

Food Receptacle

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a food receptacle.

Background

[0002] A food receptacle is commonly used to contain food, e.g. typically for cooked food for take away the food receptacle may be intended for one time use only, and may be disposable so as to avoid the hassle of washing up. Such a disposable food receptacle may be made from plastic, foam or wood material etc.

[0003] In order for food within the food receptacle to be consumed, eating implements, e.g. spoons, forks, knives may be used to assist the user to consume the food. Such implements may also be intended for one time use only, and may usually be made from assorted materials like plastic, foam etc. Disposal implements made from such materials would not be eco-friendly.

[0004] Typically, the eating implements are provided with the food receptacle. When a customer orders a take away, the vendor may put the take away food in a food receptacle and eating implements may be provided for the convenience of the customer to consume the food. At times, the vendor may forget to include the eating implement or the customer may lose the eating implements. Thus, it would be inconvenient to have separated eating implements. At times, the food vendor may charge the customer for the eating implements.

[0005] Besides the extra cost, to overcome this issue of missing eating implements, food vendors may put the eating implements within the food containers. By having the eating implements in the food container, the eating implements may be dirtied by the food within the food container. Some vendors may have the eating implements pre-wrapped to protect the eating implements from being stained by the food. In any case, wrapped or not, these eating implements may contaminate the food thereby increase the risks of food poisoning.

[0006] Besides the additional cost for the vendors/consumers, the eating implements are one time use items and therefore are a waste of resources.

[0007] It is thus an object of the present invention to try to alleviate the aforementioned problems.

Summary

[0008] According to various embodiments, the present invention provides a food receptacle having a housing adapted to enclose food therein; and an eating implement formed as a portion of the housing wherein the eating implement is adapted to be detachable from the housing.

[0009] According to various embodiments, detaching the eating implement from the housing may form a void in the housing.

[0010] According to various embodiments, an outline of the void may correspond to at least a portion of an outline of the eating implement.

[0011] According to various embodiments, the housing may include a weakened portion such that the eating implement may be adapted to be detached from the housing at the weakened portion.

[0012] According to various embodiments, the weakened portion may include a plurality of perforations in the housing.

[0013] According to various embodiments, the plurality of perforations may form a perforated line where the eating implement may be adapted to be detached from the housing.

[0014] According to various embodiments, the housing may include a tray adapted to contain the food and a lid adapted to cover the tray, such that the eating implement may be formed as a portion of the lid, such that detaching the eating implement from the lid forms a void in the lid.

[0015] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a scooping portion adapted to scoop the food.

[0016] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a piercing portion adapted to pierce the food.

[0017] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a proximal end and a distal end opposite the proximal end, such that the scooping portion may be at the proximal end and/or the piercing portion may be at the distal end.

[0018] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a depressible portion along a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the eating implement to the distal end of the eating implement.

[0019] According to various embodiments, the piercing portion may include an engaging portion adapted to engage the food.

[0020] According to various embodiments, the engaging portion may include a barb formed on the eating implement.

[0021] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a cutting portion adapted to cut the food.

[0022] According to various embodiments, the cutting portion may be at the proximal end of the eating implement.

[0023] According to various embodiments, the eating implement may include a first panel and a second panel adjoining each other along the longitudinal axis, the first panel and the second panel extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the eating implement, such that the first panel and the second panel may be adapted to rotate towards or away from each other at about the longitudinal axis.

[0024] According to various embodiments, the depressible portion may extend into the first panel and the second panel of the eating implement.

[0025] According to various embodiments, the cutting portion may include a cutting edge along an edge of the first panel at the proximal end of the eating implement.

[0026] According to various embodiments, the cutting portion may include a cutting edge along an edge of the second panel at the proximal end of the eating implement.

[0027] According to various embodiments, at least one of the cutting edge of the first panel and the cutting edge of the second panel may include a serrated edge.

[0028] According to various embodiments, the distal end of the eating implement may be angled from the longitudinal axis such that the distal end extends along another axis which forms an obtuse angle with the longitudinal axis.

