

STRUCTURE OF A CAP OF A CHOPSTICK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the invention

The present invention relates to a cap of a chopstick, more particularly one, which can be supported on a table in a steady manner to serve as a chopstick stand, and can be joined to another cap of the same shape.

2. Brief Description of the Prior Art

Many persons buy meals or eat outside therefore a lot of disposable chopsticks and dining wares are used. Disposable chopsticks and disposable dining wares are used in many restaurants and by people who eat outside because they provide convenience, saving the labor spent in washing chopsticks and dining wares.

However, because disposable chopsticks are made of bamboos or wood, it will cause significant reduction to bamboos and trees to acquire the materials of disposable chopsticks. Second, in order to make disposable chopsticks preservable over long time, and prevent them from getting moldy very quickly, they are soaked in solutions of Sulphur Dioxide in manufacturing. Consequently, the health of the users of the chopsticks will be harmed owing to Sulphur Dioxide. Third, use of conventional disposable bamboo/wood chopsticks is prone to cause

increased amount of garbage and increase burden on the environment.

Referring to Fig. 13, in order to overcome the above-mentioned problems and provide people with more convenience, the inventor of the present invention invented a pen and chopstick combination 2 before, which includes a pen part 21, a chopstick part 22 securely joined to one end of the pen part 21, and a covering part 24. The pen part 21 has a head portion 22, and a central writing part 221, which is held in and sticks out from the head portion 22. The pen and chopstick combination 2 can serve as a chopstick after the covering part 24 has been positioned onto the head portion 22 of the pen part 21. And, the pen and chopstick combination 2 can serve as a pen after the covering part 24 has been positioned around the chopstick part 23.

In the light of the fact that chopsticks are used in pairs, and the tip of the central writing part 221 of the pen part 21 needs an additional cap to protect it, the present inventor has made an improvement on a pen and chopstick combination with a cap, which is even more convenient to use than the above-mentioned one.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a main object of the present invention to provide an improvement on a cap of a pen and chopstick combination to provide more convenience. The cap includes a hollow main part, and a fastening

plate part fitted on an outer side of the main part. The main part has a closed end, and an open end. The fastening plate part has a flat side to be in touch with a place where the cap is supported. A connecting protrusion and a recessed portion are formed on an outer side the main part; the recessed portion faces in a direction opposite to that of the connecting protrusion. The connecting protrusion of the cap can be fitted in a recessed portion of another such cap for both the caps to be joined together. The main part has a holding portion, which is formed on an outer side for front ends of chopsticks to rest on, and faces in an opposite direction of the fastening plate part. The cap can be supported on a table to serve as a chopstick stand. Therefore, two chopsticks can be held together for easy storage with two such caps when the caps are joined together.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood by referring to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of the present invention,

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary exploded perspective view of the present invention,

Fig. 3 is a partial sectional view of the present invention,

Fig. 4 is a side view of the present invention (1),

Fig. 5 is a side view of the present invention (2),

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the present invention in use (1),

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the present invention in use (2),

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the present invention in use (3),

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary exploded perspective view of the second preferred embodiment,

Fig. 10 is a partial sectional view of the second embodiment,

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary exploded perspective view of the third preferred embodiment,

Fig. 12 is a partial sectional view of the third embodiment, and

Fig. 13 is an exploded perspective view of the prior art.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Fig. 1, a first preferred embodiment of a chopstick of the present invention includes a cap 1, and a main part 2. The chopstick main part 2 can be an ordinary chopstick, an assembled chopstick, a telescopic chopstick or a pen and chopstick combination, which is used as an example in the present invention.

The pen and chopstick combination 2 includes a pen part 21, a chopstick part 23 securely joined to one end of the pen part 21, and a covering part 24. The pen part 21 has a head portion 22, and a central writing part 221, which is held in the head portion 22, and sticks out at a

tip thereof. The pen and chopstick combination 2 can serve as a chopstick after the covering part 24 has been positioned onto the head portion 22 of the pen part 21. And, the pen and chopstick combination 2 can serve as a pen after the covering part 24 has been positioned around the chopstick part 23.

The cap 1 includes a main part 11, a fastening plate part 12, a connecting protrusion 13, and a connecting part 14. The main part 11 is hollow, and has a closed end, and an open end. The main part 11 can be positioned onto the head portion 22 of the pen part 21 so as to protect the head portion 22. Furthermore, the main part 11 of the cap 1 has a through hole 111 on the closed end thereof, which will face the central writing part 221 when the cap 1 is positioned onto the head portion 22 of the pen part 21. The fastening plate part 12 is joined to an outer side of the main part 11 of the cap 1 therefore the cap 1 can be fastened to a piece of clothes with the fastening plate part 12 and the main part 11 clamping a portion of the clothes such as the pocket. In addition, the fastening plate part 12 has a flat side 121; thus, the cap 1 will be steady when it is supported on an object, e.g. a table, with the flat side 121 of the fastening plate part 12 being in touch with the object.

The connecting protrusion 13 is formed on an outer side the main part 11, and tapers towards one end, having two sloping lateral sides 131. The connecting part 14 is formed on an outer side the main part 11, and faces in a direction opposite to that of the connecting protrusion 13. The

connecting part 14 has a fitting recessed portion 141, which has the same shape as the connecting protrusion 13. Therefore, two such caps 1 can be joined together with the connecting protrusion 13 of one of the caps 1 being inserted in the fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the other one of the caps 1.

