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CONTAINER HAVING A BUILT-IN SPATULA

Abstract

A spatula-mounted container is described. The container may include: a container body having a holding space for holding a content and a neck formed around an opening to the holding space; a wiper plug coupled to the neck to close the opening, where a wiper hole is formed in an inner side of the wiper plug in a size smaller than that of the opening, and a wiper member protrudes towards an inner side of the wiper hole; and a spatula separably coupled to the wiper plug and including a stick part and a grip part, where the stick part has an elongated shape, the grip part is formed on an end portion of the stick part, and the spatula is configured such that the grip part is unable to pass through the wiper hole but the stick part is able to pass through the wiper hole.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2024-0023213, filed with the Korean Intellectual Property Office on Feb. 19, 2024, and Korean Patent Application No. 10-2024-0052883, filed with the Korean Intellectual Property Office on Apr. 19, 2024, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

[0002] The present invention relates to a container for holding a content, more particularly to a spatula-mounted container that includes a built-in spatula.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] Foundation is a type of cosmetic that is applied on the facial area of the user and is used both to hide blemishes and to give the facial area an even color in a tone desired by the user. Depending on their types, cosmetics are provided in various forms and used in various ways. A cosmetic having a color, such as a foundation for example, is typically applied with a tool such as a powder puff or a spatula, so that the cosmetic does not get on the user's hand.

[0004] A spatula is a tool for applying a cosmetic such as a foundation onto the facial area and is used when the cosmetic is provided in the form of a cream, gel, liquid, etc. The user may first insert the spatula into the container holding a cosmetic liquid such that the cosmetic liquid adheres to the spatula and then may apply the cosmetic liquid on the spatula onto the facial area.

[0005] Typically, the spatula is carried separately from the cosmetic container, because the elongated shape of the spatula makes it difficult to hold the spatula within the cosmetic container. For example, if the spatula were to be mounted at a position that is separated from the compartment holding the content, there is a risk that the content remaining on the spatula after the use of the spatula may contaminate the cosmetic container and its surroundings. On the other hand, if the spatula were to be mounted within the same compartment holding the content, it would be difficult to seal the cosmetic container, so that the content may spill out from the container, and there would also always be an excessive amount of content on the spatula, so that the surplus content may drip during the use of the spatula to contaminate the user's clothing or other nearby objects. In addition, carrying the spatula separately from the cosmetic container also entails the inconvenience of having to keep the spatula in a designated container or bag to prevent the content remaining on the spatula from contaminating the surrounding area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] An aspect of the invention, which was conceived to resolve the problem described above, is to provide a spatula-mounted container that can hold a spatula and also keep the holding space for storing the content in a sealed state.

[0007] Another aspect of the invention is to provide a spatula-mounted container that can hold a spatula and also prevent the content from adhering on the spatula in an excessive amount.

[0008] Still another aspect of the invention is to provide a spatula-mounted container that can get a suitable amount of content adhered to the spatula even after the remaining amount of content held within the container has decreased.

[0009] Yet another aspect of the invention is to provide a spatula-mounted container that can prevent waste by allowing the user to use up the content almost completely.

[0010] Other objectives of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the

embodiments set forth below.

[0011] A spatula-mounted container according to one aspect of the invention may include: a container body, on an inner side of which a holding space for holding a content is formed, and on an upper portion of which a neck is formed around an opening to the holding space; a wiper plug made from a flexible material and coupled to the neck to close the opening, where a wiper hole is formed in an inner side of the wiper plug in a size smaller than that of the opening, and a wiper member protrudes towards an inner side of the wiper hole; and a spatula separably coupled to the wiper plug and including a stick part and a grip part, where the stick part has an elongated shape, the grip part is formed on an end portion of the stick part, and the spatula is configured such that the grip part is unable to pass through the wiper hole but the stick part is able to pass through the wiper hole so as to be at least partially positioned within the holding space while the spatula is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug. The wiper member may be pressed against a non-coated surface of the stick part and not pressed against a coated surface of the stick part, so that the content may be wiped from the non-coated surface and be left remaining on the coated surface when the spatula is separated from the wiper plug.

[0012] A spatula-mounted container according to an embodiment of the present invention can include one or more of the following features. For example, the width of the wiper hole along the front-rear direction can be smaller than the length of the wiper hole along the left-right direction such that the wiper hole is implemented in the form of a slit that extends along the left-right direction, the thickness of the stick part along the front-rear direction can be smaller than the width of the stick part along the left-right direction such that the stick part has a cross section corresponding to that of the slit, and at least a portion of the non-coated surface can be formed on at least one of the front surface and rear surface of the stick part.

[0013] At least one of both side portions of the stick part can have a cross section corresponding to a polygon, and at least a portion of both end portions of the slit can have a shape corresponding to an arc.

[0014] A concave recess can be formed in at least one of the front surface and rear surface of the stick part. At least a portion of the non-coated surface can be formed in the concave recess.

[0015] The length of the container body along the front-rear direction can be greater than the width of the container body along the left-right direction.

[0016] A securing groove can be formed in at least one inner surface of the side wall of the container body, and at least one side portion of the stick part can be inserted in the securing groove.

[0017] The wiper member can be formed with a smaller length than that of the slit along the left-right direction such that at least a portion of the coated surface is formed on at least one of the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part.

[0018] A cut surface can be formed in at least one of the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part such that at least a portion of the coated surface is formed on the cut surface.

