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(54) **EXTENDABLE UTENSIL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE**

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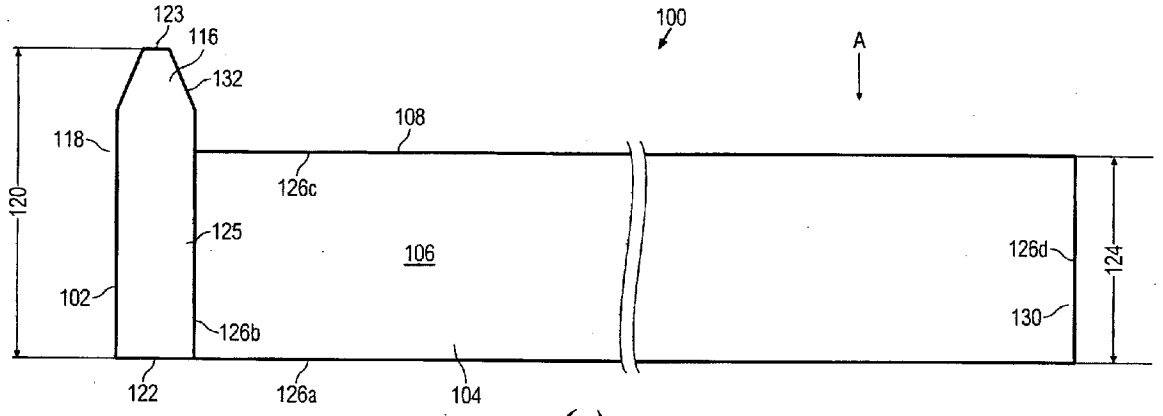
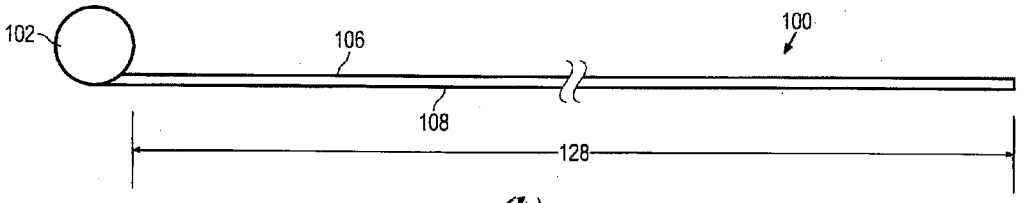
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An extendable utensil comprises a base part and a body formed from sheet material having a first surface and a second and surface, wherein the body is arranged in a wrap around the base part in successive turns, and a point on the first surface at an end of a turn is fixed to a point on the second surface at a beginning of the turn. A method of manufacturing an extendable utensil is also disclosed.



(a)



(b)

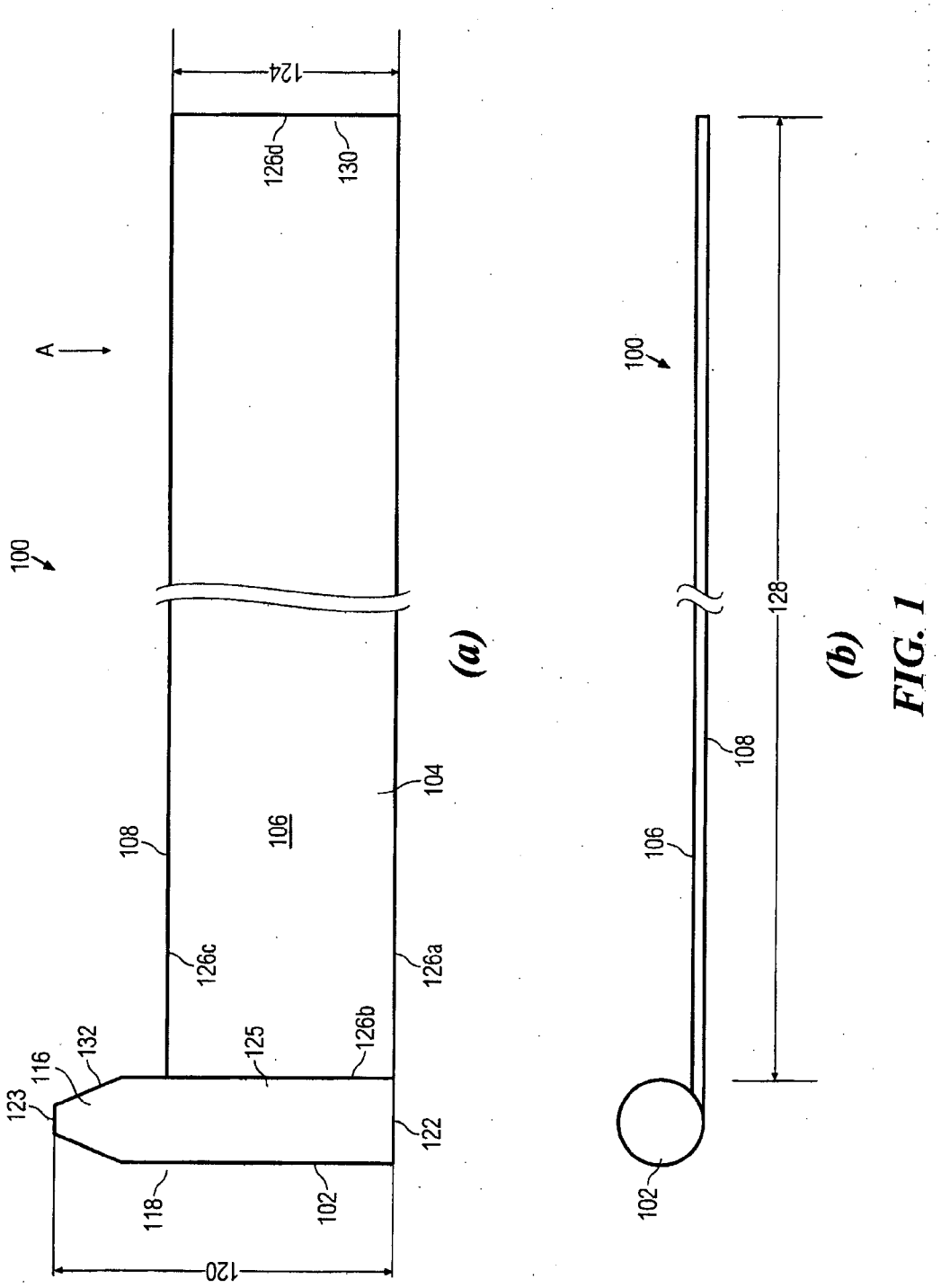

124
126d
130
A
100
108
106
104
126c
126a
125
126b
132
116
123
122
118
102
120
(a)
100
128
108
106
102
(b)

