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GLOVE WITH LIQUID STORAGE AND DISPENSATION CAPABILITIES

FIELD OF INVENTION

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This invention relates to a glove with a layer capable of storing liquid for subsequent dispensation.

10 BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Hand coverings or gloves with a base rubber layer and attached outer surface are used widely today in many different applications. The outer layer may be purpose-engineered specifically for a particular application. For example, a sponge outer layer
15 can be used for various applications such as cleaning and washing. Similarly, different types of polyester can be used as the outer layer for various applications such as scouring, painting, and pet grooming. In some of these applications, it is desirable to store an amount of liquid within the glove for later dispensation. Examples of this include shampoo for bathing pets, paint for painting, detergent for washing, etc.

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U.S. Pat. No. 2,722,706 discloses a sponge-tipped rubber glove to aid beauticians in applying chemical treatments. Sponge pads are carried on the fingertips of the gloves to hold the chemical being applied. British application GB 2,113,977 discloses a glove of resilient or fabric material which has the fingertips and palm of the glove
25 covered with a sponge coating.

A primary objective of the present invention is to provide a glove able to absorb and retain an amount of liquid for subsequent dispensation.

30 Another objective of the present invention is to provide a glove adapted for easy dispensation of the stored liquid in an easy to use manner.



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Yet another objective of the present invention is to provide a glove that will protect the skin of the user from any harsh or toxic components of liquid stored within the glove.

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SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is a hand covering such as a glove that is adapted to absorb and store an amount of liquid within an absorbent layer incorporated into the glove. The liquid can be easily dispensed by certain movements of the hand such as squeezing or grasping. The glove design allows another, external layer purpose-engineered for particular applications to be either permanently or detachably attached on the exterior of the glove. The rubber used is a composite comprising 10-20% nitrile and the remaining 80-90% natural latex.

In one embodiment of the present invention the glove is adapted to absorb and retain liquid and comprises a base layer being fashioned for receiving a user's hand, a storage layer attached to the exterior of the base layer, the storage layer being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid, an attachment layer fixed to an outer side of the storage layer, the attachment layer adapted to be removably attachable on its outer side to the inner side of an application layer, said application layer located on the exterior of the attachment layer. The means for the application layer to be removably attachable to the application layer may include Velcro or some other similar mechanism. The removably-attachability between the application layer and the attachment layer can provide interchangeability of different types of the application layer. These application layer can be of sponge, cloth, cotton, microfibre (new cloth), scouring materials or other fluids application materials.

In another embodiment of the present invention the glove is adapted to absorb and retain liquid and comprises a base layer being fashioned for receiving a user's hand, a

storage layer attached to the exterior of the base layer, the storage layer being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid, and an application layer located on the exterior of the storage layer, and wherein the application layer is permanently attached to the storage layer.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the invention, there is illustrated in the accompanying drawing the preferred embodiments from an inspection of which when considered in connection with the following description, the invention, its construction and operation and many of its advantages would be readily understood and appreciated.

10 Figure 1 shows a cross sectional view of the palm of the glove in a first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 shows a cross sectional view of the palm of the glove in a second embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 3 shows a cross sectional view of the palm of the glove in a third embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a cross sectional view of the palm of the glove in a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 5 shows a glove in an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 shows a glove in another embodiment of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

It should be noted that the following detailed description is directed to a glove with interchangeable application layers and is not limited to any particular size, shape or configuration.

Referring to Figure 1, there can be seen a cross section of the palm (1) of the glove in a first embodiment of the present invention. The innermost layer represented in the figure as the lowest layer is the base layer (10), made of a rubber composite comprising 10-20% nitrile with the remaining 80-90% being natural latex. However, there may be alternate embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% natural rubber, and also embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% synthetic rubber. This base layer (10) is adapted to fit snugly over a human hand and is watertight, thereby also providing a protective layer for the user from several types of liquids. At the palm (1) of the glove, there is fixed to the exterior of the base layer (10) a storage layer (20), the storage layer (20) being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid by simple movements of the user's hand. An attachment layer (30) is fixed to an outer side of the storage layer (20), the attachment layer (30) adapted to be removably attachable on its outer side to the inner side of an application layer (40), said application layer (40) located on the exterior of the attachment layer (30). The attachment layer (30) has openings (35) on and through its surface for fluid communication between the storage layer (20) and the application layer (40). In one embodiment of the present invention, the means for the application layer (40) to be removably attachable to the attachment layer (30) is Velcro (37). Other removable mechanisms can also be used in different embodiments. The inner side of the application layer (40) is fitted with one half of the Velcro (37), and the outer side of the attachment layer (30) is fitted with the other half of the Velcro (37). The application layer (40) can function as any of a cleaner, scourer, surface preparation device or applicator for other liquids such as polishes and lacquers. As the application layer (40) is removably attachable to the attachment layer (30), the application layer (40) is therefore interchangeable. Different types of the

