

Provisional Patent Application of
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for
TITLE: SPAGHETTI BOX WITH PORTION GAUGE

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PRIOR ART

The following lists some prior art that presently appears relevant.

U. S. Patents

Patent or Pub. Nr.	Kind Code	Issue or Pub. Date	Patentee or Applicant	Checked claims against my claims
4,387,512	B2	1983 Jun 14	Carol A. Gorski; Saul B. Gorski	Permanent container with sliding opened end.
8,046,930	B1	2011 Nov 1	Michael L Rouse	Pasta dispenser having integrated portion selector (round holes).

When you open a pasta container, typically at the short end, there is no way to figure out how much to put in the pot if you are somebody who does not cook spaghetti that often. The spaghetti has a shape that changes when boiled, it expands, further creating difficulties in estimating the amount needed. The spaghetti box size can vary from 12 to 16 to 32 ounces, also creating confusion.

We present what appears to be the first built-in portion sizer for a square spaghetti box (and other one-dimensional long thin articles) though it is applicable to non-square shapes as well.

BACKGROUND--ADVANTAGES

According to one or more aspects, our article has one or more of the following advantages:

1. When you open a spaghetti box, it becomes easy to figure out how much spaghetti to use.
2. It is also easy to figure out how much spaghetti to use even if the box is no longer full.

SUMMARY

Our spaghetti box dispenser includes a perforation, a taped-up hole, a pour spout or other opening into the container at the bottom(s) of the short side so that when the container is tipped a predetermined amount of spaghetti can slide out and the process can be repeated until the box becomes relatively empty. We disclose four ways of constructing such a box; first with an opening using a standard folding process; second with an opening using a new folding process which leaves one of the short sides with a single sheet of cardboard; third with a portion size indicator on the flaps of the short side which allows the user to put her or his hand over parts of the opening and ensure the proper portion of spaghetti sliding out; fourth with a dispensing metal spout in the same location as the openings performing the same function.

The advantages and features of novelty characterizing aspects of the invention are pointed out with particularity in the appended claims. To gain an improved understanding of the advantages and features of novelty, however, reference may be made to the following descriptive matter and accompanying figures that describe and illustrate various configurations and concepts related to the article.

DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a view of the short side of a spaghetti box when it is closed.

Fig. 2 is a view of the short side of a spaghetti box when it is fully opened.

Fig. 3 is a view of the unfolded spaghetti box. The dashed lines indicate the folds.

Fig. 4 is a view of a differently folded unfolded spaghetti box. The dashed lines indicate the folds.

Fig. 5 is a view of the unfolded short side of the differently folded spaghetti box.

Fig. 6, left panel, is a view of the short side of a spaghetti box when it is closed, and the right panel is a view of the short side of a spaghetti box when it is full opened.

Fig. 7 is a view of a pour spout.

Fig. 8 is a view of the pour spout indicated on a differently folded spaghetti box.

Fig. 9 is a view of the unfolded short side of a differently folded spaghetti box with a pour spout location indicated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Certain embodiments of the present invention include, but are not limited to:

First Embodiment

A spaghetti box (see Fig. 1) has two end flaps **101** and **102**. In one or both of the flaps there are covered openings **103** and/or **104** indicating different portion sizes and covered with plastic see-through tape. The same box is displayed in Fig. 2 with the flaps opened with the portion openings **201** and **203**. Here the side flaps **202** (one on each side) are folded out before flaps **201** and **203** are closed. The plastic tape appropriate for the portion needed is removed allowing the spaghetti to slide out when the box is tipped. The four corners of the container side can hold four different portion openings. The covered openings 103 and 104 can merge to create one large covered opening. The unfolded box is displayed in Fig. 3 with the openings **301** and **302** indicated.

Second Embodiment

A spaghetti box **400** (see Fig. 4) shows a different fold structure which leaves one of the short ends with a single layer of cardboard. It has two covered openings **401** and **402** which can be covered with plastic see-through tape. The tape appropriate for the portion is removed allowing the spaghetti to slide out when the box is tipped. The four corners of the container short side can hold four different portion openings and two of them can be merged into a larger single portion opening. A detail drawing of the same box is displayed in Fig. 5 with the covered openings **501** and **502**.