FIG. 1

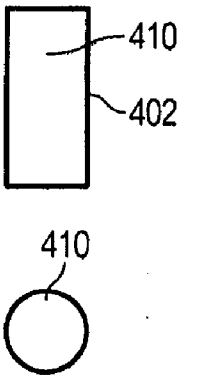


FIG. 5

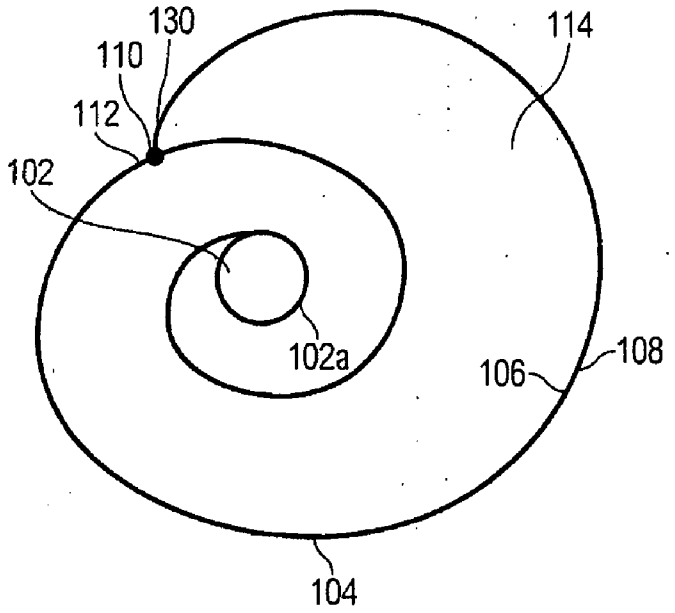


FIG. 1(c)

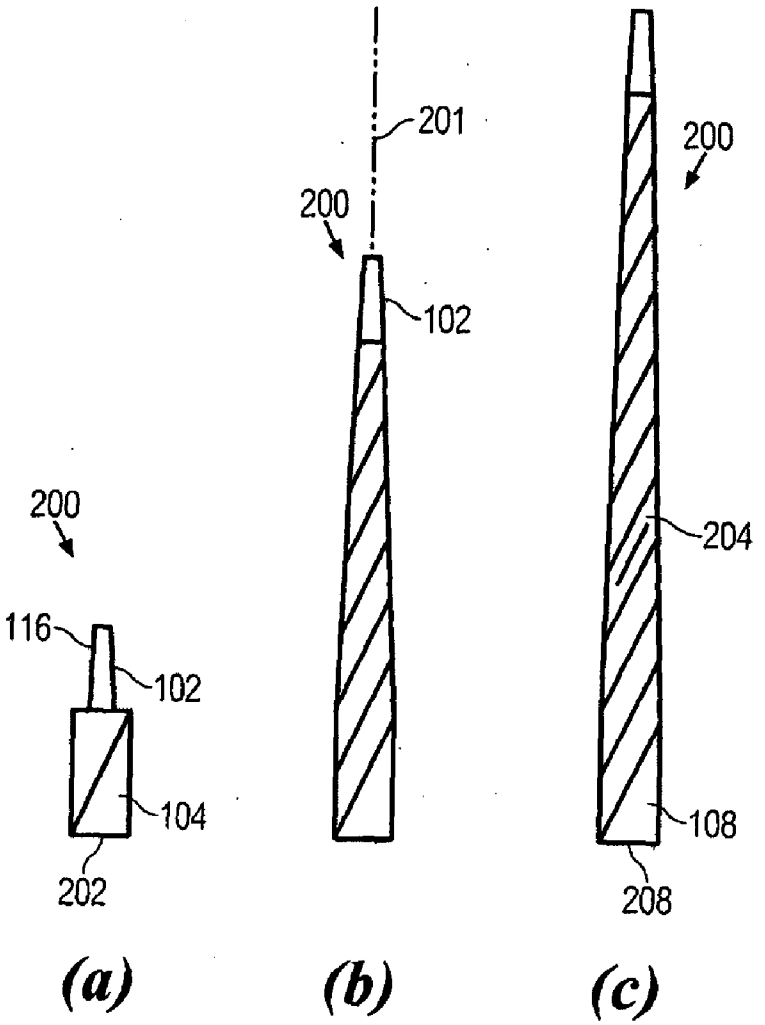


FIG. 2

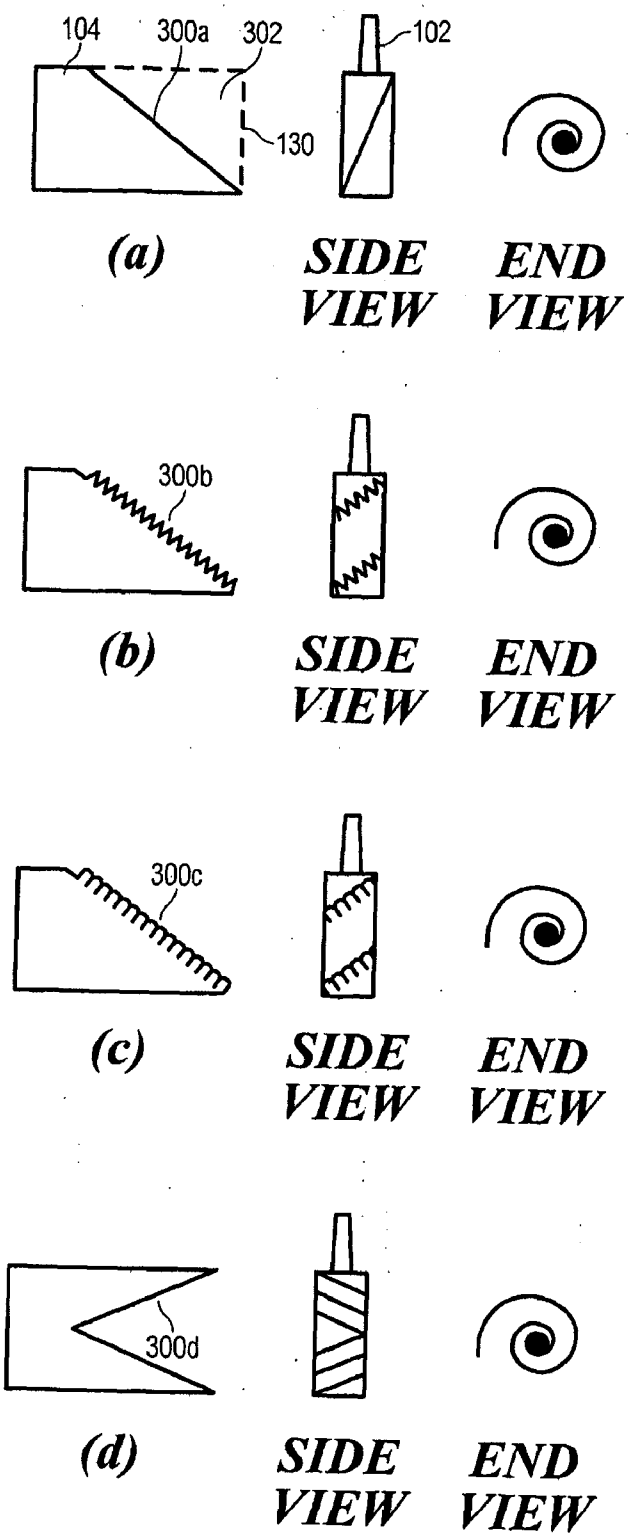

104
300a
302
102
130
(a)
SIDE VIEW
END VIEW
300b
(b)
SIDE VIEW
END VIEW
300c
(c)
SIDE VIEW
END VIEW
300d
(d)
SIDE VIEW
END VIEW