[0019] The wiper hole can be implemented in a circular shape, and the stick part can include: a rod extending down from a lower portion of the grip part and having an outer diameter corresponding to the inner diameter of the wiper hole; and a blade extending down from a lower portion of the rod and having a width smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole along at least one direction within a horizontal plane. Here, at least a portion of the non-coated surface can be formed on an outer perimeter of the rod, and at least a portion of the coated surface can be formed on a surface of the blade.

[0020] A venting groove can be formed in the outer perimeter of the rod, the outer diameter of the rod can be smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole at a portion where the venting groove is formed, and the venting groove can be positioned below the wiper member while the spatula is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug.

[0021] The blade can have a flat shape with a rounded or chamfered edge, and the blade can include: a first side forming one side of the blade and extending along an up-down direction; a

second side forming an opposite side of the blade and extending along the up-down direction to a length smaller than that of the first side; a third side extending inwardly in a sloped manner from the bottom of the second side; and a round point connecting the first side and the third side.
[0022] The spatula-mounted container can further include an overcap that is separably coupled to the container body. While the overcap is in a coupled state with respect to the container body, the overcap can contact an upper portion of the grip part. It is also possible to have the grip part coupled to the overcap.
[0023] The wiper member can be configured to incline inward towards the bottom.
[0024] The wiper member can have a smaller thickness than that of the remaining portion of the wiper plug.
[0025] The grip part can be configured such that a lower portion of the grip part completely closes the wiper hole.
[0026] The container body can be implemented in the form of a tube made from a flexible material.
[0027] An embodiment of the present invention having the features above can provide various advantageous effects including the following. However, an embodiment of the present invention may not necessarily exhibit all of the effects below.
[0028] A spatula-mounted container according to an embodiment of the invention can effectively seal the holding space in which the content is filled and can prevent the content that has got on the spatula from contaminating any surrounding object.
[0029] In a spatula-mounted container according to an embodiment of the invention, the holding space can be airtightly sealed when the content is not in use, but when the content is in use, the spatula-mounted container may permit air to enter from outside the holding space. This can prevent the problem of the user experiencing difficulty in coupling and separating the spatula due to a pressure difference between the inside and outside of the holding space.
[0030] Also, a spatula-mounted container according to an embodiment of the invention can prevent the content from adhering to the spatula in an excessive amount when the user uses the spatula and therefore can significantly lower the possibility of the content causing a mess in the surroundings due to flowing or dripping.
[0031] Also, a spatula-mounted container according to an embodiment of the invention can increase user convenience by allowing the content to adhere to the spatula in a suitable amount even after the amount of content remaining in the holding space has decreased.
[0032] Furthermore, a spatula-mounted container according to certain embodiments of the invention can allow the user to use up the content held in the holding space as much as possible, thereby reducing the amount of content wasted and also reducing environmental pollution incurred by the disposal of the content.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0033] FIG. **1** is a front view illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to a first disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0034] FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **1** as cut along the front-rear direction.
[0035] FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view showing a portion of FIG. **2** in greater detail.
[0036] FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **1** as cut along the left-right direction.
[0037] FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view showing a portion of FIG. **4** in greater detail.
[0038] FIG. **6** is a front view illustrating the spatula for a spatula-mounted container according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention.

[0039] FIG. **7** is a front view illustrating the spatula for a spatula-mounted container according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0040] FIG. **8** is a perspective view illustrating the spatula separated from the container body in a spatula-mounted container according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0041] FIG. **9** is a front view illustrating the spatula for a spatula-mounted container according to another embodiment of the invention.
[0042] FIG. **10** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole and the stick part in a spatula-mounted container according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0043] FIG. **11** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole and the stick part in a spatula-mounted container according to another embodiment of the invention.
[0044] FIG. **12** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to a second disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0045] FIG. **13** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **12** as cut along the front-rear direction.
[0046] FIG. **14** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **12** as cut along the left-right direction.
[0047] FIG. **15** is a perspective view illustrating the wiper plug of a spatula-mounted container according to the second disclosed embodiment of the invention as seen from below.
[0048] FIG. **16** is a top view illustrating the wiper plug of a spatula-mounted container according to the second disclosed embodiment of the invention as seen from above.
[0049] FIG. **17** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole and the stick part in a spatula-mounted container according to the second disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0050] FIG. **18** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to a third disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0051] FIG. **19** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **18** as cut along the front-rear direction.
[0052] FIG. **20** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **18** as cut along the left-right direction.
[0053] FIG. **21** is a cross-sectional perspective view illustrating the wiper plug in a spatula-mounted container according to the third disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0054] FIG. **22** is a perspective view illustrating the spatula in a spatula-mounted container according to the third disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0055] FIG. **23** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to a fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0056] FIG. **24** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **23** as cut along the front-rear direction.
[0057] FIG. **25** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container shown in FIG. **23** as cut along the left-right direction.
[0058] FIG. **26** is a cross-sectional view conceptually illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0059] FIG. **27** is a cross-sectional view conceptually illustrating a spatula-mounted container according to another embodiment of the invention.
[0060] FIG. **28** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole and the stick part in a spatula-mounted container according to the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0061] As the invention allows for various changes and numerous embodiments, particular embodiments will be illustrated in the drawings and described in detail in the written description. However, this is not intended to limit the present invention to particular modes of practice, and it is to be appreciated that all changes, equivalents, and substitutes that do not depart from the spirit and technical scope of the present invention are encompassed by the present invention. In the

description of the present invention, certain detailed explanations of the related art are omitted if it is deemed that they may unnecessarily obscure the essence of the invention.

