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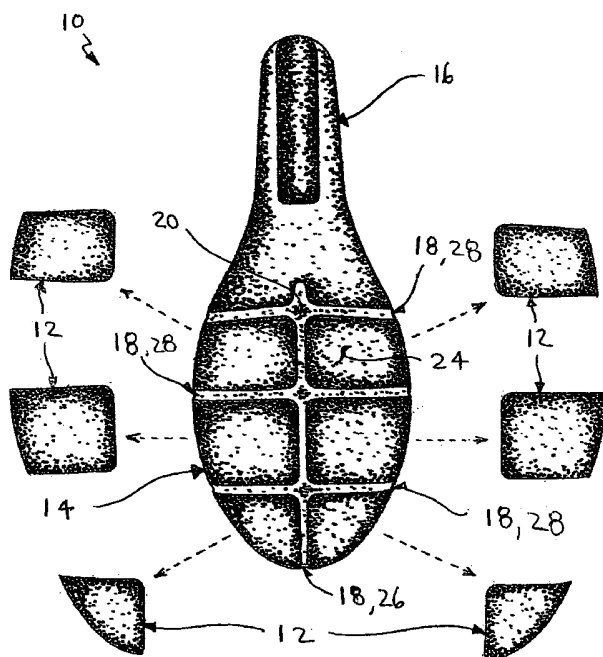
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(54) Title: EDIBLE SPOON FOR DISSOCIATING INTO CONSUMABLE PREDETERMINED CLUMPS IN ORDER TO PREVENT DISSOCIATING INTO RANDOM GRANULES THAT WOULD MAKE CONSUMPTION MORE DIFFICULT

Fig. 4



(57) Abstract: An edible spoon (10) for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps (12) in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult. The edible spoon (10) includes a bowl (14) and a handle (16). The bowl (14) extends from the handle (16) and contains weakened lines (18). The weakened lines (18) in the bowl (14) define the consumable predetermined clumps (12) so as to allow the bowl (14) to dissociate into the consumable predetermined clumps (12) in order to prevent dissociating into the random granules that would make the consumption more difficult.

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EDIBLE SPOON FOR DISSOCIATING INTO
CONSUMABLE PREDETERMINED CLUMPS IN ORDER
TO PREVENT DISSOCIATING INTO RANDOM GRANULES
THAT WOULD MAKE CONSUMPTION MORE DIFFICULT

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The embodiments of the present invention relate to a spoon, and more particularly, the
embodiments of the present invention relate to an edible spoon for dissociating into
consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that
would make consumption more difficult.

10

Description of the prior art

Numerous innovations for spoons have been provided in the prior art, which will be
described below in chronological order to show advancement in the art, and which are
incorporated herein by reference thereto. Even though these innovations may be suitable for
the specific individual purposes to which they address, however, they differ from the
embodiments of the present invention in that they do not teach an edible spoon for
dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into
random granules that would make consumption more difficult.

15

United States Patent Number Des. 195,498 to Gordon

United States Patent Number Des. 195,498 issued to Gordon on June 25, 1963 in U.S.
class D8 and subclass 1 teaches the ornamental design for an edible serving spoon.

20

United States Patent Number Des. 213,946 to Cooper *et al.*

United States Patent Number Des. 213,946 issued to Cooper *et al.* on April 29, 1969 in
U.S. class D1 and subclass 2 teaches the ornamental design for a snack food product or the
like.

25

Japanese Patent Application Publication Number JP61037056 (A) to Suzuko

Japanese Patent Application Publication Number JP61037056 (A) published to
Suzuko on February 21, 1986 in international class A47G21 and subclass 04 teaches a tilted
spoon manufactured by forming an edible material, such as wheat flour, in the form of a tea
spoon. A drink, such as coffee, can be taken while eating the tea spoon.

30

Patent Application Publication Number CN87202651 (U) to Laili

Patent Application Publication Number CN87202651 (U) published to Laili on January 13, 1988 in international class A47G21 and subclass 04 teaches a dual-purpose spoon used for taking meals and medicine, which is suitable for children to use in taking meals and
5 medicine. The spoon is made by connecting a funnel at the back of an ordinary spoon, and the tail of the funnel is appropriately extended into a straw. The spoon can be used as an ordinary spoon in having meals. For the use in taking medicine, physic liquor can be held in the spoon part, and the straw is inserted into the mouth of the child to achieve the purpose of feeding
10 medicine.

