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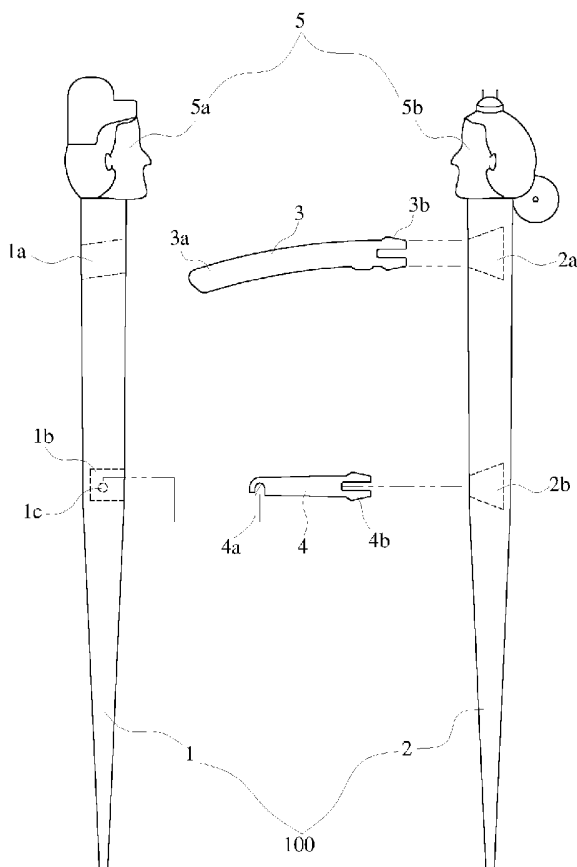
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CHOPSTICKS



(57) Abstract: A pair of chopsticks is provided. The pair of chopsticks having a first chopstick (1) and a second chopstick (2), includes a guide shaft (3) which is fixed to a fixing groove (2a) of the second chopstick (2) and connects the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) so as to move along a guide groove (1a) formed in the upper end of the first chopstick (1), and a pivotal shaft (4) which is assembled in the middle portion of the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) at a certain distance from the guide shaft (3), and whose one end is fixed to a coupling groove (2b) of the second chopstick (2) and other end is pivotally connected around a fixing pin (1c) in a pivotal groove (1b) provided in the first chopstick (1) so as to be pivoted while maintaining a certain interval when the first chopstick (1) is pivoted according to a use of the chopsticks, to thereby mutually confine the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2). Thus, when the pair of chopsticks are used at the state of holding them correctly, the first chopstick is pivoted along a constant locus around the fixed second chopstick. As a result, the ends of the chopsticks always coincide with each other. In particular, children or foreigners can easily learn how to use how to use a pair of chopsticks. Also, persons who need to correct how to use a pair of chopsticks can easily learn how to correctly use them.



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Description

CHOPSTICKS

Technical Field

- [1] The present invention relates to a pair of chopstick, and more particularly, to a pair of chopsticks in which a guide shaft and a pivotal shaft are provided between the pair of chopsticks and thus a first chopstick is pivoted at a certain angle around a fixed second chopstick when the pair of chopsticks are used at the state where the pair of chopsticks are correctly held, so that the ends of the pair of chopsticks always coincide with each other, to thereby assist children or foreigners who are unskilled in how to use a pair of chopsticks to learn how to correctly use the pair of chopsticks and use the pair of chopsticks as a pair of chopsticks for training or correcting the children or foreigners who learn how to correctly use them.

Background Art

- [2] As is well known, the Oriental people frequently use a pair of chopsticks when they eat foods in view of food cultural features.
- [3] The pair of chopsticks are composed of left and right two chopsticks each having an identical length and shape. When a user uses a pair of chopsticks, he or she holds them by one hand and makes the leading ends of the pair of chopsticks come nearer selectively to pick up foods.
- [4] Here, it has been known as a correct use of a pair of chopsticks to use a pair of chopsticks with how to use a pair of chopsticks shown in FIGs. 1 and 2.
- [5] That is, as shown in FIG. 1, when a user holds a pair of chopsticks, one chopstick 10 of a pair of chopsticks 10 and 11 is put on the first knuckle of the ring finger 23 and between the thumb 20 and the forefinger 21 among the five fingers, and then is pressed and supported by the middle portion of the thumb 20. The other chopstick 11 thereof is put on a spot between the leading knuckles of the forefinger 21 and the middle finger 22 and the root portion of the forefinger 21 and pressed and held by the end of the thumb 20.
- [6] Then, as shown in FIG. 2, a user presses one chopstick 11 with the end portion of the thumb 20 at the state where the other chopstick 10 is fixed, and makes the other chopstick 11 pivoted downwards at a desired angle with the forefinger 21 and the middle finger 22 around the spot pressed with the end portion of the thumb 20. Accordingly, a desired food is picked up by the use of the pair of chopsticks.
- [7] Here, it is considerably difficult for children or foreigners who are unskilled in use of a pair of chopsticks to correctly use them with the above-described conventional chopstick holding method.

- [8] That is, in the case that a user starts to learn how to use a pair of chopsticks, the one chopstick 10 is slippery from the end portion of the ring finger 23 and thus is not easily supported by the end portion of the ring finger 23. It is not easy to make the other chopstick 11 is pivoted along a certain locus on an identical plane by using three fingers such as the thumb 20, the forefinger 21 and the middle finger 22. The ends of the identical length in the pair of chopsticks 10 and 11 are not easy to coincide with each other without crossing each other.
- [9] In the case that a user uses a pair of chopsticks at the state where he or she is unskilled in how to use them, and cannot control forces applied to the pair of chopsticks during picking up and holding up a food, he or she may drop the food.
- [10] In fact, it is considerably difficult to use a pair of chopsticks in comparison with a spoon or fork. In the case of foreigners who live in countries where they do not use a pair of chopsticks in view of food cultural features, they have no experiences of using a pair of chopsticks mostly. Thus, when they use a pair of chopsticks for the first time, they feel much difficulties.
- [11] In particular, as is well known, in the case of children who start to learn how to use a pair of chopsticks, it is very difficult for them to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks, and it takes a considerable time for them to be good at using a pair of chopsticks.
- [12] As described above, people should be considerably attentive in order to learn how to use a pair of chopsticks. Unless a user knows how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks, he or she feels inconvenient or clumsy.
- [13] For example, a certain person may use a pair of chopsticks through a chopstick holding method differing from that shown in FIGs. 1 and 2. This is due to an incorrect use of a pair of chopsticks which is not a correct chopstick handling method but a chopstick holding method of holding a pair of chopsticks at his or her convenient posture, from the time when he or she starts to learn how to use them. The incorrect chopstick handling method is fixed as a bad habit through repetitive uses.
- [14] As described above, there are a number of persons who are unskilled in using a pair of chopsticks. They feel it difficult to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks.
- [15] The person who has learned an incorrect use of a pair of chopsticks is frequently put to shame and thus feels a need to correct the incorrect chopstick handling method.