[0062] The terms used in the present specification are merely used to describe particular embodiments and are not intended to limit the present invention. An expression used in the singular encompasses the expression of the plural, unless it has a clearly different meaning in the context. In the present specification, it is to be understood that terms such as “including” or “having,” etc., are intended to indicate the existence of the features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof disclosed in the specification and are not intended to preclude the possibility that one or more other features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof may exist or may be added.

[0063] While such terms as “first” and “second,” etc., can be used to describe various components, such components are not to be limited by the above terms. The above terms are used only to distinguish one component from another.

[0064] Certain embodiments of the present invention will be described below in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. Those components that are the same or are in correspondence are rendered the same reference numeral, and redundant descriptions are omitted.

[0065] For convenience, the specification uses terms such as “left-right direction”, “front-rear direction”, “up-down direction”, “inner side”, and “outer side”. In the descriptions below, the “left-right direction” refers to the direction in which the stick part **550** or blade **570** of the spatula **500** is elongated within a horizontal plane, and the “front-rear direction” refers to the direction that is orthogonal to the left-right direction within the same horizontal plane. The “inner side” refers to the side that is closer to the interior of the spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** or of the object being described, and the “outer side” refers to the side that is further from the interior of the spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** or the object being described. The “up-down direction” refers to the vertical direction when the spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** is oriented as in the drawings. Of course, when a spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** according to an embodiment of the invention is actually in use, the directions mentioned in the specification may not coincide with the actual directions of the parts described.

[0066] FIG. **1** is a front view illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to a first disclosed embodiment of the invention. FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1100** shown in FIG. **1** as cut along the front-rear direction, and FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view showing a portion of FIG. **2** in greater detail. FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1100** shown in FIG. **1** as cut along the left-right direction, and FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view showing a portion of FIG. **4** in greater detail. FIG. **6** and FIG. **7** are front views illustrating the spatula **500** for a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to certain embodiments of the invention, and FIG. **8** is a perspective view illustrating the spatula **500** separated from the container body **100** in a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention.

[0067] Referring to FIGS. **1** to **8**, a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention can include a container body **100**, a wiper plug **300**, a spatula **500**, and an overcap **700**.

[0068] The container body **100** can include a bottom face **110** and a side wall **120**, and these can form a holding space **105** on the inner side for holding the content. The content (not shown) stored in the holding space **105** can be of a type that requires the use of a spatula or is more convenient to use with a spatula. The content (not shown) stored in the holding space **105** can be provided, for example, in the form of liquid, cream, gel, powder, etc., and can be one of various types of cosmetics. Of course, the present invention is not limited by the type of content held in the holding space **105** of the container body **100**.

[0069] A neck **130** can be provided at an upper portion of the container body **100**. The neck **130** can be formed around the opening that connects to the holding space **105**. The neck **130** can be

shaped as a hollow cylinder, and the passageway on the inner side of the neck **130** can form the opening through which the holding space **105** is in communication with the outside. As illustrated in FIG. **2** and FIG. **4**, the neck **130** can be configured to have a size and shape that are different from those of the side wall **120** of the container body **100**. In cases where the size of the neck **130** is smaller than the size of the remaining portion of the container body **100**, a shoulder ledge **126** can be formed at the upper portion of the side wall **120**. On the outer perimeter of the neck **130**, one or more protrusions and/or indentations can be formed for coupling between the container body **100** and the overcap **700**. For example, a male thread **132** can be provided on the outer perimeter of the neck **130**, as in the example illustrated in FIG. **8**.

[0070] The inner perimeter of the neck **130** can be configured to be sealed by the plug part **330** of the wiper plug **300**. One or more contact grooves **134** can be formed in the inner perimeter of the neck **130**. The contact grooves **134** can increase sealing performance by allowing the plug part **330** to press tightly against the inner perimeter of the neck **130** more fully and over a larger contact area.

[0071] The wiper plug **300** can be coupled to the neck **130** of the container body **100** to cover the opening to the holding space **105** while allowing the coupling of the spatula **500**. The wiper plug **300** can include a cover part **310**, a plug part **330**, a passage part **350**, and wiper members **360**.

[0072] The cover part **310** can form the top of the wiper plug **300** and corresponds to the part that covers the opening of the container body **100**. The cover part **310** can be shaped as a circular disk and can have an outer diameter larger than that of the plug part **330**, so that the lower surface at the edge of the cover part **310** contacts the upper end of the neck **130**.

[0073] A wiper hole **315** can be formed in the cover part **310**. The wiper hole **315**, which is the portion where the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** is inserted, can penetrate the cover part **310** along the up-down direction. In an embodiment of the invention, the width of the wiper hole **315** along the front-rear direction can be smaller than the length of the wiper hole **315** along the left-right direction, so that the wiper hole **315** can be implemented as a slit that extends in the left-right direction. In cases where the wiper hole **315** is implemented in the form of a slit as above, the width of the slit in the front-rear direction can correspond to the thickness of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** in the front-rear direction.

[0074] The plug part **330** can extend down from a lower surface of the cover part **310** and can be formed in a position corresponding to the inner perimeter of the neck **130** of the container body **100** so as to seal the opening at the neck **130**. As the opening is thus sealed by the cover part **310** and the plug part **330**, the holding space **105** of the container body **100** can be accessed only through the wiper hole **315** of the cover part **310**. In order that a tight seal may be provided between the plug part **330** and the neck **130**, the plug part **330** can be formed from a material that permits a slight degree of elastic deformation.

