

E. H. DECKER.  
BASE BALL GLOVE.  
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 15, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

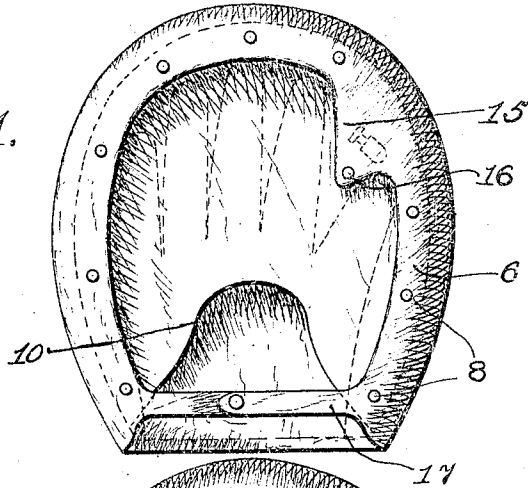
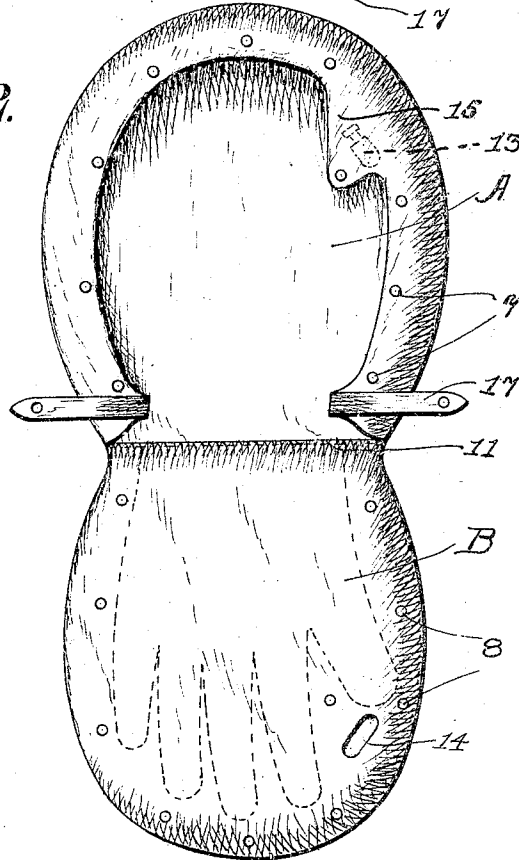


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

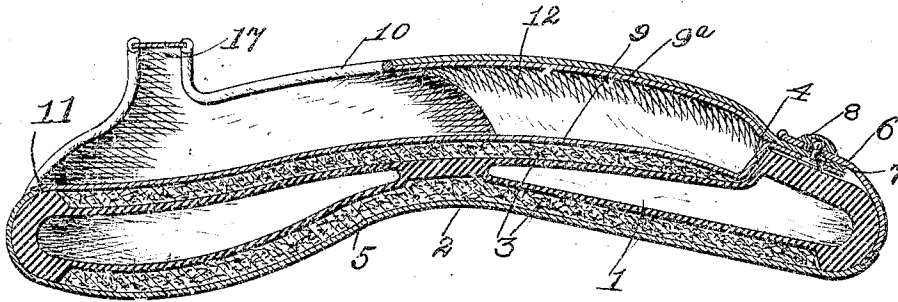


Fig. 4.

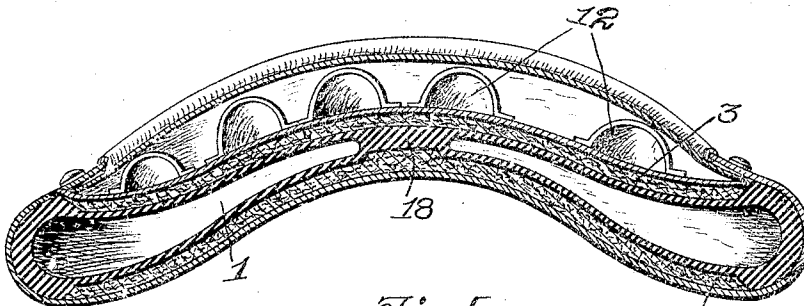
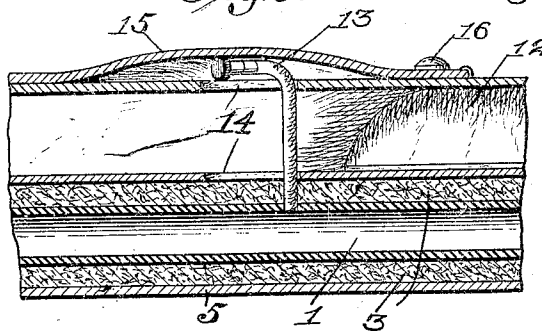


Fig. 5.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARLE HARRY DECKER, OF KEOKUK, IOWA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
GEORGE J. STITELEY, OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

## BASE-BALL GLOVE.

No. 812,921.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 20, 1906.