FIG. 3

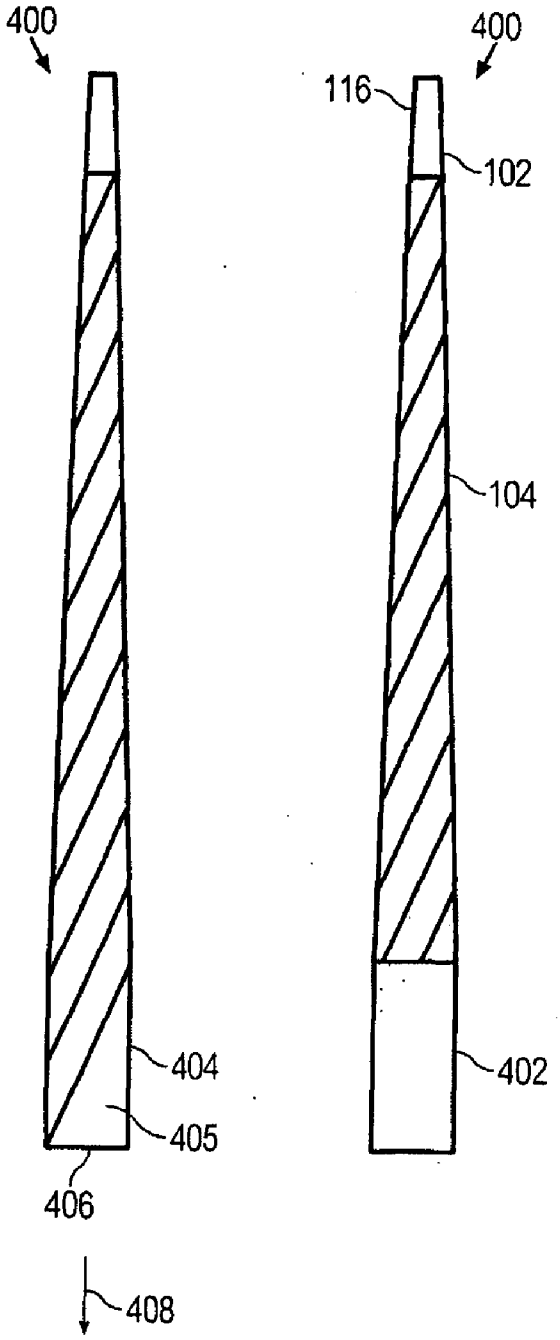


FIG. 4

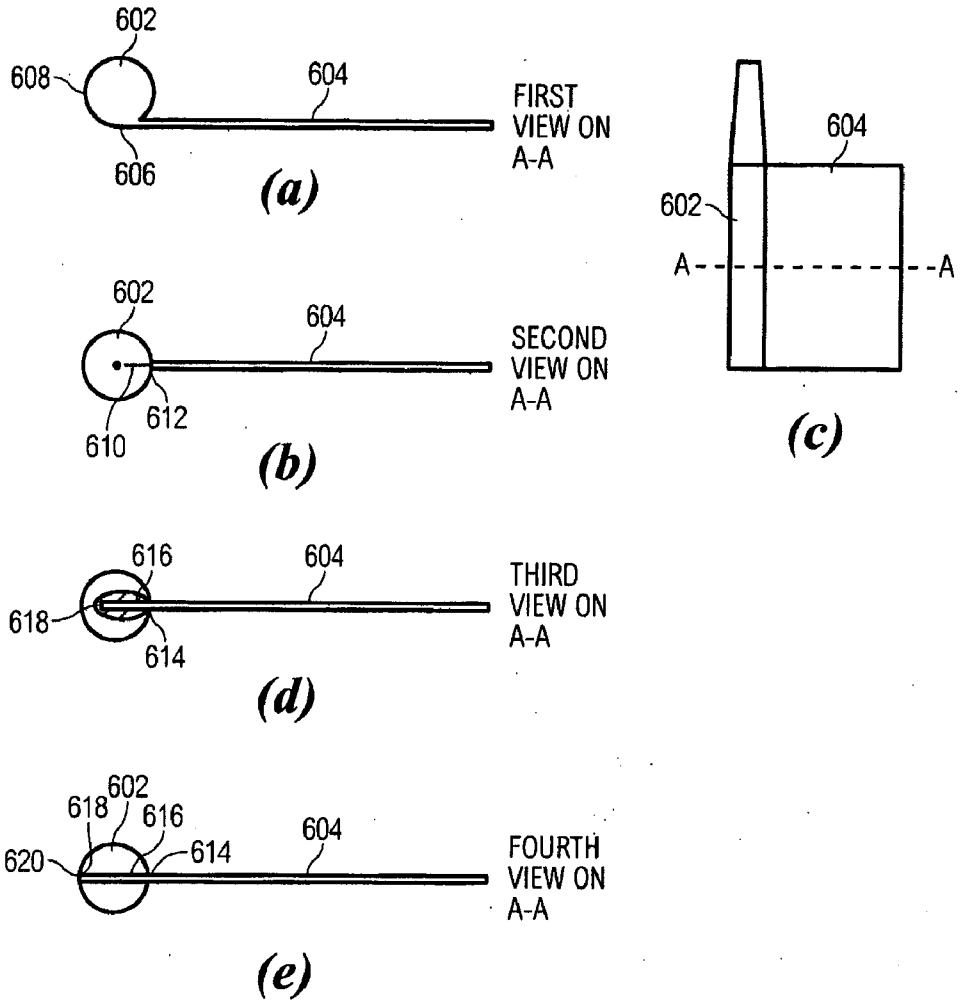

602
608
604
606
FIRST VIEW ON A-A
(a)
602
604
610
612
SECOND VIEW ON A-A
(b)
602
604
A
A
(c)
616
604
618
614
THIRD VIEW ON A-A
(d)
602
618
616
604
620
614
FOURTH VIEW ON A-A
(e)