[0075] The passage part **350** can extend inward from the cover part **310** and/or the plug part **330**, extending both inward and downward along downwardly inclining directions. The passage part **350** can be formed at a position adjacent to the wiper hole **315**, so that the wiper members **360** formed at the lower portion of the passage part **350** can be formed at a more inner position. In cases where the cross section of the passage part **350** is shaped as a closed loop, the space on the inner side of the passage part **350** may continue to the wiper hole **315** and thus can be regarded as an extension of the wiper hole **315**. Although, in the example illustrated in FIG. **3**, the passage part **350** extends downward and inward from the cover part **310**, it is possible to have the passage part **350** extend downward and inward from the plug part **330** in certain other embodiments of the invention (as in the example illustrated in FIG. **19**, for instance). In certain embodiments, the passage part **350** can be omitted, and the wiper members **360** can be formed directly on the cover part **310** and/or the plug part **330**.

[0076] The passage part **350** can extend along the left-right direction, at positions adjacent to the wiper hole **315** with respect to the front-rear direction, to join the plug part **330** on both the left and

right sides. In cases where the wiper members **360** are formed only on the passage part **350**, the wiper members **360** can be positioned only on the front and/or rear side of the stick part **550** without being positioned at the left and right sides of the stick part **550**, as in the example illustrated in FIG. **5**. In such cases, the plug part **330** can be configured such that its outer perimeter presses against the inner perimeter of the neck **130** whereas its inner perimeter inclines inward towards the bottom. Of course, depending on the sizes of the cover part **310** and the wiper hole **315**, portions connecting the front and rear sides of the passage part **350** and/or wiper members **360** can also be formed on the left and right sides of the stick part **550** in certain embodiments of the invention. In such cases, the inner surfaces of the portions connecting the front and rear sides of the passage part **350** and/or wiper members **360** can also incline inward towards the bottom.

[0077] The wiper members **360** can protrude inward from positions adjacent to the wiper hole **315** and can be configured to press against the stick part **550** that passes through the wiper hole **315**. To this end, each wiper member **360** can extend from a position such as a lower portion of the passage part **350**, a lower surface of the cover part **310**, and the like, along a direction that inclines inward towards the bottom.

[0078] In cases where the wiper hole **315** is implemented in the form of a slit, the wiper members **360** can be formed at positions adjacent to the wiper hole **315** with respect to the front-rear direction. In such cases, the wiper members **360** can be configured to press against at least one of the front surface and rear surface of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** when the spatula **500** is separated from the wiper plug **300**. That is, in cases where a wiper member **360** is formed only on one side of the wiper hole **315** with respect to the front-rear direction, the wiper member **360** can press against the front surface or the rear surface of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500**, and in cases where there are wiper members **360** formed on both sides of the wiper hole **315** with respect to the front-rear direction, the wiper members **360** can press against both the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500**. The wiper members **360** can also be formed from a material that permits a slight degree of elastic deformation. In certain embodiments of the invention, the whole of the wiper plug **300**, including the cover part **310**, plug part **330**, passage part **350**, and wiper members **360**, can be fabricated in an integrated form from the same material.

[0079] As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the wiper members **360** can incline inward towards the bottom. The wiper members **360** can have a smaller thickness than that of the remaining portions of the wiper plug **300**. The left and right sides of the wiper member **360** can be separated from or be connected to the remaining portions of the wiper plug **300**, including the passage part **350** and the plug part **330**. Such a structure of the wiper members **360** allow the wiper members **360** to press against the non-coated surfaces of the stick part **550** without greatly hindering the movement of the stick part **550** as it passes through the wiper hole **315**.

[0080] The spatula **500** corresponds to a tool with which the user applies the content of the spatula-mounted container **1100** and can be stored while in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug **300**. The spatula **500** can mainly include a grip part **510** and a stick part **550**.

[0081] The grip part **510** corresponds to the part gripped by the user. The grip part **510** can be formed at an end portion of the stick part **550** and can have widths greater than those of the stick part **550** along the front-rear direction and the left-right direction. The grip part **510** can be configured not to pass through the wiper hole **315** and preferably can be configured such that a lower portion of the grip part **510** completely closes the wiper hole **315**.

[0082] For a secure coupling between the grip part **510** and the stick part **550**, a coupling recess **515** can be formed on the inner side of the grip part **510**, and coupling protrusions **516** can be provided on the inner surfaces of the grip part **510** facing the coupling recess **515**. Also, supposing that the grip part **510** is arranged to point upward, a clearance recess **511** can be formed above the coupling recess **515** in a width smaller than that of the coupling recess **515**. Due to the size difference between the clearance recess **511** and the coupling recess **515**, a ledge **512** can be formed at the boundary of the clearance recess **511** and the coupling recess **515**.

[0083] The stick part **550** can be used to scoop the content of the holding space **105** and apply the content to a target area. The stick part **550** can be coupled to the grip part **510**, and the user can apply the content that has gotten on the stick part **550** while holding the grip part **510**. Thus, the user can apply the content without getting the content on the user's hands. While the stick part **550** can be fabricated from a stainless steel material, the stick part **550** is not limited to a particular material and can be formed from various materials, including various types of metal and synthetic resin. In certain embodiments of the invention, the stick part **550** can be formed from the same synthetic resin material as that used for the grip part **510**, and the stick part **550** and the grip part **510** can be fabricated as a single integrated member.