[0029] According to various embodiments, the lid may include a lid panel having a front side wall extending from a front wall edge of the lid panel, a right side wall extending from a right wall edge of the lid panel, the left side wall being adjoined to the front side wall, wherein the lid panel may include the first panel of the eating implement, the right side wall may include the second panel of the eating implement, and the front side wall may include a portion of the first panel and a portion of the second panel.

[0030] According to various embodiments, the lid may be rotatably connected to the tray of the housing.

[0031] The present invention has the benefit of avoiding loss of eating implements. Previously, loose eating implements are easily lost. Further, by removing loose eating implements, the present invention has the benefit of reducing material use for making utensils and eliminating cost for manufacturing the eating implements. Further, the present invention has the benefit of enabling recycling of material as the food receptacle, therefore the detachable eating implement may be made from recyclable material.

Brief description of the drawings

[0032] Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of a food receptacle in a closed configuration;

[0033] Fig. 1A shows a perspective view of the food receptacle in Fig. 1 with a eating implement being detached from the housing;

[0034] Fig. 2 shows a perspective view of the food receptacle in Fig. 1 in the opened configuration;

[0035] Fig. 3 shows a top view of a box blank for the food receptacle in Fig. 1;

[0036] Fig. 4 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle along line A-A in Fig. 2;

[0037] Fig. 5 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle along line B-B in Fig. 2;

[0038] Fig. 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of an eating implement detached from the food receptacle in Fig. 1;

[0039] Fig. 6A shows an exemplary embodiment of an eating implement detached from the food receptacle in Fig. 1;

[0040] Fig. 7 shows an exemplary embodiment of the eating implement in use;

[0041] Fig. 8 shows an exemplary embodiment of the eating implement in use;

[0042] Fig. 9 shows an exemplary embodiment of the eating implement in use;

[0043] Fig. 10 shows a front view of the food receptacle in Fig. 1;

[0044] Fig. 11 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle along line A-A in Fig. 2 when the food receptacle is in the closed configuration.

[0045] Fig. 12 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle along line B-B in Fig. 2 when the food receptacle is in the opened configuration.

Detailed Description

[0046] Fig. 1 shows a food receptacle 10 having a housing 100 adapted to enclose food (not shown in Fig. 1) therein. Food receptacle 10 includes an eating implement 400 formed as a portion of the housing 100 such that the eating implement 400 is adapted to be detachable from the housing 100.

[0047] Housing 100 may include a weakened portion 110 such that the eating implement 400 may be adapted to be detached from the housing at the weakened portion 110.

[0048] Fig. 1 shows the food receptacle 10 in a closed configuration whereby the food may be enclosed within the food receptacle 10.

[0049] Fig. 1A shows the food receptacle 10 with the eating implement 400 being detached from the housing 100. As shown in Fig. 1A, when the eating implement 400 is detached from the housing 100, a void 102 is formed in the housing 100. When the void 102 is formed, it is shown that an outline 104 of the void 102 corresponds to at least a portion of an outline 106 of the eating implement 400. As shown in Fig. 1A, the outline 104 of the void 102 corresponds to the profile along one side of the eating implement 400.

[0050] As shown in Fig. 1, the housing 100 may include the tray 200 to contain the food and a lid 300 adapted to cover the tray 200. Eating implement 400 may be formed as a portion of the lid 300 such that detaching the eating implement 400 from the lid 300 forms a void 102 in the lid 300 (refer to Fig. 1A). Lid 300 may be connected to the tray 200. Lid 300 may be rotatably connected to the tray 200 of the housing 100. Lid 300 may be connected to the tray 200 along a hinge axis 240.

[0051] Fig. 2 shows the food receptacle 10 in the opened configuration whereby the lid 300 has been pivotally rotated about the hinge axis 240 from the closed configuration to the opened configuration.