Disclosure of Invention

Technical Problem

- [16] However, even in the case that a user who is good at an incorrect use of a pair of chopsticks wishes to correct the incorrect chopstick handling method, it is not only difficult for him or her to correct the incorrect chopstick handling method, but it takes

also much time and effort in order to learn how to correctly use them, if a pair of chopsticks 10 and 11 which are separated from each other as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2 are used to correct the incorrect use of the pair of chopsticks.

[17] Accordingly, there have been proposed a number of pairs of improved chopsticks and a number of pairs of training chopsticks by the same applicant as that of this invention and other applicants.

[18] That is, in the case of a pair of chopsticks proposed Utility Model Registration No. 20-0242011 on 30 July 2001 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2001-6077 filed on 7 March 2001) entitled "A pair of correction-capable chopsticks" by the same applicant as that of this invention, an X-shaped support (X) is connected between two chopsticks 1 (1a and 1b) which are separated from each other, as shown in FIG. 3. When the pair of chopsticks are used, a certain gap is maintained between the two chopsticks 1 (1a and 1b), and the lower ends of the chopsticks are freely pivoted at a certain angle around the X-shaped support (X).

[19] In the case of Utility Model Registration No. 2000-0233449 on 28 May 2001 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2000-34896 filed on 13 December 2000) entitled "Conveniently usable chopsticks", the upper portion thereof is wide and the lower portion is narrow as shown in FIG. 4. The chopsticks are composed of two chopsticks which are held by one hand. The chopsticks 30 include one chopstick 31 on the end of which a throughhole is horizontally formed and the other chopstick 32 on the end of which a throughhole is vertically formed, in which a strut 33 is formed at the center of each of the chopsticks 31 and 32, so that each chopstick 31 or 32 maintains a certain height from the place where the chopsticks are put. Also, a support 40 is provided to maintain the upper ends of the chopsticks 30 to be distant from each other at a certain interval, to thus support the other chopstick 32 which is pivoted at a certain angle horizontally, vertically or obliquely.

[20] In addition to the above-described chopsticks, Utility Model Registration No. 20-0216488 on 30 December 2000 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2000-27044 filed on 27 September 2000), 20-0253470 on 27 October 2001 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2001-23369 filed on 1 August 2001), 20-0258454 on 11 December 2001 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2001-24658 filed on 14 August 2001), and 20-0317781 on 13 June 2003 (corresponding to Utility Model Application No. 2003-9210 filed on 27 March 2003) disclose improved chopsticks which can be easily used and assist users to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks.

[21] The reason why chopsticks which assist users to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks or correct an incorrect use of a pair of chopsticks have been developed and proposed in various forms, is due to the fact that it is very difficult for children or

foreigners who live in different food cultural environments, who start to learn how to use a pair of chopsticks, to be good at using a pair of chopsticks.

- [22] Also, as described above, it is difficult to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks and form a habit. Unless users form a habit of following a correct chopstick handling method in childhood, it takes much time to correct an incorrect chopstick handling habit in adulthood. As a result, some people use an incorrect chopstick handling method, or do not use a pair of chopsticks.

Technical Solution

- [23] To solve the above problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a pair of chopsticks which have a different structure from those of the above-described conventional chopsticks, makes users learn how to correctly use a pair of chopstick more easily, and are convenient to use, in which a guide shaft and a pivotal shaft are provided between the pair of chopsticks and thus a first chopstick is pivoted at a certain angle around a fixed second chopstick when the pair of chopsticks are used at the state where the pair of chopsticks are correctly held, so that the ends of the pair of chopsticks always coincide with each other, to thereby assist children or foreigners who are unskilled in how to use a pair of chopsticks to learn how to correctly use the pair of chopsticks and use the pair of chopsticks as a pair of chopsticks for training or correcting the children or foreigners who learn how to correctly use them.
- [24] It is another object of the present invention to provide a pair of chopsticks having a slip-preventive structure including pads provided in the holding surfaces of holding the chopsticks, so that the chopsticks are prevented from slipping by the pads at the chopstick holding surfaces when the chopsticks are used at the state of holding the chopsticks correctly.
- [25] To accomplish the above object of the present invention, according to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pair of chopsticks having a first chopstick and a second chopstick, the pair of chopsticks comprising: a guide shaft which is fixed to a fixing groove of the second chopstick and connects the pair of chopsticks so as to move along a guide groove formed in the upper end of the first chopstick; and a pivotal shaft which is assembled in the middle portion of the pair of chopsticks at a certain distance from the guide shaft, and whose one end is fixed to a coupling groove of the second chopstick and other end is pivotal connected around a fixing pin in a pivotal groove provided in the first chopstick so as to be pivoted while maintaining a certain interval when the first chopstick is pivoted according to a use of the chopsticks, to thereby mutually confine the pair of chopsticks.
- [26] Here, it is preferable that the pivotal shaft has a structure which can be inserted left and right so that the length of the pivotal shaft can be changed, several pivotal grooves

and coupling grooves are provided in the pair of chopsticks so as to face to each other, or grooves are formed in the form of a guide line so that the pivotal shaft can move up and down, to thereby selectively change an installation position of the pivotal shaft.

[27] In particular, it is preferable that a mascot-patterned sculpture is formed in the upper end of each of the pair of chopsticks so as to induce a user's fun during using the pair of chopsticks.

[28] Also, pads are provided in the second chopstick in which the pads contact the user's holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick, to thereby prevent the chopsticks from slipping by the pads at the chopstick holding surfaces when the chopsticks are used.

Advantageous Effects

[29] As described above, the present invention provides a pair of chopsticks in which a guide shaft and a pivotal shaft are provided between the pair of chopsticks and thus a first chopstick is pivoted at a certain angle around a fixed second chopstick when the pair of chopsticks are used at the state where the pair of chopsticks are correctly held, so that the ends of the pair of chopsticks always coincide with each other.

