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CHOPSTICK PACKAGING AND STAND

The present invention relates to a chopstick packaging and stand.

Chopsticks are widely used for eating, and are usually provided in an envelope for hygienic purpose. Chopstick stands are usually used to support the front ends of a pair of chopsticks clear of the table surface for personal hygiene when the chopsticks are temporarily not in use and placed on the table during the course of a meal. In some restaurants or dining places, chopstick stands are not provided and as a result chopsticks when not in use have to be supported on something else such as a dish or left simply lying on the table surface.

The invention seeks to mitigate or alleviate such a problem by providing novel chopstick packaging.

According to the invention, there is provided chopstick packaging which comprises an elongate envelope for containing therein a pair of chopsticks, and guide means on at least part of the envelope for guiding a user to fold said at least part of the envelope into a stand for supporting the front ends of said pair of chopsticks when the chopsticks are removed from the envelope and placed on a surface.

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Preferably, the guide means are provided by pressed fold lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.

- 5 Preferably, the guide means are provided by printed lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.

- 10 Preferably, the guide means are provided by perforated lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.

- 15 In a preferred embodiment, said at least part of the envelope is provided by one end portion of the envelope, which end portion is severable for folding into the stand.

It is preferred that the end portion is severable from the rest of the body of the envelope along a perforated line extending transversely of the envelope.

- 20 In another preferred embodiment, said at least part of the envelope is provided by one of the front and back sides of the envelope, which side is severable for folding into the stand.

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In yet another different embodiment, the entire envelope is arranged to be folded into the stand.

It is preferred that the stand, when formed, has opposite end portions thereof raised for retaining the front ends of said pair of chopsticks placed on the stand.

The invention will now be more particularly described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figures 1 to 3 show a first embodiment of chopstick packaging in accordance with the invention;

Figures 4 to 6 show a second embodiment of chopstick packaging in accordance with the invention;

Figures 7 to 9 show a third embodiment of chopstick packaging in accordance with the invention;

Figures 10 and 11 show a fourth embodiment of chopstick packaging in accordance with the invention; and

Figures 12 and 13 show a fifth embodiment of chopstick packaging in accordance with the invention.

Referring firstly to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawings, there is shown first chopstick packaging 10 embodying the

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invention, in the form of a chopstick envelope 11 having a closed end portion 12. The closed end portion 12 is defined by a transversely extending perforated line 13 which permits the end portion 12 to be severed or torn away from the rest of the body of the envelope 11. A plurality of fold lines 14 are provided on the end portion 12 as shown, for example by pressing, to define inter alia an oblong central region 15 having two pointed ends 15a.

In use, the closed end portion 12 is torn away from the rest of the body of the envelope 11 after the chopsticks 16 previously contained in the envelope 11 have been removed. The torn-off piece 12 is then folded by a user along the fold lines 14 to form a chopstick stand 17. When the chopstick stand 17 is formed, the central region 15 provides a supporting surface for the front ends of the chopsticks 17 placed thereon. The central region 15 is raised or curves up at both ends 15a to prevent the chopstick front ends located therebetween falling off the stand 17.

Figures 4 to 6 show second chopstick packaging 20 embodying the invention, in the form of an elongate chopstick envelope 21 having on one side thereof a plurality of printed lines 22. The lines 22 extend transversely of the body of the envelope 21 and are provided at predetermined intervals along the length of the envelope body.

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The chopstick envelope 21 is designed to be folded about the lines 22 into a concertina configuration (Figures 4 and 5) and subsequently folded about its longitudinal axis (Figure 5) in order to form a stand 23 for the front ends of a pair of chopsticks 24 (Figure 6).

In Figures 7 to 9, there is shown third chopstick packaging 30 embodying the invention, in the form of an elongate chopstick envelope 31. The envelope 31 is pre-pressed with curved lines 32 resembling a chain of eight generally identical rings.

