

Rawlings Glove Innovations A Fantastic Four Years

After being replaced by Wilson, specifically the A2000, as the preferred glove of Major League Baseball, Rawlings responded with a flourish of innovations, designed by Rollie Latina, that have lasted the test of time. In 1958, Rawlings began making its XPG model in response to Wilson's A2000, which had a larger web, a deeper pocket and less padding than previous models. With Mantle's autograph on it, the glove quickly became Rawlings most popular model. It introduced "Heart of the Hide" leather, the "edge-U-cated heel" and the "Deep Well" pocket, still offered on gloves today. But the best was yet to be developed. "Over a fantastic four year period, 1960-1963, Rawlings introduced the TG (Trapeze Glove or as my friends and I referred to it as the "Six Finger Glove") and the improved XPG (Experimental Player's Glove) Series, to go along with their premiere Heart of the Hide leather. The Trapeze was revived two decades later as the glove worn by the "Wizard" Ozzie Smith. He had used a TG12 in his youth and wanted a new version.

1960/61

The original revolutionary Trapeze, TG 12, was introduced and endorsed by Stan Musial. Made with Heart of the Hide leather, it also introduced the iconic Edge-U-Cated Heel, a hinged pad that was called the Double Lazy S Pocket lacing, combined with the Trapeze web to form a large Deep Well Pocket. Stamped For the Professional Player. A collector glove.



1962

The TG series continued but it was overshadowed by the quality of the XPG series. Never has there been such a high quality of gloves introduced by the same manufacturer in a single year.

TGP



The TG 12 has been given a Dual Step Down Palm.

XPGP

This Heart of the Hide model, considered the Cadillac of all gloves selling at 42.50, introduced the Dual Step Down Palm. The new design offered more ball catching area in the largest pocket ever built into a glove. It also introduced the Speed Trap web with spiral lacing and V anchored lacing that provides strength and shape retention, an Edge-U-Cated Heel for flexibility and control. Stamped for the Professional Player.

A true collector glove. This is the glove I used from my sophomore year in high school through my sophomore year in college.



XPG 3

Another Heart of the Hide, Professional Player Model endorsed by Warren Spahn. This was an original XPG glove. I have always felt that this model was Rawling's answer to the 1961/62 Wilson A2000. Introduced Deluxe one-piece V-Anchored web with spiral lacing. A special Double Palm Lining replaces padding in the pocket area. Double Lazy S lacing with an Edge-U-Cated Heel. The 1963 model will introduce the Flex-O-Magic Palm, a series of vertical lacings across a light, flat heel pad providing flexibility across the full heel. A collector glove.



XPG 6

This new glove was the fourth Heart of the Hide model offered in 1962. It was famously endorsed by Mickey Mantle, which made it extremely popular and also a collector glove. Introduced the Triple Action Spiral Lacing web for added strength and durability, a two piece web with full V-Anchored lacing and a new criss-cross finger lacing. The new Double Palm Lining is in the pocket. A Professional Player Model. The design of the glove and web were so revolutionary that versions are still used by MLB pitchers in today's game 58 years later.



1963 TTP

This is another glove way ahead of it's time. The Heart of the Hide T Trapeze is another model that has endured time, with versions still used today by MLB pitchers and outfielders. Dual Step Down Palm, reinforced spiral laced T, Lazy S lacing and an Edge-U-Cated Heel. Another collector glove



If you would like to know more about the Rawlings TG and XPG Series Gloves below are a few sources you might enjoy:

