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(71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **YOON, Suk-Soo** [KR/KR]; 403, 115-8 Marbook-ri, Kusung-eup, Yongin-si, Kyungki-do 449-912 (KR).

(74) Agents: **YIM, Suk-Jae** et al.; 8th Floor, Poonglim Bldg., 823-1 Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul 135-784 (KR).

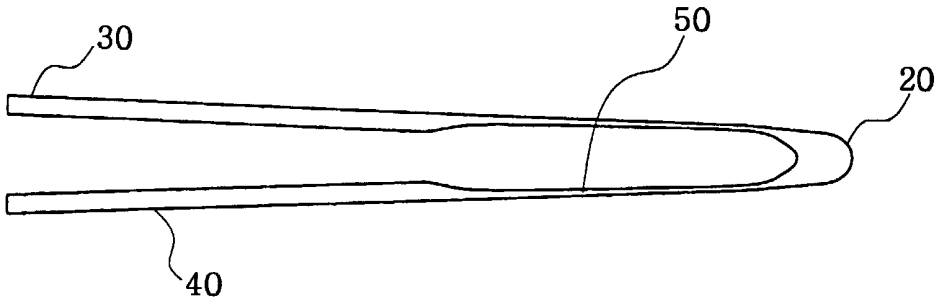
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CHOPTSTICK OF THE PINCERS TYPE



(57) Abstract: This invention provides chopsticks of pincers type which are connecte in upper ends and have grip, wherein the lower ends close to each other by pressing the grip and return to original position by the restoring force. This invention includes the support connecting each of upper ends of chopsticks and grip enlarged to have bigger surface area than adjacent part and positioned between the support and the contact of the lowwer ends, wherein intermediate part between the support and the grip is wider and thinner than the part between the contacts and the grip.

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CHOPSTICK OF THE PINCERS TYPE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to chopsticks of pincers type, and more particularly, to chopsticks of pincers type, wherein the upper ends are connected with each other, and the grips are formed on the sides in protrusion, so that the chopsticks are closed by the pressure on the grips and are returned to their original position by restoring force.

Background of the Invention

In general, a pair of chopsticks consist of two individual sticks each of which is used to pick up food. But using the chopsticks adeptly requires some level of dexterity, and it is very difficult to use them for persons who are unfamiliar with the use of chopsticks, such as foreigners, the aged, those with physical handicaps, and especially such patients with tremulous hands.

In addition, the chopsticks can be contaminated by contact with the surface of the table since the chopsticks are usually put down on the table when not in use, thus invoking the feeling of a bad appearance and poor sanitation.

To solve these problems, some restaurants employ a separate chopstick-rest on which the chopsticks can be set down when not in use, so that the portion of the chopsticks that contacts with food will not touch the table surface. This practice, however, has its own drawbacks; provision of a chopstick-rest means extra work, time, and cost; it is also troublesome for diners who must set down the chopsticks on the rests every time.

Another solution is to be found in a Korean Utility Model, Registration No. 145841, which the present applicant obtained earlier. The Utility Model of the present applicant is characterized in that the chopsticks are made in a body; their upper ends being

connected with each other by means of a support **120** in the shape of a ring bent downward and their bottom parts being formed in a body together with grips **140;** the outer side of them embossed or knurled.

However, although the chopsticks in said utility model have the effect of possibly preventing their contacts (food-contacting parts) **130** from contacting the table top due to the grips **140** and the support **120**, there is still a problem in that when the grips **140** are pressed to grasp food, the pressure is applied to the support **120**, viz. the tension to its outer side and the compression to its inner side; whereupon, the support **120** can be weakened or, worse still, fractured. If the support **120** is reinforced to overcome these shortcomings, then, it invariably occurs that the support **120** gets too tough to bend with sufficient elasticity for easy grasp of food.

Of course it may be possible to remedy such a problem simply by making the said ring of the support much bigger, but then the chopsticks must look unbalanced thereby damaging the appearance and making it hard for both contacts, remote from the central sections, to be brought together without intercrossing, since the pressing force needed to grasp food has to act mostly on the support.

Summary of the Invention

Now the object of the present invention is to provide clean and sanitary chopsticks, in which the support will not fracture, nor the contacts intercross, while coming into no contact with the table surface.

The above object of the present invention can be attained by bestowing an elastically deformable shape on the part between support and grip, and thus the present invention is characterized in that it comprises a support connecting the upper ends of chopsticks; grips enlarged to have a bigger surface area than the adjacent parts and positioned between support and contact; and an intermediate part, which, positioned between grip and support, is wider and thinner than the part between contact and grip.

