assembly 26 has an upper frame 30, an inside frame 32 and a gasket 34 disposed between the upper frame 30 and the inside frame 32. A cavity 52 is defined between the lower handle portion and the middle assembly 26. A gel is injected into the cavity 52. The handle assembly 14 is attached at or near the distal end 18 of the blade 12.

[0023] According to one embodiment of the method, the handle assembly 14, or the upper handle portion 24, is attached to the blade 12 prior to injecting gel into the cavity 52. However, it will be understood that the steps attaching the handle assembly 14 to the blade 12 is not constrained to any particular order of operation. Accordingly, it is also contemplated that the handle assembly 14 (or the upper handle portion 24) can be attached to the blade 12 after injecting gel into the cavity 52. It will also be understood that the handle assembly 14 can be attached to the blade 12 by a welding connection, fasteners or any other method suitable for attaching the respective materials from which the handle assembly 14 and blade 12 are constructed one to the other.

[0024] The disclosed apparatus and methods are well adapted to attain the ends and advantages mentioned as well as those that are inherent therein. The particular embodiments disclosed above are illustrative only, as the teachings of the present disclosure may be modified and practiced in different but equivalent manners apparent to those skilled in the art having the benefit of the teachings herein. Furthermore, no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown, other than as described in the claims below. It is therefore evident that the particular illustrative embodiments disclosed above may be altered, combined, or modified and all such variations are considered within the scope of the present disclosure. The apparatus and methods illustratively disclosed herein may suitably be practiced in the absence of any element that is not specifically disclosed herein and/or any optional element disclosed herein.

[0025] While methods are described in terms of "comprising," "containing," or "including" various components or steps, the compositions and methods can also "consist essentially of" or "consist of" the various components and steps. All numbers and ranges disclosed above may vary by some amount. Whenever a numerical range with a lower limit and an upper limit is disclosed, any number and

CLAIMS

1. A cutlery implement comprising:

a blade having a proximal end and an opposed distal end, the blade further having a cutting edge and a spine, the spine being disposed on a top side of the blade and generally opposed to the cutting edge;

a handle coupled to the blade proximate the distal end of the blade, the handle comprising :

an upper handle portion disposed proximate the spine of the blade portion, and a lower handle portion, wherein a portion of one of either the upper handle portion and the lower handle portion is formed from a resilient polymer material, and a portion the other of the upper handle portion and the lower handle portion is formed of a generally rigid material;

a middle assembly disposed between the upper handle portion and the lower handle portion, the middle assembly comprising an upper frame disposed proximate an inner surface of the upper handle, an inside frame, a gasket disposed between the upper frame and the inside frame, and a handle core, wherein the cavity is defined between an outer surface of the handle core and an inner surface of the lower handle portion; and

a cavity defined between the lower handle portion and the middle assembly, the cavity containing a gel .

2. The cutlery implement of claim 1, further comprising an injection aperture disposed in the handle, the injection aperture being in fluid communication with the cavity.

3. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the entire upper handle portion is formed of a generally rigid material.

4. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the entire lower handle portion is formed of a resilient polymer material.

5. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the upper handle portion is formed from stainless steel and the lower handle portion is formed from a resilient polymer material.

6. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the resilient polymer material is silicone.

7. The cutlery implement of claim1, wherein the gasket of the middle assembly is formed from silicone.

8. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the upper handle portion is

integrally formed with the blade.

9. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the upper handle portion is coupled to the blade by a welded connection.

10. The cutlery implement of claim 1, wherein the gel contained in the cavity is a silicone gel.

11. A method of assembling a cutlery implement comprising :

providing a blade having a proximal end and an opposed distal end, the blade

further having a cutting edge and a spine, the spine being disposed on a top side of the blade portion and generally opposed to the cutting edge;

assembling a handle comprising an upper handle portion formed of a generally rigid material, a lower handle portion formed from a resilient polymer material, and a middle assembly, the middle assembly comprising an upper frame, an inside frame, a handle core and a gasket, the gasket being disposed between the upper frame and the inside frame, wherein the cavity is defined between an outer surface of the handle core and an inner surface of the lower handle portion;

injecting a gel into the cavity; and

attaching the handle to the blade at the proximal end of the blade.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein a portion of the handle portion is attached to the blade portion prior to injecting the gel into the cavity.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the handle portion is attached to the blade portion by welding.