March 10, 1925.

1,529,546

J. O. McKENZIE

PRISONER'S MITT

Filed Feb. 7, 1924

Fig. 1.

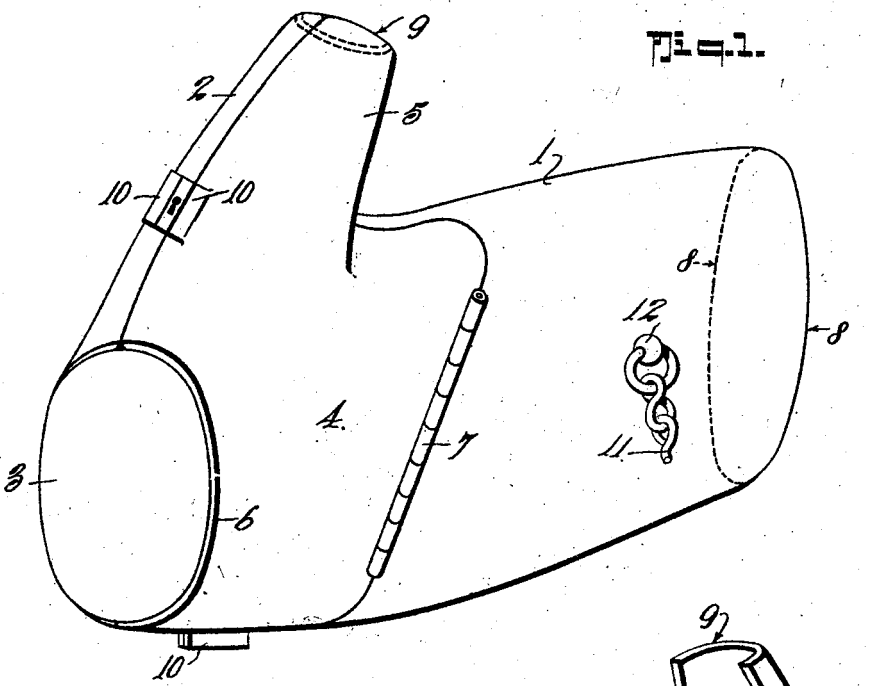
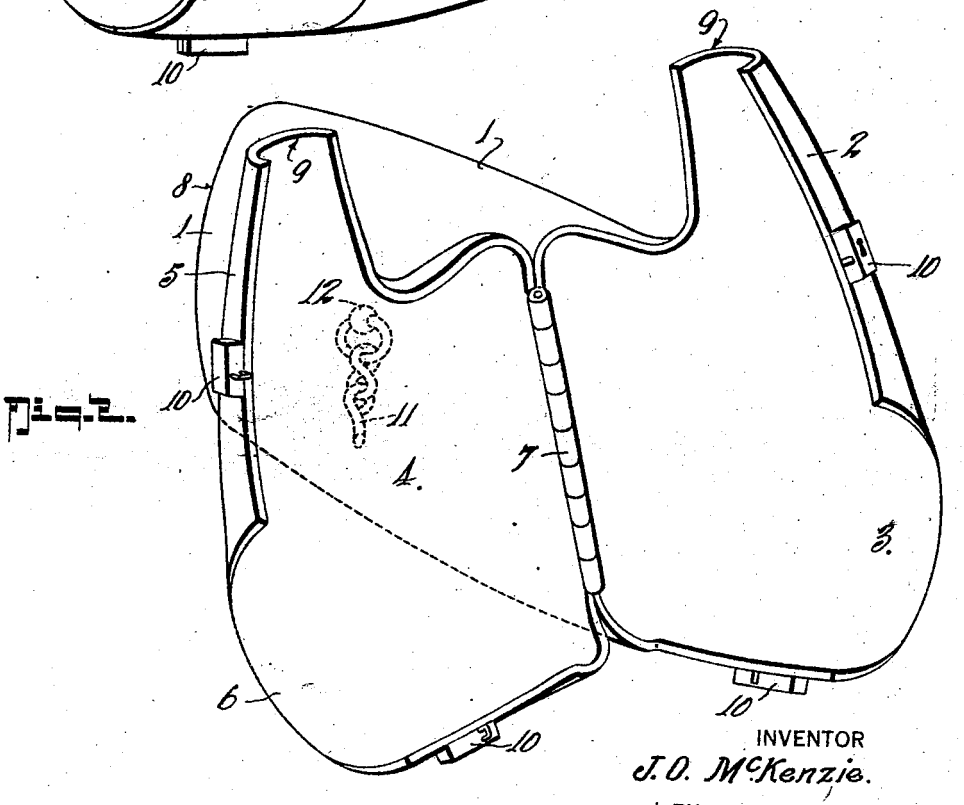