[0052] Fig. 3 shows a cut out sheet 20 of the food receptacle 10. The housing 100 may be formed initially from a single flat cut out sheet 20. Cut out sheet 20 may be formed by stamping or die-cutting from a blank sheet, e.g. a flat piece of cardboard, and having fold lines formed by conventional method on the cut out sheet 20. Cut out sheet 20 may be folded to form the housing 100. Subsequently, fan folded ends 220 (refer to Fig. 2) as a result of the fold may be adhered to the respective side walls, e.g. left side wall 212 and right side wall 216 (called the spines) to keep the shape of the tray 200 of the housing 100.

[0053] As the tray 200 and the lid 300 are formed from the cut out sheet 20, the tray 200 and the lid 300 may be integral formed with each another. However, it would be clear to a skilled person that the tray 200 and lid 300 may be separated and attachable to each other.

[0054] Food receptacle 10 may be made from at least one of the following materials: stiff paper, cardboard, plastics material, laminated material. It would be clear to a skilled person that the food receptacle may be made from any suitable material having suitable properties, e.g. sufficient rigidity. Food receptacle 10 may be made from a disposable material.

[0055] Referring to Fig. 2, the tray 200 may have a rectangular base panel 210 and four side walls, e.g. left side wall 212, front side wall 214, right side wall 216 and rear side wall 218, upwardly extending from edges of the base panel 210. As shown in Fig. 2, the left side wall 212 and right side wall 216 may be opposite each other and the front side wall 214 and rear side wall 218 may be opposite each other. Tray 200 may not be restricted to a rectangular shaped base panel 210 and may be a square, a triangle, etc. Correspondingly, the lid 300 may be of the same shape as the tray 200.

[0056] Hinge axis 240 may be disposed along the rear side wall 218. Accordingly, the front side wall 214 of the tray 200 which is foremost as seen in Fig. 2 may be opposite to the hinge axis 240 of the rear side wall 218.

[0057] When two side walls are folded towards each other, a fan folded end 220 may be formed and may be adhered to a side wall to keep the side walls upright. As shown in Fig. 2, a rear left fan folded end 220A may be formed when the left side wall 212 and the rear side wall 218 are folded towards each other. A front left fan folded end 220B may be formed when the left side wall 212 and the front side wall 214 are folded towards each other. Both the rear left fan folded end 220A and the front left fan folded end 220B may be adhered to the left side wall 212. A rear right fan folded end (not shown in Fig. 2) opposite the rear left fan folded end 220A may be formed when the right side wall 216 and the rear side wall 218 are folded towards each other. A front right fan folded end (not shown in Fig. 2) opposite the front left fan folded end 220B may be formed when the right side wall 216 and the front side wall 214 are folded towards each other. Both the rear right fan folded end and the front right fan folded end may be adhered to the right side wall 216. Rear left fan folded end 220A and/or rear right fan folded end 220D may be adhered to rear side wall 218. Front left fan folded end 220B and/or front right fan folded end 220C may be adhered to front side wall 214.

[0058] As shown in Fig. 2, the front side wall 214 may be provided with fold lines 202,204 which extend obliquely from the front left corner 234 and front right corner 236 respectively.

[0059] Fig. 4 shows a sectional view of the housing 100 across line A-A in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 shows a sectional view of the housing 100 across line B-B in Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, each of the side walls 212-218 may make an obtuse angle with the base panel 210 so that the side walls 212-218 taper outwardly away from the centre of the base panel 210. The angle of the taper, α , (as shown in Fig. 4) of both the side walls 212,216 (and side walls 214,218) of the tray 200 is preferably in the range 8° - 15° . Preferably, the angle of the taper is 11° . Within this range, it remains relatively easy to fit the lid 300 over the tray 200. Preferably, the angle of taper is 11° +or- 1° .

