

PATENTS EXAMINATION BOARD

Subject: The Drafting of Patent Specifications - Paper 1

Date: June/July 2017

Time: 09h00 -13h00 (although candidates requiring extra time are entitled to an additional two hours)

Examiners: J Fiandeiro
V Williams

Moderator: J D Whittaker

Question 1

Your client, an enthusiastic chef, shows you the following two photos and a proposed advertising blurb for her "clip on strainer" invention.

CLIP ON STRAINER

Clip this attachable strainer directly onto any pot or pan and seamlessly transfer out any liquid. Instead of juggling a separate colander, CLIP ON STRAINER clasps on extra securely—so you can tilt confidently. Made from durable BPA-free silicone and rust-proof steel, CLIP ON STRAINER resists the high temperatures of hot liquids and dishwashers alike. The soft silicone conforms to different sized pots and pans alike and its built-in spout gives you control as you pour. And when you need to store it, the CLIP ON STRAINER has a far lower profile than traditional ones. Keep it handy in a cupboard or drawer.

You are required to identify the inventive feature(s) of the invention, and to draft up to three claims to protect the invention.

Clip-On Strainer





Question 2

Your client, a young father, shows you drawings of his new spill proof feeder for stopping his boisterous toddler from spilling his cereal all over the place at breakfast. A preferred embodiment of his feeder, generally depicted 10, is shown in the accompanying figures and comprises a base section 12 that includes an upwardly orientated part-spherical side wall 20 and a top section 14 that includes a downwardly orientated part-spherical side wall with an upper, circular access hole 16. The base section 12 and the top section 14 are releasably joined by an annular flange 18. The feeder 10 also includes a bowl 30 having a part-spherical outer wall 32 defining an upper access opening 36. The diameter of the opening 36 is similar in size to that of the access hole 16 in the top section 14. The outer wall 32 is comprised of an upper section 38 extending around the periphery of the opening 36, a lower section 40 across the bottom of the bowl 30, and a middle section 42 extending between the upper section 38 and the lower sections 40. To keep the bowl 30 vertical regardless of the orientation of the base 12 (as shown in figures 2 to 4, which are section views of figure 1 with the base 12 in a vertical, inclined and horizontal position respectively), a mass 44 is moulded integrally with the bottom of the bowl 30. The mass 44 serves to ensure that the center of gravity of the bowl 30 is below the center point of the bowl. The bowl 30 fits snugly within a chamber defined by the base section 12 and the top section 14, with limited friction between the outer surface of the bowl 30 and the inner, part-spherical surfaces of the base section 12 and the top section 14. In this way, the bowl is free to rotate within the chamber, relative to the base section 12 and the top section 14.

In use, food may be introduced into the bowl 30, or retrieved from this bowl, when the opening 36 in the bowl 30 is at least partially aligned with the access opening 16 in the upper section 14. For example, in figure 2 the opening 36 and the opening 16 are aligned with one another, allowing food introduced into the bowl 30 to be retrieved during a meal. Should the feeder 10 be tipped over during a meal, the base section 12 and the top section 14 rotate relative to the bowl 30, as shown in figures 3 and 4. The mass 44 and the limited friction between the bowl 30 and the inner, part-spherical surfaces of the base section 12 and the top section 14, keep the bowl 30 in an upright position. Thus, even when the feeder is tipped over completely, the bowl 30 remains substantially upright to avoid any spilling of the contents of this bowl.

You are required to identify the inventive feature(s) of the invention, and to draft up to three claims to protect the invention.



