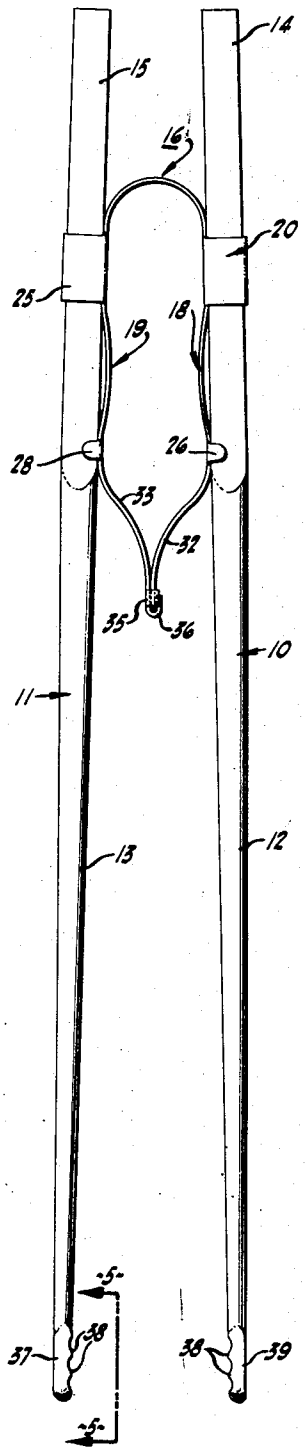
June 21, 1955 D. H. McGOGY 2,711,339

TONGS

Filed April 30, 1954

FIG. 1



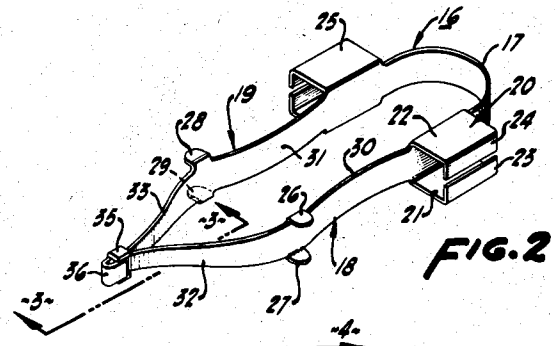


FIG. 2

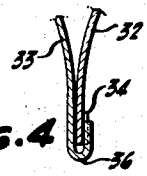


FIG. 4

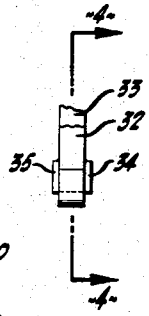


FIG. 3

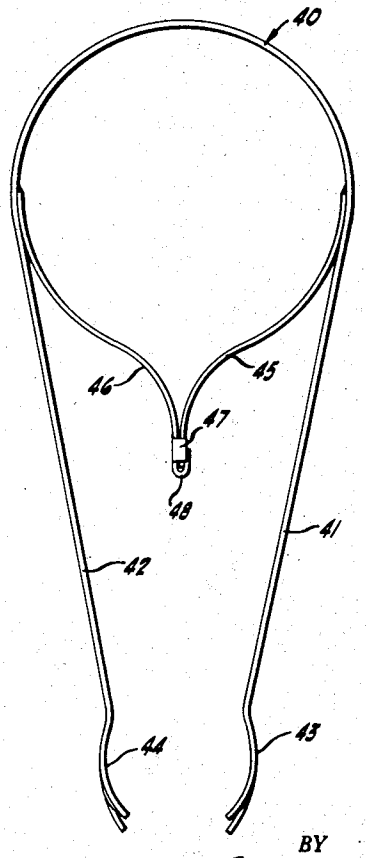


FIG. 6

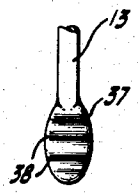


FIG. 5

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TONGS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 294—99)

This invention relates generally to the art of hand-manipulated tongs, and more particularly to the combination of a pair of "chopsticks" with a spring metal holder for holding and guiding said chopsticks in use.

