J. BERNATH.

TONGS.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 24, 1918.

1,338,065. **Patented Apr. 27, 1920.**

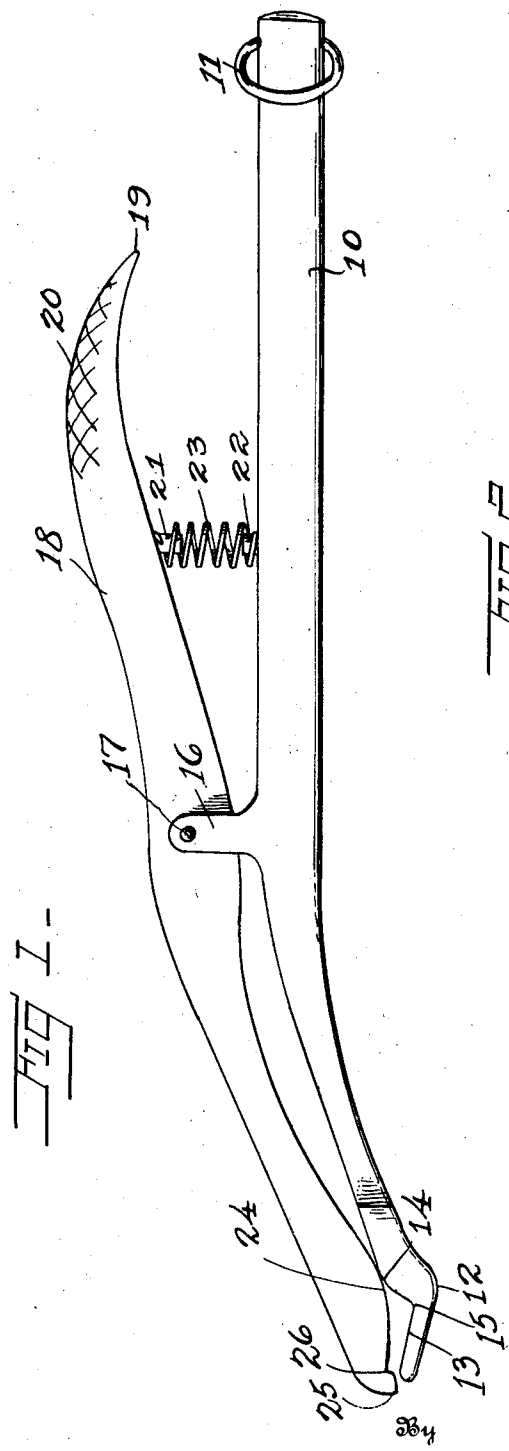


Fig 1.

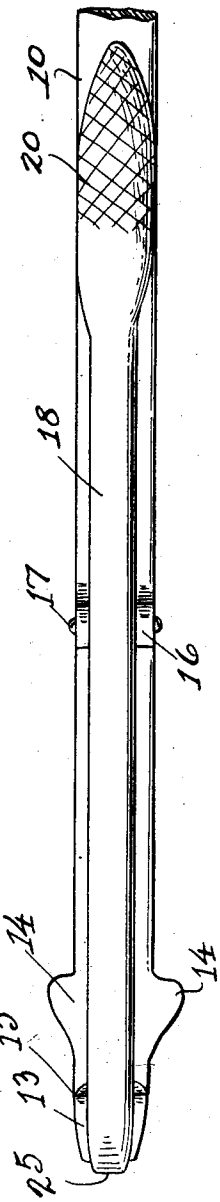


Fig 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH BERNATH, OF MERRILL, MICHIGAN.

TONGS.

1,338,065. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 27, 1920.

Application filed August 24, 1918. Serial No. 251,231.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH BERNATH, a subject of the Emperor of Austria, residing at Merrill, county of Saginaw, and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tongs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in culinary utensils, and particularly to a fork-shaped instrument for use by cooks when removing the hot covers of pots, boilers, saucepans, etc.

It is the object of the invention to provide a simple and readily manipulated device for firmly grasping the hot covers without danger of burning or otherwise hurting the hands of the cook.

Further objects and advantages of this instrument will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be specifically pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the instrument constructed according to the present invention, and

Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views of the drawing.

As shown, the instrument consists essentially of wood or similar heat non-conducting material, and comprises a handle member 10 provided at one end with a ring 11 for the convenient suspension of the instrument from a nail, etc., when not in use. The opposite end of said member is substantially channeled and forms at its extremity a gripping finger 12 having a substantially straight part 13 and a curved part 14 forming at their meeting points an angle or shoulder 15.

Intermediate its ends this member 10 is provided with an integral upwardly directed projection or nose 16 to which is pivotally secured, as at 17 a second handle member 18 made of the same material and as shown, somewhat shorter than the member 10, channeled to present a curved cross-section and ending in a point 19. The upper face of this end is provided with corrugations 20 to afford a firm grip for the thumb of the operator. At a certain distance from the pivot 17 this member 18 carries at its underside a stud 21 opposite a similar stud 22 at the upper face of the member 10. A spiral spring 23 is secured with one of its ends to the stud 22 and with its other end to the stud 21, and tends normally to hold both members, 10 and 18 apart. The opposite end of the member 18 is formed above the curved part 14 with a similar part 24 and above the extremity of the finger 12 with a detent 25, and the meeting parts of said detent 25 and part 24 form an angle 26.

It will be clear that when the member 18 is pressed down by the thumb of an operator grasping the member 10 with his hand, the edge of a hot cover can conveniently be grasped between the fingers 12 and 25 and will find a rest upon the straight part 13, so that upon the release of the thumb, the handle members by the action of the spring will grip the cover tightly and allow a removal of the same from a pot or similar vessel on the stove which then may be deposited at any desired place by the operation of handle member 18 releasing the grip of the instrument on said cover.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

An instrument of the character described, comprising in combination, a gripping member of round cross-section at one end and channeled at the other, a ring at the round end for suspending the instrument and a grip at the channeled end having a straight portion and a shoulder forming an angle at their meeting points, and a second gripping member pivotally secured to said first named member intermediate their ends, a shoulder on said second member, and a detent on the same oppositely disposed to the shoulder and grip respectively on said first member, and coöperating with the same for gripping the edge of a pot cover between both members.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

JOSEPH BERNATH.