[30] As a result, the pair of chopsticks according to the present invention assist children or foreigners who are unskilled in how to use a pair of chopsticks to learn how to correctly use the pair of chopsticks and use the pair of chopsticks as a pair of chopsticks for training or correcting the children or foreigners who learn how to correctly use them.

[31] Also, the present invention provides a pair of chopsticks having a slip-preventive structure including pads provided in the holding surfaces of holding the chopsticks, so that the chopsticks are prevented from slipping when the chopsticks are used at the state of holding the chopsticks correctly.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[32] The above and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing the preferred embodiments thereof in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[33] FIGs. 1 and 2 are a perspective view illustrating how to hold a pair of conventional chopsticks for a correct use of the pair of chopsticks, respectively;

[34] FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating how to use a pair of conventional chopsticks proposed by the same applicant as that of the present invention;

[35] FIG. 4 is a perspective view illustrating how to use a pair of another conventional chopsticks;

[36] FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the structure of a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention;

- [37] FIGs. 6 and 7 are respective front views showing movement of a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention, at the state where the pair of chopsticks are combined with each other;
- [38] FIGs. 8 and 9 are respective front views showing that an installation position of a pivotal shaft and a length of the pivotal shaft can be changed in a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention; and
- [39] FIG. 10 is a perspective view showing a pair of chopsticks on one of which at least one pad is attached according to another embodiment of the present invention;
- [40] FIG. 11 is a perspective view illustrating how to correctly hold and use a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

- [41] Hereinbelow, a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- [42] FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the structure of a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention. FIGs. 6 and 7 are respective front views showing movement of a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention, at the state where the pair of chopsticks are combined with each other. FIG. 11 is a perspective view illustrating how to correctly hold and use a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention.
- [43] As shown in FIGs. 5 through 7, a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) having a first chopstick 1 and a second chopstick 2, includes a guide shaft 3 which moves along a guide groove 1a formed in the upper end of the one chopstick 1, and a pivotal shaft 4 which is provided in the middle portion of the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) at a certain distance from the guide shaft 3, and so as to be pivoted while maintaining a certain interval when the first chopstick 1 is pivoted according to a use of the chopsticks, to thereby mutually confine the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2).
- [44] Here, a fixing groove 2a and a guide groove 1a are respectively formed on the upper portion of the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) at the same height facing each other in order to assemble and couple the guide shaft 3 with the chopsticks.
- [45] That is, when a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) are used at the state where the chopsticks are held, the guide groove 1a is formed in the first chopstick 1 which moves, and the fixing groove 2a is formed in the second chopstick 2 which opposes the first chopstick 1.
- [46] Here, one end 3b of the guide shaft 3 is fitted into and assembled with the fixing groove 2a, and the other end 3a thereof is fitted into the guide groove 1a penetratively. Thus, when a user uses the pair of chopsticks, the first chopstick 1 moves along the guide shaft 3. The length of the guide shaft 3 is designed to have a sufficient length so

as to correspond to a rotational angle (that is, a moving distance) when the first chopstick 1 in which the guide groove 1a is formed is pivoted around the pivotal shaft 4.

[47] In order to assemble and couple the pivotal shaft 4, a pivotal groove 1b and a coupling groove 2b are formed in the middle portion of the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) at a certain distance from the guide groove 1a and the fixing groove 2a, respectively.

[48] Of course, the pivotal groove 1b and the coupling groove 2b are formed at a mutually opposing identical height, so that the pivotal shaft 4 can be assembled and coupled therewith. The pivotal groove 1b is formed in the first chopstick 1 on which the guide groove 1a is formed.

[49] Thus, the coupling groove 2b is formed in the second chopstick 2 which opposes the first chopstick 1. Here, the coupling groove 2b is formed into the same structure as that of the fixing groove 2a.

[50] That is, one end 3b of the guide shaft 3 and one end 4b of the pivotal shaft 4 are formed in an identical structure. The one end 3b of the guide shaft 3 and the one end 4b of the pivotal shaft 4 are designed so that the formers are not easily disassembled from the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b once the formers are fitted into and assembled with the latters, respectively.

[51] In other words, the one ends 3b and 4b of the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4 which are fitted into and assembled with the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b, respectively are not easily disassembled after a fit-assembly, unless they are disassembled from each other compulsively with a strong force. For this purpose, the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4 are formed into a hook structure having an elasticity in which they are contracted when they are initially inserted into the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b, and widen into the original state after they are completely inserted into the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b, respectively. Accordingly, the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4 are restored and fixed into the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b, respectively.

[52] Of course, the structures of the one ends 3b and 4b of the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4 are not limited to the structure shown in the drawings. Any structure that the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4 are fitted into the fixing groove 2a and the coupling groove 2b, respectively and then are not easily disassembled from each other, can be applied in the present invention.

[53] Also, a fixing pin 1c is provided in the pivotal groove 1b into which the other end 4a of the pivotal shaft 4 is fitted and inserted.

[54] This is to make one end 4b of the pivotal shaft 4 which is inserted into the pivotal groove 1b formed of a latch structure, and then coupled with a fixing pin 1c, to then be

pivoted.

Mode for the Invention

- [55] Meanwhile, as shown, it is preferable that mascots 5 (5a and 5b) of bride and bridegroom are formed in the upper end of the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2), respectively.
- [56] That is, as shown in FIGs. 6 and 7, the mascots 5 (5a and 5b) of the bride and bridegroom are get closer and farther during using the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2), at the state where the pair of chopsticks are connected with each other by the guide shaft 3 and the pivotal shaft 4. Repeated operations of the mascots can induce a visual fun to children or foreigners who are unskilled in use of the pair of chopsticks. Also, the present invention has a merit of giving a vividness in comparison with the simple chopsticks. Thus, a boring can be solved at the process of training how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks.
- [57] The present invention is not limited to the mascot patterned sculpture 5 (5a and 5b) formed on the upper end of each of the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) in the form of the bride and bridegroom as in the embodiment of the present invention, but it is apparent that any mascot patterned sculpture inducing a fun can be applied.
- [58] Meanwhile, an installation position of the pivotal shaft 4 can vary according to a user's selection. This is an intention to provide a structure that a user can change the position of the pivotal shaft 4 since the positions of the fingers holding the chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) vary according to the lengths of the user's fingers.
- [59] For this purpose, as shown in FIG. 8, several pivotal grooves 1b and coupling grooves 2b are provided at a certain interval. Accordingly, a user can adjust an installation position of the pivotal shaft 4 according to the lengths of the user's fingers.
- [60] Instead of providing several pivotal grooves 1b and coupling grooves 2b as described above, grooves (not shown) are formed in the form of a guide line which can move up and down so that they face each other between a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2), to thus selectively change the position of the pivotal shaft and then the pivotal shaft is pivotally fixed with pins.
- [61] Since the above-described structure can be easily implemented by one skilled in the art, the detailed description thereof will be omitted.
- [62] In addition, the length of the pivotal shaft 4 can be changed.
- [63] That is, as shown in FIG. 9, the length of the pivotal shaft 4 can be changed, in which a gap between a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) can be adjusted as desired, through a structure of fixing the pivotal shaft which are inserted left and right with a coupling protrusion 4c.
- [64] This is also an intention of implementing the gap between the pair of chopsticks

100 (1 and 2) in various forms, by securing a sufficient gap between the pair of chopsticks according to the lengths of the user's fingers and the chopstick holding methods.