FIG. 6

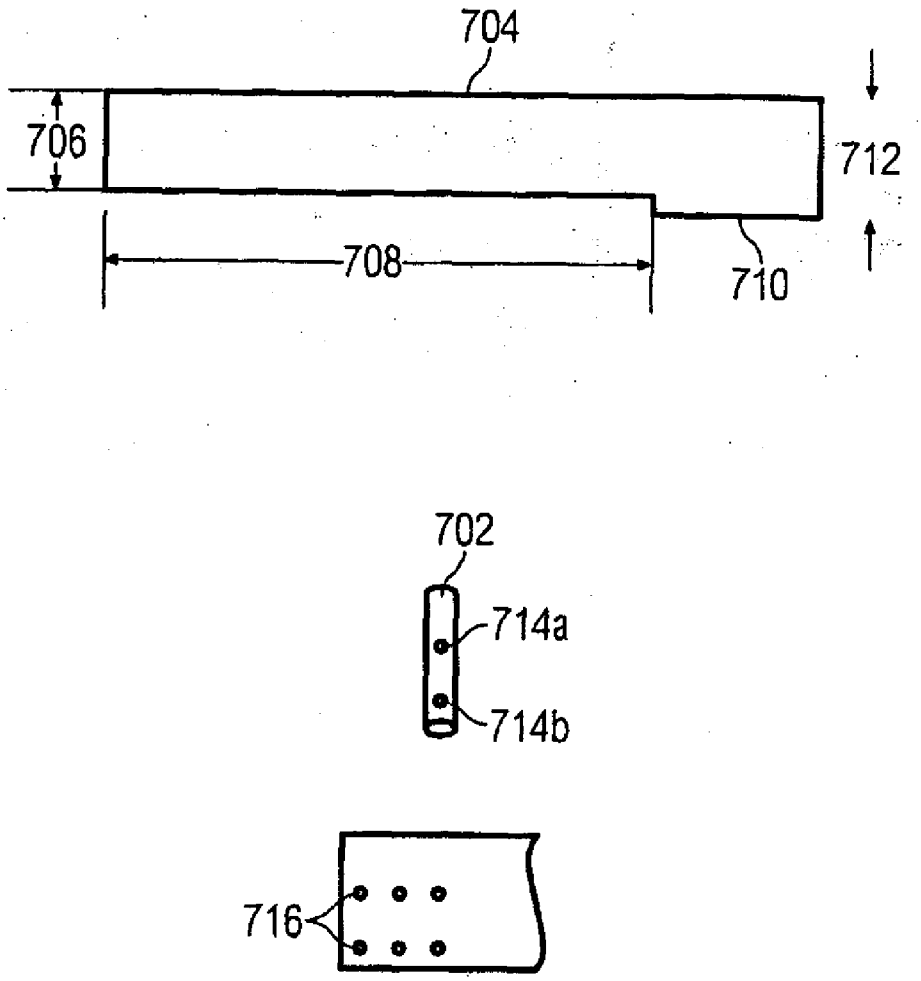
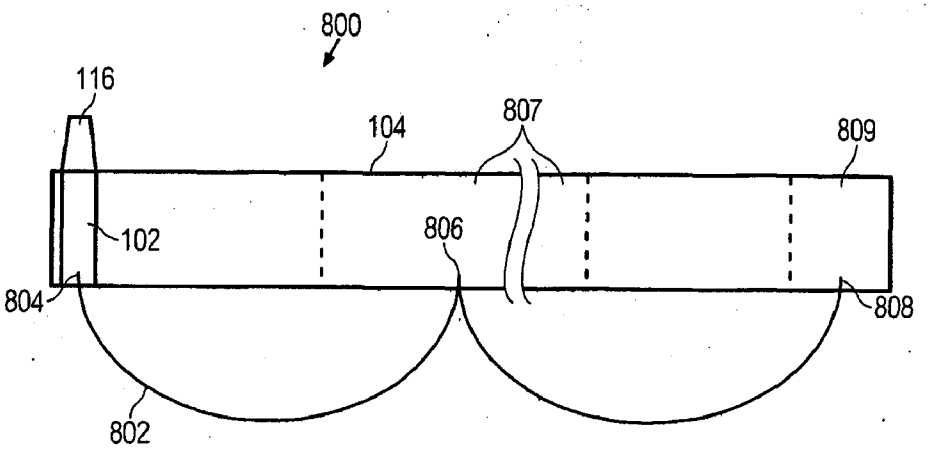
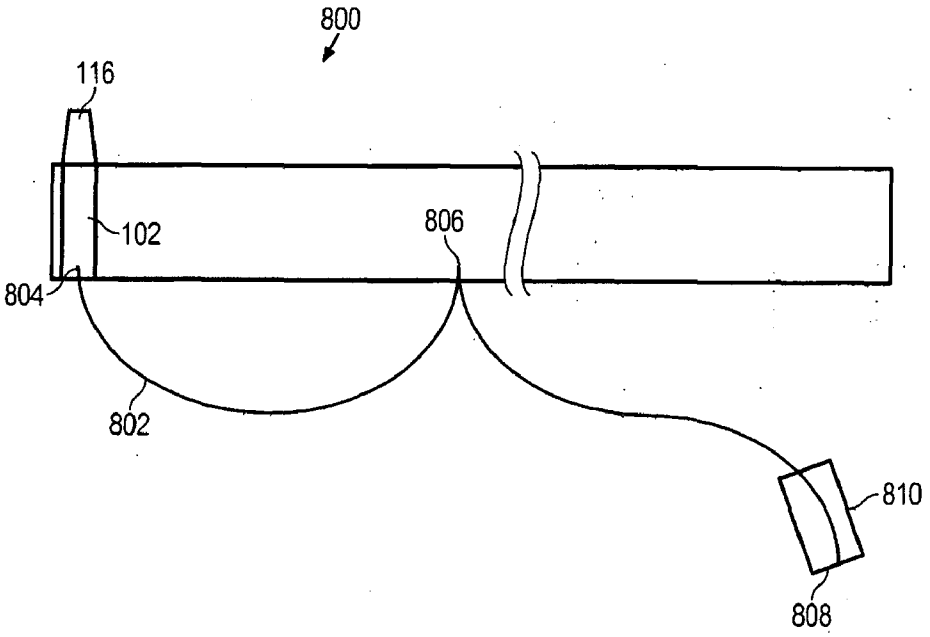


FIG. 7


800
116
104
807
809
102
806
804
808
802

(a)


800
116
102
806
804
802
810
808

(b)

FIG. 8

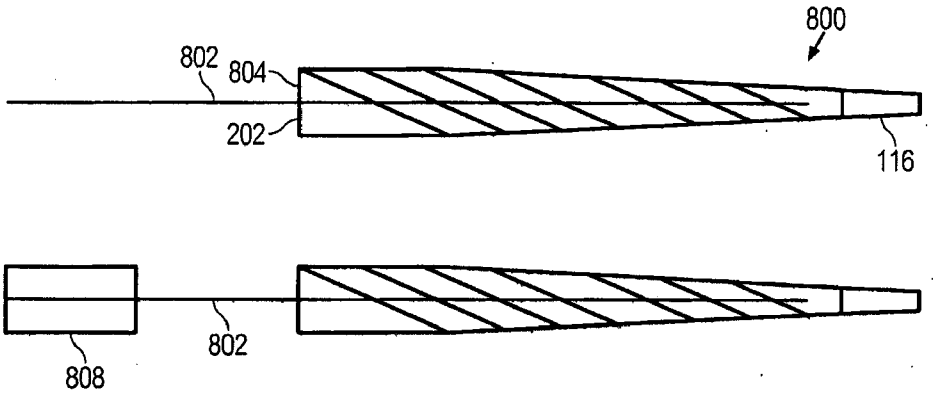


FIG. 9

EXTENDABLE UTENSIL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to extendable utensils and methods of manufacturing extendable utensils. An extendable utensil may be, for example, an extendable chopstick which may be used with another chopstick, as is normal, in a pair. However, an extendable utensil may be another type of extendable utensil such as, for example, a knife, fork or spoon.

