June 14, 1955 J. J. CRINO 2,710,449

SPAGHETTI FORK

Filed Nov. 29, 1952

Fig. 1.

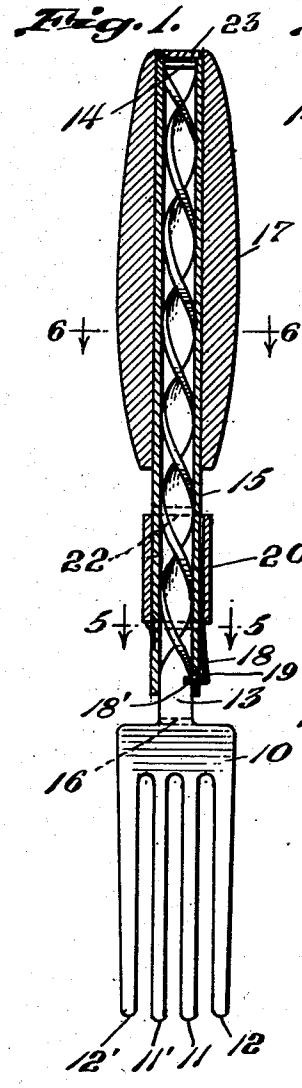


Fig. 2.

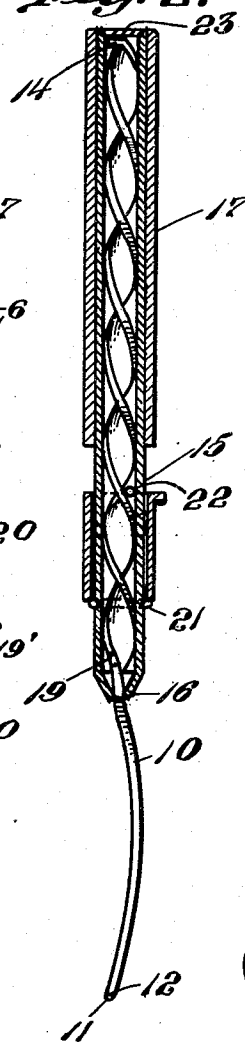


Fig. 3.

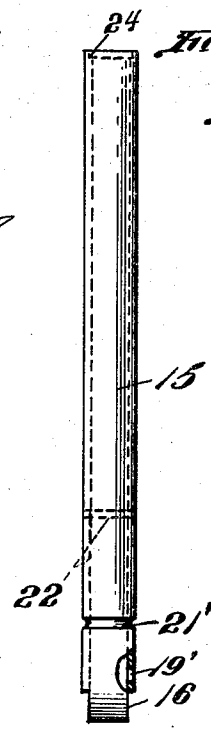


Fig. 4.

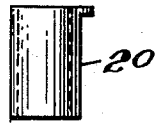


Fig. 5.

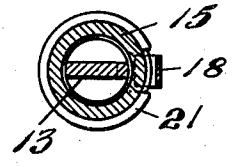
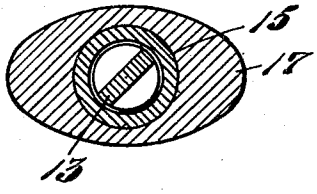


Fig. 6.



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SPAGHETTI FORK

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Application November 29, 1952, Serial No. 323,209

2 Claims. (Cl. 30—322)

This invention relates to a spaghetti fork in which the tines of the fork may be readily rotated without rotating the handle and thus aid in the gathering up of spaghetti, macaroni, spinach, or other string-like food.

One of the objects of this invetnion is to provide a table fork which may be easily held in one hand and the tines thereof rotated by merely pressing downward upon a solid object.

Another object of this invention is to prevent the tine assemblage from rotating when it is desired to utilize the fork for normal purposes.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of the fork structure with a cut-away section of the handle;

Figure 2 is a side view of the fork with a cut-away section of the handle;

Figure 3 is a front view of the barrel assembly of the handle section;

Figure 4 is a view of the sleeve fitting over the handle section;

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on lines 5—5 of Figure 1 showing the spring type catch; and

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on lines 6—6 of Figure 1 showing the handle construction with its internal bore.

In proceeding with this invention, I provide a plurality of tines with a spiral stem extending therefrom and a handle section having a bore therein adapted to accept the spiral stem. The handle section is provided with a cam follower to co-operate with the spiral stem and cause rotation thereof when the handle is moved longitudinally of the stem. I further provide a latching means on the handle section to prevent rotation of the tine section.

