

A MULTI- UTILITARIAN IMPLEMENT SUITABLE FOR USE ON THE DINING TABLE

FIELD

The present disclosure relates to the field of dinnerware, more specifically cutlery pieces.

5 BACKGROUND

The background information herein below relates to the present disclosure but is not necessarily prior art.

Over the years, design and manufacturing of dinnerware have grown to cater to the culinary needs efficiently. Spoons, forks, knives and chopsticks have been conventionally used across
10 different cultures for years.

However, it becomes inconvenient for a user to carry the dinnerware everywhere, especially while eating in a standing posture or while camping, since the individual cutlery pieces need to be handled separately.

There is therefore felt a need for a cutlery implement, that alleviates the aforementioned
15 drawback.

OBJECTS

Some of the objects of the present disclosure, which at least one embodiment herein satisfies, are as follows:

It is an object of the present disclosure to ameliorate one or more problems of the prior art or
20 to at least provide a useful alternative.

An object of the present disclosure is to provide an implement, which can be used for a single culinary function, or used simultaneously for multiple culinary functions.

Still another object of the present disclosure is to provide a cutlery implement, which can be carried anywhere and handled with ease.

25 Yet another object of the present disclosure is to provide a cutlery implement, which can be packed as a single unit.

Still another object of the present disclosure is to provide a cutlery implement, which is reusable.

Other objects and advantages of the present disclosure will be more apparent from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying figures, which are not
5 intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

SUMMARY

The present disclosure envisages a multi-utilitarian implement suitable for use on the dining table. The implement comprises a spork defined by a shallow scoop having a plurality of tines configured on a first distal end of the scoop. A handle is detachably connected to a
10 second distal end of the scoop. The handle comprises a two-edged knife element and a pair of chopsticks. The knife element has a pair of lateral edges, each lateral edge being configured as a type of a knife. The chopsticks are detachably joined to an operative first end of the knife element. The chopsticks configured to act as the handle in an attached state with the knife element.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWING

A multi-utilitarian implement, of the present disclosure, suitable for use on the dining table will now be described with the help of the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a schematic top view of the implement of the present disclosure;

Figure 2 illustrates a schematic bottom view of the implement of Figure 1;

20 Figure 3 illustrates a schematic front view of the implement of Figure 1;

Figure 4 illustrates a schematic exploded view of the knife element provided with the spork of the implement of Figure 1;

Figure 5 illustrates a schematic exploded view of the implement of Figure 1;

Figure 6A illustrates a schematic top view of the spork of the implement of Figure 5;

25 Figure 6B illustrates a schematic front view of the spork of Figure 6A;

Figure 7A illustrates a schematic rear view of the knife element of the implement of Figure 5;

Figure 7B illustrates a schematic front view of the knife element of Figure 7A;

Figure 8 illustrates a schematic view of the chopsticks of the implement of Figure 5;

Figure 9A illustrates a schematic isometric view of a chopstick of Figure 8;

Figure 9B illustrates a schematic view of the chopsticks of Figure 8, joined with each other;

- 5 Figure 9C illustrates a schematic view of the chopsticks of Figure 9B, fit together with a cap of Figure 5; and

Figure 9D illustrates a schematic view of a straw, of Figure 5, nested between the chopsticks, and fit together with the cap of Figure 9C.

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LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

	100	implement
	102	spork
	104	scoop
15	106	tines
	108	handle
	110	knife element
	110A	first lateral edge
	110B	second lateral edge
20	112	chopstick
	112A	lower half of chopstick
	112B	upper half of chopstick

- 114 neck
- 116 first recess
- 118 first connector
- 120 slot
- 5 122 arcuate concavity
- 124 straw
- 126 hole
- 128 slit
- 130 aperture
- 10 132 storage cavity
- 134 cap
- 136 protrusions
- 138 niche

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- 15 Embodiments, of the present disclosure, will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Embodiments are provided so as to thoroughly and fully convey the scope of the present disclosure to the person skilled in the art. Numerous details are set forth, relating to specific components, and methods, to provide a complete understanding of embodiments of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to the person skilled in the art that the details provided

20 in the embodiments should not be construed to limit the scope of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, well-known processes, well-known apparatus structures, and well-known techniques are not described in detail.

The terminology used, in the present disclosure, is only for the purpose of explaining a particular embodiment and such terminology shall not be considered to limit the scope of the present disclosure. As used in the present disclosure, the forms "a," "an," and "the" may be intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly suggests otherwise.

