A bowl for storing and serving food products is provided. The bowl includes a bottom panel connected to at least one side panel. The at least one side panel and the bottom panel form a bowl compartment operable to hold soup or other food items. The bowl further includes a pair of opposed handles positioned at the top of the at least one side panel adapted to facilitate pouring of the contents of the bowl. The bottom panel includes a bottom surface. The bottom surface includes an indentation adapted to store food and tools to accompany the soup. A flexible film is removably attached to the bottom surface of the bottom panel, the flexible film covering the indentation allowing food to be stored in the indentation.
SQUARE BOWL WITH CRACKER COMPARTMENT

PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims priority of U.S. Patent Application No. 14/272,617 filed May 8, 2014, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates generally to bowls for food consumption. More particularly, this invention relates to a bowl having auxiliary storage.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A bowl for storing and serving food products is provided. The bowl includes a bottom panel connected to at least one side panel. The at least one side panel and the bottom panel form a bowl compartment operable to hold soup or other food items. The bowl further includes a pair of opposed handles positioned at the top of the at least one side panel adapted to facilitate pouring of the contents of the bowl. The bottom panel includes a bottom surface. The bottom surface includes an indentation adapted to store food, serving tools or condiments such as crackers, napkins, sauces, etc. to accompany the soup. A flexible film is removably attached to the bottom surface of the bottom panel, the flexible film covering the indentation allowing food to be stored in the indentation.

[0004] In a preferred embodiment, the indentation is at least 0.5 (and up to 2 inches deep) inches deep. In another embodiment, the indentation is at least .75 inches deep. The indentation is at least 1.5 to 1.85 inches wide and may be square, rectangular, circular, etc. to accommodate the food stored within.

[0005] A flexible film is provided to seal the contents of the indentation so as to prevent air or water from entering the indentation and causing damage to the food or constants. The flexible film includes an adhesive applied to a first surface of the flexible film to connect to both the bottom surface of the bowl and to connect to a package of food stored within the indentation thereby pulling the package of food out of the indentation when the flexible film is removed.
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0007] Heatable and microwavable containers, such as bowls, are well known and frequently used to store various food items. These bowls are typically circular in shape allowing for a user to accidentally tip the bowl over. It is well known in the art during use of a bowl to eat the food product with a cracker or other snack or condiments. Further, it is common to pour the soup or other food contained within the bowl into a separate bowl. However, these bowls lack a spout or handles to assist in pouring. Accordingly, there exists a need in the art to provide a bowl having a storage compartment for a cracker or other snack while also providing appropriate handles and spout means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of the bowl in an upside-down view with a cracker in the storage compartment;
[0009] Figure 2 illustrates a perspective view of the bowl in an upside-down view with a cracker in the storage compartment with the film covering the cracker compartment;
[0010] Figure 3 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the bowl;
[0011] Figure 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the bowl illustrating the cracker wrapper and film adhered to the cracker wrapper;
[0012] Figure 5 illustrates a perspective view of the bowl having the depression;
[0013] Figure 6 illustrates a top view of the bowl having the depression; and
[0014] Figure 7 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the bowl having the depression and the film installed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] The present invention provides for a square bowl having a storage cracker compartment disposed on the bottom surface of the bowl. The bowl is square in shape having a wide base to prevent tipping. The bowl further includes opposed handles and two opposed spouts to facilitate easy pouring. These corners, or spouts, include a radius of 66 to negate dripping. The present embodiment includes the 66 Radius, however, other embodiments may range from 40-70.
[0016] Figure 1 illustrates a photograph of two views of the bowl 10. The image on the left illustrates the bowl 10 having a cracker storage compartment 12. The present embodiment described herein discloses the cracker/condiments/tools storage compartment
12 for use of storage of crackers or other tools or foods. However, the compartment 12 may be used to store various other food items or utilitarian items such as a fork, spoon, knife, condiments or napkin. The bowl 10 includes an outer side surface 14 forming the general square shape of the bowl. The surface 14 further includes angled side surface edges 15. The bowl 10 further includes a bottom surface 16 and an inner surface 18.

In the present embodiment, the bowl 10 is used to store a soup or stew sauces, noodles, rice and other foods. The bowl 10 is microwavable or heatable by various other means. The bowl 10 may be placed in a hot water bath to heat the contents of the bowl to the appropriate temperature.

The indentation 12 creates a protrusion into the interior surface 18 of the bowl 10. The protrusion includes an upper surface 20 and side surfaces 22. The side surfaces 22 raise up from the lower inner surface 24 of the bowl 10.

In the present embodiment, the compartment 12 of the bowl 10 includes the crackers 26. The crackers are stored in a wrapper such as a clear film material. In the present embodiment, crackers are placed in twos into a package and then placed into the compartment 12.

The bowl 10 further includes an upper surface 28 having an outer edge 30. The outer edge 30 is a peripheral edge extending around the upper top side of the bowl 10. The upper surface 28 includes opposed handles 32a, 32b. The handles 32a, 32b are rounded at an outermost point 33 and have a straight angled portion 31 thereby creating a generally triangular shape of the handles 32a, 32b. The opposed handles 32a, 32b allow the user to tilt the bowl and pour its contents into a separate container.

The bowl 10 further includes opposed spouts 34a, 34b. The spouts 34a, 34b have a general radius between 0.4-0.8. The radius should be small enough to thoroughly direct the liquid or other contents contained within the bowl 10 smoothly by means of the spout 34a, 34b. The opposed handles 32a, 32b allow the user to pour the contents by means of the spouts 34a, 34b.