Application filed November 15, 1904. Serial No. 232,902.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EARLE HARRY DECKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Keokuk, in the county of Lee and State of Iowa, have invented new and useful Improvements in Base-Ball Gloves, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in base-ball gloves, and has more particular reference to that type known as "catchers' mitts."

The primary object of my improvement is to provide a glove which is thumbless and, further, one in which the padding can be adjusted or regulated to suit the user.

In constructing my improved glove I employ an inflatable cushion, and a further object of the present invention is to provide means whereby it is protected, and, further, to so construct the cushion that it will retain its given shape or contour when inflated.

Other objects and advantages will be set forth in the following description and those features of construction upon which I desire protection defined in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and wherein like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 is a plan view of the glove with the two sections thereof secured together. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the glove with the sections thereof swung apart. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the glove. Fig. 4 is a transverse section thereof, and Fig. 5 is a detail fragmentary sectional view showing more clearly the position of the valve-stem and the protecting flap therefor.

My improved glove comprises forward and rear sections A and B, and I will first describe the construction of the forward section. This comprises an inflatable cushion 1, preferably of rubber, which is approximately elliptical in form and has its outer face or palm concaved to form a pocket or hollow 2 for the reception of the ball. The back of the cushion or pad is convexed, whereby it fits the natural hollows of the hand. At points along the edges of this cushion the material is increased in thickness, thereby forming recesses in the outer faces of the front and back walls of the cushion, and into these recesses I place felt or the like, as at 3. This material deadens the force of the ball and protects the vital por-

tions of the cushion from injury. The thickened forward edge portion of the cushion 1 on the back face thereof also forms a pocket, as at 4, to protect the tips of the fingers. The outer face of this section A is provided with a covering 5, of leather or other suitable material, which covering terminates in an edge flap 6 on the back face of the section.

The back or rear section B of the glove is of smaller dimensions than the section A and is adapted to have its side and forward edges inserted beneath said flap 6, where they are secured by suitable means—for instance, the well-known resilient head and socket fasteners (see Fig. 3)—the sockets, as at 7, being mounted in the flap and the heads (indicated at 8) carried by the section B. The section B is formed of two thicknesses of material, forming inner and outer walls 9 and 9<sup>a</sup>, the latter of which is cut away, as at 10, to permit of the insertion of the hand, and the former is secured, as by stitching, thereby forming a hinged connection to the covering of the section A. Between the walls 9 and 9<sup>a</sup> the stalls 12 are provided for the reception of the fingers.

It will be observed that the line of stitching (indicated at 11) occurs at the heel of the glove, thereby overcoming any interference with the catching of the ball or having the latter inflict injury thereto.

The cushion 1 is provided with a valved inflation-tube 13, which normally projects through an opening 14 in the section B and has its outer end (see Fig. 5) arranged beneath a flap 15, formed integral with the flap 6. This flap is held closed by a fastening means 16 of a construction similar to those previously described.

In operation the back section is inserted into position (see Fig. 3) and the fasteners 7 and 8 snapped together. The cushion 1 is then inflated and the tube then bent as shown in Fig. 5 and the flap 15 secured down as heretofore stated. The glove is now ready to be placed on the hand of the user, after which it is secured by flaps 17, secured to the rear ends of the flap 6.

I have found in practice that it is almost impossible to prevent the front wall of the cushion 1 from lifting or bulging when the cushion is inflated unless some means is provided for bracing the same, and I therefore obviate this objection by providing a core 18,

which is preferably molded to the front and back walls of the cushion.

The cover can be readily removed after the two sections are separated and the felt 3 replaced, if desired.

I have herein shown and described a construction which is extremely simple and both durable and inexpensive, yet it will be obvious that various changes in the details of construction can be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

- 15 1. A glove comprising an inflatable cushion, impact-deadening material arranged on one face thereof, and a cover inclosing the same.
- 20 2. In a glove, a pneumatic cushion, impact-deadening material arranged on its front and rear faces, a covering for said cushion and impact-deadening material, and means whereby the glove is secured in position.
- 25 3. A glove comprising two sections arranged one on the other, a cover for one section, a flap carried thereby and overlapping

the other section, means whereby said last-named section is secured to the flap, a pneumatic cushion arranged in the first-named section, an air-tube therefor projecting 30 through the other section, and a flap normally covering the free end of said tube.

4. In a glove, an inflatable cushion formed with a recess, and a pad arranged in said recess.

5. A glove comprising front and back 35 hinged sections, finger-stalls on said back section, an inflatable cushion between said sections, and an inflating-tube therefor, said tube extending through said back section at a point intermediate two of said finger-stalls. 40

6. In a glove, an inflatable cushion having its peripheral edge of increased thickness, formed with a core connecting and spacing the front and back faces of said cushion. 45

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EARLE HARRY DECKER.

Witnesses:

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