United States Patent Number Des. 338,993 to Lilly

United States Patent Number Des. 338,993 issued to Lilly on September 7, 1993 in U.S. class D1 and subclass 106 teaches the ornamental design for an edible spoon.

United States Patent Number Des. 339,218 to Welsh *et al.*

United States Patent Number Des. 339,218 issued to Welsh *et al.* on September 14,
15 1993 in U.S. class D1 and subclass 106 teaches the ornamental design for an edible spoon.

International Patent Application Publication Number WO 01/06900 A1 to Eliassen *et al.*

International Patent Application Publication Number WO 01/06900 A1 published to Eliassen *et al.* on February 1, 2001 in international class A47G21 and subclass 18 teaches an
20 edible straw, a dinner knife as a straw, a dinner fork as a straw, a dinner spoon as a straw, and a straw in all kinds of colors and shapes, made of bonbons, sugar, or other kinds of candy. The edible straw, the dinner knife as a straw, the dinner fork as a straw, the dinner spoon as a straw, and the straw have a hole in both ends making it possible to use it as cutlery and a
25 straw, and at the same time is edible.

French Patent Application Publication Number FR2797747 (A1) to Dubreuil

French Patent Application Publication Number FR2797747 (A1) published to Dubreuil on March 2, 2001 in international class A21D13 and subclass 08 teaches a spoon or spatula agitator composed of a long consumable body on which a widened agitating head is fastened. The edible materials including the head include a chocolate based material.

United States Patent application Publication Number US 2007/0292566 A1 to DeGennaro

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2007/0292566 A1 published
30 to DeGennaro on December 20, 2007 in U.S. class 426 and subclass 104 teaches a lollipop with a conventional stem or handle, and an edible part in the shape of a spoon for

administering liquid medications. The lollipop is used to administer liquid medications to children, developmentally challenged adults, or adults who dislike the taste of liquid medications. The lollipop spoons can be packaged for sale individually as a package or together with containers of liquid medications.

5 It is apparent that numerous innovations for spoons have been provided in the prior art, which are adapted to be used. Furthermore, even though these innovations may be suitable for the specific individual purposes to which they address, however, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the embodiments of the present invention as heretofore described, namely, an edible spoon for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to
10 prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Thus, it is an object of the embodiments of the present invention to provide an edible spoon for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult, which avoids the disadvantages of the prior art.

Briefly stated, another object of the embodiments of the present invention is to provide an edible spoon for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult. The edible spoon includes a bowl and a handle. The bowl extends from the handle and contains weakened lines. The weakened lines in the bowl define the consumable predetermined clumps so as to allow the bowl to dissociate into the consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into the random granules that would make the consumption more difficult.

The novel features considered characteristic of the embodiments of the present invention are set forth in the appended claims. The embodiments of the present invention themselves, however, both as to their construction and to their method of operation together with additional objects and advantages thereof will be best understood from the following description of the specific embodiments when read and understood in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The figures of the drawings are briefly described as follows:

- FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic top plan view of the edible spoon of the embodiments of the present invention for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult;
- FIGURE 2 is a diagrammatic rear end view taken in the direction of ARROW 2 in FIGURE 1;
- FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic front end view taken in the direction of ARROW 3 in FIGURE 1;
- FIGURE 4 is a diagrammatic bottom plan view taken in the direction of ARROW 4 in FIGURE 2; and
- FIGURE 5 is a diagrammatic side elevational view taken in the direction of ARROW 5 in FIGURE 1.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS UTILIZED IN THE DRAWINGSGeneral

10 edible spoon of embodiments of present invention for dissociating into consumable
predetermined clumps 12 in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that
5 would make consumption more difficult

12 consumable predetermined clumps

Configuration of edible spoon 10

14 bowl

16 handle

10 18 weakened lines in bowl 14

20 matrix of indents of weakened lines 18 in bowl 14

22 top surface of bowl 14

24 bottom surface of bowl 14

26 at least one axial indent of matrix of indents 20 of weakened lines 18 in bowl 14

15 28 at least one lateral indent of matrix of indents 20 of weakened lines 18 in bowl 14

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

General

Referring now to the drawings, in which like numerals indicate like parts, and particularly to FIGURES 1-5, which are, respectively, a diagrammatic top plan view of the edible spoon of the embodiments of the present invention for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult, a diagrammatic rear end view taken in the direction of ARROW 2 in FIGURE 1, a diagrammatic front end view taken in the direction of ARROW 3 in FIGURE 1, a diagrammatic bottom plan view taken in the direction of ARROW 4 in FIGURE 2, and a diagrammatic side elevational view taken in the direction of ARROW 5 in FIGURE 1, the edible spoon of the embodiments of the present invention is shown generally 10 for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps 12 (FIG. 4) in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult.

