



(51) International Patent Classification:

A47J 43/28 (2006.01) A47J 45/10 (2006.01)
A47G 21/10 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/CN2024/103004

(22) International Filing Date:

01 July 2024 (01.07.2024)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/511,577 30 June 2023 (30.06.2023) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV,

(54) Title: CULINARY TONGS

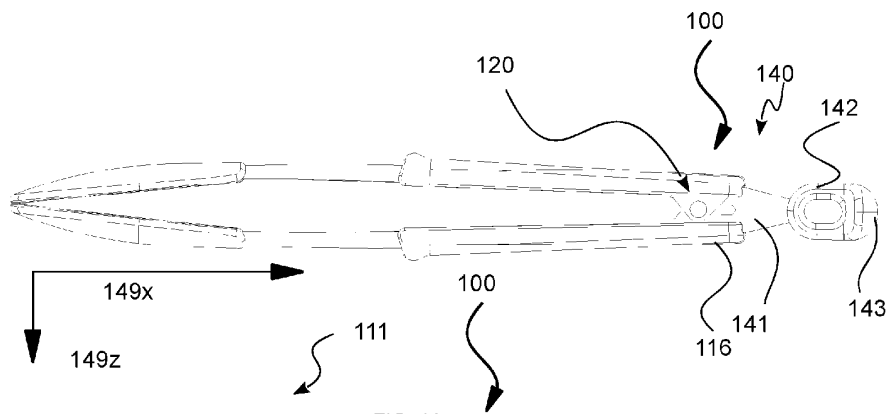


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: Culinary tongs(100) include a first arm(111) and a second arm(112) that each includes a grasping member(115) and an opposing hinged end(116). The culinary tongs(100) further include a hinge(120) including a pin(122) for connecting the first arm(111) and the second arm(112) together in a pivoting engagement at a location proximal to the hinged ends of the first arm(111) and the second arm(112). The culinary tongs(100) further include a spring(130) that biases the first arm(111) and the second arm(112) toward an open position. The culinary tongs(100) also include a sliding locking plate(140) that includes a first portion(141) with an aperture(141A) that receives the pin(122), and a second portion(142) coupled to the first portion(141). The second portion(142) extends in a first direction(149x) and then terminates in an actuating portion(143). The actuating portion(143) extends from the second portion(142) in a second direction(149y) that is orthogonal to the first direction(149x).

WO 2025/002464 A1

GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))