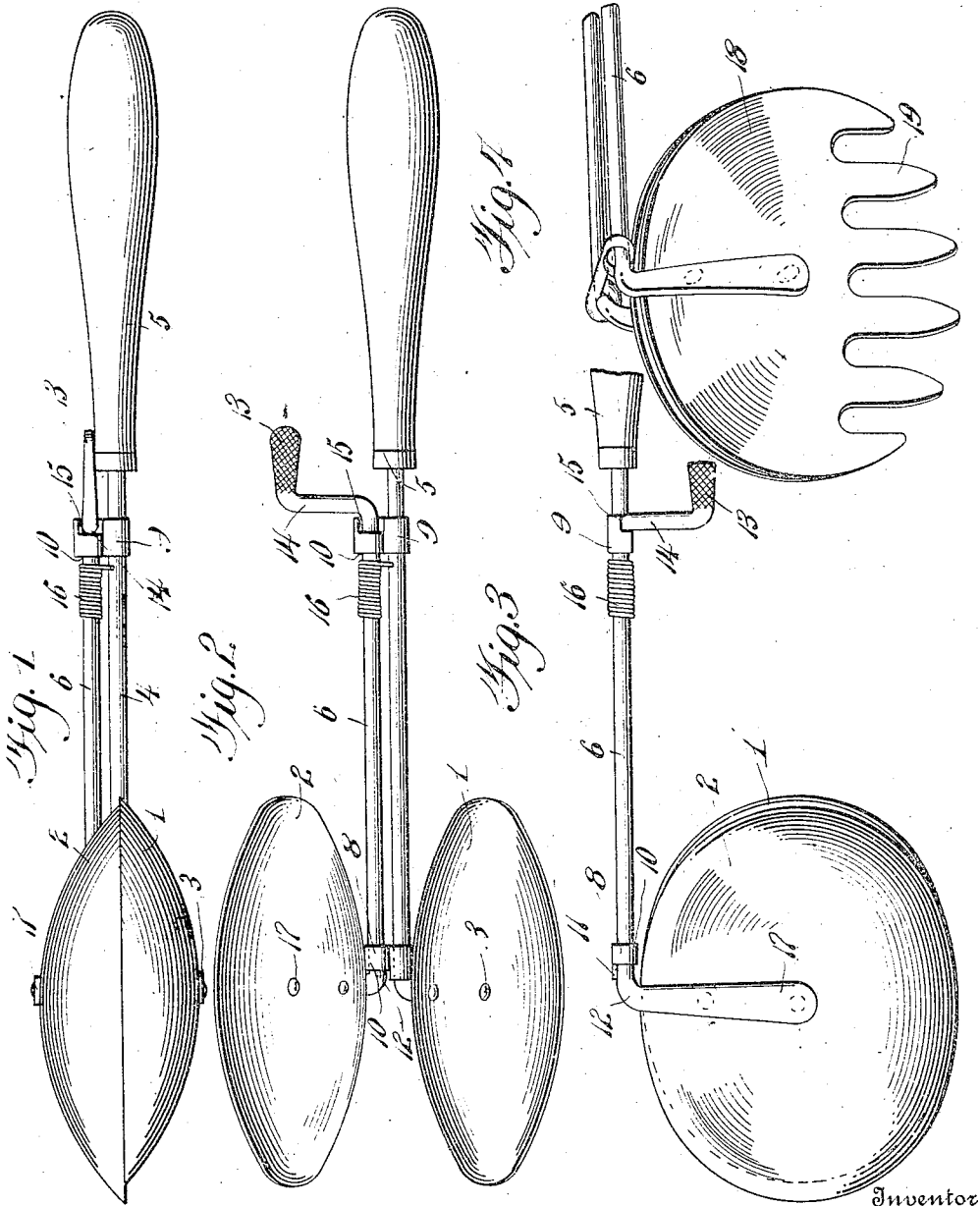


W. H. WHEELER.
FOOD TONGS.
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1,049,956.

Patented Jan. 7, 1913.



