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RIM STRUCTURE FOR FLAT TABLEWARE

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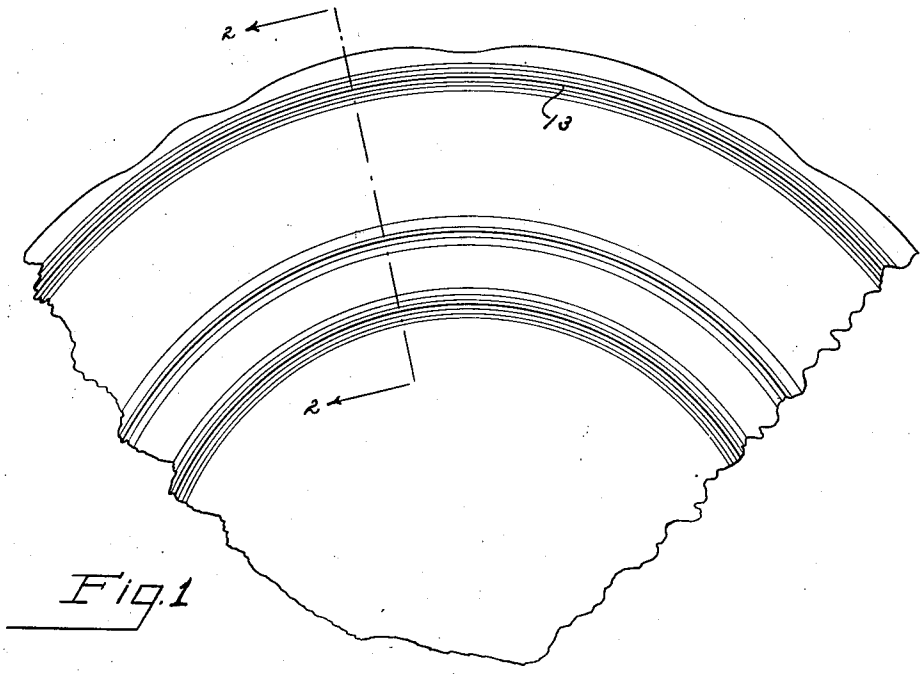


Fig. 1

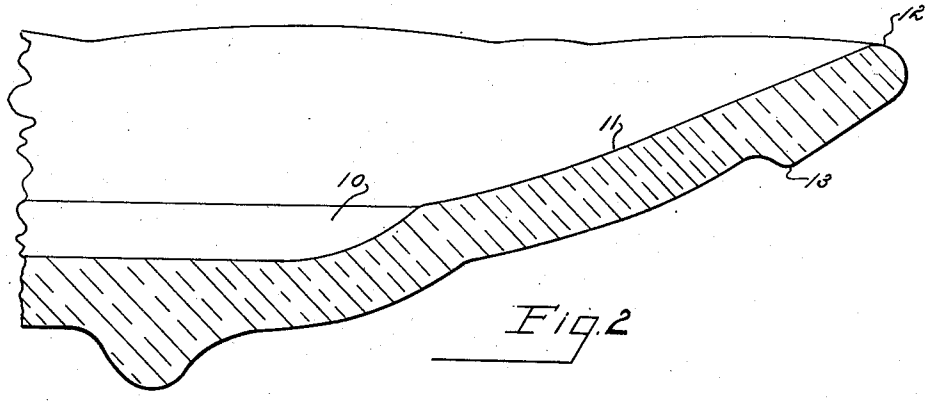


Fig. 2

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RIM STRUCTURE FOR FLAT TABLEWARE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 65—15)

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This invention relates to articles of tableware, such as plates, platters, and the like, designated generally as flatware and formed of frangible material, such as porcelain, and because they are formed of such material they often become chipped around the edge, especially in hotel and restaurant use.

Various improvements have been heretofore made to minimize edge chipping of the ware. For example, the edge has been formed with a round bead on the underside of the rim at the edge thereof, a flattened reinforcement on the under side of the rim at the edge thereof, or a rib on the under side of the rim about halfway between the edge of the rim and the foot. Neither of the aforesaid edge reinforcements is applicable to ware with a scalloped or irregular perimeter since the jigger tool remains stationary during the tooling while the ware is rotated on a mold and therefore the reinforcement is concentric with the central axis of the piece. Another method has been used consisting in making the ware thicker and thereby heavier, which destroys its salability for all except the crudest uses, and increases the expense of manufacture materially.

This invention has as an object a construction for ware of the type referred to wherein the peripheral edge portion of the ware at the extreme edge is of the conventional thickness of high grade ware for commercial users. It is applicable to ware with scalloped or festooned edge, as well as plain, round edge. Ware with this construction has increased resistance to chipping compared with ware not involving this construction and of comparable edge thickness. This invention also provides a surface on the under side of the rim which acts as a finger grip when handling the ware that minimizes the danger of the ware slipping out of grasp with the usual and customary finger location used for normal grasping of the ware.

The invention consists in the novel features and in the combinations and constructions hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In describing this invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings in which like characters designate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the under side of a section of a plate formed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 2—2, Figure 1.

The plate is formed with a central section 10

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commonly referred to as a food well. This central section is encircled by a rim portion 11, the peripheral edge 12 of which is substantially the same thickness as the major portion of the rim. The rim is formed with a reinforcing rib 13 arranged inwardly from the peripheral edge and extending concentrically with the axis of the ware. The rib 13 merges with the periphery of the plate or, in other words, the surface of the rib converges with the top surface of the rim portion.

With this arrangement, the peripheral part of the rim is substantially the same thickness as the major portion of the rim, whereby the ware has the same appearance and feel as if no thickening of the rim existed. However, the thickened portion effected by the rib 13 is positioned to reinforce the resistance to the impact of any blow on the edge of the ware. That is, the force of any impact applied to the edge of the ware is transmitted immediately to the thickened portion which is of sufficient strength to increase the resistance to cracking or chipping. Heretofore, it was the general theory that the edge of the ware had to be the thickest part of the rim portion in order to effectively resist impacts which would ordinarily cause chipping of the ware. I have found however that with the rib 13 spaced inwardly from but merging with and forming a part of the peripheral edge portion, impacts which would ordinarily cause chipping of the ware are effectively resisted and the life of the ware materially prolonged and yet the weight of the ware is not markedly increased and the salability of the ware is not impaired.

In the drawings, the plate is illustrated as having a scalloped edge. In ware of this type the usual bead or welt is not applicable due to their being concentric with the axis of the ware, whereas the extreme edge of the ware is at varying distances from the axis of the ware.

It should be obvious that the same advantages obtained with my construction exist with plain, round, edge ware as with scalloped or festooned edge ware.

While in the construction described, the edge of the plate is of conventional thickness, the bead or rib 13 is of substantial height relative to the adjoining under surface of the rim of the plate and thus forms, or provides, a finger grip on the under side of the rim spaced inwardly a sufficient distance from the edge of the plate to be engaged by the finger in the natural handling of the plate. Accordingly, this rib

serves the dual function of substantially resisting chipping of the ware and rendering it more easy and safe to handle.

What I claim is:

A plate or similar article of tableware formed of frangible material comprising a substantially flat central portion encircled by a rim portion extending from said central portion at an angle of 20° or less to the horizontal, said rim portion having an annular portion of gradually and uniformly increasing thickness from the peripheral edge thereof to a shoulder on the underside of said rim spaced from said peripheral edge and an annular portion of uniform thickness from said shoulder to said central portion, the thickness of said last-named annular portion being substantially equal to the thickness of the peripheral edge of said rim.

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