

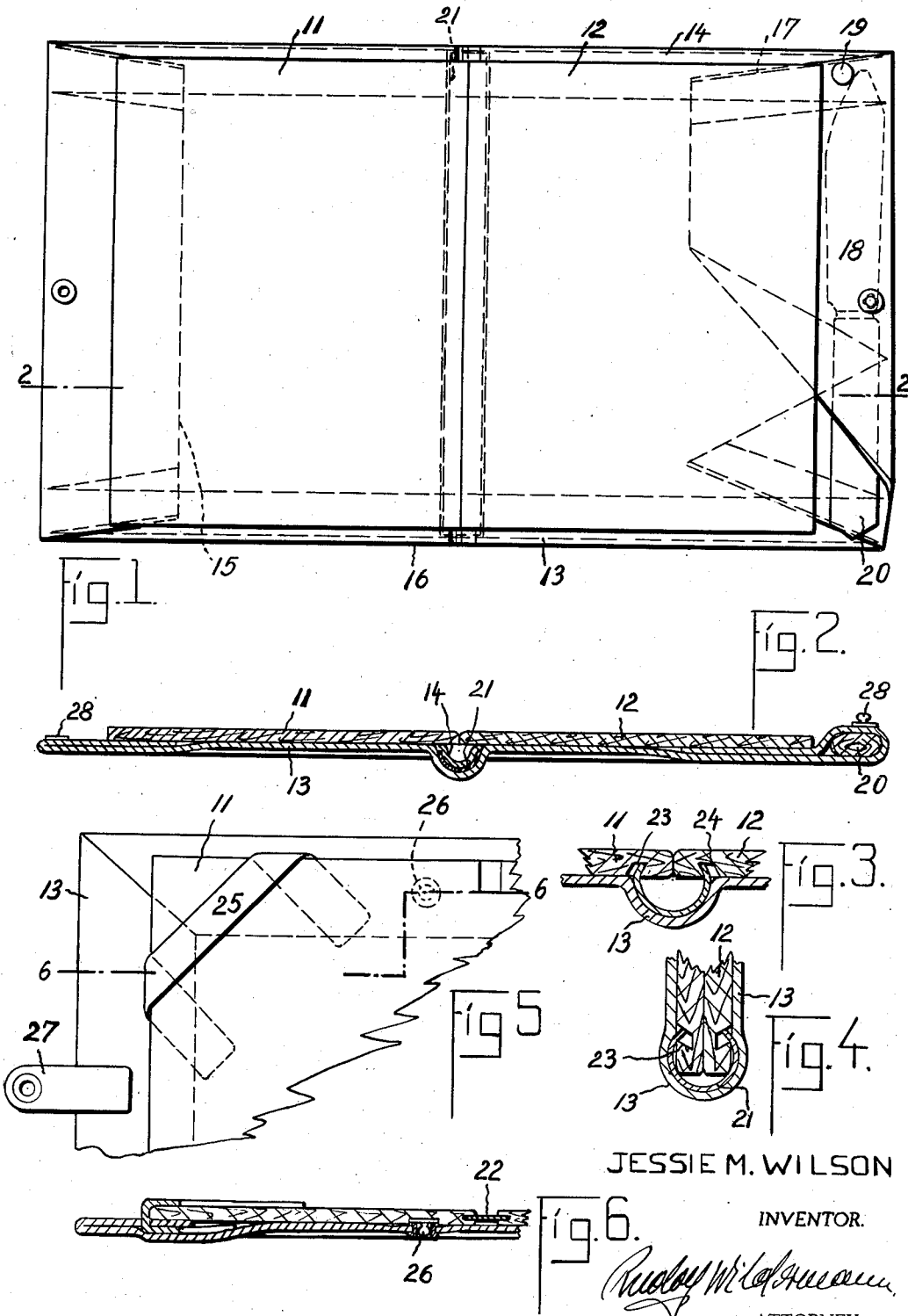
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FOLDABLE SLICING BOARD

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FOLDABLE SLICING BOARD

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1 Claim. (Cl. 146—215)

This invention concerns a slicing board, and, more particularly, a foldable slicing board.

Slicing boards are generally utensils assigned to the kitchen. On occasion, however, slicing boards, e. g. executed in a small size, are also placed in front of an individual at the table, where they also serve as a plate, e. g. for spreading a slice of bread, cutting meats, cheese etc.

Realizing the usefulness of a small slicing board in the latter connection, the inventor herein desires to enlarge the scope of this usefulness. More particularly she has the object of reducing the slicing board to a form, in which it might find a permanent place outside of the kitchen, e. g. in a drawing room, library, travelling bag etc., so that it is readily available for a light meal or lunch, particularly when only a limited number of persons participate in a meal. On the other hand it is also highly desirable to provide for a tray for individual service, which may be used in transit, on week end trips and outings, for private refreshments between studies or at other recess periods.

For such purpose the instant invention provides a foldable slicing board, which is comparatively light though durable in construction, folds together like a book, and may be readily kept on a table, in a bookshelf, in a drawer, etc., the surface used during eating being at the same time protected against contamination or soiling, when the implement is not in use.

Aside from the object of providing a slicing board, which may be folded together, and which may be carried along, e. g. like a book, the instant invention also provides for facilitating the cleaning of such a slicing board after use; and an arrangement thereof in combination with other utensils, as they might be of use in connection with a slicing board, e. g. a knife, etc.