A Glove Affair, Noah Lieberman

Baseball's Glove Man, Smithsonian 9/12/2011

Fascinating History of the Baseball Glove, The Post Game 7/12/2011

Rawlings Gloves Still Rule the Diamond, Adweek 3/27/2017

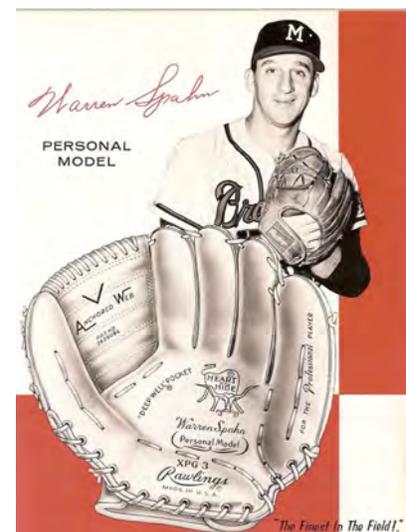
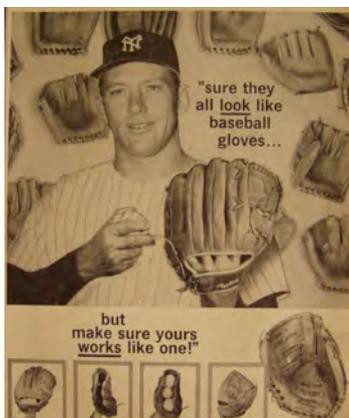
Rawlings Baseball Catalog, baseballglovecollector.com

Rawlings Catalog Source Book, Mike Tenney

Researched by Robert "Skip" Claprood

Photos from the

Claprood Collection



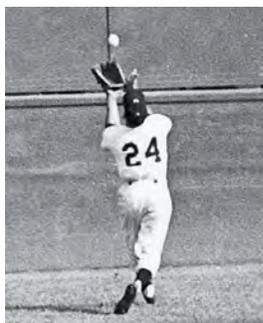
Checkout the new glove I've added to my collection. It is a Rawlings Harvey Haddix HH model that played a unique role in World Series history.

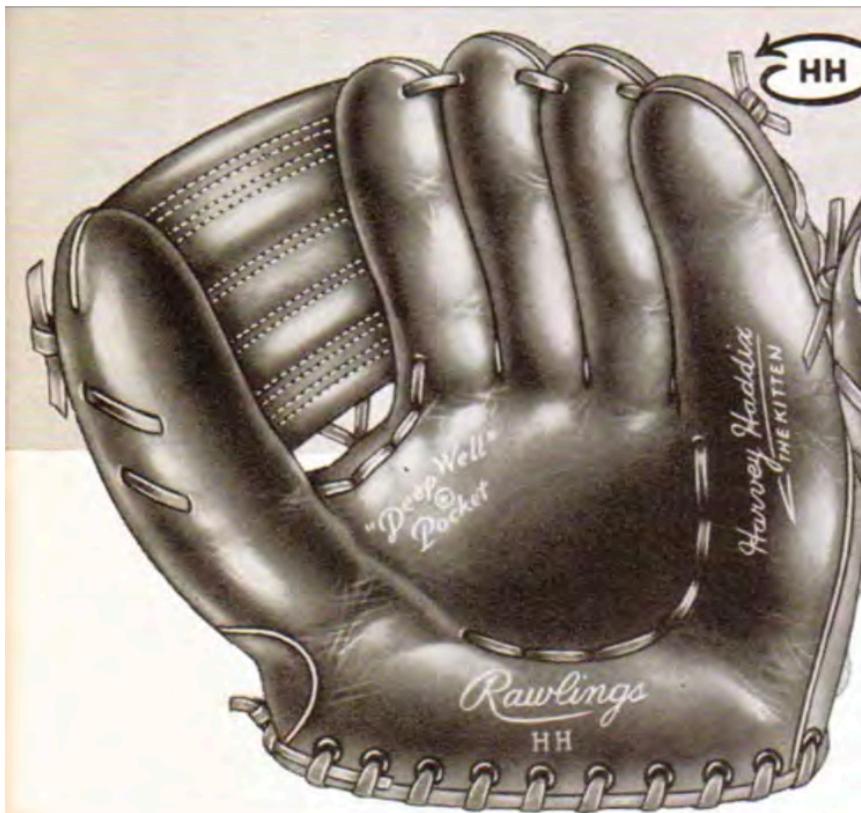


. The HH was introduced to retail customers in 1955 but a few major league players had it a year earlier. The HH succeeded the Mort Cooper model as Rawlings' biggest glove, a pitcher/outfielder

model, and was one of the original Heart of the Hide gloves.

