

SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to holders for fruit, vegetables or similar foodstuffs

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The present invention relates to holders for fruit, vegetables or similar foodstuffs which are to be reduced in size on a household utensil of the kind provided with a working plate including a cutter or cutters and lateral guide ribs which project above the surface of the working plate, the holder being arranged for holding in the hand and comprising a body open on one side to hold the foodstuff to be reduced in size, which body is hollowed out in a concave shape and has a bearer flange extending outwards from the opening in the body by means of which the holder can be set down on the guide ribs at any point on the household utensil and can be moved to and fro on the guide ribs in the longitudinal direction of the working plate, the holder being swivellable on the guide ribs in the plane of the to and fro movement. Hereinafter such holders will be referred to as "of the kind described".

In a known holder of the kind described, the bearer flange which is intended for bearing and guiding the holder on the guide ribs of the household utensil is formed as an annular flange arranged concentrically with the opening in the body and having lateral guiding lugs. A disadvantage is that if there is even a very small tilting movement of the holder relative to the plane of movement, the outer circular edge of the bearer flange is tilted into the space between the lateral ribs below the plane of movement and above the working plate and thus strike the cutters, which may lead to damage to the cutters and the holder. The danger also exists of the holder being knocked out of the user's hand by the collision between the holder and the cutters and of his or her hand thus hitting the cutters of the utensil, which may lead to serious injury to the user's hand. Another disadvantage is that any tilting movement of the holder, and the fact that this moves the holder away from the cutters, means that the segments of the foodstuff cut are for example of different thicknesses.

It is an object of the invention to provide a holder of the kind described which cannot collide with the cutters of the household utensil.

According to the invention there is provided a holder of the kind described, wherein the front edge of the bearer flange which, when the holder is set down on the household utensil, extends from one guide rib to the other and which at the beginning of the working movement faces towards the cutter or cutters, is straight, or is wider at its lateral extremities than it is adjacent the body, whereby no part of the bearer flange can be tilted below the plane of movement.

Advantageously the front edge is arranged to be tangential to the opening in the body. The front edge of the bearer flange is preferably situated near the rim of the opening in the body.

In a preferred embodiment the bearer flange has front and rear edges which are straight or wider at their lateral extremities than they are adjacent the body and which are diametrically opposed to one another across the opening in the body and which,

when the holder is placed on the household utensil, extend from one guide rib to the other.

The edge or edges may be curved or rounded towards the body from the lateral extremities of the bearer flange.

Advantageously, the front and rear edges of the bearer flange are arranged to be parallel to one another.

In a preferred embodiment a guard flange which is directed obliquely upwards and outwards and which lies at an obtuse angle to the bearer flange is arranged at the front and/or the rear edge of the bearer flange. The outer edge of the guard flange is advantageously of arcuate form. The obtuse angle between the bearer flange and the guard flange is preferably greater than 120°.

In an advantageous embodiment the lateral edge of the bearer flange extending between the front and rear edges are of arcuate form.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which show several embodiments thereof by way of example and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a first embodiment of holder,

Fig. 2 is a section through the holder on line II-II of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a section through the holder on line III-III of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 shows a second embodiment of holder.

Referring now to the drawings, in Figs. 1 to 3, a holder has a body 1 which is open on one side and which is hollowed out in a concave shape. At its lower rim 3 which defines the opening 2 in the body, the body 1 has a flange 4 which projects outwards from the body 1 and which has straight front and rear edges 5 situated near the rim of the opening 2 which are diametrically opposed to one another across the opening. At the edges 5 of the bearer flange 4 are arranged guard flanges 6 which are directed obliquely upwards and outwards and which lie at an obtuse angle to the bearer flange and whose outer edges 7 are arcuate in form. The broad sections 14 of the flange which extend between the straight front and rear edges 5 are bounded by lateral edges 8 of arcuate form.

In Fig. 4, the front and rear edges 15 of the bearer flange 4 are rounded with a slight concavity towards the body 1, in other words the edges are wider adjacent the lateral edges of the bearer flange 4 than they are adjacent the body 1.

In the top part 17 of the body, a plunger 10 having a pressure plate 11 carrying projections is arranged in a central aperture 9. Also, retainer prongs 12 are arranged on the wall of the body 1 which project through cut-outs in the pressure plate 11 and thus guide the pressure plate and prevent it from turning. At its upper end the plunger has a pressure knob 13.