- 5 The terms "including," and "having," are open ended transitional phrases and therefore specify the presence of stated features, elements and/or components, but do not forbid the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

- 10 When an element is referred to as being "connected to," or "coupled to" another element, it may be connected or coupled to the other element.

- The terms first, second, third, etc., should not be construed to limit the scope of the present disclosure as the aforementioned terms may be only used to distinguish one element or component from another element or component. Terms such as first, second, third etc., when used herein do not imply a specific sequence or order unless clearly suggested by the present disclosure.
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Terms such as "inner," "lower," "upper," and the like, may be used in the present disclosure to describe relationships between different elements as depicted from the figures.

A multi-utilitarian implement (100), of the present disclosure, suitable for use on the dining table will now be described with reference to Figure 1 through Figure 9D.

- 20 The implement (100) comprises a spork (102) and a handle (108) attached to the spork (102). The spork (102) is defined by a shallow scoop (104) having a plurality of tines (106) configured on a first distal end of the scoop (104). The handle (108) is detachably connected to a second distal end of the scoop (104). The handle (108) comprises a two-edged knife element (110) and a pair of chopsticks (112). The knife element (110) has a pair of lateral edges (110A, 110B), wherein each lateral edge is configured as a type of a knife. The chopsticks (112) are detachably joined to an operative first end of the knife element (110). The chopsticks (112) are configured to act as the handle (108) in an attached state with the knife element (110).
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- The scoop (104) has a concave configuration which includes a neck (114) configured at a second distal end of the scoop (104). The neck (114) extends to a wider portion configured to terminate into the plurality of tines (106) at the first distal end of the scoop (104).
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In an embodiment, one operative end of the two-edged knife element (110) is configured to be detachably attached to the spork (102) and the other operative end of the two-edged knife element (110) is configured to be detachably attached to the pair of chopsticks (112). In a first embodiment, the implement (100) is formed by attaching the spork (102) with the knife element (110), and the knife element (110) with the chopsticks (112), in that order. To enable the first embodiment, a pair of first recesses (116) is configured in the neck (114) of the scoop (104). A pair of first connectors (118) is provided on a second operative end of the knife body. Each first connector (118) is configured to be received in the first recess to facilitate detachable connection of the knife element (110) with the spork (102).

10 In a second embodiment (not illustrated), the implement is formed by attaching a spork with chopsticks, and the chopsticks with a knife element, in that order. To enable the second embodiment, a second recess is configured in the operative upper portion of each chopstick. A pair of second connectors is provided on a first operative end of the knife body. Each connector is configured to be received in the second recess to facilitate detachable connection
15 of the knife element with the chopsticks.

The knife element (110) is defined by a body having a first lateral edge (110A) and a second lateral edge (110B). In an embodiment, the first lateral edge (110A) has a sharp edge configuration defining a dinner knife. In another embodiment, the first lateral edge (110A) has a serrated edge configuration defining a dinner knife. In one embodiment, the second
20 lateral edge (110B) has a blunt edge configuration defining a butter knife. In another embodiment, the second lateral edge (110B) has a non-serrated edge configuration defining a butter knife.

In one embodiment, each chopstick (112) is defined by a narrow operative lower half (112A) and having a blunt end (as in case of Chinese or Korean chopsticks) or a sharp end (like that
25 of a Japanese chopstick), and a wider operative upper half (112B) attached to the operative lower half (112A).

In another embodiment, each chopstick (112) is defined by a body tapering from the wider operative upper half (112B) to the narrow operative lower half (112A), wherein the narrow operative lower half (112A) is provided with a blunt end or a sharp end.

A pair of slots (120) is configured on an operative first end of the knife body to receive the operative lower halves (112A) of the chopsticks (112) therein, in the first embodiment of the present disclosure.

5 In an embodiment, each chopstick (112) is provided with an arcuate concavity (122) configured on an operative inner side of each chopstick (112), particularly along the length of the wider operative upper half (112B) of the chopstick (112) to enable both chopsticks (112) to be coupled together, in an attached state with the knife element (110) to form the handle (108), and provide integrity to the implement (100), in the attached state.

10 In another embodiment, the arcuate concavities (122) are configured to define a cavity therebetween when the chopsticks (112) are coupled together, to detachably nest a straw (124) therein.

In an embodiment, the scoop (104) has a hollow body configuration. A passage is configured inside the hollow body of the scoop (104), such that the passage opens into a hole (126) configured in the neck (114) of the scoop (104). The passage further diverges into at least two
15 slits (128) that are configured on an operative inner surface of the scoop (104) to facilitate passage of a fluid from the inner surface of the scoop (104) to the neck (114).