[0060] Referring to Fig. 2, the lid 300 may include a rectangular lid panel 310 having a left wall edge 312, a front wall edge 314 connected to the left wall edge 312, a right wall edge 316 connected to the front wall edge 314 and a connecting edge 318 connected to the left wall edge 312 and the right wall edge 316. Front wall edge 314 may be perpendicular to left wall edge 312 and the right wall edge 316. Three wall edges 312,314,316 and the connecting

edge 318 surrounds the lid panel 310 to form the rectangular profile of the lid panel 310. Lid 300 may include a left side wall 322, a front side wall 324 and a right side wall 326, extending downwardly from left wall edge 312, front wall edge 314 and right wall edge 316 of the lid panel 310 respectively. Side walls 322,324,326 may be connected to form a C-shaped profile. Lid 300 may be connected to the tray 200 along the hinge axis 240. Lid 300 may be connected to the rear side wall 218 of the tray 200 at the connecting edge 318 of the lid panel 310. Each of the side walls 322-326 may have a free edge parallel to the edges of the lid panel 310. Left side wall 322 may have a left free edge 332 that is parallel to the left wall edge 312. Front side wall 324 may have a front free edge 334 that is parallel to the front wall edge 314. Right side wall 326 may have a right free edge 336 that is parallel to the right wall edge 316. Lid panel 310 may be of a square profile, a triangular profile, or a profile which corresponds to the tray 200.

[0061] Referring to Fig. 4, the angle of the taper, α , of the side walls 322-326 of the lid 300 is preferably in the range 8° - 15° . Preferably, the angle of taper is 11° . Preferably, the angle of taper is 11° +or- 1° . Within this range, it remains relatively easy to fit the lid 300 over the tray 200 whilst, once fitted, there is sufficient resistance between the opposing tapers of the lid 300 and the tray 200 to retain the food receptacle 10 securely closed.

[0062] Front side wall 214 of the tray 200 and the front side wall 324 of the lid 300 may flex inwardly or the inwardly towards or outwardly from the centre of the housing 100 so as to enable the lid 300 to be fitted over and interlock with the tray 200.

[0063] Referring to Fig. 2, the lid 300 may have a rear left corner 342 formed at the intersection of the lid panel 310, the left side wall 322 and hinge axis 240. A front left corner 344 may be formed at the intersection of the lid panel 310, the left side wall 322 and the front side wall 324. A front right corner 346 may be formed at the intersection of the lid panel 310, the front side wall 324 and the right side wall 326. A rear right corner 348 may be formed at the intersection of the lid panel 310, the right side wall 216 and hinge axis 240.

[0064] Front side wall 324 may be connected to the left side wall 322 and the right side wall 326. Left side wall 322 may be opposite the right side wall 326. Front side wall 324 may be disposed between the left side wall 322 and the right side wall 326. Each of the side walls

322-326 may make an acute angle with the lid panel 310 so that the side walls 322-326 taper inwardly towards the centre of the lid panel 310.

[0065] When forming the lid 300 from the cut out sheet 20, the front side wall 324 may be secured to the opposing pair of left and right side walls 322,326 by gluing tabs 360 extending from opposing ends of the front side wall 324 to one end of left side wall 322 and right side wall 326 respectively. As shown in Fig. 1, the gluing tabs 360 may be adhered to the exterior surfaces of the opposing left and right side walls 322 and 326. It would be clear that the gluing tabs 360 may be adhered to the interior surfaces of the opposing left and right side walls 322 and 326.

[0066] Referring to Fig. 1, the front side wall 324 may include a left fold line 352 which extends from the front left corner 344 and away from the left side wall 322 to the front free edge 334. Front side wall 324 may include a right fold line 354 which extends from the front right corner 346 and away from the right side wall 326 to the front free edge 334.

[0067] As shown in Fig. 1, the lid 300 may include the eating implement 400. Eating implement 400 may be detached from the lid 300 at the weakened portion 110. Weakened portion 110 may extend from the hinge axis 240 to the front free edge 334. Weakened portion 110 may include a lid portion 112 which extends along the lid panel 310 and a front portion 114 which extends along the front side wall 324 of lid 300. Lid portion 112 may extend from the hinge axis 240 to the front side wall 324. Front portion 114 may extend along the front side wall 324 of the lid 300. Front portion 114 of the weakened portion 110 may extend from the lid panel 310 to the front free edge 334. Lid portion 112 may include a serrated portion 116 at about the rear right corner 348 of the lid 300.

