

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A SPOON

(71) We, DART INDUSTRIES INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, United States of America, of 8480 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90048, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to a spoon for placing eggs into or removing eggs from a fluid medium.

Although there are prior art utensils adapted for the purpose of placing eggs into or removing eggs from a fluid medium, it should be noted that such prior utensils have a variety of deficiencies. For example, many such utensils incorporate a bowl having a similar size and shape to that of a table spoon. Furthermore, it is common for the general plane of the handle protrusions on these prior art utensils to approximate to the general plane of the bowl. Accordingly, even though these utensils include openings within the confines of the bowl to allow fluid drainage, it is difficult to secure, balance and retain the egg upon the utensils.

According to this invention there is provided an egg spoon suitable for the introduction of eggs into or the removal of eggs from a body of fluid comprising a handle member integrally formed as a part of a spoon bowl and protruding therefrom, said bowl being bifurcated to form two side walls, said side walls defining a structure of a generally concave configuration, said side walls each having frontal edges and each being connected to a back wall wherein said side walls and said back wall have bottom edges positioned in a common plane, said side walls having upper edges, said upper edges sloping from said frontal edges toward said back wall in such fashion that said plane makes an acute angle with the imaginary, geometrical extension of said upper edges.

In a preferred spoon in accordance with

this invention prior art disadvantages are overcome because of (1) the drastic handle offset above the retentive portion of the spoon bowl and (2) the bifurcated nature of the bowl. Fluid is not retained on the spoon and the spoon is easily positionable around any egg so as to securely retain same. Likewise, in those instances where an egg is to be placed into a fluid medium, it is similarly retained in a stable manner until, at the pleasure of the user, it is poured from the spoon.

Furthermore, to accommodate the egg fully the bowl is preferably of a slight concavity thus approximating an egg shape. Likewise, due to the bifurcation and shallow terminal end construction of the bowl it is an easy matter to dispense from the spoon and into, for example, an egg cup.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

FIGURE 1 is a top perspective view of a spoon in accordance with the invention having an egg positioned therein;

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of the spoon shown in Figure 1;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevational view of the spoon of Figure 1;

FIGURE 4 is a top plan view of the spoon of Figure 1 looking from the plane of line 4-4 of Figure 3;

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view of the spoon of Figure 1 looking from the plane of line 5-5 of Figure 3;

FIGURE 6 is a bottom plan view of the spoon of Figure 1 looking from the plane of line 6-6 of Figure 3;

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 7-7 of Figure 4;

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 8-8 of Figure 3; and

FIGURES 9, 10 and 11 are cross-sectional views of the spoon handle taken along lines 9-9, 10-10 and 11-11 respectively of Figure 4.

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Referring to the drawings an egg spoon or scoop 10 is comprised of an integral handle member 12 and bowl 14 which are arranged and shaped so as to facilitate the placement of eggs within a fluid medium or the retrieval thereof from such medium.

As is readily apparent from Figure 1, the size and shape of the spoon bowl 14 is adapted to cradle an egg so that the egg may be retained within the bowl 14. To achieve this end the bowl 14 is of a bifurcated construction having opposed side walls 16 which terminate in rounded frontal edges 18 that are inwardly directed, one toward the other, and a substantially vertical back wall 20. The side and back walls 16, 20 are of an ovate construction (see FIGURE 8) and thus conform to the shape of the item to be retained.

As a result of the bifurcated construction of the bowl 14, the bottom and front of the bowl remain open as is readily apparent from FIGURES 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The back wall 20 of the spoon bowl 14, as indicated, has a substantially vertical orientation which is of a dimension (x), (see FIGURE 7). It is important this dimension be compared with the frontal edge 18, which has a vertical dimension (y) which is substantially less than (x). Preferably the relationship between (x) and (y) obeys the following relation:

$$(y) = (0.125 \text{ to } 0.750) (x) \\ \text{and ideally } (y) = 0.350 (x).$$

The upper edges 24 of walls 16 and 20 are substantially uniformly sloped between the frontal edges 18 and the back wall 20 to produce a bowl varying in depth.

Also attention is directed to the lower edge 26 of bowl 14 which is substantially planar in nature. This lower edge 26 in addition to defining the bottom opening in the bowl provides a broad base of support so that the spoon 10 and retained egg can together be placed, for example, on a table top with assurance that such will remain upright in the intended retentive relationship. Furthermore, the bifurcated and concave wall configuration and said back wall include bottom edges (26) in the same

plane, with such a plane making an acute angle with the imaginary, geometrical extension of said upper edges (24) thereby forming the slope of such edges.

The handle member 12 is concavely shaped (see Figures 7, 9, 10 and 11) so that any fluid that may find its way therealong will drain back into the spoon bowl 14 and out of the bottom opening of the bowl 14. The handle lies in the same general plane as the bowl edge 24 and thus produces a grippable extension that is well above the bowl 14, the edges 24 smoothly extending beyond the bowl 14 to form the top edges 28 of the concave handle member.

