Feb. 27, 1940. R. C. ZIRINGER 2,191,921

GROUND MEAT MOLD

Filed Oct. 5, 1938

Fig. 1

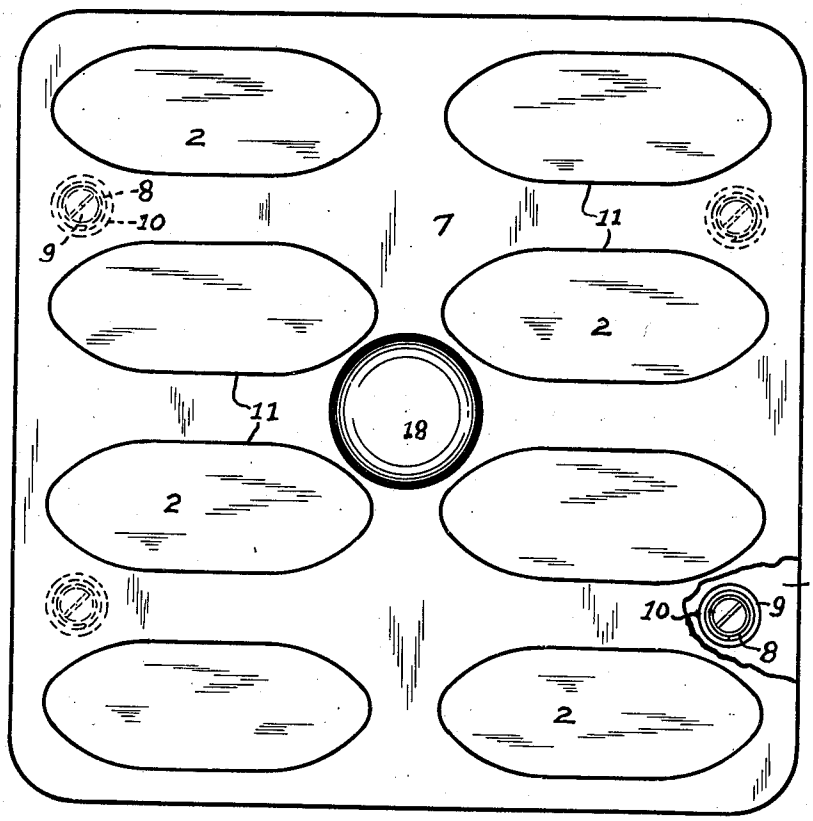


Fig. 2

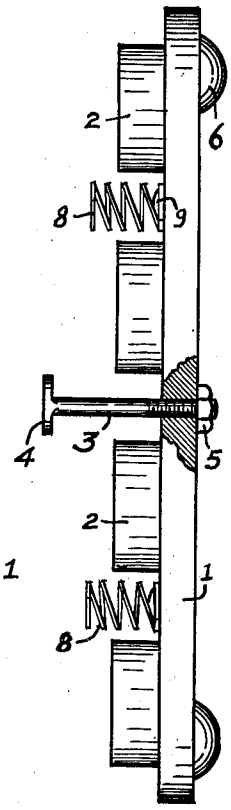


Fig. 3

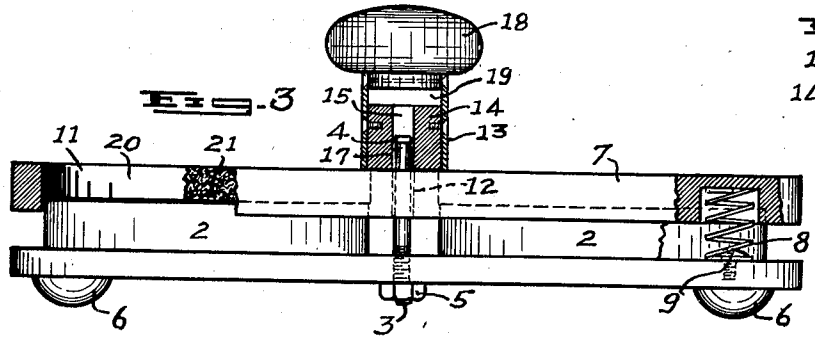
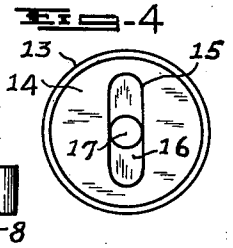


Fig. 4



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Patented Feb. 27, 1940 2,191,921

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,191,921

GROUND MEAT MOLD

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Application October 5, 1938, Serial No. 233,449

2 Claims. (Cl. 107—19)

This invention relates to a mold, and while primarily designed and intended for shaping ground meat for sandwiches, it will be obvious that the device may be employed for any other purposes wherein it is found to be applicable.

Important objects and advantages of the invention are to provide a mold of the character described, which is conveniently operable to expedite the shaping of ground meat into cake forms of uniform dimensions and weight, which may be readily cleaned, which may be adjusted to change the size of the cakes, which is sanitary, simple in its construction and arrangement, durable and efficient in its use, and economical in its manufacture and use.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein specifically illustrated and described, but it is to be understood that changes in the form, proportions and details of construction may be resorted to that come within the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

In the drawing wherein like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a ground meat mold constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is an edge view of the base plate.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view, partly in cross section, of the device disposed in the filling position.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the operating tube and of associated parts with the knob removed therefrom.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 1 denotes a flat rectangularly shaped base plate, having rounded corners, and provided on its top with a plurality of regularly arranged risers 2. The latter are oval-shaped and the top faces thereof are disposed a considerable distance above the plane of the top face of the base plate.