application layer (40) include any of the following: sponge, cloth, cotton, microfibre (new cloth), scouring materials or other fluids application materials. In one embodiment of the present invention, the storage layer (20), attachment layer (30) and application layer (40) is provided only on the palm and fingers area of the glove.

5 However, there can be other embodiments whereby these layers are located on different parts of the glove. The rest of the glove surface comprises only the base layer (10) and a protective layer (not shown) fixed to the exterior of the base layer (10).

10 Referring now to Figure 2, there can be seen a cross section of the palm (1) of the glove in a second embodiment of the present invention. The innermost layer of the glove represented in the figure as the lowest layer is the base layer (10), made of a rubber composite comprising 10-20% nitrile with the remaining 80-90% being natural latex. However, there may be alternate embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is
15 made from up to 100% natural rubber, and also embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% synthetic rubber. This base layer (10) is adapted to fit snugly over a human hand and is watertight, thereby also providing a protective layer for the user from several types of liquids. Fixed to the exterior of the base layer (10) is the storage layer (20), the storage layer (20) being absorbent and able to retain and
20 subsequently dispense fluid by simple movements of the user's hand. An application layer (40) is fixed on the exterior of the storage layer (20). The application layer (40) can function as any of a cleaner, scourer, surface preparation device, or applicator for other liquids such as polishes and lacquers. The application layer (40) can be made from any of the following: sponge, cloth, cotton, microfibre (new cloth), scouring
25 materials or other fluids application materials. In one embodiment of the present invention, the storage layer (20) and application layer (40) is provided only on the palm and fingers area of the glove. However, there can be other embodiments whereby these layers are located on different parts of the glove. The rest of the glove surface comprises only the base layer (10) and a protective layer (not shown) fixed to
30 the exterior of the base layer (10).

Referring to Figure 3, there can be seen a cross section of the palm (1) of the glove in a third embodiment of the present invention. The innermost layer represented in the figure as the lowest layer is the base layer (10), made of a rubber composite comprising 10-20% nitrile with the remaining 80-90% being natural latex. However, there may be alternate embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% natural rubber, and also embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% synthetic rubber. This base layer (10) is adapted to fit snugly over a human hand and is watertight, thereby also providing a protective layer for the user from several types of liquids. At the palm (1) of the glove, there is removably attached on the exterior of the base layer (10) a storage layer (20), the storage layer (20) being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid by simple movements of the user's hand. An attachment layer (30) is fixed to an outer side of the storage layer (20), the attachment layer (30) adapted to be removably attachable on its outer side to the inner side of an application layer (40), said application layer (40) located on the exterior of the attachment layer (30). The attachment layer (30) has openings (35) on and through its surface for fluid communication between the storage layer (20) and the application layer (40). In one embodiment of the present invention, the means for the application layer (40) to be removably attachable to the attachment layer (30) is Velcro (37). Other removable mechanisms can also be used in different embodiments. The inner side of the application layer (40) is fitted with one half of the Velcro (37), and the outer side of the attachment layer (30) is fitted with the other half of the Velcro (37). The application layer (40) can function as any of a cleaner, scourer, surface preparation device or applicator for other liquids such as polishes and lacquers. The application layer (40) can be made from any of the following: sponge, cloth, cotton, microfibre (new cloth), scouring materials or other fluids application materials. As set forth in the preceding embodiment of the present invention, the removably attachable mechanisms between the base layer (10) and the storage layer (20), as well as between the attachment layer (30) and the application layer (40) allow the interchangeability of both the storage layer (20) as well as the application layer (40). In one embodiment of the present invention, the storage layer (20), attachment layer (30) and application layer (40) is provided only on the palm

and fingers area of the glove. However, there can be other embodiments whereby these layers are located on different parts of the glove. The rest of the glove surface comprises only the base layer (10) and a protective layer (not shown) fixed to the exterior of the base layer (10).