It is well known that certain ingredients of salads; for example, lettuce and any other leafy-type vegetable, are extremely difficult to pick up to either serve or to eat with a conventional fork. In view of this difficulty, there are several forms of salad tongs on the market.

It is the principal object of this invention to provide a novel form of improved salad tongs.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved form of salad tongs employing a conventional pair of chopsticks in combination with a spring guide to facilitate easy manipulation thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved form of conventional salad tongs wherein a spring guide means is provided for keeping the ends separated by spring action and for guiding said ends when brought together so that they will always be in exact register with each other.

Various other objects of the instant invention will become apparent in reading the following detailed specification in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view embodying the principles of my invention and showing the preferred form thereof.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the spring guide element with the chopsticks removed.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a portion of the spring guide element drawn to an enlarged scale, the view being taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a partial elevation of one of the chopsticks, showing the details of the gripping face at the end thereof, the view being taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of a modification of the invention and shows the application thereof to a conventional pair of tongs.

Referring now to the drawings, and particularly Fig. 1 thereof, there is disclosed a pair of tongs comprising two "chopsticks" **10** and **11** which have round, tapered lower ends **12** and **13**, respectively, and square upper ends **14** and **15**, respectively. The two "chopsticks" **10** and **11** are held by a spring and guide member generally indicated at **16**.

Referring now to Fig. 2, the spring and guide member **16** is made by stamping from a single piece of sheet material. The member is bent at its mid-point in the manner indicated at **17** to form two substantially parallel side portions **18** and **19**. A rectangular bracket is generally indicated at **20** formed by two integral tabs **21** and **22** bent outwardly from the side edges of portion **18**, adjacent the bend **17**, and having their respective terminal ends **23** and **24** bent toward each other. A smiliar bracket **25** extends outwardly from the portion **19** adjacent the bend **17**. A pair of tabs **26** and **27** are formed integrally with the portion **18** of the spring and guide member **16**

and at a point spaced downwardly from the bracket **20**, and said tabs **26** and **27** are bent so as to extend outwardly at right angles to the spring and guide member **16**. Similarly, a pair of tabs **28** and **29** are formed integrally with the portion **19** of the spring and guide member **16** and are spaced downwardly from the bracket **25**. Tabs **28** and **29** also are bent so as to extend outwardly from the spring and guide member **16**.

As can be seen in Fig. 1, the brackets **20** and **25** embrace and frictionally engage the chopsticks **10** and **11**, respectively, to resist longitudinal movement thereof relative to the spring and guide member **16**, but at the same time permitting removal thereof to facilitate cleaning. The tabs **26** through **29** embrace the side edges thereof to maintain the chopsticks **10** and **11** in the same plane to insure proper register when the lower ends thereof are brought together to pick up an article therebetween.

The side portion **18** of the spring and guide member **16** between the bracket **20** and the tabs **26** and **27** is bowed slightly inwardly, as indicated at **30**. Similarly, the side portion **19** of the spring and guide member **16** between the bracket **25** and the tabs **28** and **29** is bowed slightly inwardly, as indicated at **31**.

The lower end of side **18** of the spring and guide member **16** is bent inwardly, as shown at **32**, to form a leaf spring, and similarly, the lower end of the side **19** of the spring and guide member **16** is bent inwardly, as shown at **33**, to form a leaf spring. As best seen in Figs. 3 and 5, the lower end of the spring **33** has two tabs **34** and **35** extending upwardly from the side edges thereof and the end of the spring **33** is bent backwardly in a U-bend **36** and lies between said tabs **34** and **35**. The end of the spring **32** is received within the pocket formed by the tabs **34** and **35** and the reversely bent end of the spring **33**, thus maintaining the sides **18** and **19** of the spring and guide member **16** in proper parallel relation.

