Oct. 2, 1951 J. G. WEILAND 2,569,703

MEASURING SPOON

Filed Jan. 27, 1951

FIG. 1

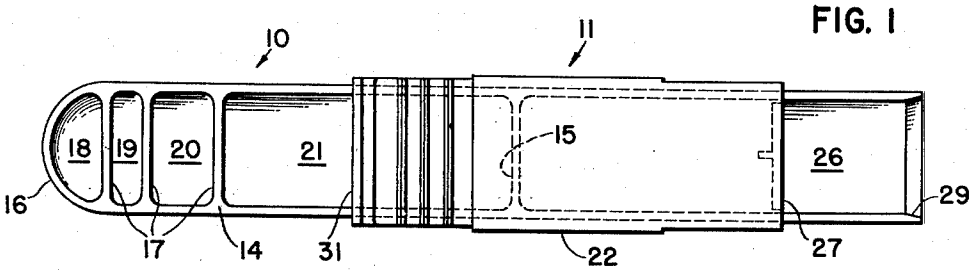


FIG. 2

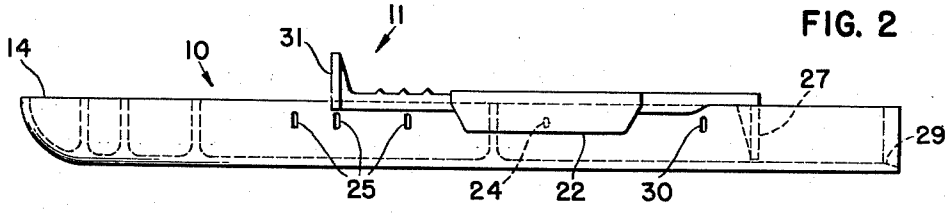


FIG. 4

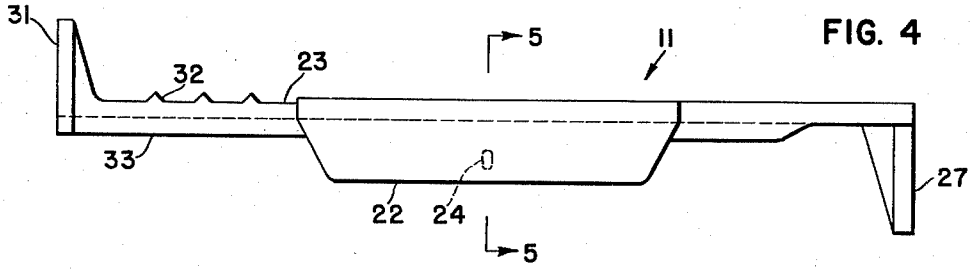


FIG. 3

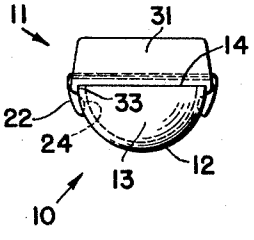
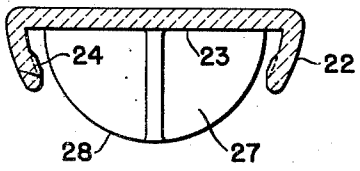


FIG. 5



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MEASURING SPOON

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4 Claims. (Cl. 73—429)

1

This invention relates to a device for kitchen use. I provide an improved measuring spoon for the measurement of liquid and granular or powdered material and the like, for instance, water, milk, sugar, salt, flour, etc., and also for the measurement of pasty materials and the like, for instance lard, butter, margarine, etc., in such quantities as are usually handled by measuring spoons.

Measuring spoons for each of these types of materials are well known. However, devices of this type which have been known and used up to date have either been limited in use when they consisted of few simple parts; or they were expensive to manufacture when attempts were made to adapt them for multiple use. The problem is further complicated by the fact that such a device, for kitchen use, must be easy to clean, handy, compact, light, and able to be disassembled and reassembled instantly. These objects are attained by the new, improved measuring spoon in accordance herewith.