[0002] Various eating utensils are available in the present day and have been around for many centuries. For instance, commonplace eating utensils include knives, forks, spoons and chopsticks. Eating utensils are available in both reusable and disposable format. Chopsticks are most commonly made of bamboo or plastic but also made of metal, bone, ivory and various types of wood. Wood and plastics, in particular, are a commonplace choice for disposable chopsticks such as one might be given with takeaway food and the like. Bamboo and wood chopsticks are relatively cheap but they present environmental issues because of the source material. Similar concerns apply with plastic chopsticks and the drain they impose on the environment and recycling issues they present.

[0003] Because of the length usually required for such utensils, these are may be considered by some users to be something of an inconvenience for, say, carrying or transporting around.

[0004] The invention is defined in the independent claims. Some optional features of the invention are defined by the dependent claims.

[0005] Implementation of the techniques disclosed herein provided for an extendable utensil which can be considered to be "pocket-size" to allow users to transport the extendable utensils significantly greater convenience than has been hitherto possible.

[0006] For example, travellers may store these particularly easily in, say, a back pack for easy transportation. Being so compact, they can also be carried around by a user in, say, the user's pocket, either loosely in the user's pocket or inside a small container.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0008] FIG. **1** is a layout view of an extendable utensil;

[0009] FIG. **2** is representative view of an extendable utensil in closed, partially extended and extended positions;

[0010] FIG. **3** is a representative view illustrating arrangements for the end of a body (or tape part) of the extendable utensil;

[0011] FIG. **4** is a representative view illustrating use of the extendable utensil with a first cap;

[0012] FIG. **5** is a layout view of the first cap of FIG. **4**;

[0013] FIG. **6** is a layout view illustrating an injection moulded chopstick which is one technique for forming an extendable utensil;

[0014] FIG. **7** is a diagram illustrating a second chopstick;

[0015] FIG. **8** is a layout diagram illustrating the technique for attachment of a restraint to an extendable utensil; and

[0016] FIG. **9** is a diagram illustrating a manner in which the restraint of FIG. **8** is housed within the extendable utensil.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] Turning first to FIG. **1**, an extendable utensil referred generally to by **100** is illustrated. In this Figure, the utensil **100** is a chopstick shown in non-final form. FIG. **1** illustrates an extendable utensil (chopstick) **100** comprising a base part **102** and a body **104** if formed from sheet material having a first surface **106** (the surface **106** viewable in FIG. **1**) and a second surface **108** ("behind" first surface **106** in the view of FIG. **1***a*). FIG. **1***b* illustrates a view in the direction of arrow "A" in FIG. **1***a*.

[0018] FIGS. **1***a* and **1***b* illustrate the extendable chopstick in "unwrapped form". FIG. **1***c* schematically illustrates extendable utensil **100** in "wrapped form", as will be described in further detail below. To wrap the extendable utensil **100** into a form where it is usable by a user, the body **104** of extendable utensil **100** is arranged in a wrap around the base part **102** in successive turns and a point **110** on the first surface **106** at an end of a turn is fixed to a point **112** on the second surface **108** at the beginning of the turn. A turn is defined as a complete revolution of 360° around base part **102**. It will be appreciated that, in the view of FIG. **1***b*, the spacing between the successive turns of the body **104** around the base part **102** has been exaggerated for ease of understanding. As will become apparent from the following discussion, it is desirable that the successive turns of the body **104** around the base part **102** are wound tightly upon one another so that there is no or substantially no gap **114** between the turns.

[0019] In the example of FIG. **1**, a tip **116** of the chopstick **100** is the part of the chopstick a user might use to hold a piece of food, when the chopstick is used in tandem with another chopstick (not shown). In the example, tip **116** is formed of an elongate body generally referred to by **118** having a circular cross-section (as viewed in FIG. **1***b* and FIG. **1***c*), thereby providing a generally cylindrical form for facilitation of the wrapping of body **104** in successive turns around base part **102**. However, base part **102** may be of any other generally elongate form including, say, of generally rectangular, triangular, square or elliptical cross-section. In the example of FIG. **1**, base part **102** has a length **120** of 3.7 cm and has a cross section at a first end **122** (the lower part of base part **102** when viewed in FIG. **1**) of the tip of 0.4 cm in diameter, tapering to the end **123** of the tip **116** of 0.3 cm diameter. Of course, other dimensions are contemplated. Tip **116** extends beyond the width **124** of the body part **104**. So, as can be seen, a length **120** of the base part **102** is greater than a width **124** of the body **104** and the body **104** is arranged in a wrap around the base part **102** with a first end **122** of the base part **102** (the lower end of the tip) being aligned with a first side (the lower edge **126***a*) of the tape/ body **104**, which is now discussed. In some implementations, base part **102** is provided with a hole for accommodating an end of a restraint, discussed in more detail with respect to FIG. **8**.

[0020] In FIG. **1***a*, base part **102** is shown adjacent body **104** of the chopstick **100**, the body **104** being formed from sheet material. In the example of FIG. **1**, the body comprises of an elongate strip of tape of generally rectangular shape defined by sides **126***a*, **126***b*, **126***c*, and **126***d*. In the example of FIG. **1**, the length **128** of the tape is 60 cm and the width **124** is 2.5 cm, with a thickness of 0.05 to 0.1 cm. The tape has first and second principal surfaces **106**, **108**. In the view of FIG.

1*b*, the "topside" surface in view is a first surface **106** and the "underside" surface is the second surface **108**. The base part **102** is of elongate form, having a first base portion **125** around which the body **104** is arranged in a wrap, and a second base portion (tip) **116** extending beyond the wrapped base part **125**. In the example of FIG. **1***a*, the second base portion has at least a part **132** which is tapered. Alternatively, the tip **116** may be provided without a tapered portion.

[0021] Base part **102** and body **104** may be provided integral with one another and formed, for example, by an injection moulding process which will be discussed in more detail with respect to FIG. **6**. Alternatively, they may be provided as separate parts to be assembled together as discussed with reference to FIGS. **6** and **7**.

[0022] In one implementation, one or both of base part **102** and body **104** are comprised of an environmentally-friendly product such as corn and/or yam, including corn starch/yam starch which makes the material of the parts both very cheap to make and facilitates making of the parts in an injection moulding process. In some implementations, the materials used are re-cycled materials. With use of cheap materials and/or manufacturing processes, an extendable utensil can even be considered to be disposable, thereby making it amendable for giving away with take-away food and/or with packs of, say, quick noodles or other fast food. Alternatively, the extendable utensils may be made from other plant matter and/or polymers—thermoplastic polymers (e.g. polyethylene, polypropylene)—which do not leach toxic chemicals. As a further alternative, metals such as stainless steel, aluminium or any metal alloy may also be used. However, it should be appreciated that base part **102** and/or body **104** can also be made from any other suitable material, including, for example, paper/card, PVC and acrylic.