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR

J. O. McKenzie.

BY

Albert B. Dietrich

ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB OLIVER McKENZIE, OF PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS.

PRISONER'S MITT.

Application filed February 7, 1924. Serial No. 691,289.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB O. McKENZIE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Phillipsburg, in the county of Phillips and State of Kansas, have invented a new and Improved Prisoner's Mitt, of which the following is a specification.

The invention resides in the provision of a new and improved type of mitt especially adaptable to use on prisoners to act as a securing means.

The invention has for its object to provide mitts of the character stated, which are of simple construction, inexpensive to manufacture, and which are so constructed that when a pair thereof is properly applied to the hands of the prisoner he is not only as effectively held as by the use of the ordinary handcuff but is so restrained thereby that it is impossible for him to use the hands to manipulate a deadly weapon.

With the above and other objects in view the invention further resides in those novel details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts, all of which will be first fully described, then be specifically pointed out in the appended claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a single mitt with the parts thereof secured to the closed position.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 showing the opposite one of a pair of mitts in the open position for permitting the insertion of a prisoner's hand thereinto.

In the drawings, in which like numerals of reference indicate like parts in all of the figures, 1 indicates the main body portion of the mitt which is preferably constructed of any suitable rigid and non-breakable material, such as will provide the desired shell shaped to conveniently and comfortably surround the hand of the wearer. This body 1 includes an extended portion 2 adapted to receive the thumb of the hand of the wearer in the matter later to be described, and for the purpose of holding the same rigidly in a position extended from close relation with the fingers of the hand. The body 1 also includes a wrist portion 3 for accommodating the wrist of the wearer.

A movable portion 4 is provided and is constructed to include a half thumb portion 5 adapted to cooperate with the half thumb portion 2 of the main body and a half wrist portion 6 adapted to cooperate with the half wrist portion 3 of the main body, for the purpose of surrounding the thumb and wrist of the wearer when the parts are in the closed position illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings. The movable portion 4 may be hinged to the main body portion 1, as shown at 7, so that the main and movable body portions may be separated to permit ready insertion of the hand of the wearer thereinto, see Figure 2.

It will be observed that the main body of the mitt is constructed relatively flat so as to rigidly hold the hand of the wearer in the open condition, and this main body portion may be cut off as at 8 to provide an end opening, through which a limited portion of the fingers of the wearer may project. The cooperating thumb portions 2 and 5 may also be cut away, as at 9, for a purpose later to be described.

By reason of providing the cut away portions 8—9 ventilation of the mitt is facilitated, and by providing the cut away portion 8 at a point which will permit a limited portion of the fingers to project, it is possible for a prisoner to slightly exercise the fingers of his hand and also to hold a cigarette or other smoking appliance therebetween. It will be readily understood that the degree to which the fingers of the prisoner are allowed to project may be varied to the extent of closing off the hand of the mitt entirely, and when the mitt is formed with the cut away portion 8 it is so positioned, in cooperation with the manner of extending the thumb of the prisoner, that no cooperation between thumb and fingers of the prisoner is possible such as would enable him to grasp or manipulate any deadly weapon.

