Oct. 30, 1956 H. L. WRIGHT 2,768,856

SPRING TONGS

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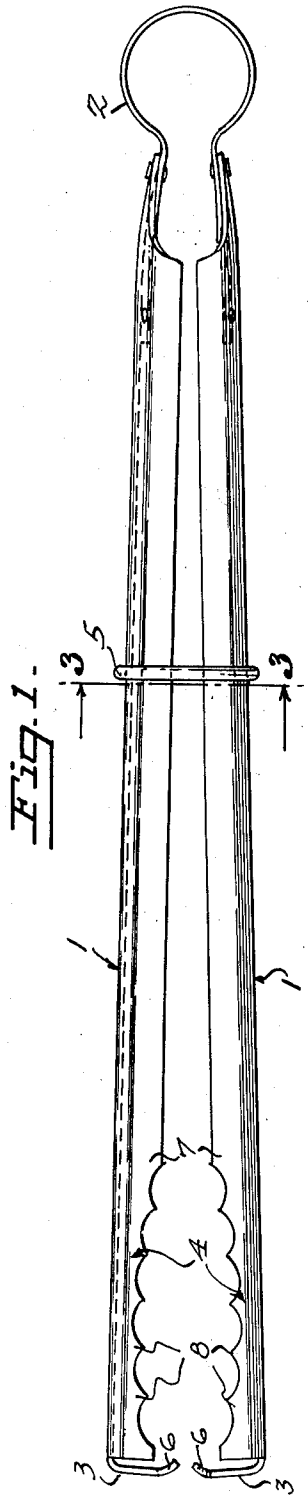


Fig. 1.

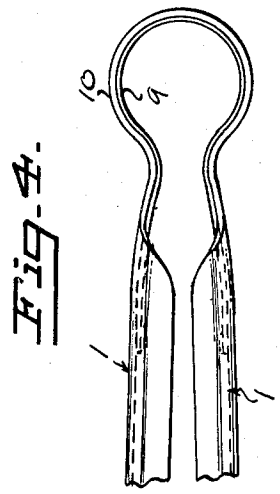


Fig. 4.

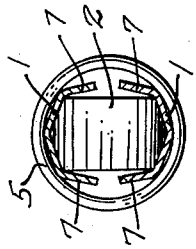


Fig. 3.

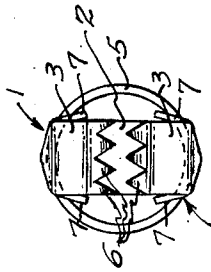


Fig. 2.

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# SPRING TONGS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 294—99)

This invention relates to spring tongs.

The primary object of the invention is to provide spring-tongs which are particularly adapted to use as a kitchen tong; and particularly which has at the end of the arms opposite claws and gripping forceps for a great variety of uses in the kitchen, for instance, for holding and lifting hot dishes and lids, for picking up hot foods such as potatoes or eggs or other food, lifting articles out of harmful liquids, or for holding therein a dishcloth or sponge for washing and cleaning purposes, and many other uses.

I am aware that some changes may be made in the general arrangements and combinations of the several devices and parts, as well as in the details of the construction thereof without departing from the scope of the present invention as set forth in the following specification, and as defined in the following claims; hence I do not limit my invention to the exact arrangements and combinations of the said device and parts as described in the said specification, nor do I confine myself to the exact detals of the construction of the said parts as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be made manifest in the following detailed description, reference is had to the accompanying drawings for the illustrative embodiment of the invention, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a side view of the spring-tongs.

Fig. 2 is an end view of the spring-tongs.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on the lines 3—3 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmental view of the closed end of a modified form of my spring-tongs.

In the preferred embodiment herein the spring-tongs of my invention include a pair of arms 1 connected at one end by a bow spring 2 which normally urges the free ends of the arms apart from one another to open position. An end jaw 3 is formed on the free end of each arm 1. Gripping flanges 4 are formed on the opposite edges of the arms 1 near said jaws 3. A clamping element, such as a ring 5, is provided slidably over the outside of the arms for the purpose of holding the arms together in any selected gripping position.

Each jaw 3 is formed by the bending of an end portion of the arm 1 inwardly, or toward the other arm, and by forming in the free edge of each bent portion or jaw a plurality of gripping teeth 6. The teeth 6 on the respective opposite jaws 3 are offset or staggered with respect to one another so that the teeth of the opposite jaws 3 interlock in the closed position. Each tooth 6 is also bent inwardly of the tongs so as to prevent the overlapping of the jaws and thereby to obviate the escape of the ring 5 over the jaw end. The jaws 3 are so proportioned as to hold the arms 1 divergent toward the jaw ends even when the jaws 3 are closed together.



Each arm 1 is made of sheet material such as sheet metal and the longitudinal edges thereof are bent inwardly of the tongs so as to form side flanges 7. In other words, each arm is of generally U-shaped cross section and its middle strip is so dished that it has superior strength and rigidity in spite of the comparatively thin material.

The flanges 7 are near the outer ends of the arms 1 and near the jaw 3 and are suitably scalloped so as to form a series of prongs or teeth 8 facing inwardly of the tongs. The arrangement of the scalloping is such that each series of teeth 8 is on a generally arcuate line which is deeper or spaced from the opposite teeth further in the middle of the series of teeth 8 than at the respective ends of said series. This also permits greater variety of and more convenient gripping arrangement for lifting hot food articles, fruit jars and the like.

The bow spring 2 herein may be made of a separate unit and secured to the converging ends of the arms 1 as shown in Fig. 1, or the bow spring 9 may be inserted in an integral bow part 10 of the arms. The bow spring 2 or 9 is so bent as to normally urge the free ends of the arms 1 apart.

The invention is simple in construction. It does not require any particular adjustment when an article is gripped firmly; the ring or clamp 5 can be pushed over the arms 1 to a location where it fixes the grip; and in all respects the device is eminently adapted for its purposes.

I claim:

1. In a pair of universal kitchen tongs, a pair of arms, bow spring connecting said arms at one end so as to normally urge the other ends of the arms apart from one another, opposite jaws formed on the free ends of said arms extending inwardly from said ends of the arms, rows of flanged teeth in a parallel series along opposite edges of said arms, said series of teeth being arranged on an arc for variable spacing between the opposite teeth along the length of the opposite series.

2. In a pair of universal kitchen tongs, a pair of arms, bow spring connecting said arms at one end so as to normally urge the other ends of the arms apart from one another, opposite jaws formed on the free ends of said arms extending inwardly from said ends of the arms, rows of flanged teeth in a parallel series along opposite edges of said arms, said series of teeth being arranged on an arc for variable spacing between the opposite teeth along the length of the opposite series, and releasable clamping means to hold said arms in gripping position.

3. In a pair of universal kitchen tongs, a pair of arms, bow spring connecting said arms at one end so as to normally urge the other ends of the arms apart from one another, opposite jaws formed on the free ends of said arms extending inwardly from said ends of the arms, and a series of flange teeth provided on each edge of each arm longitudinally adjacent to the free end thereof, teeth on the meeting edges of said jaws being bent inwardly between said arms to prevent overlapping of said jaws and normally to space the free ends of said arms diverging toward said jaws.

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