Third Embodiment

The opening of a spaghetti box (see Fig. 6) shows size indicator(s) **602** on one or both of the flaps allowing you to hold your hand at the appropriate level to allow for the correct serving to slide out. The indicator(s) **602** could display a scale for a variable portion size or just a single color square for a single portion size.

Fourth Embodiment

In Fig. 7 is displayed a pour spout with protrusions 701 and 702. These protrusions can fit into two holes **801** and **802** shown in Fig. 8 near the corner of a short end of a spaghetti box. The spout may be taped closed for security until purchased and then it may stay closed due to the friction between the sides that include the protrusions and the spaghetti box. This friction can be increased by covering the spaghetti box near the pour spout with a material with high friction. This is an alternative way of covering the covered openings in the first and second embodiments.

Further Embodiments

The covered holes could be perforations.

CONCLUSIONS, RAMIFICATIONS, SCOPE

According to one or more aspects, our article has one or more of the following advantages:

1. It allows for an easy way to determine the spaghetti portion size.
2. This determination can be done with opening of flaps or without opening of flaps depending upon how the spaghetti box is folded.

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- 3.** A pour spout anchored at the corner of the short side allows for the easiest re-closeable opening.

CLAIMS: We claim an article:

What is claimed is:

1. An article comprising:
 - a. a container holding elongated members
 - b. with precut openings
 - c. so that one can slide out a predetermined amount of elongated members.
2. The article recited in claim 1 where the openings are covered by tape
3. The article recited in claim 1 where the openings are perforated
4. A container holding elongated members with a folding structure allowing one of the short sides to consist of a single layer
- 5.

ABSTRACT

We disclose a utilitarian design of a spaghetti box which includes a built-in portion sizer.

FIGURES

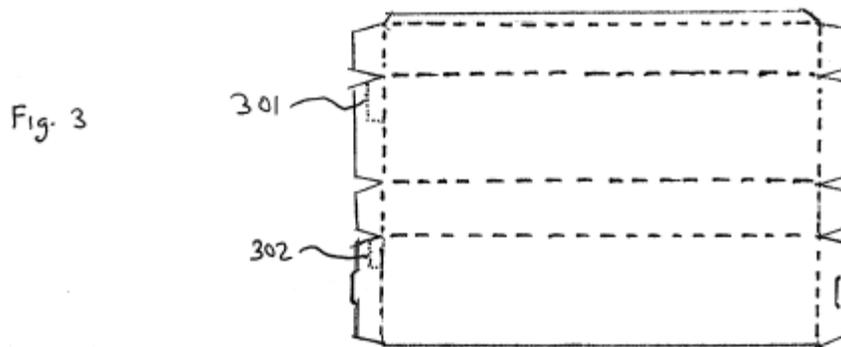
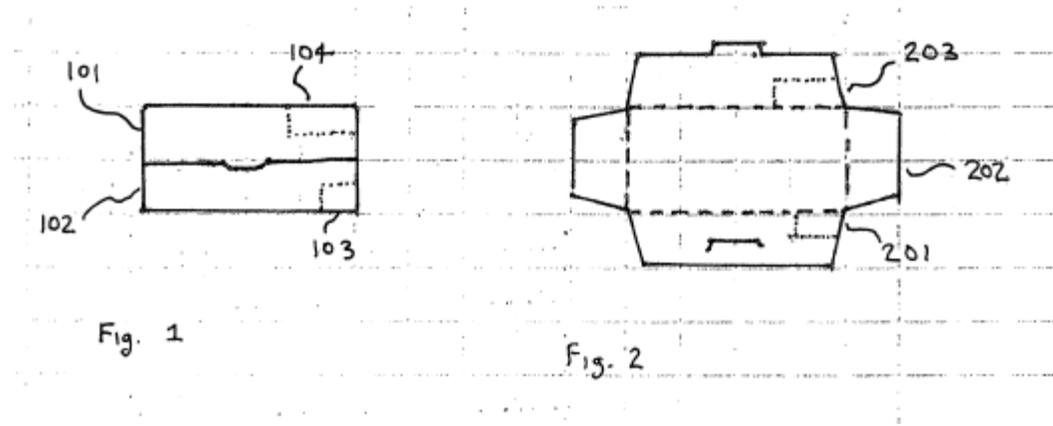


