July 22, 1969 R. T. CORNELIUS 3,456,344

PLURAL DRINKING STRAWS INTEGRALLY CONNECTED FUNCTIONING AS A STICK-LIKE SPOON

Filed July 31, 1967

Fig-1

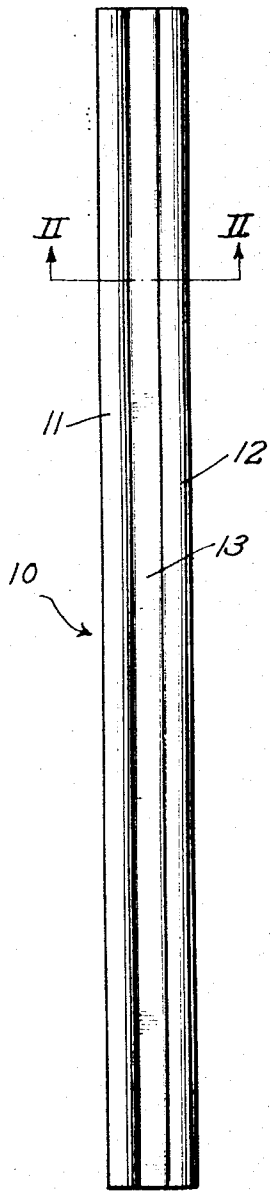
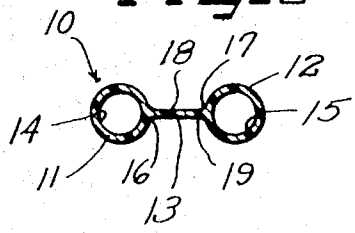


Fig-2



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United States Patent Office 3,456,344 Patented July 22, 1969

3,456,344

PLURAL DRINKING STRAWS INTEGRALLY CONNECTED FUNCTIONING AS A STICK-LIKE SPOON

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Filed July 31, 1967, Ser. No. 657,240
Int. Cl. A47g 21/18
U.S. Cl. 30—141 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A drinking straw made of extruded plastic including two tubes integrally interconnected by a co-extensive web for sipping and spooning thick beverages such as a slush-ice drink.

BACKGROUND

Field of the invention

This invention pertains to a drinking straw which has a second function of being a stick-like spoon.

Prior art

When consuming a thick beverage product which the industry calls a slush-ice drink, the consumer is confronted with the problem of extracting the slush-ice drink from a cup. On occasion the beverage is of such a consistency that a straw cannot be used to extract all the slush or thick portion. Thus the consumer will use a straw to sip liquid from the cup and use a spoon or some other utensil to remove the thick or solid portion of the drink. There are spoons having a fluid conduit in their handle which could be used for the slush-ice beverage. However, the fluid conduit only extends along the handle portion and thus the conduit cannot remove all of the liquid from the cup. Moreover such devices are deemed to be too costly to give away with a beverage serving.

SUMMARY

The present invention utilizes an extruded plastic straw having a pair of tubes interconnected by an integral co-extensive web portion to provide a surface having a depression between the tubes which may be used as a stick or a spoon for removing slush-ice drinks from a cup or container.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a sipping straw having a second function of being a stick-like spoon.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a straw consisting of two tubes integrally joined together to provide a surface which may be used for stirring or spooning a thick beverage.

A still further object of this inevntion is to provide a straw consisting of two tubes interconnected by a web portion.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a plastic straw having two tubes interconnected by a web portion which is easy and inexpensiev to manufacture.

Many other advantages, features and additional objects of the present invention will become manifest to those versed in the art upon making reference to the detailed description and the accompanying sheet of drawings in which a preferred structural embodiment incorporating the principles of the present invention is shown by way of illustrative example.

THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the straw.

FIG. 2 is a section taken on line II—II of FIG. 1.

AS SHOWN ON THE DRAWINGS

The principles of the present invention are particularly useful when incorporated in a drinking straw illustrated in FIG. 1 and generally indicated at **10**.

The straw **10**, which is a plastic extrusion, comprises a pair of tubes **11** and **12** interconnected by an integral web **13** which serves as a spacer between the parallel tubes **11** and **12**. The diameter of the tubes **11** and **12** and the width of the web **13** are approximately the same and in the preferred size of the straw should each be approximately ¼ of an inch so that the overall width of the straw **10** is approximately ¾ inch. The tubes **11** and **12** have internal surfaces **14** and **15** respectively which have a diameter of approximately $\frac{7}{32}$ of an inch leaving a wall thickness for each tube of approximately $\frac{1}{64}$ inch. The web **13** has a thickness equal to the wall thicknesses of the tubes **11** and **12**.

As shown in FIG. 1, the tubes **11** and **12** and the web portion **13** are co-extensive with the length of the straw **10**. As shown in FIG. 2, the web **13** is integral with a portion or arcuate leg **16** of the wall of the tube **11** and a portion or arcuate leg **17** of the wall of the tube **12** to form an H-shaped cross-section. The web **13** and the oppositely curved leg **16** and **17** which are arcuate parts of the most adjacent portions of the tubes **11** and **12** respectively, provide the straw **10** with an outer surface having oppositely opening depressions **18** and **19**. The depressions **18** and **19** between the tubes **11** and **12** allow the straw to be utilized as a stick or spoon-like utensil for eating the solid portions of a slush-ice beverage.

The structure of the straw **10** allows it to be easily manufactured by extruding plastic such as polypropylene resin into the cross-sectional configuration illustrated in FIG. 2. The straw after being extruded into an indeterminate length is then cut to the desired length which is preferably between 8 to 10 inches.

The present invention provides a straw which is constructed so as to provide conduits for sucking or sipping of the beverage and to provide the indentations **18** or **19** for stirring or spooning the solid portions from a thick beverage such as a slush-ice drink.

I claim as my invention:

1. A combination drinking straw and eating utensil comprising:

(a) a pair of parallel spaced elongated tubes of extrudable material each open at both ends; and

(b) an elongated flat spacer of said material having a length coextensive with said tubes and integral at marginal edges of said spacer with outside walls of said tubes, said spacer having a width at least as great as the outside diameter of said tubes;

whereby said utensil may be alternately used in a viscous beverage to draw the beverage and to spoon the beverage primarily on said spacer.

References Cited

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MYRON C. KRUSE, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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