In the drawing Figure 1 is a top view, Figure 2 a side view and Figure 3 an end view of the device. Figure 4 is a side view of the scraper forming part of the device, on an enlarged scale, and Figure 5 is a section through the same along lines 5—5.

The device consists entirely of two simple parts, identified as the receptacle 10 and the scraper 11.

The receptacle 10 has an elongated trough-shaped body or wall 12, shown as semicylindrical on the outside and defining a hollow space 13 of similar form on its inside. The top 14 of the receptacle is open. A partition 15 extends transversely across the hollow space 13 between the two ends; preferably about half way between the ends. One of these ends is closed by an end wall 16, leaving the top 14 open. The end wall 16 may be rounded; it is shown, for instance, as a quadrant of a sphere. The opposite end of the receptacle is open. At this open end of the receptacle, wall 12 ends preferably in a plane at right angles with the axis of the trough or cylinder.

Salt and other spices are usually required in very small amounts, such as a quarter or half teaspoonful, while sugar and the like is often measured by teaspoonfuls or tablespoonfuls. Therefore I show the closed-end portion of the receptacle provided with additional transverse partitions 17, defining a number of chambers in the hollow space 13. The chamber 18 directly adjoining the end wall 16, when filled and levelled off the top may hold a quarter of a level teaspoonful. The next following chamber 19,

2

while being different in shape, may be identical in volume, thereby defining one half of a lever teaspoonful by chambers 18 and 19 together. Next there is shown a chamber 20 which should hold another half teaspoonful, thus defining one teaspoonful by the first three chambers together. Another chamber 21 will usually follow, which is twice as large as the first three chambers together, so that the four chambers together define tablespoonful. Of course, more or fewer partitions can be provided instead, and they can be arranged to define fractions or multiples of a fluid ounce, dram, gill, millimeter or the like. The general idea is that the closed-end portion of the receptacle is divided into chambers the volumes of which are multiples of one another.

In kitchen use, materials are measured by heaping teaspoonfuls. This kind of measurement is merely approximate but it is important to provide for it in a measuring device for this particular use. This can be achieved, in manner obvious upon consideration hereof, by suitable dimensioning of the different chambers in the receptacle.

Level spoonfuls are equally important in kitchen use, and are usually regarded as a more exact measurement. When granular or powdered materials are to be measured the scraper 11 will serve for levelling off to the top 14. A heaping spoonful will first be scooped up with the receptacle and the scraper can then be used to remove the excess material. For this purpose the scraper is moved along the top 14 of the receptacle, in close contact therewith. This, again, is facilitated by the form of this top, as shown, wherein the upper edges of the end wall 16, body 12, and partition 15, 16 are level with one another. The operation of the scraper is made particularly easy by the feature that the trough-shaped receptacle has a depth as indicated; the entire travel of the scraper can be made so short as to make it convenient to obtain any desired position with a single stroke, actuating the scraper with the thumb of the hand which holds the receptacle.

The scraper 11 also serves to uncover just so much of the chambers 16 to 21 as is required for each measurement, and to cover the remainder. For easy manipulation of the device, with some of the chambers covered, I provide an arrangement whereby the scraper and cover is firmly held to the top of the receptacle, and accurately indexed with the proper partition 17. For this purpose, and also in order to hold the two parts together when not in use, I provide the scraper

11 with two flanges 22; one depending from each side. The body 23 of the scraper is generally flat and rectangular, sufficiently elongated to cover the length of the closed-end portion of the receptacle, and wide enough to cover the width of the open top 14 of the receptacle. The flanges 22 are adapted to engage the outside of the semicylindrical generally trough-shaped receptacle, in an inward and at least slightly upward direction. For this purpose the flanges 22 may be slightly curved inwards as shown, and they depend over one half of the depth of the receptacle. In order to register with the partitions dividing the different chambers, the scraper has on the insides of the flanges 22 raised portions 24, fitting into depressed portions 25 formed in the outside of the wall 12 and spaced along the same. Of course the position of the raised and depressed portions can be reversed or modified.