A vertically extending T-bolt 3, having a cross-head 4, is adjustably secured in the base plate by a screw thread engagement in the latter, and by a lock nut 5 engaged on the lower end thereof. The base plate 1 is supported by a plurality of fixed bosses 6, which are disposed adjacent to the respective corners of the base plate to stabilize the positioning of the device and to provide clearance for the engagement of the nut 5 on the end of the T-bolt.

A flat top plate 7, of considerable thickness and having a peripheral contour identical to the base plate 1, is disposed parallel to and above the latter. The top plate is resiliently supported on four upright spiral springs 8, which are disposed adjacent to respective corners of said top and base plates between the latter. The lower end of the springs are fixed to the base plate by screws 9, or in any other suitable manner, and the upper ends thereof are seated in respective deep pockets 10 provided therefor in and opening at the bottom of the top plate.

The top plate 7 is provided with a plurality of oval-shaped openings 11, into which extend, with a close sliding fit, the correspondingly shaped risers 2 on the base plate 1. The height of the risers are exactly commensurate to the considerable thickness of the top plate, and in the operation of the device the tops of the risers cannot completely clear the lower ends of the respective openings 11 in the top plate.

The T-bolt 3 projects through a centrally disposed aperture 12 in the top plate 7 and into a vertically disposed operating tube 13, which latter is revolubly supported on the top of the top plate. A locking plug 14 is fixed in the operating tube and is provided with an oblong, open top slot 15 for receiving the cross-head 4 of the T-bolt. The slot has a bottom 16 formed with an aperture 17 for the passage of the T-bolt. A knob 18 is fixed in the top of the operating tube to facilitate the operation of the device, and a clearance 19 is provided in the tube above the locking plug to allow the operation of the cross-head therein.

When the operating tube 13 is turned to dispose the slot 15 parallel to the cross-head 4, the normal action of the springs 8 will automatically force the top plate 7 to the elevated position, as shown in Figure 3. When the top plate is so elevated, the forms 20, for shaping the ground meat 21, are provided by the sunken tops of the risers 2 and by the side walls of respective openings 11 in the top plate. The elevation of the top plate by the action of the springs is limited by the engagement of the cross-head on the bottom 16 of the slot. The ground meat 21 is pressed or tamped into the forms 20, and the tops thereof are shaved off, with a suitable implement, flush with the plane of the top surface of the top plate 7.

The top plate 7 is now depressed, by exerting pressure upon the knob 18 against the action of the springs 8, until the bottom of the top plate rests flatly upon the top of the base plate. When the top plate is so depressed the compressed

springs will be completely housed in respective pockets 10, and the tops of the risers 2 will be exactly flush with the top of the top plate carrying and exposing the ground meat properly shaped in cake forms. The latter may be conveniently removed from the tops of the risers by running a spatula-like implement thereunder and along the flush top of the top plate and tops of the risers.

When the top plate 7 is forced to the depressed position, the cross-head 4 of the T-bolt 3 will be disposed in the clearance 19 above the locking plug 14. By giving the operating tube 13 a one-quarter turn, the slot 15 will be disposed at right angles to the cross-head 4 and the latter will be engaged by the top of the plug 14 and thereby securely lock the top plate in the depressed position against the base plate 1 and against the action of the springs 8. By turning the tube to dispose the cross-head parallel to the slot the top plate is released to return to the elevated position by the action of the springs, and the device is again ready for subsequent meat forming operations.

It will be noted that the top and base plates may be constructed of wood, cast or sheet metal, or any other suitable material, and that the contours thereof may be varied to suit any condition found in practice. Further, the size, contour, and number of forms 20 embodied in the device may obviously be varied to provide any desired meat cake shape. By adjusting the height of the T-bolt 3 on the base plate 1 the thickness of the meat cakes may be varied to effect requirements.

The present invention provides a most efficient device of its kind, which may be readily employed and conveniently operated for quickly shaping ground meat in cake form of uniform size, weight and contour.

What I claim is:

1. In a ground meat mold, the combination of a base plate provided with a plurality of risers having flat top faces and projecting upwardly from the top thereof, a top plate having a flat top face and provided with openings to receive respective risers and disposed above said base plate, a plurality of springs mounted on said base plate and supporting said top plate, the action of said springs elevating said top plate to dispose the top faces of risers below the plane of the top face of said top plate, means for depressing said top plate to dispose the top face of the latter on the plane of the top faces of said risers, and means for securing said top plate in the depressed position.

2. In a ground meat mold, the combination of a base plate provided with a plurality of risers having flat top faces, a top plate disposed on said base plate and being formed with openings to receive respective risers, a plurality of springs mounted on said base plate for supporting said top plate, the normal action of said springs elevating said top plate to dispose the top face of the latter above the plane of the top face of said risers, said top plate being depressible on said springs to dispose the top of the former on the plane of the tops of said risers, an operating tube disposed on said top plate and carring a knob fixed to the upper end thereof, a plug fixed in said tube and being provided with an oblong open top slot, said slot having a bottom provided with an aperture, a T-bolt including a cross-head adjustably secured in said base plate and extending through said top plate and through said aperture and normally having said cross-head thereof disposed in said slot, the upper end of said plug being spaced from said knob to provide clearance for said cross-head to allow the latter to be engaged on the top of said plug for securing said top plate in the depressed position.

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