[0068] Weakened portion 110 may include a plurality of perforations such that the plurality of perforations form a perforated line 120 where the eating implement 400 is adapted to be detached from the housing 100. Perforated line 120 may extend from the hinge axis 240 along the lid panel 310 and along the front side wall 324 to the front free edge 334. Perforated line 120 may include a longitudinal portion 124 that extends from the front side wall 324 towards the hinge axis 240. Longitudinal portion 124 may be parallel to the right wall edge 316. As the perforated line 120 extends towards the rear right corner 348, the

perforated line 120 may include a curved portion 126 which curves towards the rear right corner 348. Serrated portion 116 may include the curved portion 126 of the perforated line 120. Curved portion 126 may have a serrated profile. Perforated line 120 may include an end portion 122 which extends along the front side wall 324. End portion 122 may extend across the front side wall 324 from the front free edge 334 to the lip panel 310. As more clearly shown in Fig. 10, the right fold line 354 may form an angle Y with the front free edge 334 of the front side wall 324. End portion 122 of the perforated line 120 may form an angle X with the right fold line 354. Angle X may be substantially the same as angle Y. Angle X may be larger or smaller than angle Y.

[0069] Referring to Fig. 1, the right side wall 326 of the lid 300 may include a serrated end 327 at about the rear right corner 348 of the lid 300. Serrated end 327 may include a serrated edge 329 which curves from the right free edge 336 to the rear right corner 348 of the lid 300.

[0070] Longitudinal portion 124 may be spaced from the right wall edge 316. Right free edge 336 may be spaced from the right wall edge 316. The spacing between the longitudinal portion 124 and the right wall edge 316 and the spacing between the right free edge 336 and the right wall edge 316 may be the same or substantially the same. The spacing between the longitudinal portion 124 and the right wall edge 316 may be wider or narrower than the spacing between the right free edge 336 and the right wall edge 316.

[0071] Referring to Fig. 1A, when the eating implement 400 is being detached from the housing 100 of the food receptacle 10, the eating implement 400 may be detached from the lid 300 along the weakened portion 110 of the lid 300. Eating implement 400 may be detached from the lid 300 along the end portion 122, the longitudinal portion 124 and curved portion 126 of the lid 300. Upon detaching the eating implement 400 from the housing 100, a void 102 may be formed on the housing 100. It would be clear to a skilled person that detaching the eating implement 400 from the lid 300 may compromise the integrity of the housing 100.

[0072] Furthermore, the opposing pair of side walls 322 and 326 are each provided with a crease line 362 which extends obliquely from the front left corner 344 and front right corner 346 respectively.

[0073] Fig. 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of the eating implement 400. Eating implement 400 may include a scooping portion 410 adapted to scoop the food (not shown in Fig. 6). Eating implement 400 may include a piercing portion 420 adapted to pierce the food. Eating implement 400 may include a handle portion 440 between the scooping portion 410 and the piercing portion 420. Eating implement 400 may include a cutting portion 430 adapted to cut the food.

[0074] Eating implement 400 may have a proximal end 402 and a distal end 404 opposite the proximal end 402, wherein the scooping portion 410 may be at the proximal end 402 and the piercing portion 420 may be at the distal end 404. Cutting portion 430 may be at the proximal end 402 of the eating implement 400. Eating implement 400 may be an elongated member which extends from the proximal end 402 to the distal end 404.

[0075] As shown in Fig. 2, the eating implement 400 is formed from a portion of the housing 100. Eating implement 400 may include a portion of the lid panel 310, a portion of the front side wall 324 and the right side wall 326. In addition, the eating implement 400 may include the front right corner 346 of the lid 300 and a part of the rear right corner 348.

[0076] Eating implement 400 may be defined by a portion of the front free edge 334; the end portion 122, the longitudinal portion 124 and curved portion 126 of the perforated line 120; the serrated edge 329 of the serrated end 327; and the right free edge 336.

[0077] Referring to Fig. 6, the eating implement 400 may include a first panel 450 and a second panel 460 adjoining each other along a longitudinal axis 406, the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 may extend from the proximal end 402 to the distal end 404 of the eating implement 400. First panel 450 and the second panel 460 may be adapted to rotate towards or away from each other at about the longitudinal axis 406. First panel 450 may be a portion of the lid panel 310 (not shown in Fig. 6). Second panel 460 may be the right side wall 326 of the lid 300. Longitudinal axis 406 may be the right wall edge 316 of the lid 300.