[0023] The extendable utensils as disclosed herein may be reusable or disposable. For instance, a reusable extendable utensil may comprise of plastic material, with or without restraints and with our without caps, such as silicon caps. The use of restraints and caps are discussed below.

[0024] As mentioned above, with reference to FIG. **1***c*, to form the extendable chopstick **100**, body **104** is wrapped around base part **102** so that the first surface **106** (or "upper" surface as seen in the lower view of FIG. **1***b*) is wrapped around the external (circumferential) curved surface **102***a* of the cylindrical base part **102**. Once body **104** has been wrapped around the base part **102** for one complete turn and the curved surface **102***a* of base portion **125** of base part **102** is adjacent/aligned with the body **104**, the base portion **125** of base part **102** is completely covered by body **104**, then the first surface **106** of body **104** comes into contact with the second surface **108** of body **104** of the first turn around base part **102**. The wrapping process continues until the entire length **128** of body **104** is wrapped around base part **102**, at which point an end **130** of the body **104** is fixed, as illustrated in FIG. **1***c*. In this, a point **110** on the first surface **106** at the end **130** of the body **104** (which will be, actually, an end of the last turn) is fixed to a point **112** on the second surface **108** directly beneath it; i.e. at the beginning of the last turn of body **104**. It may be that body **104** is fixed across its entire width **124** at end **130** for added security, but at the very least, a single point **110**, **112** is fixed to retain the wrap in place.

[0025] The tape may be secured by any suitable means, such as an adhesive (preferably approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration) or by any other suitable fixing means.

[0026] It will be appreciated that other types of extendable utensils—such as knives, forks and spoons—may be provided where the tip part **116** of base part **102** of the extendable chopstick **100** may be replaced with a suitable knife part, fork part or spoon part. Additionally or alternatively, the respective knife, fork or spoon parts may be arranged to be added on to tip **116**.

[0027] Turning now to FIG. **2**, this figure shows in assembled form—that is, a form which is usable by a user an extendable chopstick **200** in three states. Starting from the left-hand side of FIG. **2** and moving to the right-hand side, the three views (a), (b) and (c) illustrate, respectively, the chopstick in a closed (or non-extended) form ("position **1**", the original position), the chopstick in a partially extended form ("position **2**", the midway position) and the chopstick in extended form ("position **3**" the maximum extension position).

[0028] As shown in the left-most view (a), body **104** has been wrapped fully around base part **102**, the tapered top **116** of which projects from the wrapped body **104**. To extend the chopstick **200** from its closed form in view (a) to its extended form in view (c), a user (not shown) may hold the extendable chopstick **200** in both hands. Holding the lower part **202** of the chopstick **200** (as shown in FIG. **2**), the user takes the upper part of the chopstick **200**—for example, tip **116**—and pulls it away from the lower part **202**. In doing so, the user will bring the extendable chopstick to "position **2**" in view (b) of FIG. **2**, the partially extended (or intermediate) position. (Of course it will be appreciated that the user might hold the upper part **116** stationary and pull on the lower part **202** to achieve the same effect; as long as relative motion between, say, tip **116** and lower part **202** is effected.) As can be seen from "position **2**" in view (b) the length of the chopstick **200** has been extended under the force of pulling by the user. As the end of the body part **104** has been fixed as discussed above with respect to FIG. **1**, the other turns of the wrap are free to move relative one another, effecting a "twist" motion, so that the turns move into, effectively, a spiral or helical wrap, as shown in position **2** illustrated in view (b), extending the chopstick along a central axis **201** of base part **102**. The user may also effect a "twist" motion of his (or her) own to facilitate the extension and assist the natural twisting of the tape caused by the extension by the user. For example, the user might twist his or her hand holding part **116** in one rotational direction about axis **201** and the hand holding lower part **202** in the opposite rotational direction about axis **201** to facilitate or assist the natural twisting of the tape. To reach "position **3**" the fully extended position as illustrated in view (c), the user simply continues pulling on the tip to extend the chopstick to a length which is comfortable for the user such as, say, 15 to 20 cm in length or as otherwise limited by the length of body part **104** or as otherwise restricted, as will be discussed in greater detail below.

[0029] As the extendable chopstick is progressively extended in the views of FIG. **2**, a hollow **208** will be formed inside of the volume defined by the helical wrap as relative motion is effected between the base part **102** and the lower part **202** of body **204**.

[0030] Chopstick **200** may be provided with an indicator **204** which indicates to the user that a maximum "safe" extension length has been reached. If the user was to extend the chopstick beyond that length, the spiral of the spiral wrap illustrated in FIG. **2** would have no overlap between successive turns, and mechanical integrity would be lost, with the

chopstick simply unravelling, tending back to a disorderly unwrapped or semi-wrapped tape form. The indicator **204** may be provided in any of a number of ways such as, for example, having a printed part on second (outer) surface **108** of the body part **104** which is hidden from a user's view when the chopstick is in "position **1**" in view (a) and comes into view as the chopstick is extended towards "position **3**". Thus, the extendable utensil is extendable in a direction of an axis **201** of the base part **102**, the extendable utensil comprising an indicator **204** for indicating to a user a pre-determined maximum length of extension of the extendable utensil. This provides a visual indicator that the user should refrain from extending the chopstick further, beyond what would be a "safe" extension length. That is, the indicator **204** comprises an indicator on the second surface **108** of the body **104** at a position on the second surface **108** such that, when the extendable utensil is extended in the direction of the axis **201** of the base part **102**, the indicator **204** is exposed for viewing by a user

[0031] Looking at FIG. **3**, various alternative arrangements for the end **300** of the body **104** distal the base part **102** are considered. In the chopstick of FIG. **1**, the body **104** is of generally rectangular form, having four sides **126***a*, **126***b*, **126***c*, **126***d* adjoining, as appropriate, one another at right angles (90 degrees) defining the rectangle. The ends **130** of the body **104** in FIG. **3** (and also viewable in "position **1**" for the chopstick of FIG. **2**, although not discussed in relation to that Figure) all have a "tapered" form, meaning there is a cut-away part where the end of the body **104** does not form a right-angled corner of a rectangle. In its simplest form, such as in the first three views (a), (b) and (c) of FIG. **3**, the taper is simply a triangular cut-off **302** from the end **130**, thereby giving the taper, and defining the tapered edges **300***a*, **300***b*, **300***c*. An advantage of this is that, when the end portion **130** of body **104** is wrapped around the turn immediately preceding it, increased strength may be provided when the entire length of the tapered end **300***a*, **300***b*, **300***c* is affixed to the inner first side **106** of body **104**. In providing this arrangement, then the retention force provided is applied around a rotation of the curved outer surface of the chopstick, there being an increased fixed area around the circumference of the chopstick's generally cylindrical form. This provides increased mechanical strength.

[0032] In the example of view (a), the cut of the cut away portion is simply a straight cut defining a straight line **300***a*. The In the examples of views (a) and (b) of FIG. **3**, the detail **300***b* and **300***c* on the "cut-off" edge may provide an increased aesthetic and functional experience for the user.

