CLAIMS

CLAIM 1

A loaf-like food conveying machine that conveys an elongated block-shaped loaf-like food while holding the loaf-like food, comprising:

screw conveyors disposed in two pairs each positioned opposite each other while the loaf-like food is interposed therebetween, and each pair is positioned apart in a width direction of the loaf-like food, so as to be capable of sandwiching the loaf-like food from directions orthogonal to an elongated direction of the loaf-like food, the screw conveyors being configured to convey the loaf-like food for a predetermined distance while guiding the loaf-like food along the elongated direction, by rotating while at least a portion of a screw thread is in contact with the loaf-like food in a biting manner;

auxiliary screw conveyors disposed in one pair positioned opposite each other while the loaf-like food is interposed therebetween, while being positioned between the two pairs of screw conveyors that are disposed so that each pair is positioned apart, so as to be capable of sandwiching the loaf-like food from the directions orthogonal to the elongated direction of the loaf-like food, the auxiliary screw conveyors being configured to convey the loaf-like food for the predetermined distance while guiding the loaf-like food along the elongated direction, by rotating while at least a portion of a screw thread is in contact with the loaf-like food in a biting manner; and

a drive unit that intermittently rotates the two pairs of screw conveyors and the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors so as to convey the loaf-like food for the predetermined distance.

CLAIM 2

The loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1, wherein

the two pairs of screw conveyors and the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors are capable of reciprocating between a standby position in which the screw conveyors are positioned apart from the loaf-like food and a sandwiching position in which the screw conveyors are in contact with the loaf-like food.

CLAIM 3

The loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1 or 2, wherein

the two pairs of screw conveyors and the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors each rotate in synchronization.

CLAIM 4

The loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1 or 2, further comprising:

a control unit for controlling the rotating of the two pairs of screw conveyors and the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors so that the loaf-like food is conveyed for the predetermined distance along the elongated direction.

CLAIM 5

The loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1 or 2, further comprising:

an interval adjustment part for adjusting separation distances for the two pairs of screw conveyors that are disposed so that each pair is positioned apart and for the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors.

CLAIM 6

The loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1 or 2, wherein

the loaf-like food is a bread loaf, and

the two pairs of screw conveyors and the one pair of auxiliary screw conveyors convey the bread loaf while guiding the bread loaf along the elongated direction.

CLAIM 7

A food slicing device comprising:

at least, a loaf-like food conveying machine that conveys an elongated block-shaped loaf-like food while holding the loaf-like food; and

a slicer that slices the loaf-like food conveyed and supplied by the loaf-like food conveying machine into a food slice having a predetermined thickness, wherein

the loaf-like food conveying machine is the loaf-like food conveying machine according to CLAIM 1 or 2.

CLAIM 8

The food slicing device according to CLAIM 7, wherein

the loaf-like food is a bread loaf,

the loaf-like food conveying machine conveys and supplies the bread loaf toward the slicer, and

the slicer slices the bread loaf into a bread slice having a predetermined thickness.