[0078] First panel 450 and the second panel 460 may have a first piercing end 452 and a second piercing end 462 respectively and connected to each other along right fold line 354.

When the first panel 450 and second panel 460 are rotated away from each other, the first piercing end 452 would correspondingly be rotated away from the second piercing end 462 at about the right fold line 354.

[0079] Piercing portion 420 may include an engaging portion 422 adapted to engage the food. Engaging portion may include a barb 424 formed on the eating implement 400. As shown in Fig. 6, the first piercing end 452 may include a first cut out 454 on the first piercing end 452. Second piercing end 462 may include a second cut out 464 on the second piercing end 462. First cut out 454 may be made along the end portion 122 of the perforated line 120. Second cut out 464 may be made along the portion of front free edge 334 of the eating implement 400. First cut out 454 may produce a first barb 456 formed by the first cut out 454 made on the first piercing end 452. Second cut out 464 may produce a second barb 466 formed by the second cut out 464 made on the second piercing end 462. As the eating implement 400 is arranged into the piercing configuration, the first barb 456 and the second barb 466 may coincide with each other to form the barb 424.

[0080] As shown in Fig. 6, the cutting portion 430 may include a first cutting edge 432 along an edge of the first panel 450 at the proximal end 402 of the eating implement 400. Cutting portion 430 may include a second cutting edge 434 along an edge of the second panel 460 at the proximal end 402 of the eating implement 400. At least one of the first cutting edge 432 of the first panel 450 and the second cutting edge 434 of the second panel 460 may include a serrated edge. As such, it is possible that only one of the cutting edges of the first and second panels 450,460 have a serrated edge, i.e. one of the cutting edges is serrated and the other is smooth.

[0081] Eating implement 400 may be opened up into a scooping configuration. In other words, the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 are rotated away from each other at about the longitudinal axis 406. Fig. 6A In the scooping configuration, the distal end 404 of the eating implement 400 may tilt upwards and away from the direction of the longitudinal axis 406 whereby the first piercing end 452 and the second piercing end 462 would rotate away from each other and tilt upwards away from the longitudinal axis 406 due to the structural design of the eating implement 400.

[0082] Referring to Fig. 6A, the eating implement 400 may include a depressible portion 470 along the longitudinal axis 406 which extends from the proximal end 402 of the eating implement 400 to the distal end 404 of the eating implement 400. Depressible portion 470 may be adapted to be depressed when the eating implement 400 is in the scooping configuration such that the longitudinal axis 406 of the eating implement 400 is kinked when the depressible portion 470 is depressed. Depressible portion 470 may extend into the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 of the eating implement 400. Depressible portion 470 may be located nearer to the proximal end 402 than the distal end 404. When the depressible portion 470 is depressed, the portion of the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 formed by the depressible portion 470 may be deformed in a direction away from the longitudinal axis 406 of the eating implement 400. Depressible portion 470, when depressed, provides a structural support to allow the eating implement 400 to be maintained in the scooping configuration. At the same time, the depressible portion 470 provides a receiving function to receive a user's finger (not shown in Fig. 6A) to be placed against the depressible portion 470.

[0083] Eating implement 400 may be closed up into a piercing configuration to enable piercing of food, e.g. like a skewer, fork. In the piercing configuration, the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 may be rotated towards each other such that the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 are held together by the user. In the piercing configuration, the first piercing end 452 and the second piercing end 462 may be arranged together to allow a stiffer structure for piercing of the eating implement 400 into the food. Piercing portion 420 may be used as a toothpick.

[0084] In the piercing configuration, the eating implement 400 may be used as a cutting tool, e.g. a knife. Eating implement 400 may be used to cut food using the cutting portion 430 of the eating implement 400.

