

WE CLAIM:

1. A manufacturing method of a contact portion (6) of a grasping apparatus (1), said contact portion being able to take on a form in which its shape can flexibly deform and another form in which its shape is firmly maintained, and comprising a bag body (6a) that has a bag-shaped member made of an elastic and airtight material and a connecting port (6b), and a granular substance (7) filled inside of the bag-shaped member, wherein the contact portion takes on the form in which its shape is firmly maintained when a volume ratio of the granular substance to the bag-shaped member is increased by reducing a pressure within the bag-shaped member; the manufacturing method characterized by comprising:

a step of preparing a core (10) for forming the bag-shaped member, by hardening the granular substance;

a step of forming the bag-shaped member by forming a covering made of the elastic and airtight material around the core; and

a step of breaking up the core that is inside of the bag-shaped member.

2. The manufacturing method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of preparing the core is performed by molding a mixture that includes the granular substance and a solid (11) that has a predetermined volume, and that sublimates as a binder into a predetermined shape by compressing the mixture inside of a mold.

3. The manufacturing method according to claim 2, characterized in that the step of breaking up the core is performed by sublimating the solid having the predetermined volume that forms the core that is inside of the bag-shaped member, by heating the bag-shaped member or leaving the bag-shaped member.

4. The manufacturing method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of preparing the core is performed by molding a mixture that includes the granular

substance and a binder into a predetermined shape by heating the mixture inside of a mold.

5. The manufacturing method according to claim 4, characterized in that the step of breaking up the core is performed by pulverizing the core that is inside of the bag-shaped member, by applying external force to the bag-shaped member.

6. The manufacturing method according to claim 4, characterized in that the step of breaking up the core is performed by dissolving the binder that forms the core that is inside of the bag-shaped member, by pouring water into the bag-shaped member.

7. The manufacturing method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of preparing the core is performed by molding a mixture that includes the granular substance and a liquid as a binder into a predetermined shape by solidifying the liquid by cooling the mixture inside of a mold.

8. The manufacturing method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of breaking up the core is performed by dissolving the solidified liquid that forms the core that is inside of the bag-shaped member, by heating the bag-shaped member or leaving the bag-shaped member.

9. A manufacturing method of a grasping apparatus, characterized in that a contact portion is manufactured according to the manufacturing method of any one of the previous claims, and attached to a pawl portion (4, 5) of said grasping apparatus, and a vacuum duct (8b) is connected to the connecting port.

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