[0033] In view (d) of FIG. **3**, the taper is, effectively, a double taper with a "V" shape **300***d* having been cut out of the end of the tape. This design provides increased strength and, thereby meaning chopsticks not provided with the cap—which will be discussed in more detail with reference to FIGS. **4** and **5**—have increased mechanical strength. The additional mechanical strength is because additional grip is provided; the grip is on upper surface and bottom surface, the grip is equal. For the other details, the gripping surface is emphasised on the bottom edge.

[0034] As viewed in all the views of FIG. **3**, the end view of the extendable chopstick is unchanged regardless of the "finish" to the edges **300**.

[0035] Looking now at FIG. **4**, an extendable chopstick **400** is shown both with and without a cap (the right hand and left hand views (b) and (a) respectively). The cap **402** sits over the lower part **404** of the extendable chopstick **400** in the views of FIG. **4**. That is, cap **402** is provided to cover an outer surface **405** of the body **104** when arranged in the wrap around the base part **102**. The provision of a cap **402** assists in at least one of two ways. In a first beneficial arrangement, the cap **402** provides additional mechanical strength. The form of the cylinder in the extended position—that is, when the upper part of the chopstick is moved with respect to the lower part of the chopstick (the end nearest the user's hand in use)—is retained more securely, because the "hollow"—discussed above with reference to FIG. **2**—in the lower part of the chopstick formed by moving of the tip is less prone to collapse with the cap **402** in place. Additionally, if the user wishes to retract the chopstick back to "position **1**" of FIG. **2** by pushing the tip **116** back towards the first cap (with or without a twist in the opposite direction), the provision of the cap **402** prevents a user from over-retracting the chopstick **400** so that the base part **102** would not be pushed out through the base **406** of chopstick **400** in the other direction **408**.

[0036] The cap can be made in different materials, including silicon, metal, rubber and plastic.

[0037] Stainless steel version of the extendable utensil can use a silicon or metal cap to slip on.

[0038] Turning now to FIG. **5**, the cap **402** of FIG. **4** is illustrated in greater detail in elevation and plan views. The **402** cap is formed of a hollow **410** body of generally cylindrical shape. Of course, the body need only be partially hollow **410** for receiving the assembled and wrapped base part **102** and the body **104**. The cap of FIG. **5** has a diameter of 1.0 cm, but, naturally, the dimensions of cap **402** should be selected to complement the dimensions of the extendable utensil. The cap can aid retraction—or to put it conversely, to restrict over-retraction—of the chopstick back in direction **408** beyond the closed "position **1**" of FIG. **2** as discussed above.

[0039] Although not illustrated in the drawings, the chopstick may be provided with a second cap to cover the portion of the base part (i.e. tip **116**) which extends beyond the width **124** of the tape **104** in fully wrapped form (e.g. in view (a) of FIG. **2**). In some examples, the second cap can be designed to interface with the first cap, thereby to encapsulate or otherwise cover the chopstick in closed form ("position **1**" of FIG. **2**, view (b)).

[0040] FIG. **6** illustrates the manner in which the base part **602** and the body **604** shown in layout in view (c) may be joined together, either being formed integrally with one another as part of an injection moulding process, or being formed separately and then fixed together. In the injection moulding process, the body **604** may be joined to base part **602** at, effectively, a tangent **606** of the curved surface **608** of the generally cylindrical shape of base part **602**. This is best viewed in the uppermost sectional view (a) of FIG. **6**. Alternatively, the body **604** may be joined to base part **602** at any other angle deemed suitable. For instance, in the alternative view shown in sectional view (b), the body **604** is joined to the base **602** at an angle which is co-planar with a radius **610** of the generally cylindrical base part **602**.

[0041] Of these two, the tangential arrangement of the view (a) may facilitate smooth wrapping of body **604** around base part **602**, since, at the point **612** where body **604** joins base part **602**, the angle of turn of the body **604** at the commencement of the wrapping process is less abrupt in this arrangement; the tape can therefore be wrapped more smoothly around the tip, with less disturbance in the wrapping caused

by an abrupt angle change. Use of a generally cylindrical tip or tips having a curved shape allows for smoother wrapping.

[0042] In the injection moulding process, the mould is injected with a corn and/or yam (starch) liquid and then subjected to typical injection moulding processes to produce the base part **602** and body **604** as described above.

[0043] Alternatively, the body **604**, having been formed separately from base part **602**, is joined to base part **602** at any suitable point, for example, at point **614** shown in view (d) which defines an entry into slot **616** of the base part **602**. In this arrangement, slot **616** is made in base part **602** for receiving an edge **618** of body **604**. Body **604** is then mechanically fixed in the slot using, for example, a FDA-approved adhesive, pivots or dowels. In the alternative view of FIG. **6** (e), the base part **602** is arranged to provide a clipping function for clipping or retaining the body **604** in place. As before, body **602** comprises an entry point **614** in the form of slot **616** to receive an edge **618** of body **604** therethrough. In this example, body part **602** has a c-type shape having a resiliently deformable part **620** to provide a clamping function on body **604**; that is, the C-shape may be provided to perform a biasing function to clamp on to body part **604**. Other types of clipping arrangement are also contemplated, including the likes of dowels and other mechanical fixing arrangements. Of course, adhesives may also be used.

[0044] Another illustrative example of an extendable chopstick where the tip and the tape are formed separately is shown in FIG. **7**. As shown, the tape **704** in the chopstick of FIG. **7** is made from a 50 cm length of transparent PVC sheet. The width **706** at one end (the left-most end in FIG. **7**) is 2.5 cm and on the bottom side **708** of the tape (when viewed in FIG. **7**), the tape has a step **710**, so that, at about three-quarters of the way along the length of the tape, the tape width **712** is increased to 2.8 cm. Of course, the precise arrangement of widening of FIG. **7** is only illustrative and other widening arrangements such as tapering out or flaring out are also contemplated.

[0045] Base part **702** is comprised of an acrylic tube of 4 mm diameter and 3.5 cm length, and this example. Two holes **714***a*, **714***b*, are made in the tube **702**, such as by drilling, punching or otherwise, or the holes are made during, say, a moulding process.

[0046] Prior to assembly of the chopstick of FIG. **7**, the PVC tape can, optionally, be coloured or otherwise finished, such as by painting/spray painting. Preferably, the end result is that the chopstick is coated in a way which is sufficient to satisfy FDA standards. The tape is fixed to the tip by any suitable means. In the example of FIG. **7**, holes **716** are made in the tape as shown, and the tape is fixed to the tip with string (not shown). The tape is rolled around the tip and fixed, as described above with reference to, in particular, FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3**.