In an embodiment, an aperture (130) is configured in the knife body complementary to the hole (126), to receive the straw (124). The straw (124) and the knife element (110) are attached to the spork (102) to form a fluid path, that allow the fluid to be pulled in from the
20 slits (128), through the passage into the straw (124) when a sucking force is applied at the straw (124).

In an embodiment, a storage cavity (132) is configured on an operative top half of each of the chopsticks (112). In one embodiment, the storage cavity (132) is configured to store therein a condiment such as salt and pepper. In one embodiment, the storage cavity (132) is configured
25 to store therein a dental hygiene kit such as toothpick or a dental floss.

In an embodiment, the implement (100) includes a cap (134). The cap (134) has a pair of protrusions (136) configured thereon. The cap (134) is configured to securely seal the storage cavities (132), by fitting the protrusions (136) on the storage cavities (132), when the chopsticks (112) are coupled together. As a result, the spillage from the storage cavities (132)
30 is prevented. In an embodiment, a niche (138) is provided in the cap (134) to accommodate a

portion of the straw (124) therein to enable usage of the straw (124) while being housed in the handle (108), between the chopsticks (112).

Fitting together the chopsticks (112) and the straw (124) with the cap (134) as a single unit, offers rigidity to the handle (108).

- 5 In one embodiment, a serviette is wrapped around the straw (124) and the straw (124) is inserted in the cavity between the chopsticks (112).

The implement (100) allows a user to carry it anywhere without adding to the baggage. Further, the user can separate the spork (102) and the knife, or use the chopsticks (112) while having meals. The straw (124) can be used individually while drinking a beverage, or can be
10 used along with the spork (102) while having fluids such as broth, smoothies, or pureed food, wherein the straw (124) can be used to suck the fluid whereas the spork (102) can be used to stir the contents of the fluid.

In an embodiment, the implement (100) is manufactured from a reusable material which is selected from the group consisting of steel, polypropylene and polystyrene. In another
15 embodiment, the implement (100) is manufactured by 3D printing process. As a result, the implement (100) is easy to be manufactured, cost-effective, and eco-friendly.

The foregoing description of the embodiments has been provided for purposes of illustration and not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure. Individual components of a particular embodiment are generally not limited to that particular embodiment, but, are
20 interchangeable. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the present disclosure, and all such modifications are considered to be within the scope of the present disclosure.

TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The present disclosure described herein above has several technical advantages including, but
25 not limited to, the multi-utilitarian implement suitable for use on the dining table, which:

- can be used for a single culinary function, or used simultaneously for multiple culinary functions;
- can be carried anywhere and handled with ease;
- can be packed as a single unit; and

- is reusable.

The embodiments herein, the various features, and advantageous details thereof are explained with reference to the non-limiting embodiments in the following description. Descriptions of well-known components and processing techniques are omitted so as to not unnecessarily obscure the embodiments herein. The examples used herein are intended merely to facilitate an understanding of ways in which the embodiments herein may be practiced and to further enable those of skill in the art to practice the embodiments herein. Accordingly, the examples should not be construed as limiting the scope of the embodiments herein.

The disclosure has been described with reference to the accompanying embodiments which do not limit the scope and ambit of the disclosure. The description provided is purely by way of example and illustration.

The embodiments herein and the various features and advantageous details thereof are explained with reference to the non-limiting embodiments in the following description. Descriptions of well-known components and processing techniques are omitted so as to not unnecessarily obscure the embodiments herein. The examples used herein are intended merely to facilitate an understanding of ways in which the embodiments herein may be practiced and to further enable those of skill in the art to practice the embodiments herein. Accordingly, the examples should not be construed as limiting the scope of the embodiments herein.

The foregoing description of the specific embodiments so fully reveals the general nature of the embodiments herein that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily modify and/or adapt for various applications such specific embodiments without departing from the generic concept, and, therefore, such adaptations and modifications should and are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalents of the disclosed embodiments. It is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation. Therefore, while the embodiments herein have been described in terms of preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the embodiments herein can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the embodiments as described herein.

While considerable emphasis has been placed herein on the components and component parts of the preferred embodiments, it will be appreciated that many embodiments can be made and

that many changes can be made in the preferred embodiments without departing from the principles of the disclosure. These and other changes in the preferred embodiment as well as other embodiments of the disclosure will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein, whereby it is to be distinctly understood that the foregoing descriptive

5 matter is to be interpreted merely as illustrative of the disclosure and not as a limitation.