Referring now to Fig. 5, it will be seen that the lower end of the chopstick **11** is provided with a toe portion **37** enlarged in the plane perpendicular to the plane occupied by chopsticks **10** and **11**, and that the face of said toe portion opposed to the chopstick **10** is provided with a series of serrations **38**. The lower end of the chopstick **10** is provided with a similarly formed toe **39**.

In the modification shown in Fig. 6, a conventional pair of salad tongs is indicated generally at **40** and comprises a U-shaped piece of sheet material having two legs **41** and **42**. The lower ends of the legs **41** and **42** are each shaped into a three-pronged fork-like structure shown at **43** and **44**, respectively. Two leaf-type springs **45** and **46** each have one of their ends fixed to the legs **41** and **42**, respectively, and have their other ends in abutting relation with each other. As described above with respect to springs **32** and **33**, the lower end of the spring **46** has two tabs (only one of which is shown at **47**) extending at right angles from the spring **41** and embracing the side edges of spring **45** to prevent lateral movement thereof, and maintain the forked ends **43** and **44** in proper alignment with each other. The lower end of the spring **46** is bent back at **48** to overlie the lower end of the spring **45** in the same manner as described above with respect to spring **32** and **33**.

From the foregoing description, it may be seen that I have provided a simple, efficient tong structure wherein the terminal ends of the tongs are spring-biased apart and wherein said terminal ends are guided and braced against lateral misalignment with each other.

While I have shown and described the preferred form of my invention, it is obvious that various changes may be made in its construction by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

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

1. In a tong structure, the combination comprising a pair of tong legs fastened to each other adjacent their upper ends and adapted to have their lower ends brought together, a pair of leaf spring members each having one of its ends fastened to one of said legs adjacent the mid-portion thereof, the opposite end of each spring extending downwardly and inwardly from said legs and in abutting relation with each other, a pair of tabs formed integrally with one of said springs adjacent the lower end thereof and extending at right angles thereto to embrace the side edges of the other of said springs, and the end of said one spring being bent back over the end of said other spring and into the space between the ends of said tabs to form a pocket.

2. In a tong structure, the combination comprising a flat metal spring and guide member having two side portions substantially parallel with each other connected at their upper ends by a U-shaped bend, means on said spring and guide member adapted to hold a pair of chopsticks against and parallel to the outsides of said parallel side portions, a pair of leaf spring members formed integrally with said side portions and extending downwardly and inwardly therefrom with their lower ends in abutting relation, a pair of tabs formed integrally with one of said springs adjacent the lower end thereof and extending at right angles thereto to embrace the side edges of the other of said springs, and the end of said one spring being bent back over the end of said other spring and into the space between the ends of said tabs to form a pocket.

3. In a tong structure, the combination comprising a flat metal spring and guide member having two side portions substantially parallel with each other connected at their upper ends by a U-shaped bend, bracket means formed integrally with said side portions and extending outwardly therefrom, a pair of chopsticks held by said bracket means adjacent the outsides of said side portions in parallel relation thereto, a pair of leaf spring members formed integrally with said side portions and extending downwardly and inwardly therefrom with their lower ends in abutting relation, a pair of tabs formed integrally with one of said springs adjacent the lower end thereof and extending at right angles thereto to embrace the side edges of the other of said springs, and the end of said one spring being bent back over the end of said other spring and into the space between the ends of said tabs to form a pocket.

4. In a tong structure, the combination comprising a flat metal spring and guide member having two side portions substantially parallel with each other connected at their upper ends by a U-shaped bend, bracket means formed integrally with said side portions and extending outwardly therefrom, a pair of chopsticks held by said bracket means adjacent the outsides of said side portions in parallel relation thereto, a pair of leaf spring members formed integrally with said side portions and extending downwardly and inwardly therefrom with their lower ends in abutting relation, a pair of tabs formed integrally with one of said springs adjacent the lower end thereof and extending at right angles thereto to embrace the side edges of the other of said springs, and the end of said one spring being bent back over the end of said other spring and into the space between the ends of said tabs to form a pocket, means on the lower end of one of said leaf springs for embracing the lower end of the other of said leaf springs.

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