The chopstick envelope 31 is designed to be folded into a stand 33 for supporting a pair of chopsticks or a spoon, etc. The envelope 31 is firstly folded to half of its length, about a transversely extending line 34 which may be formed by printing or pressing. Subsequent downward folding of opposite sides of the envelope 31 at positions between each pair of adjacent pre-pressed rings of lines 32, with the portion contained within each ring 32 depressed, will transform the envelope 31 into a series of four hollow sections 35 as shown in Figure 8. The series of sections 35 is finally bent to form a closed ring of three sections 35, with one end section 35 cupping over the other end section 35 to hold the sections 35 together to form the stand 33.

Reference is now made to Figures 10 and 11 which show

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fourth chopstick packaging 40 embodying the invention, in the form of a elongate chopstick envelope 41 having a removable front side 42. The envelope side 42 has one-third of its length pre-printed with fold lines 43, and is firstly folded to one-third of its length, exposing the fold lines 43 as shown in Figure 11-2. The folded envelope side 42 is further folded about the fold lines 43, as illustrated in Figures 11-4 to 11-8, and subsequently its opposite ends portions 44 are turned slightly upwards (Figure 11-9) to finally form a chopstick stand 45. In use, the opposite end portions 44 of the chopstick stand 45 serve to retain the front ends of a pair of chopsticks 46 on the stand 45.

Reference is also made to Figures 12 and 13 which show fifth chopstick packaging 50 embodying the invention, in the form of an elongate chopstick envelope 51 having a removable front side 52. The envelope side 52 has one quarter of its length pre-printed with fold lines 53, and is firstly folded to one quarter of its length, exposing the fold lines 53 as shown in Figure 13-3. The folded envelope side 52 is further folded about the fold lines 53, with opposite ends 54 thereof folded closed, to form a hollow box-like structure, as illustrated in Figures 13-5 and 13-6. Finally, the end portions 54 are released (Figure 13-7) to allow the folded structure to unfold by itself to form a chopstick stand 55. In use, the opposite end portions 54 of the chopstick stand 55 protrude upwards,

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thereby retaining the front ends of a pair of chopsticks 56 or a spoon 57 on the stand 55.

It is appreciated that the lines for guiding a user to fold the envelope into a stand may be provided by printing or pressing, as described. In a further different embodiment, 5 the guiding lines may be provided by perforations to render the folding operation easier or more convenient.

The chopstick packaging of the invention provides a convenient way of storing, serving and using a pair of chopsticks and is disposable for personal hygiene with 10 respect to both the envelope and the stand.

The invention has been given by way of example only, and various other modifications of and/or alterations to the described embodiments may be made by persons skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as 15 specified in the appended claims.



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CLAIMS

1. Chopstick packaging comprising an elongate envelope for containing therein a pair of chopsticks, and guide means on at least part of the envelope for guiding a user to fold said at least part of the envelope into a stand for supporting the front ends of said pair of chopsticks when the chopsticks are removed from the envelope and placed on a surface.
2. Chopstick packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide means are provided by pressed fold lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.
3. Chopstick packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide means are provided by printed lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.
4. Chopstick packaging as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide means are provided by perforated lines on said at least part of the envelope, about which lines said at least part of the envelope is to be folded to form the stand.
5. Chopstick packaging as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said at least part of the envelope is provided by one end portion of the envelope, which end



portion is severable for folding into the stand.

5 6. Chopstick packaging as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end portion is severable from the rest of the body of the envelope along a perforated line extending transversely of the envelope.

10 7. Chopstick packaging as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said at least part of the envelope is provided by one of the front and back sides of the envelope, which side is severable for folding into the stand.

8. Chopstick packaging as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the entire envelope is arranged to be folded into the stand.

5 9. Chopstick packaging as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the stand, when formed, has opposite end portions thereof raised for retaining the front ends of said pair of chopsticks placed on the stand.

20 10. Chopstick packaging substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 4 to 6, Figures 7 to 9, Figures 10 and 11 or Figures 12 and 13 of the accompanying drawings.