extending from the first mentioned abutment section to the adjacent edge of the glove, successive abutment sections being flexibly connected to accommodate the abutment sections to the flexing of the glove.

8. A baseball glove having a padded abutment extending along the thumb of the glove and transversely across the base of the palm of the glove at the front side thereof, and a flexible tie member connecting the finger portion of the glove with the abutment.

9. A baseball glove provided with a padded abutment extending along the thumb of the glove and transversely across the base of the palm at the front side of the glove, and a flexible tie member extending around the abutment and transversely across the outer free end of the finger portion of the glove.

10. A baseball glove provided with a padded sectional jointed abutment extending along the thumb of the glove and across the base of the palm at the front of the glove, the finger portion of the glove being provided with an open ended slideway located at the outer free end of the finger portion of the glove, a flexible tie member extending slidably through the slideway and having its opposite end portions slidably associated with the abutment and provided with means for adjustably connecting the ends of the tie member.

11. In combination with a readily flexible baseball glove an abutment on the exterior of the glove and projecting abruptly outwardly from the front face of the glove and extending across the base portion of the glove palm from a point adjacent the thumb edge of the palm to a point adjacent the small finger edge of the same, said abutment consisting of a padded somewhat flattened tubular member of flexible material disposed with its major transverse axis lying substantially at right angles to the plane of the glove palm, said abutment being separate from and stitched to the exterior of the glove palm in the position stated.

12. A readily flexible baseball glove having a padded abutment which projects abruptly outwardly from the glove palm and extends along the thumb of the glove and transversely across the base portion of the palm of the glove, and a flexible member which is connected with that end of the abutment which lies away from the thumb of the glove, said flexible member extending toward the finger tip portion of the glove alongside the small finger edge of the glove.

13. In a baseball glove a flexible tie member connected to and extending across the finger tip portion of the glove and also connected to and extending alongside of the lateral margins and base portion of the glove palm, the portion of such tie member which extends alongside the base portion of the glove palm being arranged to receive the impact of a ball being caught to effect movement of the finger tip portion toward ball grasping position, and a padded abutment carried by and projecting abruptly outwardly from the base portion of the glove palm, that portion of the tie member which extends alongside the base portion of the glove palm lying behind said abutment and receiving ball impacts therethrough.

14. In a baseball glove a flexible tie member connected to and extending across the finger tip portion of the glove and also connected to and extending alongside of the lateral margins and base portion of the glove palm, the portion of such tie member which extends alongside the base portion of the glove palm being arranged to receive the impact of a ball being caught to effect movement of the finger tip portion toward ball grasping position.

15. In a baseball glove a flexible tie member connected to and extending across the finger tip portion of the glove and also connected to and extending alongside of the lateral margins and base portion of the glove palm, the portion of such tie member which extends alongside the base portion of the glove palm being arranged to receive the impact of a ball being caught to effect movement of the finger tip portion toward ball grasping position, and means for adjusting the effective length of the tie member.

16. A baseball glove provided with an abutment on the exterior of the glove and projecting outwardly at substantially right angles from the front of the palm thereof and extending transversely across the base of the palm of the glove from the base of the thumb portion of the glove to the opposite edge of the palm portion of the glove, the palm of the glove lying below the top of the abutment and being unobstructed and freely flexible from the abutment forwardly to the outer edge of the glove, and a flexible tie member connecting the little finger end of the abutment to the forward portion of the little finger edge of the glove.

17. A baseball glove provided on its exterior with an abutment projecting outwardly at substantially right angles thereto and extending transversely across the base of the palm of the glove from the base of the thumb portion to the opposite edge of the palm portion of the glove, the palm of the glove lying below the top of the abutment and being unobstructed and freely flexible from the abutment forwardly to the outer edge of the glove, and a flexible tie member connecting one end of the abutment to the forward portion of the adjacent edge of the glove.

18. A baseball glove provided on its exterior with an abutment projecting outwardly at substantially right angles thereto and extending transversely across the base of the palm of the glove from the base of the thumb portion of the glove to the opposite edge of the palm portion of the glove, the palm of the glove lying below the top of the abutment and being unobstructed and freely flexible from the abutment forwardly to the outer edge of the glove, and flexible tie members connecting the respective ends of the abutment to the forward portion of the adjacent edge of the glove.

RAOUL LE MAT.