[65] In addition to the above-described methods, since the pair of chopsticks according to the present invention is used in order to train and correct persons who are unskilled in handling the chopsticks, it is preferable that the dimension of the chopsticks is implemented in various forms.

[66] Meanwhile, children who are unskilled in using a pair of chopsticks or foreigners who are clumsy in using a pair of chopsticks make distribution of the force applied to the chopsticks unstable at the state of holding the chopsticks unstably, the chopsticks slip from the surfaces where they hold the chopsticks. In particular, since most of the chopsticks are made of hard and slippery materials such as hard plastic or metal, the chopsticks are apt to slip slightly when distribution of the forces applied to the chopsticks is unstable.

[67] In other words, in the above-described case, the chopsticks may slip from the holding or contacting surfaces of holding or contacting the second chopstick 2. To prevent such a slip phenomenon, according to another embodiment of the present invention, separate pads 6 are provided in the holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick 2, to thereby provide a slip-preventive structure.

[68] That is, as shown in FIG. 10, pads 6 are provided in the respective surfaces contacting the second chopstick 2 which is put on the first knuckle of the ring finger 23 and between the thumb 20 and the forefinger 21 among the five fingers, and then is pressed and supported by the middle portion of the thumb 20.

[69] Here, the pads 6 are made of soft flexible materials differing from the hard plastic or metal which is used for making chopsticks, and separately attached to the holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick 2. However, the present invention is not limited thereto.

[70] That is, the pads 6 may be formed of a number of small indents provided on the holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick 2, in order to prevent a slip.

[71] The example of using a pair of chopsticks according to the present invention having the above-described structure is shown in FIG. 11. Briefly, when a user holds a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) according to the present invention in order to learn how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks, a second chopstick 2 of a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) is put on the first knuckle of the ring finger 23 and between the thumb 20 and the forefinger 21 among the five fingers, and then is pressed and supported by the middle portion of the thumb 20, as in the conventional art. A first chopstick 1 thereof is put on a spot between the leading knuckles of the forefinger 21 and the middle finger 22 and the root portion of the forefinger 21 and pressed and held by the end of the

thumb 20.

[72] Then, a user presses the first chopstick 11 with the end portion of the thumb 20 at the state where the second chopstick 2 is fixed, and makes the first chopstick 1 pivoted downwards at a desired angle with the forefinger 21 and the middle finger 22 around the spot pressed with the end portion of the thumb 20 near the pivotal shaft 4. Accordingly, a desired food is picked up by the use of the pair of chopsticks.

[73] In other words, the pivotal shaft 4 is positioned near the spot where the first chopstick 1 has been pressed by the end of the thumb 20, to thereby maintain a gap between the two chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) to be constant. Then, the first chopstick 1 is pivoted around the fixing pin 1c of the pivotal groove 1b connecting the pivotal shaft 4. By doing so, the pair of chopsticks work.

[74] Simultaneously, the first chopstick 1 moving along the guide shaft 3 penetrating the guide groove 1a provided on the upper end of the first chopstick 1 becomes wide by a pivoting angle and moves.

[75] As described above, the operation of the pair of chopsticks is performed around the central pivotal shaft 4 while always maintaining a constant gap between the chopsticks. Also, since the first chopstick 1 moves along the guide shaft 3, the pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) always move within a constant locus without crossing each other. Thus, since the first chopstick 1 does not slip and maintains a proper gap from the second chopstick 2 all the time, a user can be easily good at how to correctly use a pair of chopsticks.

[76] In conclusion, children who starts to learn how to use a pair of chopsticks 100 (1 and 2) or beginners or foreigners who are clumsy in using a pair of chopsticks can easily learn how to use a pair of chopsticks.

[77] As described above, the present invention has been described with respect to particularly preferred embodiments. However, the present invention is not limited to the above embodiments, and it is possible for one who has an ordinary skill in the art to make various modifications and variations, without departing off the spirit of the present invention. Thus, the protective scope of the present invention is not defined within the detailed description thereof but is defined by the claims to be described later and the technical spirit of the present invention.

Industrial Applicability

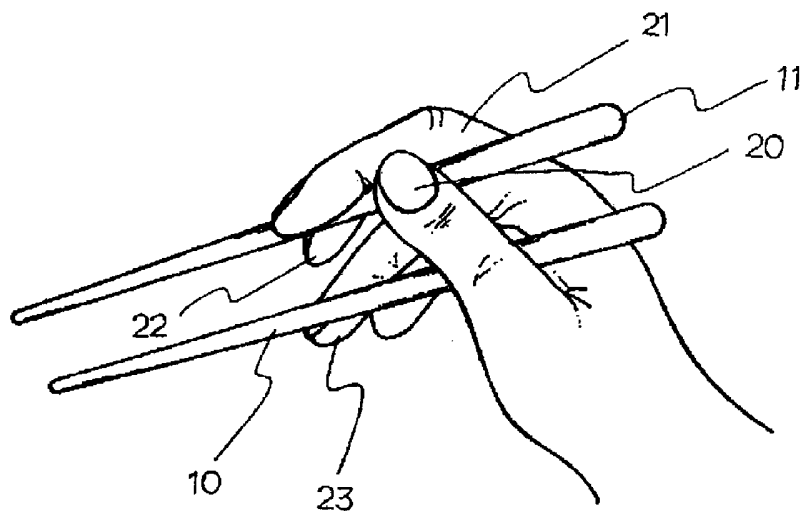
[78] As described above, the present invention provides a pair of chopsticks for training or correcting children or foreigners who learn how to correctly use them.