Inventor
W. H. Wheeler

Witnesses
W. S. McLowell.
James Koch.

By Victor J. Evans
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. WHEELER, OF ENNIS, TEXAS.

FOOD-TONGS.

1,049,956.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 7, 1913.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. WHEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ennis, in the county of Ellis and State of Texas, have invented new and useful improvements in Food-Tongs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to food tongs and particularly to an improvement on the tongs disclosed in my Patent Number 999,614 of August 1, 1911, the object of the improvements being to provide means for positively limiting the relative movements of the scoops in two directions.

In the drawing forming a portion of this application and in which like letters of reference indicate similar parts in the several views:--Figure 1 is an edge view of the device showing the scoops in their closed positions. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the scoops opened. Fig. 3 is a side view of the device showing the scoops closed. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a portion of the device showing a slightly modified form of scoop.

The device comprises substantially identically formed scoops or jaws 1 and 2 which are each of concavo-convex form preferably and arranged collectively so that the concavities of the companion scoops are disposed in opposing relation. The jaw 1 is secured as at 3 to a rod like member 4 which extends from a manipulating handle 5. This rod is arranged in parallel relation to a similar rod 6 which is connected as at 17 to the jaw 2.

Soldered or otherwise suitably secured to the rod 4 are combined hinge and guide members 8 and 9 which are provided with alining eye portions 10 through which the rod 6 extends, being mounted therein for free sliding movement and for rotary movement for a purpose to be hereinafter described. The guide 10 is provided with a stop shoulder 11 with which the coacting portion 12 at one end of the rod 4 is adapted to engage so as to limit the opened adjustment of the scoops 1 and 2.

The rod 6 is provided in controlling proximity to the handle 5 with an actuating crank portion 13 whose arm 14 is adapted to engage against the stop 15 on the guide 9 so as to hold the scoops in their closed po-

sitions. A spring 16 operatively connects the rods 4 and 6 together and under the action of the spring the scoops are held in opened positions.

The device, as described is designed particularly for serving such food stuffs as flaked cereals where it is desired that one may be served a predetermined quantity of material. In using the article the arm 17 upon the actuating portion of the rod 6 may be engaged by the thumb of the hand after the scoops have been properly associated with the material to be served and by applying slight pressure to the portion 17 the jaw 2 is made to close against the jaw 1. After the article has been carried to the dish in which the material is to be served the thumb is gradually released from the portion 17 of the rod 6, whereby under the influence of the spring described the jaws 1 and 2 will be opened relatively to permit the material to be discharged therefrom. In view of the intent of the spring it has been found desirable to hold the jaws 1 and 2 against operation under the influence of the spring, hence the provision of the stop 15 and the relative association therewith of the arm 14. When it is desired to hold the scoops against opening the rod 6 is moved longitudinally upon the device by exerting thumb pressure against the portion 13 of the rod 6. The said portion 13 is then made to engage behind the stop 15 as is understood.

While it is stated that the device is especially designed for handling cereals it is also mentioned that the device may be modified to the extent that it can be used for handling food stuffs such as vegetables. Now, in view thereof the scoop 18 shown in the modified form of the invention is provided with a fork 19 wherein the tines are spaced apart sufficient to permit the liquid to drain from between scoops when transferring the vegetables from a container to a serving dish.

I claim:--

A device of the class described comprising a handle, a rod extending therefrom, a scoop carried by the rod, hinge members carried by the rod, a second rod slidably and rotatably mounted in the hinge members, a scoop supported by the second rod and dis-

posed opposite the first scoop, a stop on one of the hinge members adapted to engage the second rod to limit the movement of the latter in one direction, a spring connecting the first and second named rods together and operating to hold the scoops normally opened, and a stop on the other hinge member adapted to engage the second rod and

to hold the scooping members in closed positions.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

HARRY McELROY,

AUSTIN CUTHBERTSON.