Fig. 4

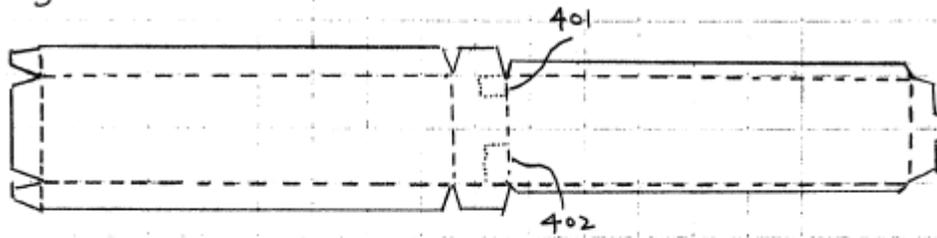


Fig. 5

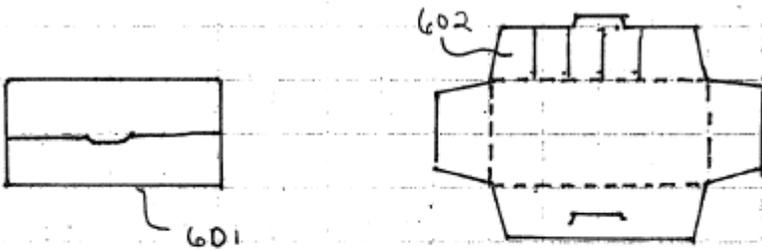
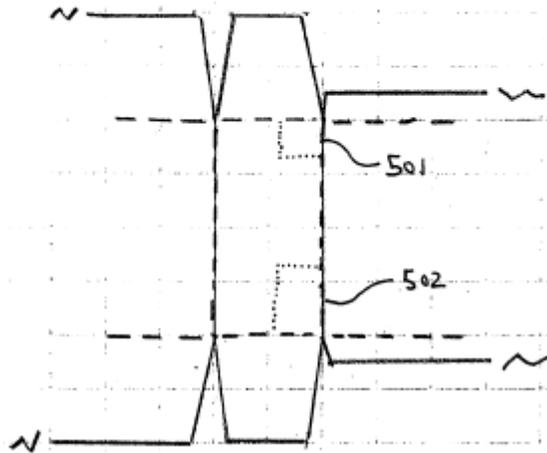


Fig. 6

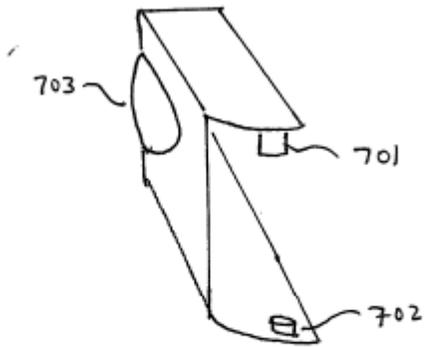


Fig. 7

Fig. 8

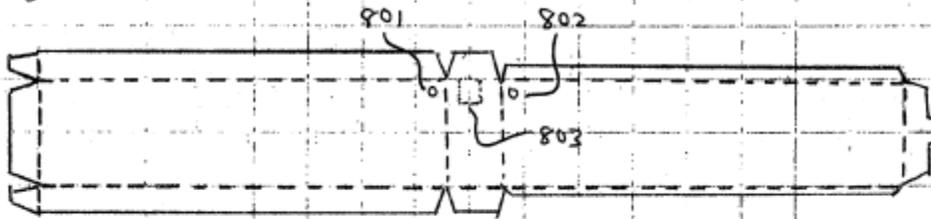


Fig. 9