Claims

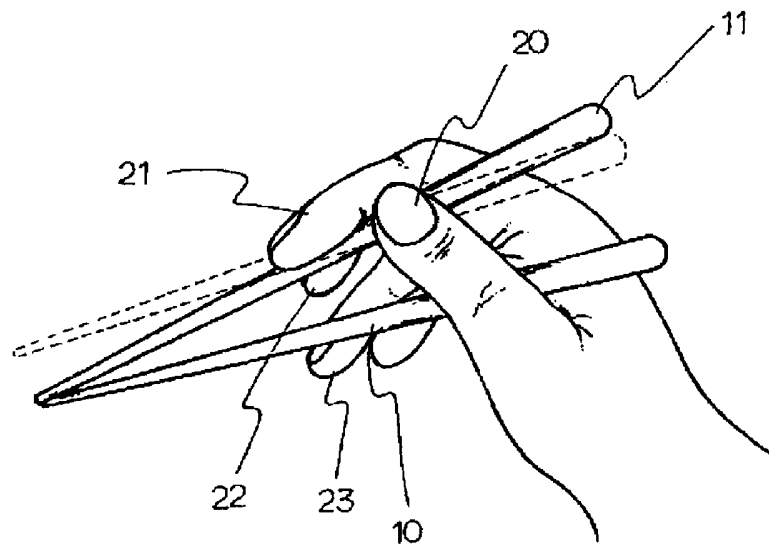
- [1] A pair of chopsticks having a first chopstick (1) and a second chopstick (2), the pair of chopsticks comprising:
a guide shaft (3) which is fixed to a fixing groove (2a) of the second chopstick (2) and connects the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) so as to move along a guide groove (1a) formed in the upper end of the first chopstick (1); and
a pivotal shaft (4) which is assembled in the middle portion of the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) at a certain distance from the guide shaft (3), and whose one end is fixed to a coupling groove (2b) of the second chopstick (2) and other end is pivotally connected around a fixing pin (1c) in a pivotal groove (1b) provided in the first chopstick (1) so as to be pivoted while maintaining a certain interval when the first chopstick (1) is pivoted according to a use of the chopsticks, to thereby mutually confine the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2).
- [2] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 1, wherein the pivotal shaft has a structure which can be inserted left and right so that the length of the pivotal shaft can be changed, and several pivotal grooves (1b) and coupling grooves (2b) are provided in the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) so as to face to each other, to thereby selectively change an installation position of the pivotal shaft (4).
- [3] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 1, wherein the pivotal shaft (4) has a structure which can be inserted left and right so that the length of the pivotal shaft can be changed, and grooves are formed in the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2) in the form of a guide line so that the pivotal shaft (4) can move up and down, to thereby selectively change an installation position of the pivotal shaft (4).
- [4] The pair of chopsticks according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein a mascot-patterned sculpture (5; 5a, 5b) is formed in the upper end of each of the pair of chopsticks (100; 1, 2).
- [5] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 1, wherein pads (6) are provided in the second chopstick (2) in which the pads (6) contact the user's holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick (2).
- [6] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 4, wherein pads (6) are provided in the second chopstick (2) in which the pads (6) contact the user's holding surfaces of holding the second chopstick (2).
- [7] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the pads (6) are made of a flexible material so as to be attached to the holding surfaces of the second chopstick (2).
- [8] The pair of chopsticks according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the pads (6) are formed of a number of indents provided in the holding surfaces of the second chopstick

(2).

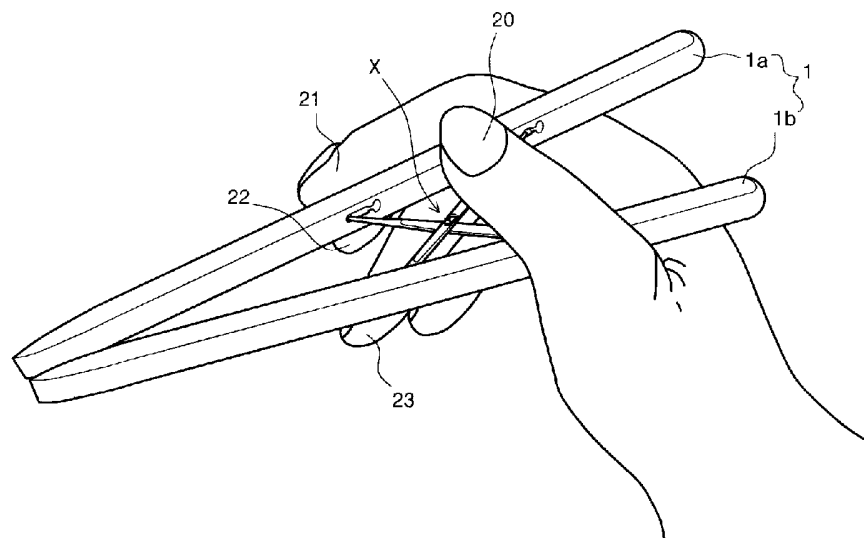
[Fig. 1]



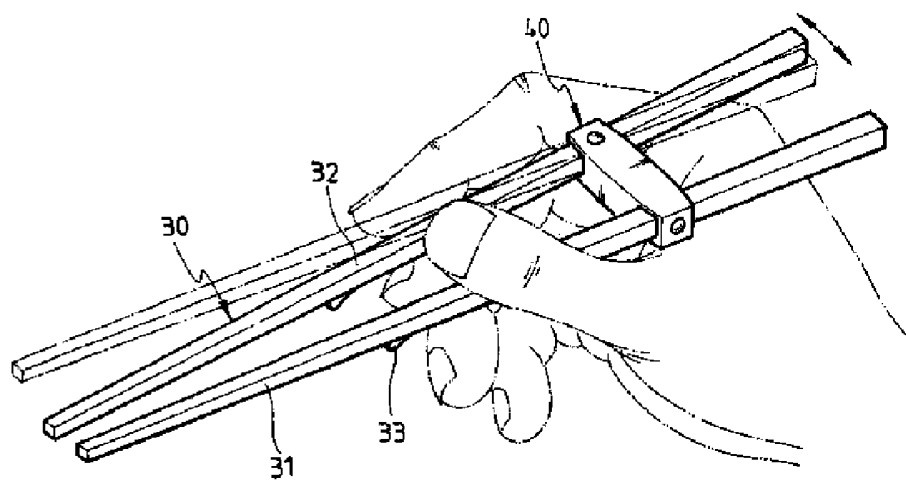
[Fig. 2]