Brief description of the drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the conventional pincers-type chopsticks ;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a plane view of the -type chopsticks of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another example of pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of still another example of pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention; and,

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of yet another pincers-type example chopsticks of the present invention.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

One of the embodiments of the present invention is described below, referring to the drawings thereof.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the chopsticks of the present invention, and Fig. 3 is its plane view.

As shown in the above drawings, the pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention comprise a support **20**, which joins the upper ends of chopsticks in a body, and, bent downward, keeps contacts **30** of the chopsticks from coming into contact with the table top;

grips **40**, which are formed in a protuberance between the said support **20** and the said contacts **30**, and, having their bottom parts in contact with the table top, do support, together with the said support **20**, the chopsticks to keep the said contacts **30** from getting into contact with the table top; and,

intermediate parts **50**, which, positioned between the said grips **40** and the said support **20**,

are formed wide and long so as to bestow an elastic transformative property on the chopsticks.

Of course, the said support **20** and grips **40** may not necessarily swell downward, but can rise upward or both fall downward and rise upward. And also, if the side face is formed with linear symmetry, the use of the chopsticks may be rendered more convenient, because there is no need to differentiate the upper and lower sides of chopsticks.

Only, the said support **20** and the said grip **40** have to get into contact with the table top and so they must support the chopsticks, preventing the said contacts **30** from getting in touch with the table top, and provide enough areas for grip with a hand.

The functions of the pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention are as follows:

When the pincers-type chopsticks of the present invention are used for grasping food, force is applied to the said grips **40**, and the chopsticks are bent inward from the said support **20**, and then the said intermediate parts **50** between the said grips **40** and the said support **20**, shaped thinner than other parts, prove elastic and easier to bounce, wherefore, the chopsticks with thus improved elasticity modulus can recover their original position easily enough for re-use if the force applied to the said grips is abated a little.

Accordingly, while conventional chopsticks function by the elasticity of the support alone, the chopsticks of the present invention are endowed with elasticity of their own to function, and in the present invention the said support only serve firmly to connect the two sticks and support the chopsticks but prevent the said contacts **30** from getting intercrossed and getting into contact with the table top.

And also the said contacts **30** which get in touch with food can be given either the shape of a fork with prongs, or of a wide flat, or else, an uneven surface, all to help grasp food with greater ease.

Industrial Applicability

The present invention has effects of preventing the possible fracture of the support and helping grasp food with ease, since both contacts of the chopsticks can be brought together with small force, kept from intercrossing, while both the support and the grips, themselves in contact with the table top, can support the contacts and keep them from contact with the table top.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Chopsticks of pincers type comprising:

a support by which upper ends of the chopsticks are connected;

a grip enlarged to have larger surface area than the adjacent part and positioned between said support and contact of the lower ends of the chopsticks; and

an intermediate part positioned between the grips and the support which is wider and thinner than the part between the contact and the grip.

2. The chopsticks according to claim 1, wherein said contact is in the shape of a fork.

3. The chopsticks according to claim 1, wherein the side face of the said chopsticks is in line symmetry.

4. The chopsticks according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inner side of the said contact is embossed.