In use, the mitts are placed upon the hands of the prisoner when the parts are in the position shown in Figure 2, when the movable part will be closed over to the position illustrated in Figure 1, and for securing these parts to the closed position, any desired securing means 10 may be provided. In the drawings I have illustrated a common snap lock securing means but it should be understood that any type of securing means may be used which would be found effective and desirable.

While it is possible to use each mitt individually, it may be desired to join a pair of the mitts hand-cuff fashion, and for this purpose I have provided a chain connection 11, which may be secured to each mitt

through the medium of the securing head 12, which may be riveted, or otherwise secured, thereto. By thus connecting a pair of mitts together, a limited amount of relative movement therebetween may be allowed, such as will make it possible for the prisoner to engage in such labor as may be accomplished by the arms and without grasping action of the human hand, and at the same time making it impossible for him to readily use the mitt as a weapon to club an attendant or keeper.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawing, it is thought that the novel details of construction, the manner of application and the advantages of my invention will be readily apparent.

What I claim is:

1. A device of the class described comprising, a rigid body adapted to encase the palm and a portion of the fingers of the wearer, the said body including two parts movable one with relation to the other to permit insertion of the hand thereinto, and means for securing the parts to encasing position, said body including a separate compartment for the thumb adapted to hold the thumb extended.

2. A device of the class described comprising a rigid body adapted to encase the hand of the wearer, the said body including two parts, the said parts also including registering portions cooperating to provide an opening to surround the wrist and a cut-away portion to permit projection of a limited portion of the fingers of the wearer, said body including a separate compartment for the thumb adapted to hold the thumb extended.

3. A device of the class described comprising, a main rigid body adapted to encase the fingers of the hand of the wearer, an extended portion adapted to receive the thumb of the hand of the wearer to hold the same rigid, a body portion movable with relation to the main body to permit insertion of the hand thereinto, and means for securing the parts to position for encasing the whole hand of the wearer.

4. A device of the class described comprising, a main rigid body adapted to encase the fingers of the hand of the wearer, an extended portion adapted to receive the thumb of the hand of the wearer to hold the same rigid, a body portion movable with relation to the main body to permit insertion of the hand thereinto, means for securing the parts to position for encasing the whole hand of the wearer, the said main body also including a cut-away portion to permit projection of a limited portion of the fingers of the wearer, and the said main body and the said movable body portion having registering portions cooperating to provide an opening to surround the wrist of the wearer.

5. A device of the class described comprising, a main rigid body adapted to encase the fingers of the hand of the wearer, an extended portion adapted to receive the thumb of the wearer to hold the same rigid, a rigid body portion hinged to the main body to be movable with relation thereto to permit insertion of the hand into the device and including an extended portion adapted, when the parts are in the closed position, to cooperate with the extension of the main body for surrounding the thumb of the hand of the wearer, the said main body also including a cut-away portion to permit projection of a limited portion of the fingers of the wearer, and the said main body and the said movable body portion having registering portions cooperating to provide an opening to surround the wrist of the wearer, and means upon the said extensions for securing them in closed relation upon the hand of the wearer.

6. A pair of prisoners' mitts each comprising, a main rigid body adapted to encase the fingers of the hand of the wearer, an extended portion adapted to receive the thumb of the wearer, to hold the same rigid, a rigid body portion hinged to the main body to be movable with relation thereto to permit insertion of the hand into the device and including an extended portion adapted when the parts are in the closed position to cooperate with the extension of the main body for surrounding the thumb of the hand of the wearer, the said main body also including a cut-away portion to permit projection of a limited portion of the fingers of the wearer, the said main body and the said movable body portions having registering portions cooperating to provide an opening to surround the wrist of the wearer, and chain connections whereby the mitts may be joined to permit a limited amount of relative movement therebetween.

JACOB OLIVER McKENZIE.