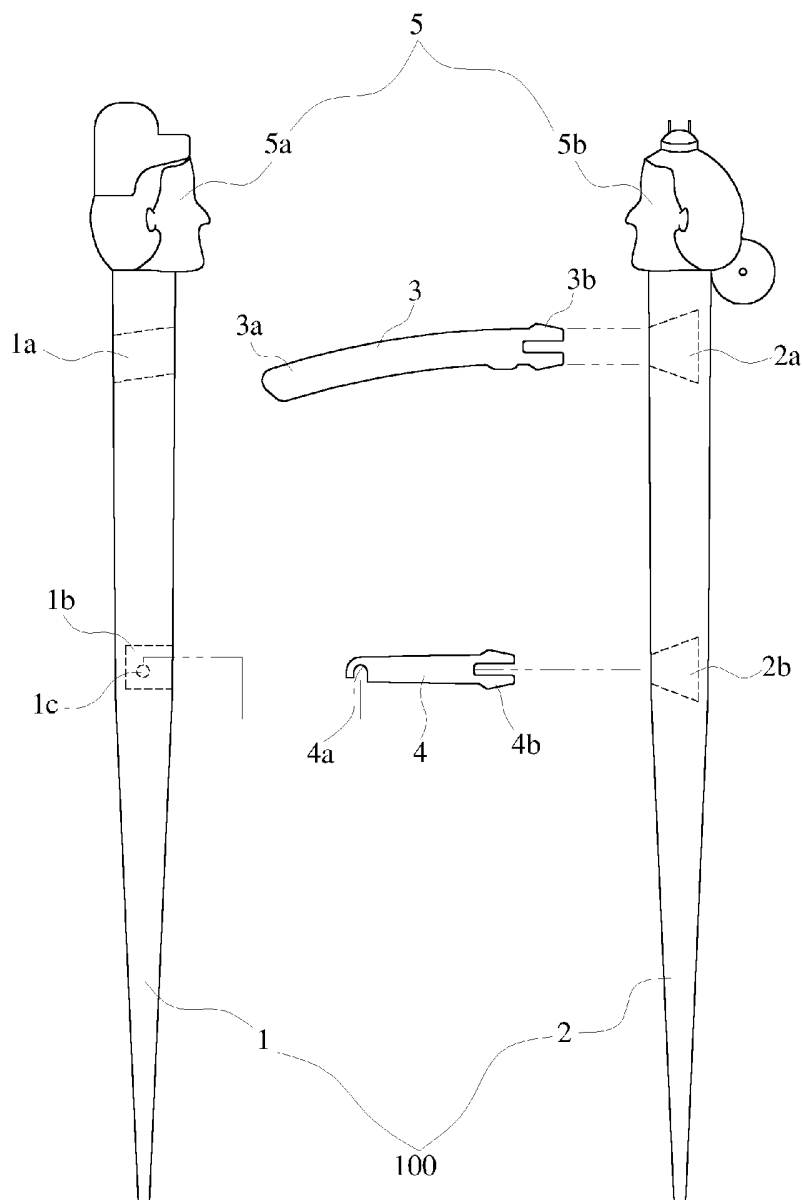
[Fig. 3]



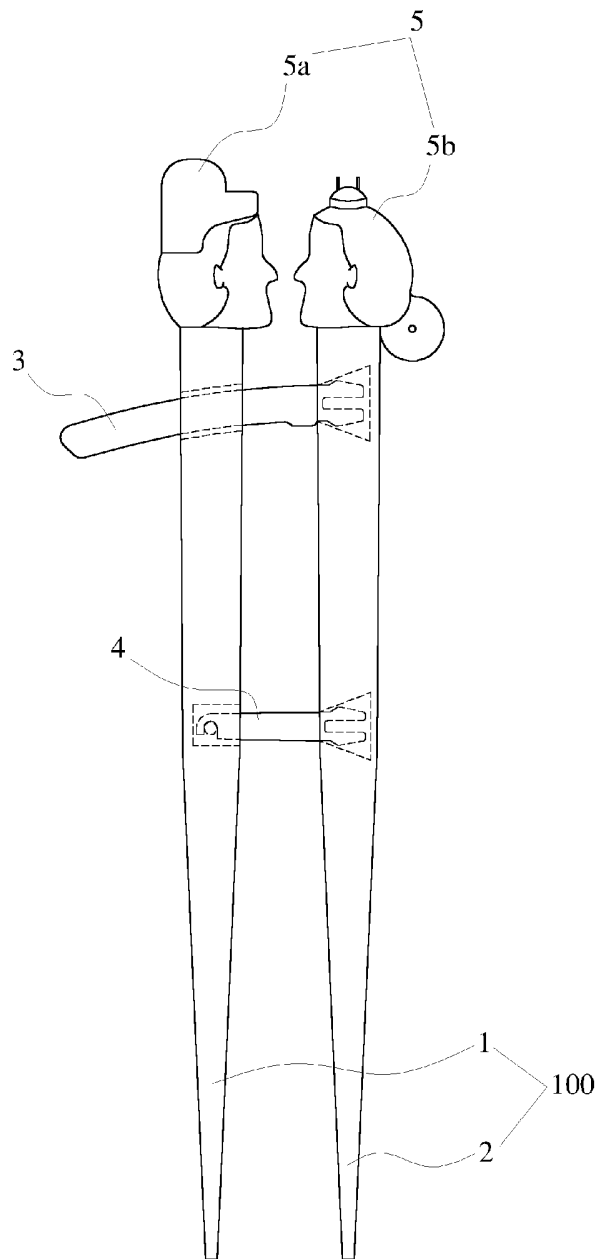
[Fig. 4]