When the holder is being used, the foodstuff to be reduced in size is inserted in the body of the holder and pressed onto the retainer prongs 12, plunger 10 then being forced out of the body. The holder is then set down on its bearer flange 4 on the household utensil, with the broad sections 14 of the bearer

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flange 4 resting on the guide ribs or lateral rings of the utensil (not shown) and with the straight or slightly concave edges 5 or 15 of the bearer flange 4 extending from one guide rib of the utensil to the other and thus substantially transversely to the working direction.

The broad sections 14 of the bearer flange 4 between its edges 5 or 15 first of all provide secure guidance for the holder on the guide ribs of the household utensil, since the broad sections 14 of the flange largely prevent the holder from tipping in its plane of movement. However, if the holder should nevertheless tilt when the foodstuff to be cut up strikes against the cutters of the utensil, then due to the straight or slightly concave front and rear edges 5 or 15 of the bearer flange no part of the holder can come into contact with the cutters when the holder is moved to and fro because no part of it can be tilted below the plane of movement. At the same time the guard flanges 6 protect the user's fingers, with which he or she is gripping the holder, from touching the cutters of the utensil and also act as additional guide members for the holder when in a tilted position.

Also, the broad sections 14 of the bearer flange make it easier to swivel the holder, for example when dicing onions, since the broad sections are securely guided on the guide ribs of the utensil. In this case the holder is moved in the working direction with alternate broad sections 14 of the flange leading, the edge of the holder lying at an angle of approximately 45° to the working direction, so that in all the holder turns through 90°.

To prevent the body from slipping out of the fingers when the holder is moved to and fro above the working plate of the utensil and when the plunger is pressed towards the working plate, gripping ribs 16 are arranged on the outer side wall of the body 1. These ribs are spaced apart and are directed parallel to one another and perpendicularly to the bearer flange 4. The ribs 16 become wider and higher in the upward direction away from the bearer flange.

In order that the holder can be quickly and thoroughly cleaned, an annular gap is left between the edge of the pressure plate and the interior of the side-wall of the body whose width approximately corresponds to the radius of the pressure plate 11.

CLAIMS

1. A holder of the kind described, wherein the front edge of the bearer flange which, when the holder is set down on the household utensil, extends from one guide rib to the other and which at the beginning of the working movement faces towards the cutter or cutters, is straight, or is wider at its lateral extremities than it is adjacent the body, whereby in use no part of the bearer flange can be tilted below the plane of movement.

2. A holder as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the front edge is arranged to be tangential to the opening in the body and is arranged near the rim of the opening.

3. A holder as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the bearer flange has edges which are straight or are wider at their lateral extremities than they are adjacent the body and which are diametrically opposed to one another across the opening in the body and

which, when the holder is set down on the domestic utensil, extend from one guide rib to the other.

4. A holder according to any preceding claim, the edge or edges being curved or rounded towards the body from the lateral extremities of the bearer flange.

5. A holder according to any preceding claim, wherein at the edge or edges of the bearer flange is arranged a guard flange which is directed obliquely upwards and outwards and which lies at an obtuse angle, to the bearer flange.

6. A holder according to Claim 5, wherein the obtuse angle is greater than 120°.

7. A holder according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the outer edge of the guard flange is of arcuate form.

8. A holder according to any preceding claim, wherein the lateral edges of the bearer flange extending between the edges of the latter are of arcuate form.

9. A holder according to any preceding claim, wherein ribs are arranged on the outside of the body, which ribs are spaced apart and directed parallel to one another and perpendicularly to the bearer flange and become wider and higher in the upwards direction away from the bearer flange.

10. A holder according to any preceding claim, wherein the top part of the body contains a central aperture through which projects a plunger which, at its end which projects into the body, has a pressure plate carrying projections and at its other end outside the body, a pressure knob.

11. A holder according to Claim 10, wherein spaced retainer prongs are mounted in the top part of the body, which prongs project through cut-outs in the pressure plate and guide the plate, without allowing it to turn.

12. A holder according to Claim 10 or 11, wherein the radius of the circular pressure plate is approximately the same as the width of an annular gap between the edge of the pressure plate and the interior of the side wall of the body.

13. A holder of the kind described substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawings.

14. A holder of the kind described, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 4 of the accompanying drawings.

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Also, the broad sections 14 of the bearer flange make it easier to swivel the holder, for example when dicing onions, since the broad sections are securely guided on the guide ribs of the utensil. In this case the holder is moved in the working direction with alternate broad sections 14 of the flange leading, the edge of the holder lying at an angle of approximately 45° to the working direction, so that in all the holder turns through 90°.

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