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Referring to Figure 4, there can be seen a cross section of the palm (1) of the glove in a fourth embodiment of the present invention. The innermost layer represented in the figure as the lowest layer is the base layer (10), made of a rubber composite comprising 10-20% nitrile with the remaining 80-90% being natural latex. However, 10 there may be alternate embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% natural rubber, and also embodiments wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% synthetic rubber. This base layer (10) is adapted to fit snugly over a human hand and is watertight, thereby also providing a protective layer for the user from several types of liquids. At the palm (1) of the glove, there is removably 15 attached on the exterior of the base layer (10) a storage layer (20), the storage layer (20) being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid by simple movements of the user's hand. An application layer (40) is fixed to an outer side of the storage layer (20). The application layer (40) can function as any of a cleaner, scourer, surface preparation device or applicator for other liquids such as polishes and 20 lacquers. The application layer (40) can be made from any of the following: sponge, cloth, cotton, microfibre (new cloth), scouring materials or other fluids application materials. In one embodiment of the present invention, the storage layer (20), and application layer (40) is provided only on the palm and fingers area of the glove. However, there can be other embodiments whereby these layers are located on 25 different parts of the glove. The rest of the glove surface comprises only the base layer (10) and a protective layer (not shown) fixed to the exterior of the base layer (10).

Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the gloves of both the preceding embodiments can either 30 have a sleeve (50) reaching just past the wrist as seen in Figure 3, or with an extended sleeve (50) reaching almost to the elbow of user. Still referring to Figure 6, an

embodiment of this invention has a portion of the sleeve (50) at an end further from the glove folded back in an outwards direction creating a fold (52) in order to capture at least a minimum quantity of liquid flowing from the glove toward the sleeve (50). The width of the fold can be between 3 and 5 cm. This is especially useful when a
5 user's hand is at a level higher than his/her elbow, to prevent liquid from reaching beyond the surface of the sleeve (50).

While several particularly preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described and illustrated, it should now be apparent to those skilled in the art that
10 various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the following claims are intended to embrace such changes, modifications, and areas of application that are within the spirit and scope of this invention.

CLAIMS

1. A glove adapted to absorb and retain liquid comprising:
 - a base layer (10) being fashioned for receiving a user's hand;
 - 5 a storage layer (20) attached to the exterior of the base layer (10), the storage layer (20) being absorbent and able to retain and subsequently dispense fluid;
 - an application layer (40) located on the exterior of the storage layer (20);
 - and
 - 10 an attachment layer (30) removably attachable between the storage layer (20) and the application layer (40) to allow interchangeability of different types of the application layer (40).
2. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism for removably attaching
15 the attachment layer (30) to the application layer (40) is Velcro (37), having one of its two joining halves on each of the attachment layer (30) and the application layer (40).
3. A glove according to claim 1, wherein there are openings (35) formed
20 throughout the attachment layer (30) to enable liquid communication between the storage layer (20) and the application layer (40).
4. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the storage layer (20) is removably
attachable to the base layer (10).
- 25 5. A glove according to claim 4, wherein the mechanism for removably attaching the storage layer (20) to the base layer (10) is Velcro (37), having one of its two joining halves on each of the storage layer (20) and the base layer (10).
- 30 6. A glove according to claims 1 further comprising a sleeve (50) of the glove with a length extending substantially beyond the wrist of a user.

7. A glove according to claim 6, wherein a portion of the sleeve (50) at an end further from the glove is folded back in an outwards direction creating a fold (52) such that at least a quantity of liquid flowing from the glove toward the sleeve (50) is held in the fold (52).
8. A glove according to claim 7, wherein the width of the fold (52) is between 3 and 5 cm.
9. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the storage layer (20) is provided only around the palm and fingers area of the glove.
10. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the base layer is a composite rubber comprising 10-20% synthetic rubber and the remainder being natural latex.
11. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% natural rubber.
12. A glove according to claim 1, wherein the base layer (10) is made from up to 100% synthetic rubber.
13. A glove according to claims 10 or 12, wherein the synthetic rubber is nitrile.