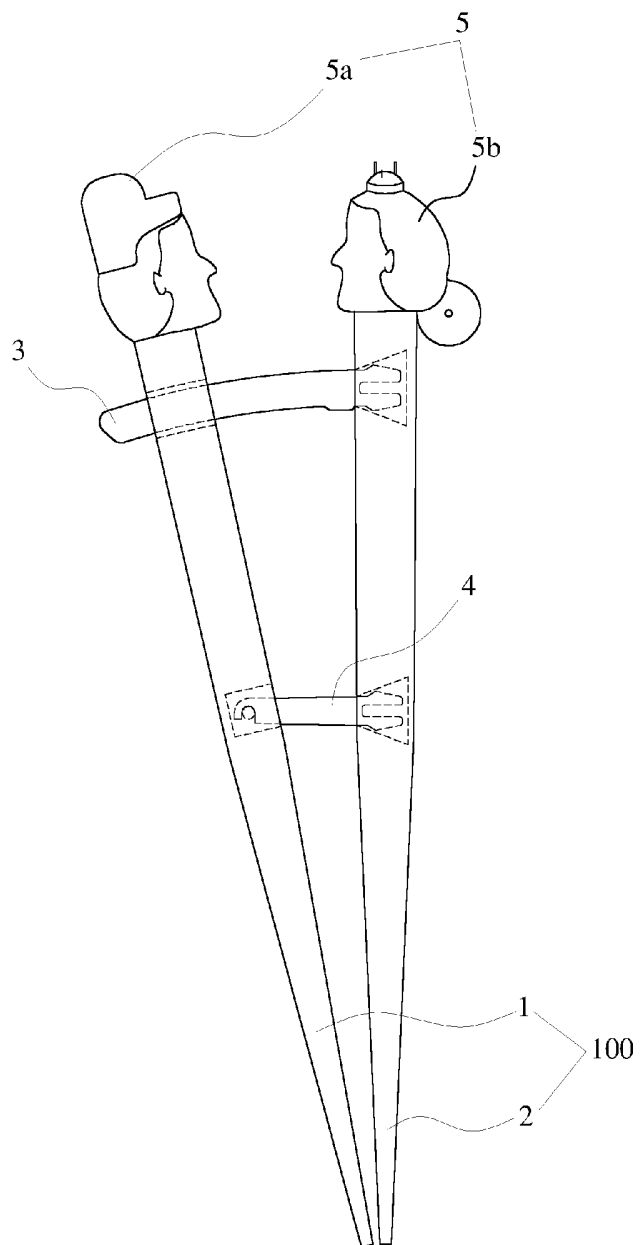
[Fig. 5]



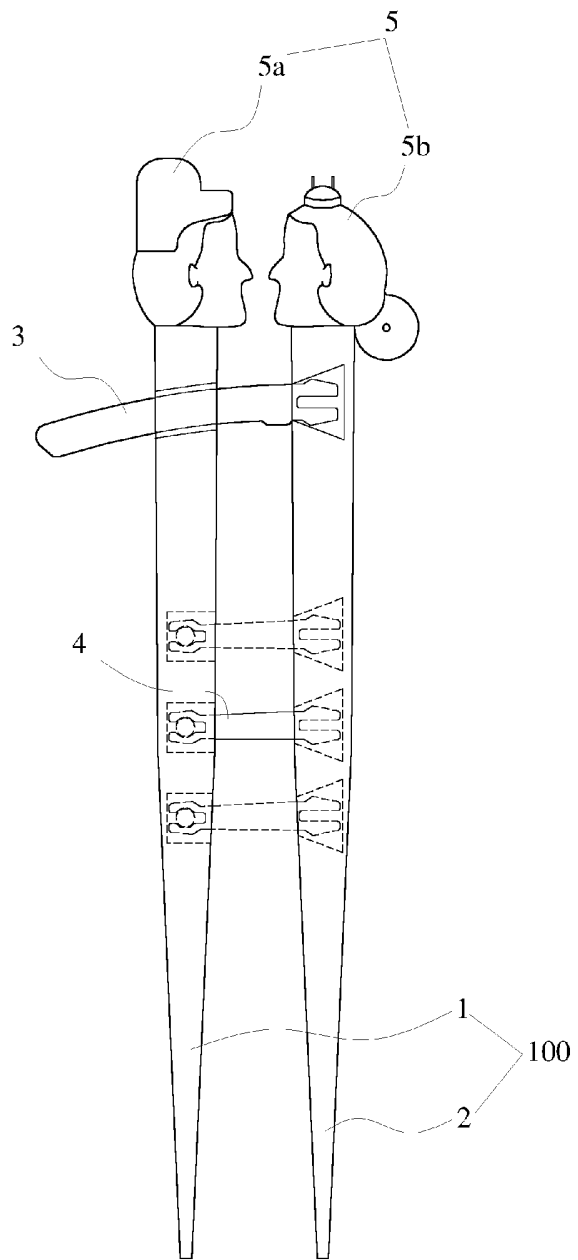
[Fig. 6]



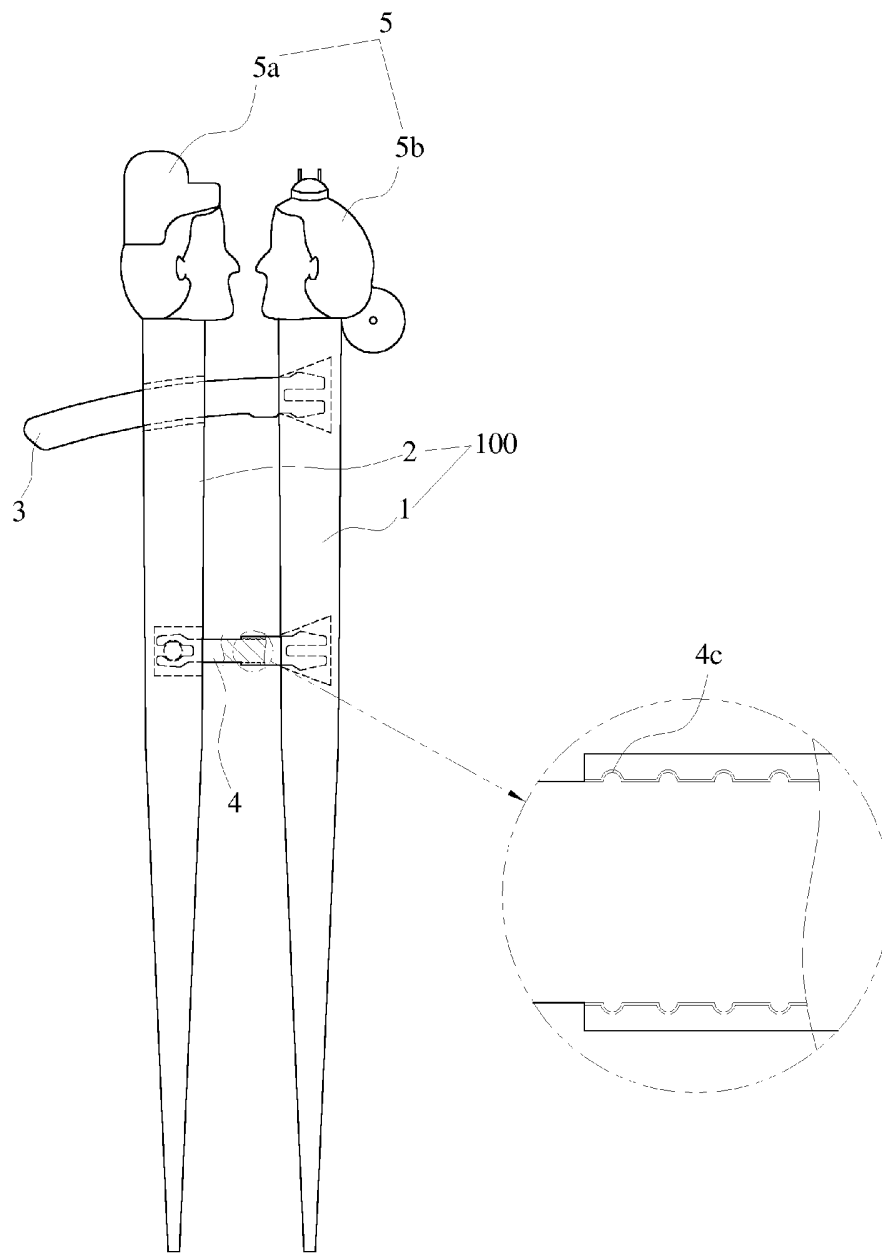
[Fig. 7]