[0084] A coupling hole **555** can be formed in the end portion of the stick part **550** for coupling with the grip part **510**. When the manufacturer inserts the end portion having the coupling hole **555** into the coupling recess **515** of the grip part **510** in order to couple the stick part **550** with the grip part **510**, the end portion of the stick part **550** may first be caught on the coupling protrusions **516** of the grip part **510**, but if the manufacturer exerts a greater force, the grip part **510** may experience a slight elastic deformation, and the end portion of the stick part **550** can move beyond the coupling protrusions **516**. The clearance recess **511** of the grip part **510** can facilitate the elastic deformation required here. When the end portion of the stick part **550** moves beyond the coupling protrusions **516**, the coupling protrusions **516** can then be inserted in and caught on the coupling hole **555** of the stick part **550**, and the end portion of the stick part **550** can be supported on the ledge **512** on the inner side of the grip part **510**, so that the stick part **550** may be secured to the grip part **510** along the up-down direction. Of course, any of a great variety of coupling structures can be used for the coupling between the grip part **510** and the stick part **550**. Also, in certain embodiments of the invention, the grip part **510** and the stick part **550** can be fabricated in an integrated form, so that no coupling may be needed.

[0085] The stick part **550** can be configured to be capable of passing through the wiper hole **315**. That is, the stick part **550** can have a horizontal cross section that does not cause the stick part **550** to be seriously caught on the wiper hole **315**. The stick part **550** can be configured to press against the wiper member **360** while inserted in the wiper hole **315**. In cases where the wiper hole **315** is implemented as a slit that extends along the left-right direction, the stick part **550** can also be formed such that the thickness along the front-right direction is smaller than the width along the left-right direction, thus having a cross section corresponding to the shape of the slit.

[0086] In a spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** according to an embodiment of the invention, the wiper members **360** of the wiper plug **300** may press against portions of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** so as to wipe off the content (not shown) from the corresponding portions. For the sake of convenience, the portions on the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** configured to be pressed against the wiper members **360** such that the content is wiped off are collectively referred to as a “non-coated surface”, while the portions configured not to be pressed against the wiper members **360** such that the content is left remaining are collectively referred to as a “coated surface”. Of course, the stick part **550** is not strictly divided into a coated surface and a non-coated surface. The coated surface where there is content on the stick part **550** and the non-coated surface where the content has been wiped off can be different for each embodiment, and in some cases, can be different for each round of use even for the same embodiment.

[0087] Referring to FIGS. **6** to **8**, the stick part **550** can include flat portions **552**, which may form the front surface and the rear surface, and side portions **554**, which may form the left and right portions. The flat portions **552** can have generally flat shapes, while the side portions **554** can connect the flat portions **552** of the front surface and rear surface.

[0088] When the user separates the spatula **500** from the wiper plug **300**, the wiper members **360** of the wiper plug **300** can press against the flat portions **552** of the stick part **550** and thereby wipe off the content (not shown) that had got onto the flat portions **552**. In contrast, the left and/or right side portions **554** of the stick part **550** may not contact the wiper plug **300**, and therefore there may be

content remaining on the left and/or right side portions **554** when the stick part **550** is pulled out. That is, at least a portion of the non-coated surface can be formed on the flat portions **552**, and at least a portion of the coated surface can be formed on the side portions **554**. In FIG. **6** and FIG. **7**, the hatched portions represent portions where the coated surface can be formed.

[0089] In the spatula **500** shown in FIG. **6**, the side portions **554** on both sides include portions that do not contact the wiper plug **300**, so that the content may remain on the side portions **554** of both sides. As regards the two side portions **554** on both sides of the spatula **500** shown in FIG. **7**, the side portion **554**′ on one side includes a portion that does not contact the wiper plug **300** and thus has content remaining on it, whereas the side portion **554**″ on the other side does not include a portion that does not contact the wiper plug **300** and thus has the content wiped off. Such a structure can be implemented, for example, by forming the wiper hole **315** as a slit with the end portions having identical shapes and forming the side portion **554**′ on one side in a shape and/or size that does not correspond to the end portion of the slit while forming the side portion **554**″ on the other side in a shape that does correspond to the end portion of the slit. Alternatively, such a structure can be implemented by having a wiper member **360** or another separate component of the wiper plug **300** press against the side portion **554**″ of the stick part **550** on the other side of the wiper hole **315**.

[0090] In an embodiment of the invention, one or more concave recess **557** can be formed in the flat portions **552**. A concave recess **557** can be a recess formed in the surface of a flat portion **552**. When the spatula **500** is separated from the wiper plug **300**, the inner side of a concave recess **557** formed in a flat portion **552** would not contact the wiper member **360**, and therefore the content contained within the concave recess **557** may not be removed. Thus, at least a portion of the coated surface can be formed in the concave recess **557**. In FIG. **9**, the hatched portions represent portions where the coated surface can be formed.

[0091] In the example illustrated in FIG. **9**, the concave recess **557** is formed at a position close to the end portion of the stick part **550** corresponding to the opposite side of the grip part **510**. This makes it possible to have content filled in the concave recess **557** even when there is little content remaining in the holding space **105**. Also, it can be advantageous to have the concave recess **557** formed in a horizontal direction (i.e., the left-right direction in FIG. **9**) rather than a vertical direction (i.e., the up-down direction in FIG. **9**) in the stick part **550**, since the content filled in the concave recess **557** would more easily flow down if the concave recess **557** is formed in a vertical direction. Of course, the shape and number of concave recesses **557** formed in the flat portions **552** can be varied as necessary.

[0092] The side portions **554** are portions formed on the left and right sides of the stick part **550**. According to an embodiment of the invention, the stick part **550** can be configured such that at least one of the side portions **554** on both sides does not contact the wiper plug **300** and thus has content remaining when the spatula **500** is separated from the wiper plug **300**.

