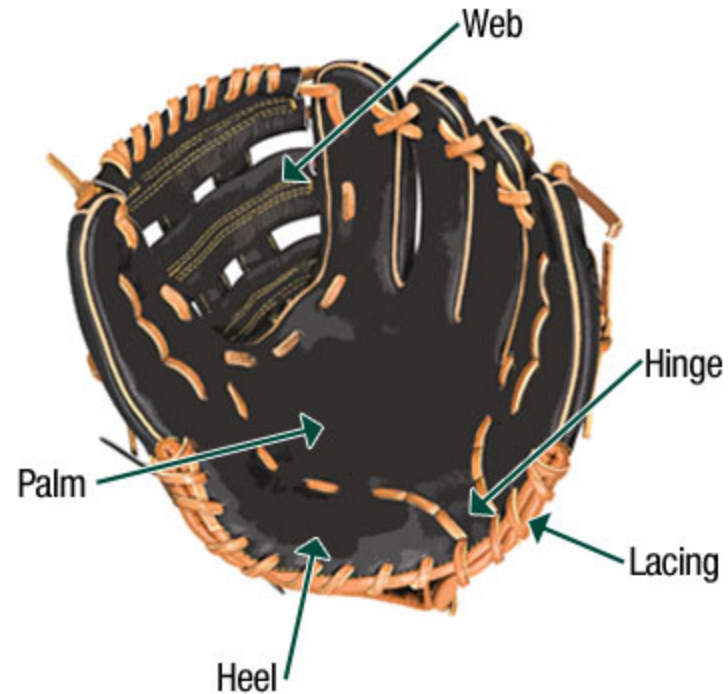


PARTS OF THE GLOVE



- Web/Pocket:** connects the fingers and the thumb allowing for secure control of the ball upon impact, features a tightly woven piece of leather that will allow the fielder to close his hand on the ball and easily maintain possession. This is where you want to catch most fly balls, pop ups and line drives. See the selecting a glove by position section for recommended web by position.
- Palm:** often features padding under the leather to give the palm protection.
- Heel:** the lower portion of the glove, palm side, which provides protection and determines the break of your glove.
- Lacing:** provides shape to the glove, leather is the preferred lacing material allowing the laces to break in as the glove breaks in.
- Hinge:** allows the glove to open and close easily.
- Wrist adjustment:** an optional feature in some gloves that

YOUTH GLOVES

For superior performance and success, the size of your glove matters. This is also an important step for promoting player safety. Avoid buying an oversized glove.

Beginners should stick to a smaller glove for additional control. Youth glove construction provides shorter, narrower finger stalls, and tighter wrist closure for enhanced control.

Baseball Fielding Glove Sizing Chart

Age	Infield	Outfield
Under 8	9"	11"
9 to 13	9"-10"	11"-12"
High school or Adult	10.5"-11.5"	12"-12.5"

Youth Sizes by Position:

T-Ball: 9" - 10"

Infield: 10" - 11.75"

Pitcher: 11.5" - 12.25"

Outfield: 11.5" - 12.25"

Material Options

Gloves are crafted from a variety of materials, the difference being in the quality, feel and durability. Here are some guidelines to follow:

Synthetic leather: easy to close with no "break in" required and lighter for younger players.

Softened, oil-treated leather: easy "break-in" and game-ready feel featuring synthetic finger stall lining.

Premium leather: offers enhanced feel and durability with a more specific break in and fit.

Pro Series leather: the highest quality leather, offering the elite player unparalleled, craftsmanship, durability and comfort.

Fit, Feel & Style

Although selecting the correct glove for your specific needs depends on two critical factors, your age and field position, it also depends on your personal preferences. The following are simple guidelines to follow:

Fit: choose a glove that fits fairly snug. Be careful not to purchase a glove a glove too big for your hand, as it could hinder player performance.

Feel: your glove should be stiff enough to give strength, yet offer the flexibility to provide control and agility.

Style: choose a look and color that fits you while making sure the web pattern is right for your position.

Selecting a Glove by Position

To achieve your ultimate potential, choose a glove that's appropriate for your position on the field. Here are a few things to look for:

Catcher: a fingerless mitt featuring heavy padding to reduce the sting from the pitcher's throw and a claw-like shape to properly catch the pitch. The special design also helps to provide a target for the pitcher.

Pitcher: often has closed webbing to allow pitchers to conceal their grip on the ball.

First Base: very long and wide, specifically designed for those balls thrown in the dirt to scoop up. It is longer to help the first baseman field throws from infielders and a shallow pocket allows the first baseman to quickly retrieve the ball.

Infield: five-fingered glove with a shallow pocket for a quick throw to the necessary base, offering open webbing so the player throws only the ball, not the dirt that was locked in the glove.

Outfield: deeper pocket to catch fly balls and longer glove length for more reach.

Breaking In Your Ball Glove

Here are tips for softening your glove:

- Moisten the leather. Pour a small amount of hot water (150 -170 degrees) over any area of your new glove you want to make softer. **IMPORTANT: DO NOT PUT YOUR GLOVE IN THE MICROWAVE OR USE DETERGENTS TO SOFTEN YOUR GLOVE. THIS CAN DO PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE LEATHER.**
- Work the most rigid parts of your glove. Bend the thumb and pinky back and forth towards each other and away from each other. Squeeze the thumb and pinky together. Push the back fingers down and squeeze the palm liner. Pull the web top to stretch a little. Repeat this process 6-8 times before your glove is completely dry.
- Pound the glove. Using a wooden mallet or 5 lb neoprene dumbbell, and **WITH THE GLOVE OFF OF YOUR HAND**, pound your glove at the pocket where you would catch the ball and the area that folds when you catch the ball. Pound the web as well, creating a fold to be where you want your glove to break. Be sure to pound both the back and the palm side to speed things up. Finally, throw a baseball into the pocket 30-40 times before the glove is dry. This will further break in the pocket, while also allowing your glove to begin conforming to your hand.
- Shape the glove. Put a ball in the pocket and wrap your glove with 2-3 rubber bands. The bands should be very snug, but not tight. Allow to set for 4-5 hours then repeat step 3. This will ensure your glove will begin to take the shape you want when it dries, and not revert back to its natural shape.
- Condition the glove. Once completely dry, rub the entire glove with a high quality glove conditioner. Repeat the process of conditioning your glove 3-4 times each season and before storing for the off-season. Remember to store your glove in your house as opposed to in your garage for longer life and maintaining better condition.

Glove Maintenance

Properly caring for your baseball glove can make an enormous difference in the lifespan of your glove. Here are some helpful hints:

- Keep your glove in a cool, dry place when it is not in use.
- If your glove gets wet, dry it with a towel and let it air-dry.
- Do not over oil your glove, a couple times each season is appropriate.