The compartment 12 further includes a surface 36 for which the crackers 26 rest upon. The surface 36 is opposed from the inner surface 20 contained within the bowl 10. The crackers, or the cellophane or film wrapping the crackers, rests upon or adjacent to the surface 36.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the film 40 covering the compartment 12 of the bowl 10. The film 40 may be a clear film, printed film cellophane, plastic, foil, or other flexible
film-type material. The film 40 should be large enough to cover the compartment 12 to hold the crackers 26 within the compartment 12. Alternatively, the film 40 may only cover a portion of the compartment 12 but still hold in the crackers 26.

[0024] The film 40 includes an adhesive 42. The adhesive 42 may be a glue or other known adhesive in the art. The adhesive 42 rests adjacent to and contacts a cracker wrapper 44. The cracker wrapper 44 (which may optionally be used) is a cellophane or film-like material covering the crackers 26 to keep them fresh. The film 40 may also include an optional tab 46 allowing the user to easily remove the film 40.

[0025] The film 40 includes an outer surface 48 and an inner surface 50. The outer surface 48 is generally smooth not having any adhesive material (the label may have glue on it). The outer surface 48 may include printing, instructions, nutrition information, or other images. The film 40 may extend partially over the bowl to form the optional tab 46. The inner surface 50 includes an adhesive 42. The adhesive 42 contacts with the cracker wrapper 44 of the cracker 26. The adhesive 42 contacts the cracker wrapper 44 allowing the user to remove the crackers 26 from the compartment 12 upon removal of the film 40 from the lower surface 16 of the bowl 10. The adhesive 42 of the film 40 further contacts the lower surface 16 of the bowl 10.

[0026] The adhesive 42 secures the film 40 to the lower surface 16 of the bowl 10. As the user removes the film 40, the crackers 26 by means of the cracker wrapper 44 are removed from the compartment 12, as shown by movement arrow 52. Figure 4 illustrates the cross section of the crackers, bowl, and adhesive along the line 4-4 (as shown in Figure 3). A film 40 is provided having an adhesive 42 on an inner surface 50. The outer surface 48 is provided exposed to the environment. The adhesive 42 contacts the cracker wrapper 44. The crackers 26 are shown between the cracker wrapper 44 on both an upper surface of the crackers and a lower surface of the crackers. Figure 4 further illustrates the bowl 10 or the indentation or compartment 12 disposed beneath the crackers (when the bowl is in an upside-down position as shown in Figures 3 and 4).

[0027] The wide square base of the bowl as seen in Figures 1-3 and 5-8 creates a broad surface thereby preventing most any accidental tipping of the bowl 10.

[0028] The invention is not restricted to the illustrative examples and embodiments described above. The embodiments are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Methods, apparatus, compositions, and the like described herein are exemplary and not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other
uses will occur to those skilled in the art. The scope of the invention is defined by the scope of the appended claims:
CLAIMS

1. A bowl for storing and serving food products, the bowl comprising:
   a bottom panel connected to at least one side panel, the at least one side panel and the
   bottom panel forming a bowl compartment; and
   the bottom panel having an outer bottom surface, the outer bottom surface having an
   indentation adapted to store food, the indentation having a removable cover allowing the user to
   access the food contained within the indentation.

2. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the indentation is at least 0.25 inches deep.

3. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the indentation is at least between .25 to 2.5 inches deep.

4. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the indentation is at least 1.5 to 2.5 inches wide.

5. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the removable cover is a flexible film.

6. The bowl of claim 5 wherein the flexible film seals the indentation.

7. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the bowl is generally square in shape.

8. The bowl of claim 1 wherein the indentation is generally square in shape.

9. The bowl of claim 1 wherein at least two handles are provided on opposite sides of the
   bowl to facilitate pouring.

10. A bowl for storing and serving food products, the bowl comprising:
    a bottom panel connected to at least one side panel, the at least one side panel and the
    bottom panel forming a bowl compartment;
    a pair of opposed handles positioned at the top of the at least one side panel adapted to
    facilitate pouring of the contents of the bowl;
    the bottom panel having a bottom surface, the bottom surface having an indentation
    adapted to store food, the indentation provided on the outside of the bottom surface of the bottom
    panel; and
a flexible film removably attached to the bottom surface of the bottom panel, the flexible film covering the indentation allowing food to be stored in the indentation.

11. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the indentation is at least 0.25 inches deep.

12. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the indentation is between .25 to 2.5 inches deep.

13. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the indentation is at least 1.5 to 2.5 inches wide.

14. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the flexible film seals the indentation.

15. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the bowl is generally square in shape.

16. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the bowl is generally round in shape.

17. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the indentation is generally square in shape.

18. The bowl of claim 10 wherein the flexible film includes an adhesive applied to a first surface of the flexible film to connect to both the bottom surface of the bowl and to connect to a package of food stored within the indentation thereby pulling the package of food out of the indentation when the flexible film is removed.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 2015/029572

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A47G 19/32(2006.01)
D65D 85/00(2006.01)

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)

A47G 19/32, B65D 8/00, B65D 77/00, H05B 6/80

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PatSearch (RUPTO internal), Espacenet, DWPI, USPTO, EAPATIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2009/0039076 A1 (MASLOWSKI ALBERT VICENT) 12.02.2009, paragraphs [0067], [0069], [0073], fig. 22, 23</td>
<td>1-4, 7-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2006/0180483 A1 (SEKENDUR CARI LEIGH) 17.08.2006, abstract, fig. 1, 8</td>
<td>5, 6, 10-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 4577080 A (GEE ASSOCIATES), 18.03.1986 fig. 4</td>
<td>1-18</td>
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* Special categories of cited documents:

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'&' document member of the same patent family

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