Still further objects of this invention will be readily recognized from a detailed description thereof, which shall now be given,—by way of illustration rather than limitation,—in connection with one or two exemplary executions; in the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 shows a plan view of a slicing board of this invention, when it is open and ready for use.

Fig. 2 shows a substantially central cross-section of the said open board, identified in Fig. 1 by dot-dash lines and numerals 2.

Fig. 3 is a detail view illustrating in a cross-section a preferred hinge arrangement in an open position.

Fig. 4 shows, by way of comparison, the same part in a closed position.

Fig. 5 shows the top view of a corner of a modified board of this invention.

Fig. 6 shows a corresponding sectioned front view which is allocated in Fig. 5 by dot-dash lines and numeral 6.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the various views:

In a preferred execution of the instant invention, a slicing board may be divided into sections, which are folded upon each other. For such purpose they may be hingedly connected; but attention is paid in particular, that the hinging means do not interfere with the continuity of the folded open plurality of the slicing board sections, as it would for instance be the case in connection with the ordinary hinge. In the following this shall be illustrated, e. g. sections making up the slicing board being mounted upon a flexible means interconnecting said sections, or the sections may be interconnected by hinge means interposed between their tops and bottoms.

Folds occurring in this connection at the interconnecting points, or folds particularly provided for such purpose at the ends of the slicing board may then serve to accommodate and receive other eating utensils, such as knife, fork, etc.

In a folded-together position the board may also comprise some means which holds the portions of the board together, as long as they are not in use, so that they preferably rest in flat abutment upon each other and are thus protected.

The instant invention may comprise three or more sections of board; the devices of the drawing show only two such sections 11 and 12, which are arranged alongside to each other in order to make up a complete slicing board.

The sections may be made out of wood, and preferably out of ply wood, so that they can be executed thin, yet strong. At the same time the sections may also be made out of substitutes, such as condensation products which are hard enough to stand the wear and tear, to which a slicing board is ordinarily subjected.

The two sections 11 and 12 may be mounted alongside of each other, e. g. glued upon a suitable backing 13, which as a whole, or along the line where the two sections 11 and 12 fold upon each other, may be made out of flexible material. The backing of the sections 11 and 12 of Figs. 1 and 2 is shown to be folded up like a book cover, e. g. from a sheet of textile or paper, the folded-over marginal portions 14 and 15 providing folded edges 16, which reinforce the backing 13 on all sides. The folded-over marginal portions 14 and 15 may all be gathered underneath the sections 11 and 12

of the slicing board, as shown. The folds of the backing material extending over the sides of the slicing board may be open at one or both ends, in order to receive eating utensils for storage, or the folded edges may be folded back on themselves again, as shown to the right of Fig. 1, where the folded-over material 17 forms a sheath 18, which is open at one end, and may be suitably tacked down, e. g. by a rivet 19 at the other end. Into such a sheath 18, for instance, be inserted a knife 20.

A smooth strip of material 21 may underlie the center line of the implement, where the sections 11 and 12 come together, so that crumbs or particles falling through between the two boards may be readily wiped off. Thus Figs. 5 and 6 also show a piece of wax-cloth 22 to be inserted into adjacent sides of the sections 11 and 12; it prevents that any material fall through between the two sections, and serves at the same time as a hinge.

The underlying strip 21 of Figs. 1 and 2 may also be executed in a springy material, such as resilient flat trough of bronze, which tensions the two boards together, so that they form an uninterrupted continuity and do not permit anything to fall through therebetween. If so preferred, the two sections 11 and 12 may be grooved at the bottom, slanted grooves 23 and 24 being for instance shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and the marginal edges of the elastic strip 21 may be bent to engage upon the inside of said grooves, so that the said strip forces the sections 11 and 12 together in a plane, when the slicing board is open, or forces the said sections into abutment with each other, when the two sections 11 and 12 are folded onto each other, as shown in Fig. 4.

For cleaning purposes it may be desirable to render the sections of the slicing board readily detachable from the backing 13. Thus the slicing board may be slid into suitable grooves or retaining means arising from or forming in the backing 13, and/or detachable tacking means may

be provided for. But under all circumstances the central portion of the assembled board sections should be kept clear. This is illustrated in the modification of Figs. 5 and 6, which provides corners upon the backing 13, in form of loops 25, underneath which the sections 11 and 12 of the board may be inserted. Snap fasteners 26 may be used at the same time, in order to attach the board sections to the backing 13, at or near the line where they fold upon each other.

The art teaches various other ways, in which the folded-together portions of board may be retained in a position of disuse, in which the sections abut upon each other. Figs. 1 and 2 show a snap-fastener 28 for such purpose. Figs. 5 and 6 indicate, for instance, a strap 27 which, in the manner known to those acquainted with this art, may be tacked onto the back on the other half of the folded slicing board, when it is folded up.

Having thus described my invention by way of several modifications, yet I do not wish to be limited thereby, except as the state of the art and the appended claim may require, for it is obvious that various modifications and changes may be made in the form of embodiment of my invention, without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

What I claim is:

A slicing board made of a pair of folding board sections, said sections being secured together at one end such that in unfolded relation the sections are in end abutting relation with their top faces in a common plane and in folded relation the sections have their faces in abutting relation, said securing means comprising a trough-shaped spring element extending longitudinally beneath the abutting ends and having its sides hingedly secured to the bottom face of the respective sections and clampingly securing the two sections together under tension, both in unfolded and folded positions.

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