The configuration of the edible spoon 10

The edible spoon 10 includes a bowl 14 and a handle 16. The bowl 14 extends from the handle 16 and contains weakened lines 18. The weakened lines 18 in the bowl 14 define the consumable predetermined clumps 12 so as to allow the bowl 14 to dissociate into the consumable predetermined clumps 12 in order to prevent dissociating into the random granules that would make the consumption more difficult.

The bowl 14 is dissociated into the consumable predetermined clumps 12 by, preferably, biting off a consumable predetermined clump 12, snapping off a consumable predetermined clump 12, *etc.*, after the edible spoon 10 has been utilized for its intended purpose, and as such, the edible spoon 10 is, preferably, made from corn flour, wheat flour, salt, and water, and, secondarily, chili pepper and sugar, and when mixed, are substantially resistant to deformation and disintegration due to contact with a drinkable liquid or an edible food for an acceptable period of time.

The edible spoon 10 contains an edible selected from the group consisting of a desert food, vitamin(s), medication(s), breath mint(s), hard candy, candy, chocolate, *etc.*, and combinations thereof that are substantially resistant to deformation and disintegration due to contact with a drinkable liquid or an edible food for an acceptable period of time.

The weakened lines 18 of the bowl 14 form a matrix of indents 20 (FIG. 4).

The bowl 14 has a top surface 22, a bottom surface 24, and a size. The weakened lines 18 of the bowl 14 are disposed on the bottom surface 24 of the bowl 14 so as not to provide voids in which food in the bowl 14 can be trapped.

The matrix of indents 20 in the bowl 14, preferably, contains at least one axial indent 26 with an orientation and a shape, and at least one lateral indent 28 with an orientation and a shape. The at least one lateral indent 28 in the bowl 14 crosses the at least one axial indent 26 in the bowl 14. The at least one axial indent 26 in the bowl 14 and the at least one lateral indent 28 in the bowl 14 depend in number, orientation, and shape on the size of the bowl 14.

Impression

It will be understood that each of the elements described above or two or more together may also find a useful application in other types of constructions differing from the types described above.

10 While the embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described as embodied in an edible spoon for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult, however, they are not limited to the details shown, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions, and changes in the forms and details of the
15 embodiments of the present invention illustrated and their operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the embodiments of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the embodiments of the present invention that others can by applying current knowledge readily adapt them for
20 various applications without omitting features that from the standpoint of prior art fairly constitute characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of the embodiments of the present invention.

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. An edible spoon for dissociating into consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into random granules that would make consumption more difficult, comprising:
5
a) a bowl; and
b) a handle;
wherein said bowl extends from said handle;
wherein said bowl contains weakened lines; and
10 wherein said weakened lines in said bowl define said consumable predetermined clumps so as to allow said bowl to dissociate into said consumable predetermined clumps in order to prevent dissociating into the random granules that would make the consumption more difficult.
2. The spoon of claim 1, wherein said weakened lines in said bowl form a matrix of
15 indents.
3. The spoon of claim 1, wherein said bowl has a bottom surface; and
wherein said weakened lines in said bowl are disposed on said bottom surface of said bowl so as not to provide voids in which food in said bowl can be trapped.
4. The spoon of claim 2, wherein said matrix of indents in said bowl contains at least one
20 axial indent; and
wherein said matrix of indents in said bowl contains at least one lateral indent.
5. The spoon of claim 4, wherein said at least one lateral indent of said matrix of indents in said bowl crosses said at least one axial indent in said matrix of indents in said bowl.

6. The spoon of claim 4, wherein said bowl has a size; and
wherein said at least one axial indent of said matrix of indents in said bowl and said at least one lateral indent of said matrix of indents in said bowl depend in number, orientation, and shape on said size of said bowl.

- 5 7. The spoon of claim 1, wherein said edible spoon is made from corn flour, wheat flour, salt, and water, and when mixed, are substantially resistant to deformation and disintegration due to contact with a drinkable liquid or an edible food for an acceptable period of time.

- 10 8. The spoon of claim 7, wherein said edible spoon is further made from chili pepper and sugar, and when mixed, are substantially resistant to deformation and disintegration due to contact with a drinkable liquid or an edible food for an acceptable period of time.