[0085] Fig. 7 shows the eating implement 400 being in used. As shown in Fig. 7, the eating implement 400 may be held by a user at about the distal end 404 of the eating implement 400. User may use the eating implement 400 to scoop food from the tray 200 using the scooping portion 410 of the eating implement 400. To use the eating implement 400 to scoop food, the eating implement 400 may be arranged into an scooping configuration whereby the first panel

450 and the second panel 460 may be rotated away from each other at about the longitudinal axis 406 (due to the thumb of the user). As mentioned earlier, the scooping portion 410 may be formed by the first and second panel 450,460 with respective first and second scooping end 458,468 being rotated away from each other to form a spoon.

[0086] Fig. 8 shows the eating implement 400 being folded along the longitudinal axis 406 and being held in the piercing configuration whereby the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 are being held together. Eating implement 400 may be held by the user along the handle portion 440 and the proximal end 402 (not shown in Fig. 8) of the eating implement 400 thereby exposing the piercing portion 420 towards the food. Eating implement 400 may be used to pierce food within the food receptacle 10. Barb 424 may be useful to engage the food to keep the food on the eating implement 400.

[0087] Fig. 9 shows the eating implement 400 being folded along the longitudinal axis 406 and being held in the piercing configuration whereby the first panel 450 and the second panel 460 are being held together. Eating implement 400 may be held by the user at the handle portion 440 (not shown in Fig. 9) and the distal end 404 (not shown in Fig. 9). Unlike Fig. 8, the proximal end 402 with the cutting portion 430 of the eating implement 400 is exposed to the food. Eating implement 400 may be used to cut the food in the food receptacle 10.

[0088] Referring to Fig. 1, the food receptacle 10 may include at least one eating implement 400. Eating implement 400 may include one eating implement 400. In this arrangement, the eating implement 400 may be designed to be either on the side of the left side wall 322 of the lid 300 or right side wall 326 of the lid 300. Eating implement 400 may include at least two eating implements 400. Eating implement 400 may include two eating implements 400. In this arrangement, both the eating implement 400 may be designed to be on both left side wall 322 and right side wall 326 of the lid 300, i.e. left eating implement and right eating implement. Left eating implement and right eating implement may be symmetrical about a centreline of the food receptacle which extends from the front side wall 324 to the hinge axis 240 of the food receptacle 10. In the embodiment of the food receptacle 10 having two eating implements 400, one of the eating implements 400 may be used as a piercing implement, e.g. a fork, and the other of the eating implements 400 may be used as a cutting implement, e.g. a knife. Alternatively, one of the eating implements may be used as a piercing implement, e.g.

a folk, and the other of the eating implements 400 may be used as a scooping implement, e.g. a spoon.

[0089] In order to close the food receptacle 10, the lid 300 may be rotated about the hinge axis 240 so that it is in a position above the tray 200. Left side wall 322 and the right side wall 326 of the lid 300 may be pulled outwardly to a small extent by bending at crease lines 19. This enables the left side wall 322 and the right side wall 326 of the lid 300 to be fitted over the corresponding left side wall 212 and the right side wall 216 of the tray 200.

[0090] To complete the closing procedure, the front side wall 214 of the tray 200 (which is opposite to the hinge axis 240) can be pushed inwardly to a small extent by bending at the fold lines 202 and 204. This action causes the opposing left side wall 212 and right side wall 216 to move slightly closer to each other. This enables the front side wall 324 of the lid 300 to be fitted over the corresponding front side wall 214 of the tray 200.

[0091] Once in the completely closed position, the side walls 212-216 of the tray 200 may return to their outwardly tapering configuration and the side walls 322-326 of the lid 300 may return to their inwardly tapering configuration. The outwardly tapering side walls 212-216 of the tray 200 may be retained within the inwardly tapering side walls 322-326 of the lid 300. In this way, the opposite tapering side walls of the tray 200 and lid 300 may co-operate to retain the housing 100 securely in the closed position.

[0092] In order to reopen the food receptacle 10, the front side wall 214 of the tray 200 can be flexed inwardly by pressing through a front cut-out 350 (also known as the 'thumb hole') provided on the front side wall 324 of the lid 300. By depressing the portion of the front side wall 214 that is exposed by the front cut-out, the taper of the tray 200 is reduced sufficiently for the lid 300 to be removed.