[0093] To this end, in an embodiment of the invention, the length of the wiper hole **315** in the left-right direction can be greater than the length of the stick part **550** in the left-right direction. While the stick part **550** is inserted in the wiper hole **315**, the flat portions **552** of the stick part **550** can contact the wiper members **360**, etc., of the wiper plug **300**, but at least one of the left side portion and right side portion can be formed not to contact any part of the wiper plug **300**.

[0094] FIG. **10** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole **315** and the stick part **550** in a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to the first disclosed embodiment of the invention. In the example illustrated in FIG. **10**, the end portion of the wiper hole **315** is shaped as an arc, and the side portion **554** of the stick part **550** is also shaped as an arc. However, the radius of curvature of the arc formed by the side portion **554** of the stick part **550** is smaller than the radius of curvature of the arc formed by the end portion of the wiper hole **315**. Thus, even though the length of the stick part **550** with respect to the left-right direction is the same as the length of the wiper hole **315** implemented as a slit, there are portions on the side portion **554** that do not

contact the wiper plug **300**, and therefore at least a portion of the coated surface can be formed on the side portion **554**.

[0095] FIG. **11** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole **315** and the stick part **550** in a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to another embodiment of the invention. In an embodiment of the invention, at least one of the two side portions on both sides can have a cross section corresponding to a polygon, and at least a portion of both end portions of the wiper hole **315** implemented as a slit can have a shape corresponding to an arc. Here, reference to the side portion **554** having a cross section corresponding to a polygon is intended to mean that the portion excluding the front and rear flat portions **552** forms a polygon, as is the case in FIG. **11**. In cases where the end portion of the wiper hole **315** is at least partially shaped as an arc or some other curved figure while the side portion **554** is shaped as a polygon, the side portions **554** can include portions that do not contact the wiper hole **315**, even if the left and right end portions of the stick part **550** do contact the wiper hole **315**, and thus there can be content remaining on the portions of the side portion **554**.

[0096] A structure such as that described above in which at least a portion of the side portion **554** does not contact the wiper plug **300** also makes it possible for air to enter and exit the holding space **105**, so that the problem of the user experiencing difficulty in coupling and separating the spatula **500** due to a pressure difference between the inside and outside of the holding space **105** can be avoided.

[0097] The overcap **700** is a part that is separably coupled to the container body **100**. When the content of the spatula-mounted container **1100** is not being used, the overcap **700** can be coupled to the container body **100** to aid the sealing of the holding space **105**. When the user wishes to use the content, the user can separate the overcap **700** and expose the grip part **510** of the spatula **500**. The overcap **700** can include an upper face **710** and a side wall **720**. On the inner surface of the side wall **720**, one or more indentations and/or protrusions can be formed for coupling with the container body **100**. For instance, in the example illustrated in FIG. **2**, a female thread **722** is formed in the inner surface of the overcap **700**, so that the female thread **722** can mate with the male thread **132** of the container body **100**.

[0098] The overall length of the overcap **700** with respect to the up-down direction can be designed such that, when the overcap **700** is fully coupled to the container body **100**, the lower surface of the upper face **710** contacts the upper portion of the grip part **510** of the spatula **500**. Thus, when the overcap **700** is coupled to the container body **100**, the upper face **710** of the overcap **700** can press down on the grip part **510**, and the grip part **510** can block the wiper hole **315** of the wiper plug **300** as it is pressed down by the cover part **310**, thereby preventing any leakage of the content through the wiper hole **315**.

[0099] In the following, a more detailed description is provided on a method of using a spatula-mounted container **1100** according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0100] As described above, the wiper plug **300** may seal the opening of the container body **100**, and when the overcap **700** is in a coupled state, the overcap **700** may press down on the grip part **510** to seal the wiper hole **315**. Therefore, while the overcap **700** is in a coupled state, the content within the holding space **105** may not leak to the outside. The stick part **550** of the spatula **500** may be positioned within the holding space **105** through the wiper hole **315**, and the content in the holding space **105** may adhere to the surfaces of the stick part **550**.

[0101] When the user wishes to use the content of the spatula-mounted container **1100**, the user can first separate the overcap **700**. When the overcap **700** is separated, the grip part **510** within can be exposed. The user can grip the grip part **510** and separate the spatula **500** from the wiper plug **300**. Since the stick part **550** is inserted in the wiper hole **315**, the user can separate the spatula **500** by pulling the spatula **500** up by a distance corresponding to the length of the stick part **550**.

[0102] As the stick part **550** is thus being pulled up, the wiper members **360** of the wiper plug **300** may press against certain portions of the stick part **550**, causing the content to be wiped off these

portions, but may not press against certain other portions of the stick part **550**, causing the content to remain on these portions. For example, the flat portions **552** formed on the front and/or rear sides of the stick part **550** may be pressed against the wiper members **360**, so that the content may be wiped off from the flat portions **552**, whereas at least a portion of the side portions **554** of the stick part **550** may not contact the wiper plug **300**, so that the content may not be wiped off and may remain on the side portions **554**.

[0103] Even if the wiper plug **300** does not directly contact the side portions **554** of the stick part **550**, the wiper plug **300** can be positioned relatively close such that some of the content remaining on the side portions **554** can contact a portion around the wiper hole **315**, etc., and be removed by surface tension. In cases where a concave recess **557** is formed in a flat portion **552** of the stick part **550**, there may be remaining content present within the concave recess **557** also.