The open-end portion 26 of the receptacle, serving for the measurement of pasty materials, is cleared and scraped out by a pusher extension 27, depending from the end of the body 23 of the scraper. This pusher extension has suitably curved edges 28, whereby it is able to scrape the inside of the semicylindrical or trough-shaped wall 12 in this portion 26.

In order to measure the pasty materials with reasonable accuracy I prefer to make the edge of the receptacle wall 12 relatively sharp at the open end, as shown at 29, thereby preventing irregular scooping up of lard and other shortenings. The top edges of the receptacle, on the other hand, are better made blunt, so that they may not chip off easily due to the wear and tear imposed when the scraper 11 is moved along the top, with granular materials tending to become trapped between the scraper and the edges in question.

Additional depressions or notches 30 in the receptacle wall 12 will allow the measuring out of a mere fraction of the amount of paste defined by the open end chamber 26. In the arrangement as shown the total amount equals one tablespoonful.

The scraper 11 can be shifted back and forth by a thumb rest 31, or by a ridged top portion 32, or both. In order to prevent it from becoming misaligned with the top 14 I provide the scraper with narrow side flanges 33, preferably extending at least along a major part of the length of the scraper, and adapted to engage the top 14 of the receptacle. These flanges 33 serve also as ribs, stiffening the scraper body 23 and preventing it from warping and bending. The holding flanges 22 can then be relatively short, longitudinally.

It will be noted that the present measuring spoon is easy to hold and operate with one hand. The open-end portion serves as handle when the closed-end portion is used, and vice versa. Assembling, disassembling and cleaning is a very simple task, no tools being required and all surfaces being easily accessible.

I prefer to mold both parts 10 and 11 from suitable plastics. The shape of the device as shown and described facilitates the molding process; extremely simple cavities are sufficient.

Of course various other manufacturing methods can be substituted.

Equally the details of form and arrangement can be changed within the scope of this invention. For instance, the closed end of the receptacle 10 can taper to a width narrower than the remaining body of the receptacle; thereby more closely approximating the typical shape of an ordinary kitchen spoon. Of course at least a part of the body of the receptacle will still be made in form of a trough, with parallel sides, in order to provide proper engagement with the flanges 22 of the scraper 11. Various other modifications are possible. I claim:

1. A measuring spoon for kitchen use, consisting of a receptacle and a combined cover, scraper and pusher; the receptacle consisting of a hollow, generally trough-shaped body, closed at one end and open at the opposite end, with an integral, transverse partition approximately midway between the ends; and the cover, scraper and pusher consisting of a generally flat body, long enough to cover the closed-end portion of the receptacle and wide enough to cover the width thereof, having integral flanges at the two sides, which are adapted to engage the outside of the receptacle so as to hold the two parts together while allowing them to be moved along one another, and also having an integral, transverse extension depending from the end of its body into scraping contact with the inside of the receptacle between the partition and the open end; whereby one end of the cover, scraper and pusher is adapted to scrape over the top of the closed-end portion of the receptacle to level granular and powdered materials and the like, and the extension is adapted to push pasty material and the like out of the open-end portion of the receptacle.

2. A measuring spoon as described in claim 1, wherein the receptacle additionally comprises further transverse partitions in the closed-end portion, dividing said portion into chambers the volumes of which are multiples of one another; all top edges of receptacle walls and partitions being level with one another.

3. A measuring spoon as described in claim 2, wherein the insides of the flanges of the scraper and the outside of the receptacle are additionally provided with mutually registering, raised and depressed portions, longitudinally spaced along the device in positions corresponding with those of the further partitions.

4. A measuring spoon as described in claim 2, wherein the top edges of the closed end, partitions and body of the receptacle are blunt, and the edges of the open end of the receptacle are relatively sharp.

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