- 15 9. The spoon of claim 1, wherein said edible spoon contains an edible selected from the group consisting of a desert food, vitamins, medications, breath mints, hard candy, candy, and chocolate, which are substantially resistant to deformation and disintegration due to contact with a drinkable liquid or an edible food for an acceptable period of time.

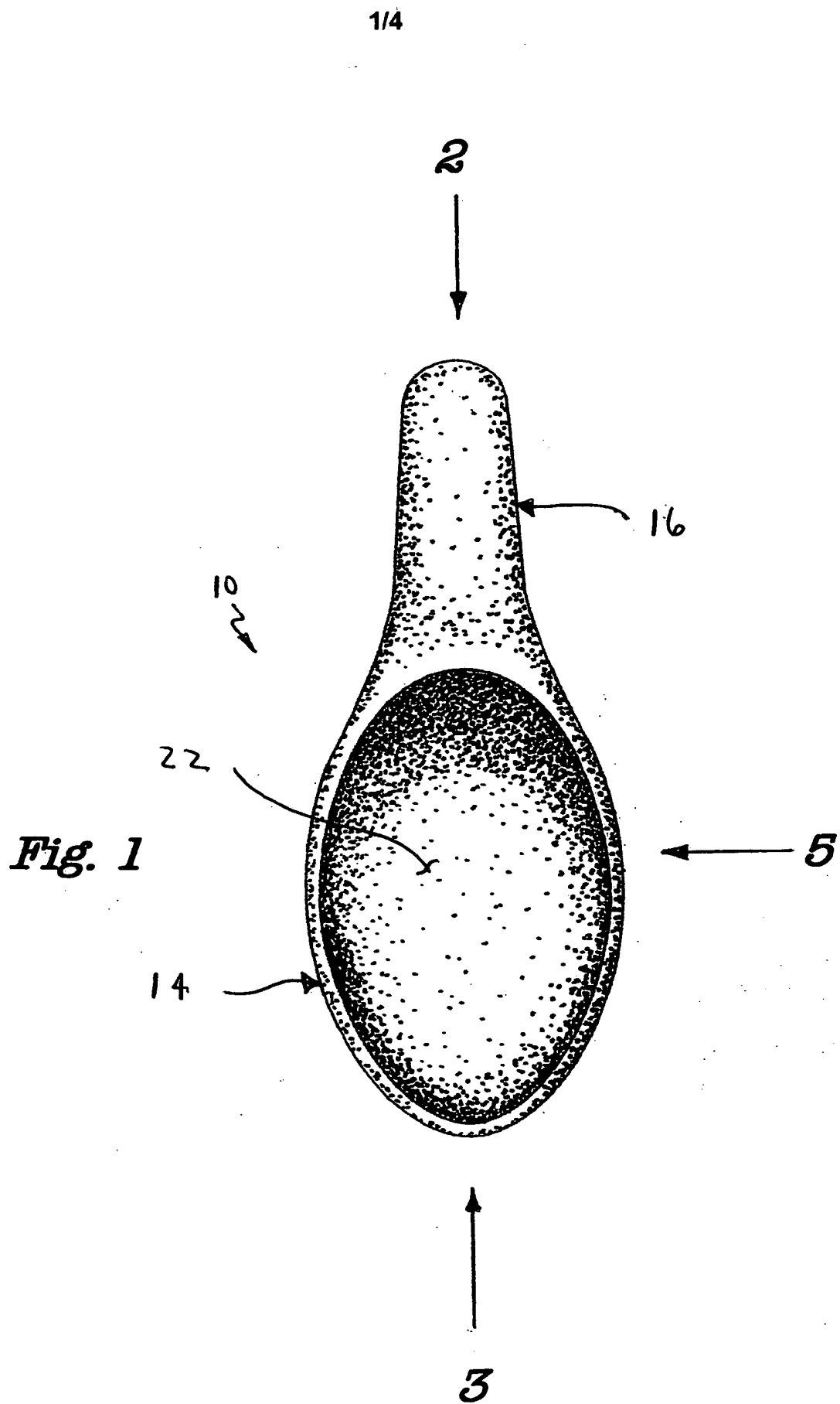


Fig. 2

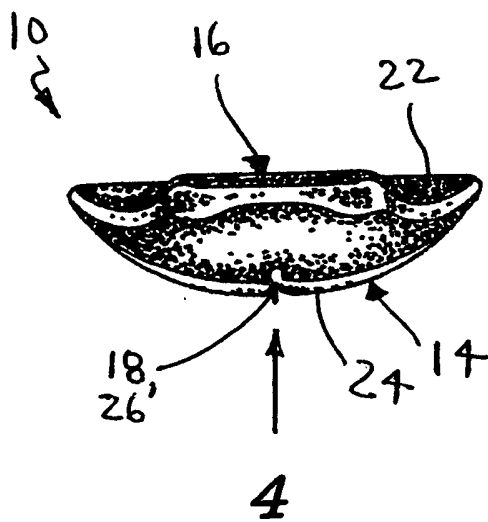


Fig. 3

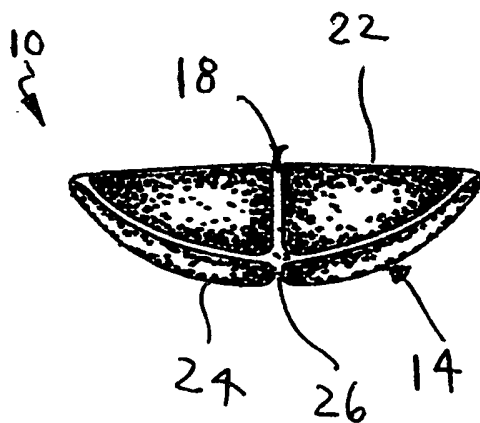
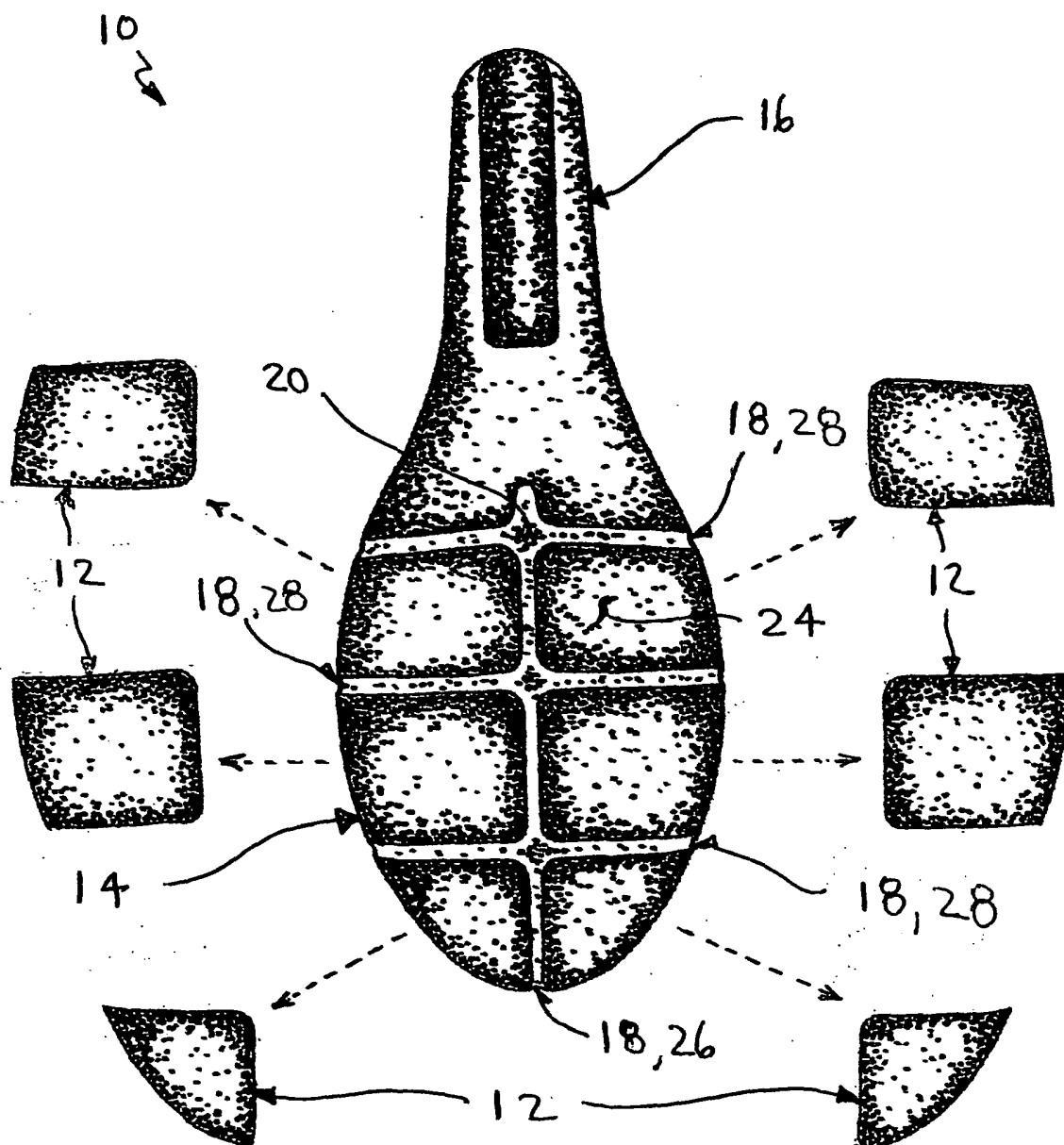