Fig. 1

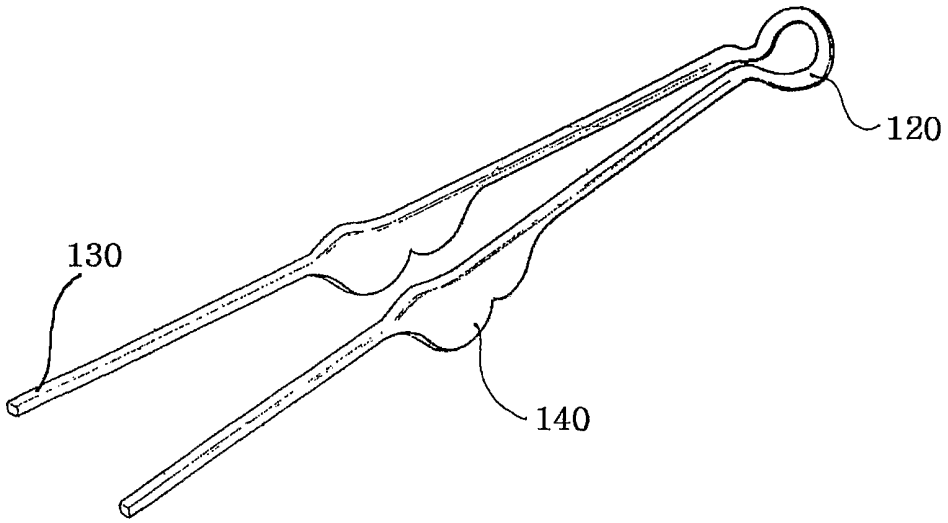


Fig. 2

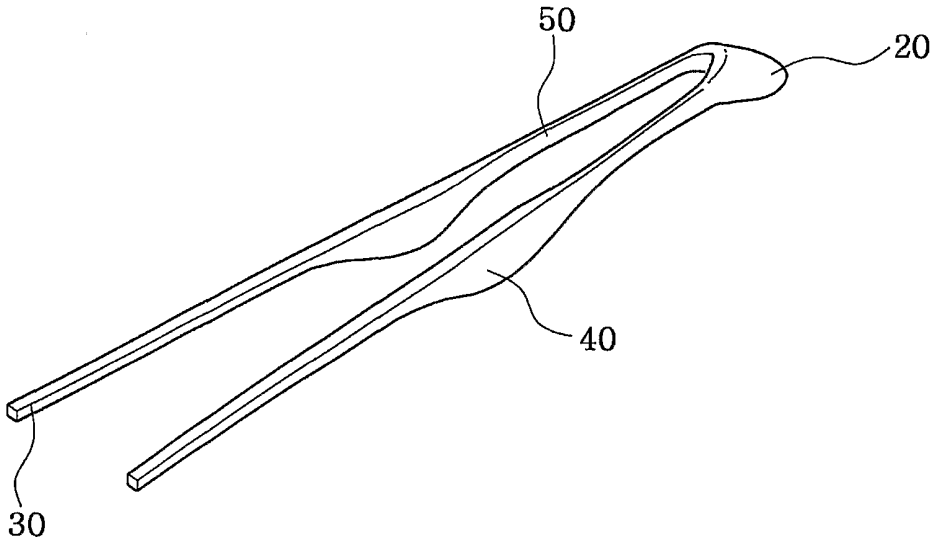


Fig. 3

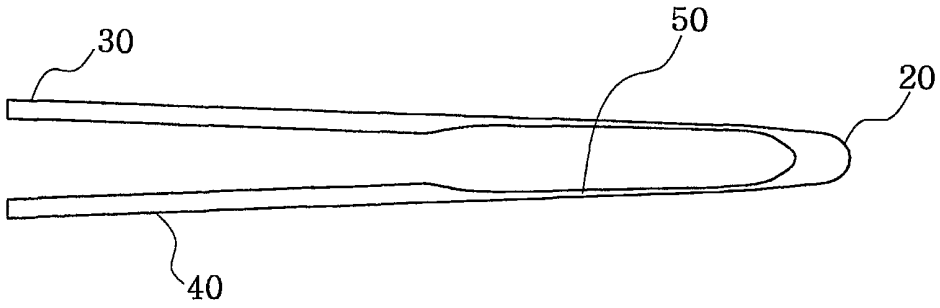


Fig. 4

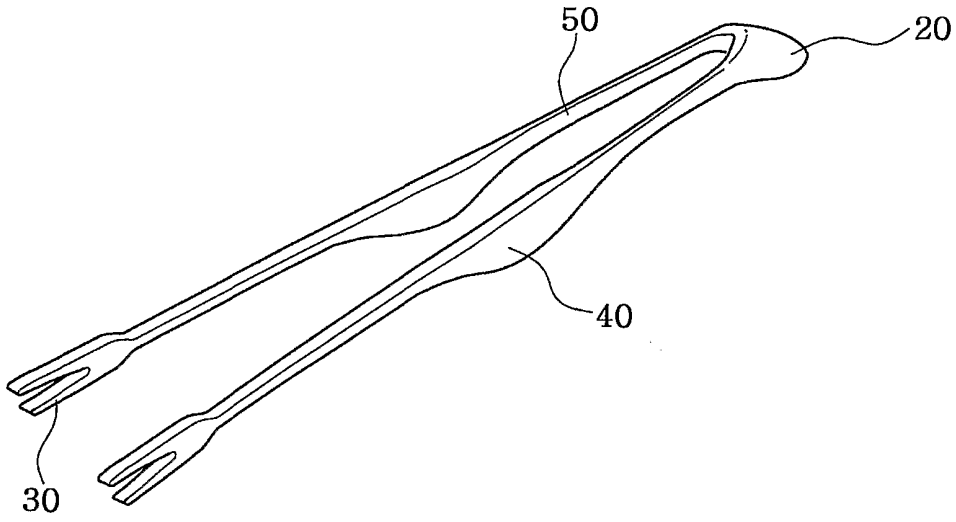


Fig. 5

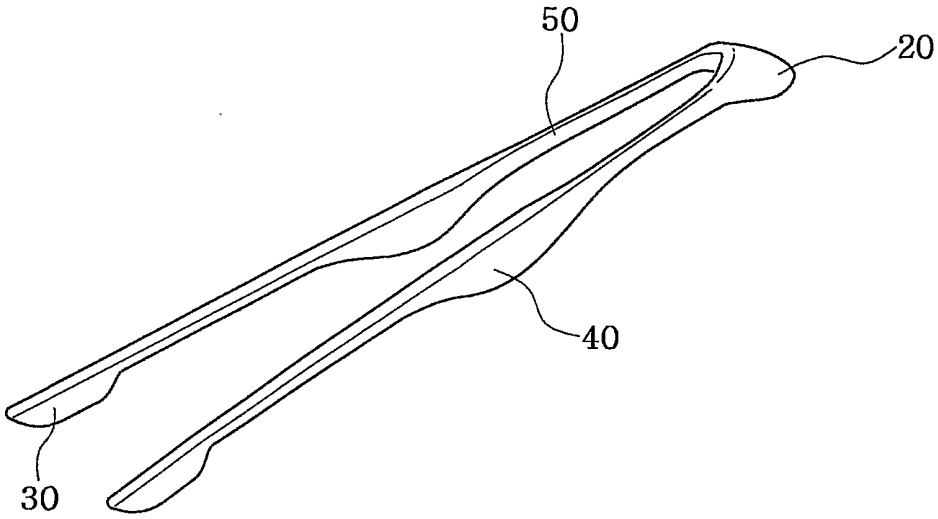
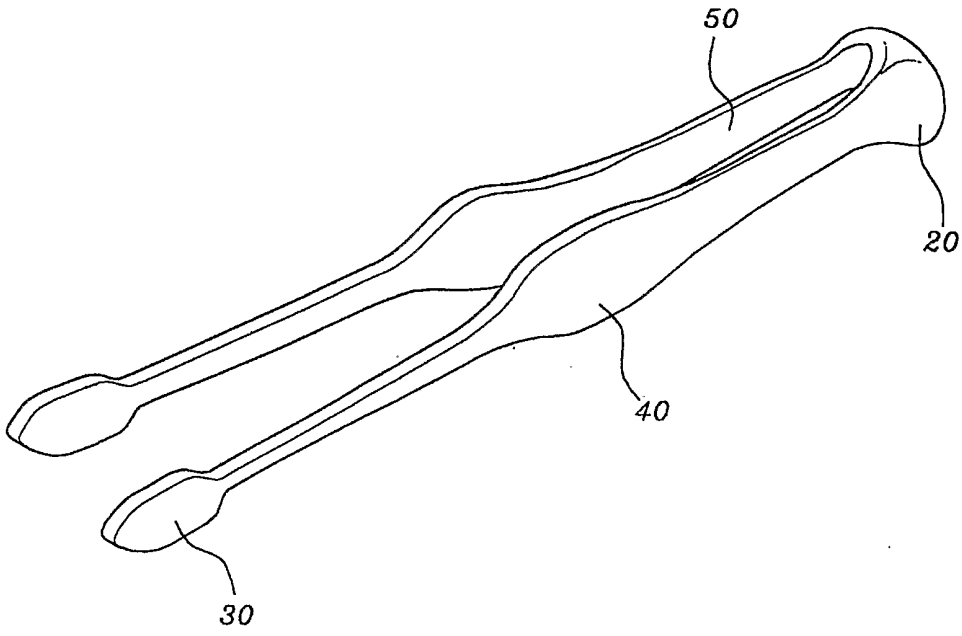


Fig. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR02/00022

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 21/10

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
KR, JP : classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the intertnational search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
NPS "chop stick"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 53-75900 U June.24.1978 See the figure 1, 2, 3	1,3,4
Y	JP 53-75900 U June.24.1978 See the figure 1, 2, 3	2
Y	JP 54-44191 U Mar.27. 1979 See the figure 1, 2, 3	2
A	JP 62-100146 U June.25.1987 See the figure 1	1,3

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

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevence
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"X" document of particular relevence; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevence; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents,such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Authorized officer
KIM, Mu Kyoung
Telephone No. 82-42-481-5422

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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PCT/KR02/00022

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 53-75900 U	June.24.1978	None	
JP 54-44191 U	Mar.27. 1979	None	
JP 62-100146 U	June.25.1987	None	