[0093] Tray 200 and the lid 300 may be separated such that the lid 300 may have side walls along all the edges 312-318 of the lid panel 310. In this way, the taper of the four side walls of the lid 300 may provide secured engagement onto the side walls of the tray 200.

[0094] Fig. 11 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle 10 along line A-A in Fig. 2 when the food receptacle 10 is in the closed configuration.

[0095] Fig. 12 shows a sectional view of the food receptacle 10 along line B-B in Fig. 2 when the food receptacle 10 is in the opened configuration.

Claims

1. A food receptacle comprising:
 - a housing adapted to enclose food therein; and
 - an eating implement formed as a portion of the housing wherein the eating implement is adapted to be detachable from the housing.
2. The food receptacle of claim 1, wherein detaching the eating implement from the housing forms a void in the housing.
3. The food receptacle of claim 1 or 2, wherein an outline of the void corresponds to at least a portion of an outline of the eating implement.
4. The food receptacle of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the housing comprises a weakened portion wherein the eating implement is adapted to be detached from the housing at the weakened portion.
5. The food receptacle of claim 4, wherein the weakened portion comprises a plurality of perforations in the housing.
6. The food receptacle of claim 5, wherein the plurality of perforations form a perforated line where the eating implement is adapted to be detached from the housing.
7. The food receptacle of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the housing comprises a tray adapted to contain the food and a lid adapted to cover the tray, wherein the eating implement is formed as a portion of the lid, wherein detaching the eating implement from the lid forms a void in the lid.
8. The food receptacle of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the eating implement comprises a scooping portion adapted to scoop the food.
9. The food receptacle of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the eating implement comprises a piercing portion adapted to pierce the food.

10. The food receptacle of claim 8 or 9, wherein the eating implement comprises a proximal end and a distal end opposite the proximal end, wherein the scooping portion is at the proximal end and/or the piercing portion is at the distal end.
11. The food receptacle of claim 10, wherein the eating implement comprises a depressible portion along a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the eating implement to the distal end of the eating implement.
12. The food receptacle of any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the piercing portion comprises an engaging portion adapted to engage the food.
13. The food receptacle of claim 12, wherein the engaging portion comprises a barb formed on the eating implement.
14. The food receptacle of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the eating implement comprises a cutting portion adapted to cut the food.
15. The food receptacle of claim 14, wherein the cutting portion is at the proximal end of the eating implement.
16. The food receptacle of any one of claims 10 to 15, wherein the eating implement comprises a first panel and a second panel adjoining each other along the longitudinal axis, the first panel and the second panel extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the eating implement, wherein the first panel and the second panel are adapted to rotate towards or away from each other at about the longitudinal axis.
17. The food receptacle of claim 16, wherein the depressible portion extends into the first panel and the second panel of the eating implement.
18. The food receptacle of claim 16 or 17, wherein the cutting portion comprises a cutting edge along an edge of the first panel at the proximal end of the eating implement.

19. The food receptacle of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the cutting portion comprises a cutting edge along an edge of the second panel at the proximal end of the eating implement.
20. The food receptacle of claim 18 or 19, wherein at least one of the cutting edge of the first panel and the cutting edge of the second panel comprises a serrated edge.
21. The food receptacle of any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein the distal end of the eating implement is angled from the longitudinal axis such that the distal end extends along another axis which forms an obtuse angle with the longitudinal axis.
22. The food receptacle of any one of claims 16 to 21, wherein the lid comprises a lid panel having a front side wall extending from a front wall edge of the lid panel, a right side wall extending from a right wall edge of the lid panel, the left side wall being adjoined to the front side wall, wherein the lid panel comprises the first panel of the eating implement, the right side wall comprises the second panel of the eating implement, and the front side wall comprises a portion of the first panel and a portion of the second panel.
23. The food receptacle of any one of claims 7 to 22, wherein the lid is rotatably connected to the tray of the housing.