[0104] As described above, the stick part **550** can be configured such that the content remains on the side portions **554** of both sides or can be configured such that the content remains only on one of the side portions **554** of both sides. In cases where the content is to remain on the side portion **554** on one side only, the side portion **554** on one side can fully contact the wiper plug **300**, whereas the side portion **554** on the other side can include a portion that does not contact the wiper plug **300**.

[0105] When the user separates the spatula **500** from the wiper plug **300**, there may not be much content adhered to the flat portions **552**, which form the major parts of the stick part **550**, and there may be content adhered only to the side portions **554** and concave recesses **557** of the stick part **550**. The user can apply this slight amount of content to the target area, for example by spreading the content with a flat portion **552** of the stick part **550**.

[0106] FIG. **12** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1200** according to a second disclosed embodiment of the invention. FIG. **13** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1200** shown in FIG. **12** as cut along the front-rear direction, and FIG. **14** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1200** shown in FIG. **12** as cut along the left-right direction.

[0107] A spatula-mounted container **1200** based on the second disclosed embodiment of the invention may have many features in common with the spatula-mounted container **1100** based on the first disclosed embodiment described above. The descriptions below will focus more on the differences of the spatula-mounted container **1200** based on the second disclosed embodiment. Certain features described with reference to the first disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the second disclosed embodiment, and likewise certain features described with reference to the second disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the first disclosed embodiment. In describing the second disclosed embodiment, certain reference numerals are intended to indicate corresponding components of the components in the first disclosed embodiment to which said numerals are designated.

[0108] Referring to FIGS. **12** to **14**, in a spatula-mounted container **1200** based on the second disclosed embodiment of the invention, the container body **100** can be implemented in the form of a tube made from a flexible material. In such cases, the container body **100** can include a neck **130** and a tube part **140** coupled together, and the holding space **105** can be formed on the inner side of the tube part **140**.

[0109] Similarly to a common tube for a cosmetic, the tube part **140** can be fabricated from a material including a synthetic resin such as PE (polyethylene), a metal such as aluminum, or others, and can be fabricated in a thickness that can be deformed by a pressure exerted by the user. The neck **130** can be fabricated from a material such as PP (polypropylene), etc., that can provide a sufficient strength for supporting the wiper plug **300** in a stable manner and permitting a separable coupling of the overcap **700**. The neck **130** can be coupled to an upper portion of the tube part **140**.

[0110] A linearly shaped seam **142** can be formed on a lower portion of the tube part **140**, in a manner similar to that of a common cosmetic tube. In cases where the wiper hole **315** is

implemented in the form of a slit that extends along the left-right direction and the stick part **550** also has a cross section that extends more along the left-right direction compared to the front-rear direction in the spatula-mounted container **1200**, it can be advantageous to have the seam **142** extend along the left-right direction as well. This would allow the front and rear surfaces of the tube part **140** to have a larger area than that of the side surfaces, as depicted in FIGS. **12** to **14**, and would induce the user to press the front and rear surfaces of the tube part **140** when applying pressure on the tube part **140**.

[0111] If the container body **100** is thus fabricated as a tube made from a flexible material, it can be easier to use the content even after the amount of content (not shown) remaining in the holding space **105** has become very little. For example, with a structure in which the container body **100** is made from a rigid material that cannot be deformed, it would be difficult to get the content onto the portions of the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** that are above the level of the content within the holding space **105**. That is, if the level of the content in the holding space **105** only reaches 1/10 of the height of the holding space **105**, then the content would not remain adhered to the stick part **550** at portions above the 1/10 height of the holding space **105** regardless of whether or not the surfaces of the stick part **550** contact the wiper plug **300**.

[0112] In contrast, in cases where the container body **100** includes a tube part **140** that can be deformed by an applied pressure, the user can have the content adhered uniformly on the stick part **550**, even when the level of content holding space **105** is relatively low, by slightly lifting the spatula **500** such that the grip part **510** does not fully close the wiper hole **315** and then pressing and compacting the tube part **140**. If the user then pulls out the spatula **500**, the surplus amount of content adhered to the stick part **550** can be wiped off onto the wiper members **360**, and a suitable amount of content can be obtained on the coated surface of the stick part **550**.

[0113] FIG. **15** and FIG. **16** illustrate the wiper plug **300** of a spatula-mounted container **1200** according to the second disclosed embodiment of the invention as seen from below and above, respectively.

[0114] A wiper plug **300** based on the second disclosed embodiment of the invention is generally similar to a wiper plug **300** based on the first disclosed embodiment described above and can include a cover part **310**, a plug part **330**, a passage part **350**, and wiper members **360**. Obviously, a wiper plug **300** based on the second disclosed embodiment can be used in a spatula-mounted container **1100** based on the first disclosed embodiment.

[0115] In the first disclosed embodiment illustrated in FIG. **3** and FIG. **5**, contact grooves **134** are formed in the inner perimeter of the neck **130** of the container body **100** so as to allow the plug part **330** to press against the inner perimeter of the neck **130** more fully and over a greater contact area for an increased sealing performance. To provide a similar function, in the second disclosed embodiment of the invention, the neck **130** of the container body **100** can have a smooth surface, and contact protrusions **334** can be formed on the outer perimeter of the plug part **330** of the wiper plug **300**. As the plug part **330** includes the contact protrusions **334** and is fabricated from a flexible material, the contact protrusions **334** allow the plug part **330** to press against the inner perimeter of the neck **130** more tightly, thereby increasing the sealing performance. Of course, certain embodiments of the invention can have one or more contact grooves **134** formed in the inner perimeter of the neck **130** as well as one or more contact protrusions **334** provided on the outer perimeter of the plug part **330**.