[0047] Turning now to FIG. **8**, another method of manufacturing an extendable chopstick **800** is discussed. As before, extendable chopstick **800** comprises a base part **102** and the body **104**. As before, base part **102** has a tip **116** extending beyond the width of the base part **104**. To prevent over-extension of extendable chopstick **800**, chopstick **800** comprises a restraint **802** attached to a first part of the extendable utensil and to a second part of the extendable utensil. In the example of FIG. **8**, the first part of the extendable utensil is the base part **102** and the second part of the extendable utensil is the body **104** to restrain the extendable utensil from extension beyond a pre-determined maximum length of extension. Restraint **802** is attached to base part **102** at **804** by means such as stitching or gluing. Point **804** is provided in a "middle section" **807** along a length of the body **104**. It is not essential that the point **804** be at the exact mid-point along the length of body **104**, but it is preferable that point **804** be somewhere in the middle section **807** for acceptable results to be achieved. Thus, restraint **802** being affixed in the manner described restrains excessive relative movement between base part **102** and the point **806** of body **104**. Optionally, restraint **802** may also be fixed to an end section along a length of the body **104**. That is, restraint **802** is fixed to body **104** at a second point **808** for improved mechanical integrity. It will be appreciated that restraint **802** is displayed in schematic only and the parts in this (or any other) figure are not to be considered to be drawn to scale.

[0048] In alternative configurations, both of the first part and the second part of the extendable utensil are on the body **104**, preferably on different sections such as a section adjacent base part **102** and either of the middle section **807** or end section **809** of body **104**. If restraint **802** is not fixed to base part **102**, it is preferable that base part **102** is affixed to, or formed with, body **104**. Additionally, the restraint may be attached to cap **810**.

[0049] In a further alternative configuration, the cap **810** may be the second part of the extendable utensil, and the first part is either the base part **102** or body part **104**. If at the body part **104**, then the restraint is preferably fixed at a section adjacent the base part.

[0050] For the fixing of the restraint **802** to extendable chopstick **800**, restraint **802** is first affixed to base part **102** at point **804**, as discussed above. The, the body **104** is partially wrapped around base part **102** with the trailing part (trailing from point **804**) restraint **802** held free away from the wraps. When the wrapping process reaches or comes near to point **806**, wrapping is paused for the restraint **802** to be fixed to body **104** in mid-section **807**—e.g. at point **806**—prior to continuation of the wrapping and subsequent fixing of restraint **802** at end-section **809**, for example at point **808**.

[0051] In an alternative arrangement shown in FIG. **8**(*b*) restraint **802** is attached to a cap **810** at point **808**. As discussed above with reference to FIG. **4**, cap **810** is provided for covering an outer surface of the body when arranged in the wrap around the base part, again for increased mechanical integrity and user confidence.

[0052] Of course, other numbers of fixings to the extendable utensil parts may be allowed. Restraint **802** may be made of any suitable material such as cotton, or industrial materials like nylon or steel wire for easy cleaning. The restraint may be arranged to run along inside walls of the hollow shell of the extendable utensil when extended. When housed within the hollow shell, the restraint may be arranged, or lie, in a coiled fashion.

[0053] FIG. **9** illustrates the manner in which restraint **802** may be housed within the hollow **804** of chopstick **800** when relative movement is effected between the tip **116** and the base part **202** or the cap **808**. Again, this figure is provided for illustrative purposes only and are not to be considered limiting in suggesting that the restraint **802** is of a length which is longer than a length of extendable chopstick **800** when in the fully extended position.

[0054] It will be appreciated that the utensil (chopstick) has been described by way of example only and various modifications may be made to the techniques described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended

claims. Features presented in relation to one aspect may also be combined with features relating to another aspect. If the utensil is not a chopstick—say a fork, knife or spoon—then it will be appreciated that, additionally, a utensil head having, say, fork prongs, a spoon body or a knife blade will also be provided to the extendable part of the utensil.

1. An extendable utensil comprising a base part and a body formed from sheet material having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the body is arranged in a wrap around the base part in successive turns, and a point on the first surface at an end of a turn is fixed to a point on the second surface at a beginning of the turn.

2. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein a length of the base part is greater than a width of the body and the body is arranged in a wrap around the base part with a first end of the base part aligned with a first side of the body.

3. The extendable utensil of claim **1** or, wherein the base part is of elongate form, having a first base portion around which the body is arranged in a wrap, and a second base portion extending beyond the wrapped base part.

4. The extendable utensil of claim **3**, the second base portion having at least a part which is tapered.

5. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein the extendable utensil is extendable in a direction of an axis of the base part, the extendable utensil comprising an indicator for indicating to a user a pre-determined maximum length of extension of the extendable utensil.

6. The extendable utensil of claim **5**, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator on the second surface of the body at a position on the second surface such that, when the extendable utensil is extended in the direction of the axis of the base part, the indicator is exposed for viewing by a user.

7. The extendable utensil of claim **6**, wherein the extendable utensil comprises a restraint attached to a first part of the extendable utensil and to a second part of the extendable utensil to restrain the extendable utensil from extension beyond a pre-determined maximum length of extension.

8. The extendable utensil of claim **7**, wherein the first part of the extendable utensil is the base part and the second part of the extendable utensil is the body.

9. The extendable utensil of claim **8**, wherein the second part is a middle section along a length of the body.

10. The extendable utensil of claim **7**, wherein the restraint is attached to an end section along a length of the body.

11. The extendable utensil of any of claim **8**, wherein the restraint is attached to a cap, the cap being for covering an outer surface of the body when arranged in the wrap around the base part.

12. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, further comprising a cap for covering an outer surface of the body when arranged in the wrap around the base part.

13. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein the base part comprises a clip for clipping to the body.

14. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein the base part and the body are integrally formed with one another in an injection moulding process.

15. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein the base part is of generally cylindrical form.

16. The extendable utensil of claim **1**, wherein at least part of the utensil comprises of corn or yam.

17. A method of manufacturing an extendable utensil, the method comprising wrapping a body formed from sheet material around a base part to form successive turns, the body having a first surface and a second surface, and affixing a point on the first surface at an end of a turn to a point on the second surface at a beginning of the turn.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein a length of the base part is greater than a width of the body and the method comprises wrapping the body around the base part with a first end of the base part aligned with a first side of the body.

19. The method of claim **17**, further comprising covering an outer surface of the body wrapped around the base part with a cap.

20. The method of claim **17**, wherein the extendable utensil is extendable in a direction of an axis of the base part, and the method further comprises providing the extendable utensil with an indicator for indicating to a user a pre-determined maximum length of extension of the extendable utensil.

21. The method of claim **17**, wherein the method comprises providing the indicator on the second surface of the body at a position on the second surface such that, when the extendable utensil is extended in the direction of the axis of the base part, the indicator is exposed for viewing by a user.

22. The method of claim **17**, further comprising attaching a restraint to a first part of the extendable utensil and attaching the restraint to a second part of the extendable utensil, the restraint being for restraining the extendable utensil from extension beyond a pre-determined maximum length of extension.

23. The method of claim **22**, wherein the first part of the extendable utensil is the base part and the second part of the extendable utensil is the body.

24. The method of claim **22**, wherein the second part is a middle section along the length of the body.

25. The method of claim **22**, comprising attaching the restraint to an end section along the length of the body.

26. The method of claim **22**, further comprising attaching the restraint to a cap for covering an outer surface of the body when arranged in a wrap around the base part.

27. The method of claim **17**, further comprising covering an outer surface of the body arranged in a wrap around the base part with a cap.

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