The HH Harvey Haddix model is a popular collectible glove if for no other fact than it was the glove used by Willie Mays to make his famous 1954 World Series catch off the bat of Vic Wertz and another one was used by Mickey Mantle in the 1956 World Series to make a running backhand catch to save Don Larsen's perfect game. Of course Harvey Haddix is remembered for throwing a 12 inning Perfect Game in 1959 only to lose the game in the thirteenth inning. But Haddix did not use the HH model in that game. He used the TG12 Rawlings trapeze that would introduced to retail customers in 1960. The Stan Musial endorsed glove is also part of my collection.





Harvey Haddix

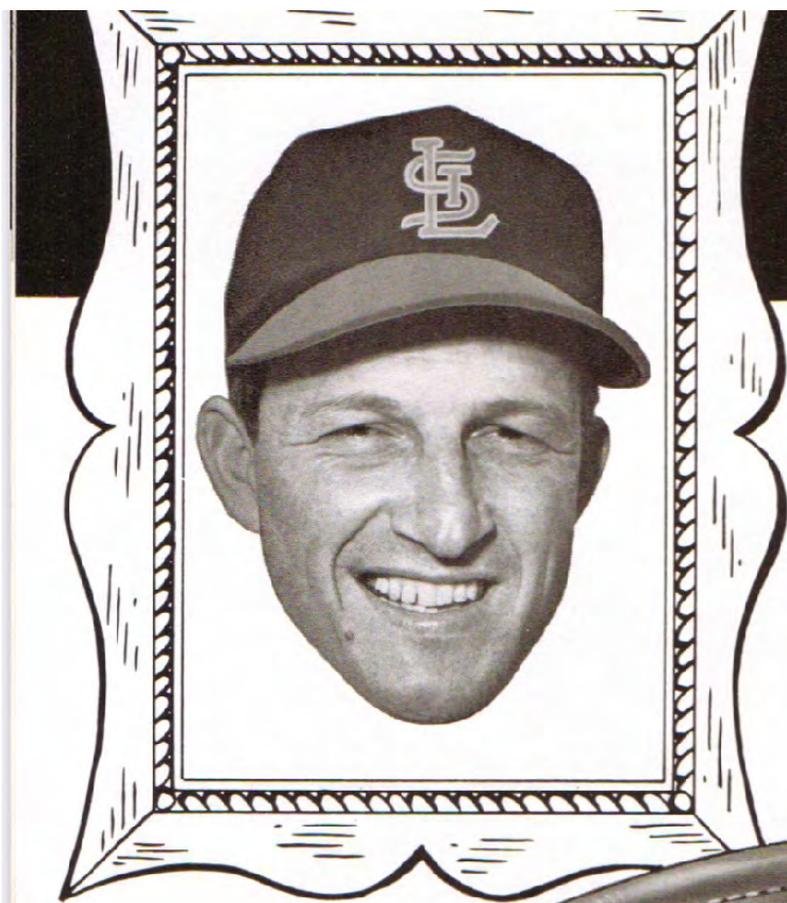
HH—"Harvey Haddix" Fielders Glove. The glove on which Rawlings craftsmen have applied all of their experience in glove-making and all of Rawlings exclusive top-line design features to put the "HH" in a class by itself. New for 1955, it is the glove built for modern baseball. Made of select top quality mitt leather. Has "Deep Well" Laced Pocket°... new seamless thumb construction... adjustable leather loops° in both thumb and little finger for better glove control... extended finger stalls for added finger control... Pro-Laced U Crotch° accentuates the "Deep Well" Pocket°... large solid leather ball trap with V-anchored Web° feature... Snugger Wrist Adjustment°... Rolled cowhide bound. Not oiled.

List Each \$29.00

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Another glove just added to my collection is the 1958 Rawlings PM glove. This is a collector model endorsed by St. Louis Cardinal and Hall of Fame member Stan Musial. It is a three finger glove, popular in the late 40s and 50s, Heart of the Hide glove. This is the first glove to have the Heart of the Hide logo stamped in the palm. It has a sturdy Anchor Web and a Snugger wrist strap.