Fig. 4



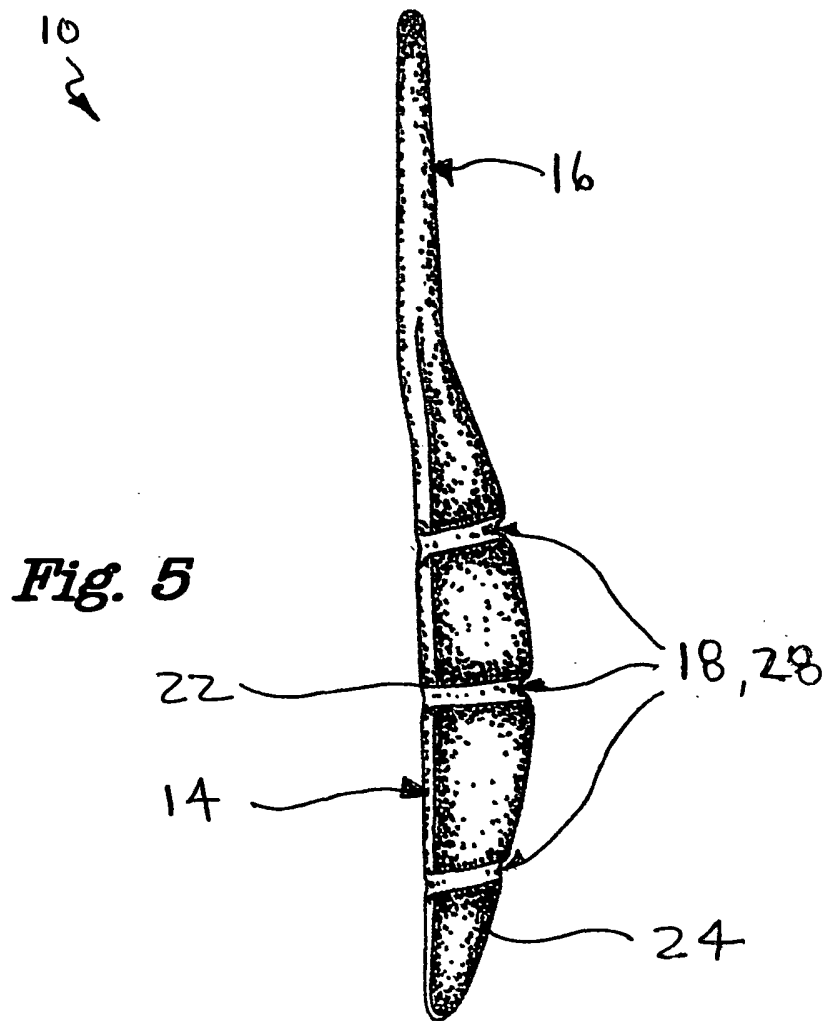


Fig. 5

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A47G 21/04(2006.01)i*

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A47G 21/04; A23G 3/50; A23L 1/00; A23G 3/00; A23G 3/02

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: 'edible', 'spoon', and 'weakened line'

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2007-0292566 A1 (SERGIO K. DEGENNARO) 20 December 2007 See Abstract and Fig. 1-3.	1-9
A	JP 61-037056 A (SATO SUZUKO) 21 February 1986 See Claim 1 and Fig. 1.	1-9
A	JP 3142376 U9 (SHUICHI MAKINO) 21 May 2008 See Claim 1 and Fig. 1.	1-9
A	KR 20-1998-0011661 U (KIM, SUN-TAE) 25 May 1998 See Abstract and Fig. 1.	1-9

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 SEPTEMBER 2011 (28.09.2011)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2007-0292566 A1	20.12.2007	None	
JP 61-037056 A	21.02.1986	None	
JP 3142376 U9	21.05.2008	None	
KR 20-1998-0011661 U	25.05.1998	None	