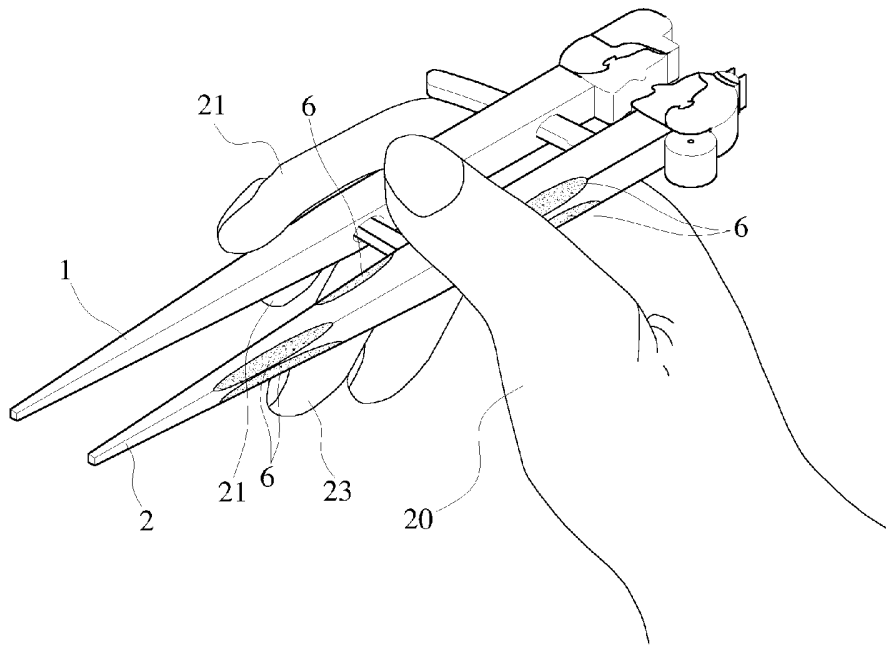
[Fig. 8]



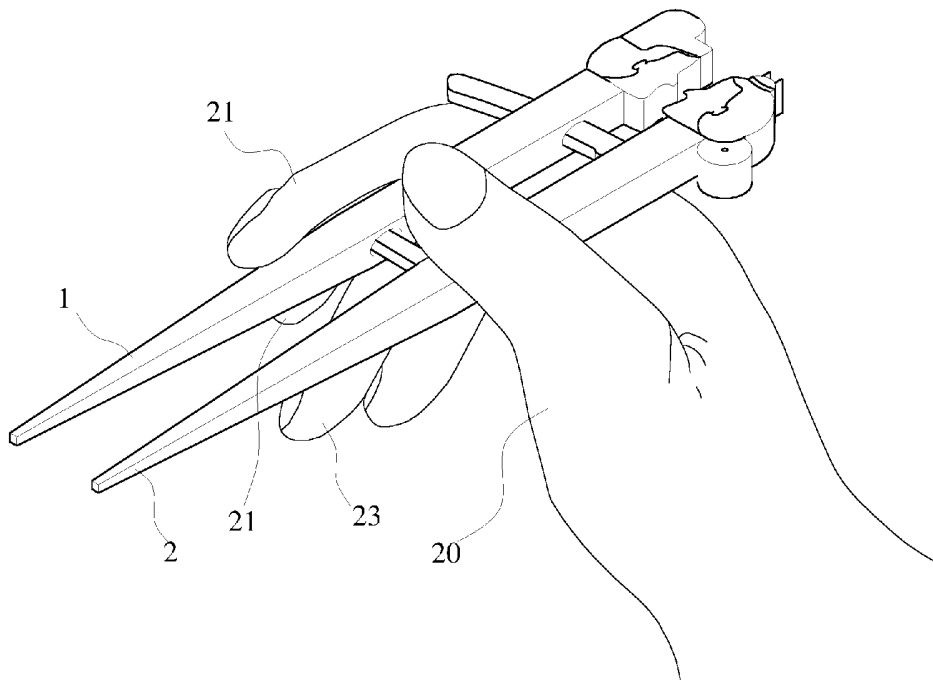
[Fig. 9]



[Fig. 10]



[Fig. 11]



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC⁷: A47G 21/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC⁷: A47G 21/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPI, EPODOC, KIPRIS, SIPO

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	CA 2 349 973 A1 (STANDARD TOOL) 8 December 2002 (08.12.2002) <i>figures 3, 4.</i> --	1
A	GB 2 065 454 A (AU YEUNG KIT) 1 July 1981 (01.07.1981) <i>figures 1, 2, 3.</i> --	1, 5, 6
A	US 4 973 095 A (KUNIHISA) 27 November 1990 (27.11.1990) <i>figure 2.</i> --	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search
14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KR 20-0253470 U (KIM) 27 October 2001 (27.10.2001) page 6. -----	4

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/KR 2005/001074

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CA	A1	2349973	2002-12-08	none	
GB	A	2065454	1981-07-01	none	
KR	A	20025347 0U		none	
US	A	4973095	1990-11-27	none	