Stan

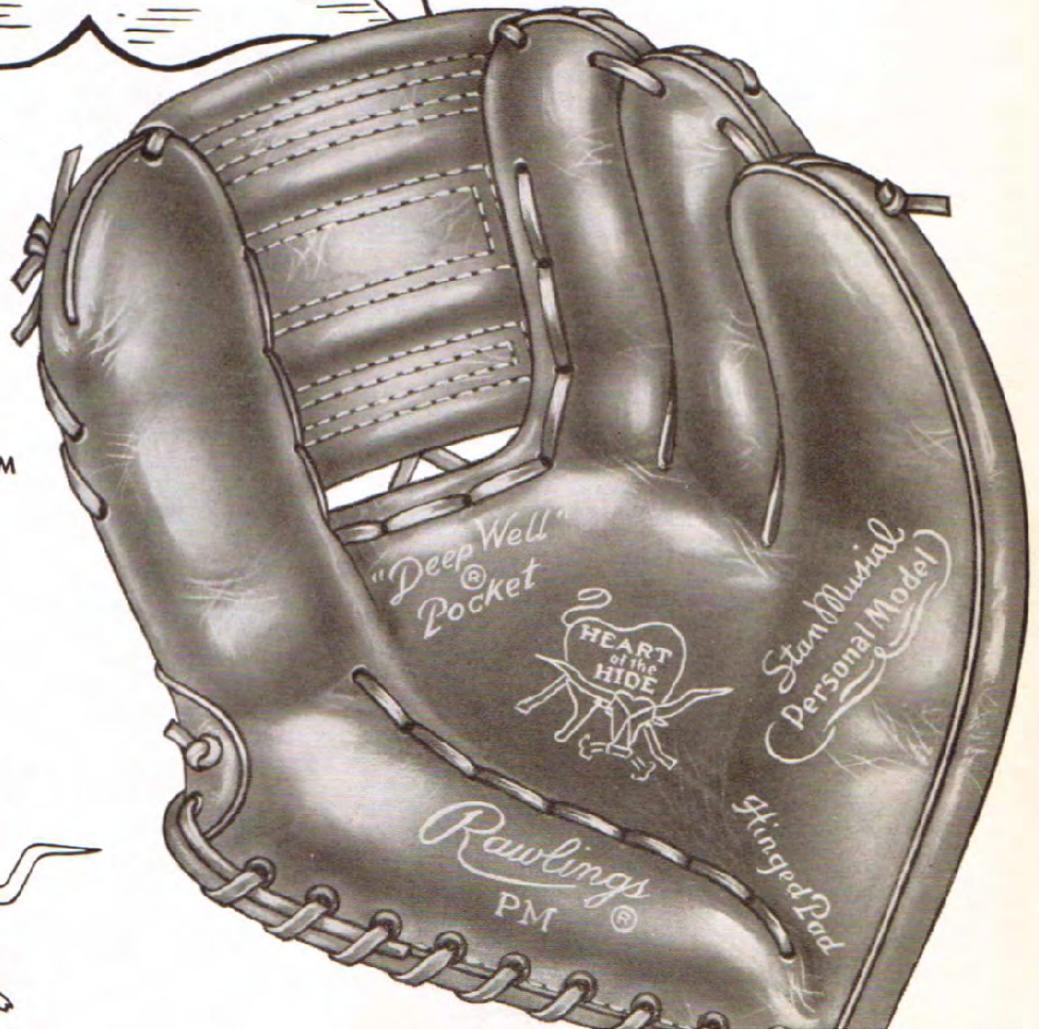
Player of the Decade

**PM (AC104)—Stan Musial Personal Model
PM (AC105)—For Left-Handed Throwers**

Rawlings modern designing combined with the exclusive **Heart of the Hide** Leather . . . climaxes the supreme achievement in glove making art. Autographed and recommended by that perennial great Stan Musial. A "Deep Well" model with Pro-Flex palm extension allowing maximum finger flexibility. Palm Crotch Extension, Snugger Wrist Adjustment, Pro-Laced U Crotch extended to top of finger. Solid Leather ball trap with V-Anchored Lace. Finest Wool Felt hinged action pad. Inner-Greased pocket. Unoled.

Trade Each \$21.95 List Each \$29.50

PM



Another glove added to the collection is the Rawlings BD model glove. This is the glove used by Jackie Robinson in Brooklyn Dodgers World Series winning season of 1955.

One of Rawlings top of the line gloves in 1955. Used by major league players as both an infield and outfield glove. An early adjustable Deep Well Pocket Lace, the Pro Laced U Crotch and the solid V-Anchor web.