CLAIMS:

1. A multi-utilitarian implement (100) suitable for use on the dining table, said implement (100) comprising:
 - a spork (102) defined by a shallow scoop (104) having a plurality of tines (106) configured on a first distal end of said scoop (104); and
 - a handle (108) detachably connected to a second distal end of said scoop (104), said handle (108) comprising:
 - a two-edged knife element (110) having a pair of lateral edges (110A, 110B), each lateral edge (110A, 110B) being configured as a type of a knife, and
 - a pair of chopsticks (112) detachably joined to an operative first end of said knife element (110), said chopsticks (112) configured to act as said handle (108) in an attached state with said knife element (110).
2. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said scoop (104) has a concave configuration having a neck (114) configured at a second distal end of said scoop (104), said neck (114) extending to a wider portion configured to terminate into said plurality of tines (106) at said first distal end of said scoop (104).
3. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein one operative end of said two-edged knife element (110) is configured to be detachably attached to said spork (102) and the other operative end of said two-edged knife element (110) is configured to be detachably attached to said pair of chopsticks (112).
4. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 3, wherein a pair of first recesses (116) is configured in said neck (114).
5. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pair of first connectors (118) is provided on a second operative end of said knife body, each first connector (118) is configured to be received in said first recess to facilitate detachable connection of said knife element (110) with said spork (102).

6. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said knife element (110) is defined by a body having a first lateral edge (110A) and a second lateral edge (110B).
7. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first lateral edge (110A) has a sharp edge configuration defining a dinner knife.
- 5 8. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first lateral edge (110A) has a serrated edge configuration defining a dinner knife.
9. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second lateral edge (110B) has a blunt edge configuration defining a butter knife.
- 10 10. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second lateral edge (110B) has a non-serrated edge configuration defining a butter knife.
11. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein each chopstick (112) is defined by a narrow operative lower half (112A) configured with a blunt end or a sharp end, and a wider operative upper half (112B) attached to said operative lower half (112A).
- 15 12. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein each chopstick (112) is defined by a body tapering from said wider operative upper half (112B) to said narrow operative lower half (112A), said narrow operative lower half (112A) configured with a blunt end or a sharp end.
- 20 13. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pair of slots (120) is configured on an operative first end of said knife body to receive the operative lower halves (112A) of said chopsticks (112) therein.
14. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 3, wherein a second recess is configured in the operative upper portion of each chopstick (112).
- 25 15. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 14, wherein a pair of second connectors is provided on a second operative end of said knife body, each connector being configured to be received in said second recess to facilitate detachable connection of said knife element (110) with said chopsticks (112).
16. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein each chopstick (112) is provided with an arcuate concavity (122) configured on an operative inner side of each

chopstick (112), in an attached state with said knife element (110) to form said handle (108), and provide integrity to the implement (100), in the attached state.

- 5 17. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said arcuate concavities (122) are configured to define a cavity therebetween when said chopsticks (112) are coupled together, to nest a straw (124) therein.
- 10 18. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 10, wherein said scoop (104) has a hollow body configuration, wherein a passage is configured inside said scoop (104) such that said passage opens into a hole (126) configured in said neck (114) of said scoop (104), said passage further diverging into at least two slits (128) configured on an operative inner surface of said scoop (104) to facilitate passage of a fluid from said inner surface of said scoop (104) to said neck (114).
19. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 18, wherein an aperture (130) is configured in the knife body complementary to said hole (126), to receive said straw (124).
- 15 20. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 19, wherein said straw (124) and said knife element (110) are attached to said spork (102) to form a fluid path, and allow the fluid to be pulled in from said slits (128), through said passage into said straw (124).
21. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 13, wherein a storage cavity (132) is configured on an operative upper half (112B) of each of said chopsticks (112), said storage cavity (132) is configured to store therein a condiment.
- 20 22. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 13, wherein said storage cavity (132) is configured to store therein a dental hygiene kit.
23. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 21, which includes a cap (134), said cap (134) configured to securely close said storage cavities (132) when said chopsticks (112) are coupled together.
- 25 24. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 15, wherein said straw (124) is configured to be wrapped with a serviette in a nested state between said chopsticks (112).
25. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said implement (100) is manufactured from a reusable material.

26. The implement (100) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said implement (100) is manufactured by 3D printing process.