Referring to the drawing, **10** represents the tine assemblage comprising inner tines **11**, **11'** and outer tines **12**, **12'**, the inner tines being longer than the outer tines. Attached to this tine assembly is a shaft **13** of flat stock material which has been twisted to dispose its opposite edges along the path of a helix providing approximately three complete turns and which has at its upper portion a stop lip **14**. Covering the shaft **13** is a tubular member **15** provided at its lower end with a jaw **16** which acts as a cam follower and snugly engages the shaft **13**. At the upper end of member **15** there is a recess **24** in which a capping disc **23** may be fitted and secured. Affixed to the upper portion of the tubular member **15** is a handle to aid in grasping the fork, which may be made from any suitable material. It is generally elliptical in cross section as shown in Figure 6 and is provided with an axially disposed bore to press fit over the tubular member **15**. At the lower end of the tubular member **15**, I provide a latch comprising a piece of spring stock **18** which is generally L-shaped and is secured along the outer surface of the tubular member **15** with a leg **18'** of the latch extending through a slot **19'** to engage a notch **19** in the shaft **13**. To hold this spring stock in position as shown in Figure 1, I provide a sleeve **20** which is limited in its downward movement by a split ring **21** that fits in groove **21'** of the tubular member **15** and in its upward movement by the handle **17**. To prevent rotation of the sleeve **20**, the bore may be axially scored to engage a protuberance (not shown) on the member **15**. To limit the motion of the shaft **13** within the bore of tubular member

15, I provide a pin **22** near the lower end of the tubular member **15** which will engage the lip **14** and limit downward movement, while movement upward is limited by lip **14** engaging the cap or disk **23** at the other end of the tubular member **15**.

To use this fork, it is merely necessary to grasp it in either hand as a regular eating fork and allow the tine section to drop out of the handle section by sliding collar **20** upwardly to release the spring member **18** from engagement with the notch **19** in the shaft. The tine section is then engaged with the string-like food such as spaghetti or the like on a plate by placing the same perpendicular to the plate, and the handle is pushed downwardly to impart a turning action on the tine section by virtue of the cam **16** acting on the helical section of shaft **13**. The two longer tines **11**, **11'** act as a pivot about which the fork rotates, while the shorter tines **12**, **12'** clear the plate and do not retard such rotary movement. The third finger of the hand may then be pressed against the upper portion of the tine section to hold the tine section from slipping out when the fork is lifted to the mouth. However, instead of using the third finger to hold the tine section when the fork is lifted, the collar **20** may be pushed down to lock the spring member **18** in the notch **19** of the shaft, which will hold the tine section stationary with respect to the handle section. Additionally, should it be desired to use this fork as an ordinary table fork, the tubular member **20** is merely pushed downwardly to engage the spring member **18** with the notch **19** of the shaft, which will lock the tine section with respect to the handle section for any use that is desired to be made of the fork.

Various departures may be made from the embodiment shown in the accompanying drawing; for instance, the helical portion of the shaft may be cylindrical and provided with a spiral groove as shown in the Chandler Patent No. 880,277.

I claim:

1. A spaghetti fork comprising a handle having an axial bore, a tine assembly having an integral shaft extending through the bore, said shaft having a helical screw portion thereon, cam means at one end of said handle engaging said helical screw portion, said shaft having a notch therein, a piece of spring stock secured to said handle and having a portion thereof passing through said handle, and means on said handle to selectively press said portion of the stock into engagement with said notch to lock the tine assembly to said handle and release said portion from engagement to permit rotation of said tine assembly relative to said handle.

2. A spaghetti fork comprising a handle having an axial bore, a tine assembly with an integral shaft having inner tines and outer tines, said inner tines being longer than the outer tines to form a pivot, said shaft extending through the bore and having a flat helical twist, follower means at one end of said handle engaging said shaft, a notch in said shaft adjacent the tine assembly, means on said handle to selectively engage and disengage said notch, said means comprising a piece of spring stock secured to said handle and having a portion thereof passing through said handle, a sleeve slidably mounted on said handle to selectively press said portion of the stock into engagement with said notch to lock said tine assembly to said handle and release said portion from engagement to permit rotation of said tine assembly relative to said handle.

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