It should be apparent therefore that the shape of the bowl part 14 of the spoon and the elevation of the handle member thereabove are adapted so that the spoon or scoop may be used to retrieve eggs from a fluid medium, for example, as is contained in a saucepan. The user without other assistance can readily and easily position the spoon bowl 14 about the boiled egg in net like fashion and remove same from the pan and medium without the need to be an expert in balancing routines. The reverse procedure may be used for the immersion of eggs into a fluid medium.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An egg spoon suitable for the introduction of eggs into or the removal of eggs from a body of fluid comprising a handle member integrally formed as a part of a spoon bowl and protruding therefrom, said bowl being bifurcated to form two side walls, said side walls defining a structure of a generally concave configuration, said side walls each having front edges and each being connected to a back wall wherein said side walls and said back wall have bottom edges positioned in a common plane, said side walls having upper edges, said upper edges sloping from said frontal edges toward said back wall in such fashion that said plane makes an acute angle with the imaginary, geometrical extension of said upper edges.

2. A spoon according to claim 1 wherein the frontal edges are inwardly directed,

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Referring to the drawings an egg spoon or scoop 10 is comprised of an integral handle member 12 and bowl 14 which are arranged and shaped so as to facilitate the placement of eggs within a fluid medium or the retrieval thereof from such medium.

As is readily apparent from Figure 1, the size and shape of the spoon bowl 14 is adapted to cradle an egg so that the egg may be retained within the bowl 14. To achieve this end the bowl 14 is of a bifurcated construction having opposed side walls 16 which terminate in rounded frontal edges 18 that are inwardly directed, one toward the other, and a substantially vertical back wall 20. The side and back walls 16, 20 are of an ovate construction (see FIGURE 8) and thus conform to the shape of the item to be retained.

As a result of the bifurcated construction of the bowl 14, the bottom and front of the bowl remain open as is readily apparent from FIGURES 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The back wall 20 of the spoon bowl 14, as indicated, has a substantially vertical orientation which is of a dimension (x), (see FIGURE 7). It is important this dimension be compared with the frontal edge 18, which has a vertical dimension (y) which is substantially less than (x). Preferably the relationship between (x) and (y) obeys the following relation:

$$(y) = (0.125 \text{ to } 0.750) (x) \\ \text{and ideally } (y) = 0.350 (x).$$

The upper edges 24 of walls 16 and 20 are substantially uniformly sloped between the frontal edges 18 and the back wall 20 to produce a bowl varying in depth.

Also attention is directed to the lower edge 26 of bowl 14 which is substantially planar in nature. This lower edge 26 in addition to defining the bottom opening in the bowl provides a broad base of support so that the spoon 10 and retained egg can together be placed, for example, on a table top with assurance that such will remain upright in the intended retentive relationship. Furthermore, the bifurcated and concave wall configuration and said back wall include bottom edges (26) in the same

plane, with such a plane making an acute angle with the imaginary, geometrical extension of said upper edges (24) thereby forming the slope of such edges.

The handle member 12 is concavely shaped (see Figures 7, 9, 10 and 11) so that any fluid that may find its way therealong will drain back into the spoon bowl 14 and out of the bottom opening of the bowl 14. The handle lies in the same general plane as the bowl edge 24 and thus produces a grippable extension that is well above the bowl 14, the edges 24 smoothly extending beyond the bowl 14 to form the top edges 28 of the concave handle member.

It should be apparent therefore that the shape of the bowl part 14 of the spoon and the elevation of the handle member thereabove are adapted so that the spoon or scoop may be used to retrieve eggs from a fluid medium, for example, as is contained in a saucepan. The user without other assistance can readily and easily position the spoon bowl 14 about the boiled egg in net like fashion and remove same from the pan and medium without the need to be an expert in balancing routines. The reverse procedure may be used for the immersion of eggs into a fluid medium.

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1. An egg spoon suitable for the introduction of eggs into or the removal of eggs from a body of fluid comprising a handle member integrally formed as a part of a spoon bowl and protruding therefrom, said bowl being bifurcated to form two side walls, said side walls defining a structure of a generally concave configuration, said side walls each having front edges and each being connected to a back wall wherein said side walls and said back wall have bottom edges positioned in a common plane, said side walls having upper edges, said upper edges sloping from said frontal edges toward said back wall in such fashion that said plane makes an acute angle with the imaginary, geometrical extension of said upper edges.

2. A spoon according to claim 1 wherein the frontal edges are inwardly directed, 100



one toward the other.

3. A spoon according to Claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the distance from the bottom of the frontal edges to the top of the frontal edges does not exceed three quarters of the separation of the bottom of the back wall from the top of the back wall.

4. A spoon according to Claim 3 wherein said distance is between 0.125 and 0.750 of said separation.

5. A spoon according to Claim 3 wherein said distance is about 0.35 of said separation.

6. An egg spoon according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the upper edges of the side walls are an extension of the upper surface of the handle member.

7. A spoon substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings. 20

FORRESTER, KETLEY & CO.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Forrester House,
52 Bounds Green Road,
London N11 2EY,
—and also at—
Rutland House,
148 Edmund Street,
Birmingham, B3 2LD,
Scottish Provident Building,
29 St. Vincent Place,
Glasgow G1 2DT,
Agents for the Applicant(s).