Furthermore, the main part 11 of the cap 1 has a holding portion 15, which faces in a direction opposite to that of the fastening plate part 12, and which can be formed with a concavely curved surface 151 as shown in Fig. 4 or a corrugated surface 152 as shown in Fig. 5.

Referring to Fig. 6, two such pen and chopstick combinations 2 are in a not-in-use (storage) position, with covering parts 24 being positioned around respective ones of the chopstick parts 23 thereof, with caps 1 being positioned over respective ones of the head portions 22 of the pen parts 21 thereof, and with the connecting protrusion 13 of one of the caps 1 being fitted in the fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the other one of the caps 1 so to join the caps 1 together. Therefore, both the pen and chopstick combinations 2 can be supported on an object such a pocket with the fastening plate parts 12 and the main parts 11 of the caps 1 clamping the object.

Referring to Fig. 7, both the above-mentioned pen and chopstick combinations 2 can be used as a pair of chopsticks after the caps 1 are separated from them, and the covering parts 24 are relocated around the head portions 22 of the pen parts 21. Furthermore, one of the caps 1 is

supported on a table to serve as a chopstick stand, with the flat side 121 of the fastening plate part 12 thereof touching the table, and with the holding portion 15 facing upwards for the front ends of the chopstick parts 23 to rest on. Therefore, the pen and chopstick combinations 2 won't roll off the cap 1 serving as the stand owing to the concavely curved surface 151 (Fig. 4)/corrugated surface 152 (Fig. 5) of the holding portion 15 of the cap 1. Referring to Fig. 8, both the caps 1 are joined together to serve a chopstick stand with the connecting protrusion 13 of one of the caps 1 being fitted in the fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the other one of the caps 1; thus, the chopstick stand is even more steady.

Referring to Figs. 9 and 10 for a second preferred embodiment of the present invention, the connecting protrusion 13 of the cap 1 is turtledove tail-shaped, and the fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the cap 11 is also turtledove tail-shaped; thus, two such caps 1 can be more firmly joined together with the turtledove tail-shaped connecting protrusion 13 of one of the caps 1 being fitted in the turtledove tail-shaped fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the other one of the caps 1, thus preventing the caps 1 from moving relative to each other in a radial direction to become separate.

Referring to Figs. 11 and 12 for a third preferred embodiment of the present invention, the connecting protrusion 13 of the cap 1 has two protruding edges 132, and the connecting part 14 of the cap 11 has gaps

142 on two sides of the fitting recessed portion 141 thereof for receiving protruding edges 132 of a connecting protrusion 13 of another such cap 1; thus, two such caps 1 can be more firmly joined together with the connecting protrusion 13 of one of the caps 1 being fitted in the fitting recessed portion 141 of the connecting part 14 of the other one of the caps 1, and with the protruding edges 132 being fitted in the gaps 142, thus preventing the caps 1 from moving relative to each other in a radial direction to become apart.

From the above description, it can be seen that the present invention has the following advantages:

1. The cap of the present invention has the connecting protrusion, and the fitting recessed portion therefore two such caps can be joined together with the connecting protrusion of one of the caps being fitted in the fitting recessed portion of the other one of the caps. Consequently, two such pen and chopstick combinations can be held together for easy storage by means of the joined caps when they are not in use.

2. The cap has the fastening plate part joined to the hollow main part thereof therefore the pen and chopstick combination can be fastened to a portion of clothes, e.g. a pocket, after the cap has been put over it.

3. The cap can serve as a chopstick stand after it is separated from the pen and chopstick combination. Furthermore, when the cap is serving as a chopstick stand, it will be steady on a table because the fastening plate part has the flat side to be in touch with the table.

4. When such pen and chopstick combinations are supported on the cap at front ends thereof, they won't roll off the cap because the holding portion of the cap has a concavely curved/corrugated surface.

5. The closed end of the cap has the through hole thereon therefore the cap won't hit the tip of the pen part of the pen and chopstick combination when the cap is being put onto the pen part, thus preventing the tip of the pen part from getting damaged.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Structure of a cap of a chopstick, comprising

a main part (11), the main part (11) being hollow; the main part (11) having a closed end, and an open end;

a fastening plate part (12) joined to an outer side of the main part (11), the fastening plate part (12) having a flat side (121) to be in touch with a place where the cap (1) is supported;

a connecting protrusion (13) formed on an outer side the main part (11),

a connecting part (14) formed on an outer side the main part (11), the connecting part (14) facing in a direction opposite to that of the connecting protrusion (13); the connecting protrusion (13) of said cap (1) being capable of being fitted in a connecting part (14) of another such cap (1) so as to join both the caps (1) together; and

a holding portion (15) formed on an outer side of the main part (2) for chopsticks to rest on, the holding portion (15) facing in a direction opposite to that of the fastening plate part (12).

2. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the connecting part (14) has a fitting recessed portion (141), which has a same shape as the connecting protrusion (13) for a connecting protrusion (13) of another such cap (1) to fit in.

3. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 2, wherein the

connecting protrusion (13) has a tapering shape.

4. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 2, wherein the connecting protrusion (13) and the fitting recessed portion (141) of the connecting part (14) are turtledove tail-shaped.

5. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 2, wherein the connecting protrusion (13) has two protruding edges (132), and the connecting part (14) has gaps (142) on two sides of the fitting recessed portion (141) thereof for receiving protruding edges (132) of a connecting protrusion (13) of another such cap (1).

6. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the holding portion (15) has a concavely curved surface (151).

7. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the holding portion (15) has a corrugated surface (152).

8. The chopstick cap structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the closed end of the main part (11) has a through hole (111) thereon.