[0116] As described above, in cases where the wiper hole **315** is implemented in the form of a slit according to an embodiment of the invention, the wiper plug **300** can be formed such that at least one of the left and right side portions **554** of the stick part **550** does not contact the wiper plug **300**. For this, a structure can be used in which the wiper members **360** and the wiper hole **315** have consistent shapes while the side portions **554** of the stick part **550** have shapes different from that of the wiper hole **315**, as in the examples illustrated in FIG. **10** and FIG. **11**, or a structure can be used in which the wiper members **360** and the wiper hole **315** themselves have inconsistent shapes,

as in the example illustrated in FIG. **15** and FIG. **16**.
[0117] Referring to FIG. **15** and FIG. **16**, in the wiper plug **300** of a spatula-mounted container **1200** based on the second disclosed embodiment of the invention, the wiper hole **315** may be formed on an inner side of the passage part **350**, and the wiper members **360** may protrude inward from the inner side of the passage part **350**, but the wiper members **360** may be formed in a length that is shorter than that of the slit forming the wiper hole **315** along the left-right direction.
[0118] FIG. **17** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole **315** and the stick part **550** in such a structure. Since the length of the wiper members **360** along the left-right direction is smaller than the length of the wiper hole **315**, there are portions of the wiper hole **315** that are not adjacent to the wiper members **360**. When the spatula **500** is pulled out by the user, the parts on the surfaces of the stick part **550** that pass through such portions where there is no wiper member **360** would not have the content wiped off. That is, at least a portion of the coated surface, on which the content remains, can also be formed on at least one flat portion **552** on the front surface and rear surface of the stick part **550**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **17**, the coated surface would include the side portion **554** shown in the figure as well as the adjacent parts of the flat portions **552** on the front and rear surfaces.
[0119] The examples illustrated in FIGS. **15** to **17** depict the parts where the wiper members **360** are omitted as being positioned at the end portion of the wiper hole **315** on one side. However, in other embodiments of the invention not shown in the drawings, the part where the wiper members **360** are omitted can be positioned at a middle portion of the wiper hole **315**.
[0120] FIG. **18** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1300** according to a third disclosed embodiment of the invention. FIG. **19** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1300** shown in FIG. **18** as cut along the front-rear direction, and FIG. **20** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1300** shown in FIG. **18** as cut along the left-right direction. FIG. **21** illustrates the wiper plug **300** of the spatula-mounted container **1300**, and FIG. **22** illustrates the spatula **500** of the spatula-mounted container **1300**.
[0121] A spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment of the invention may have many features in common with the spatula-mounted containers **1100**, **1200** based on the first and second disclosed embodiments described above. The descriptions below will focus more on the differences of the spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment. Certain features described with reference to the first or second disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the third disclosed embodiment, and likewise certain features described with reference to the third disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the first or second disclosed embodiment. In describing the third disclosed embodiment, certain reference numerals are intended to indicate corresponding components of the components in the first and/or second disclosed embodiment to which said numerals are designated.
[0122] A spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment can be particularly useful in cases where the container **1300** is manufactured in a smaller size and the amount of content held in the holding space **105** is smaller compared to the containers **1100**, **1200** based on the other embodiments described above. Referring to FIGS. **18** to **20**, a spatula-mounted container **1300** according to the third disclosed embodiment of the invention can include a container body **100**, a wiper plug **300**, a spatula **500**, and an overcap **700**.
[0123] The side wall **120** of the container body **100** can be made from any of a variety of materials. In cases where a spatula-mounted cosmetic container **1300** according to an embodiment of the invention is for holding a colored content such as a concealer or a blush, etc., the side wall **120** of the container body **100** can be fabricated from a transparent material, so that the color of the content held inside can be perceived from the outside, and the cosmetic container **1300** can have a more aesthetic appearance.
[0124] In the example illustrated in FIG. **18**, the part of the container body **100** corresponding to the neck **130** can have a shape different from that of the part corresponding to the side wall **120**.

That is, the neck **130** can be generally shaped as a cylinder, whereas the side wall **120** can be generally shaped similarly to a parallelepiped. Also, the neck **130** of the container body **100** can be formed with a width smaller than the width of the side wall **120**. As a result, a ledge **126** can be formed at a lower portion of the neck **130** where the side wall **120** meets the neck **130**. One or more stopper protrusions **128** that limit the range of rotation of the overcap **700** can be formed on the neck **130** of the container body **100**.

[0125] The holding space **105** within the container body **100** can maintain a generally uniform shape on the inner sides of the neck **130** and the side wall **120** of the container body **100**. That is, the inner diameter of the neck **130** and the inner diameter of the side wall **120** can be the same as or similar to each other. Of course, in certain embodiments, the opening on the inner side of the neck **130** can be narrower than the holding space **105** on the inner side of the side wall **120**.

[0126] In a spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment of the invention, the spatula **500** and the overcap **700** can be coupled together to be used in an integrated form. Therefore, in this embodiment, the grip part **510** of the spatula **500** may not be the part directly gripped by the user but rather can correspond to a part that is coupled with the overcap **700**. When the user wishes to use the spatula **500**, the user can grip the overcap **700**, to which the grip part **510** is coupled. As illustrated in FIG. **22**, the grip part **510** can include a head part **520**, a flange **530**, and a coupling part **540**. Also, whereas the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** has a generally flat shape in the embodiments described above, the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** in a spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment of the invention can be composed of a rod **560** and a blade **570**, with only the blade **570** formed in a flat shape.

[0127] FIG. **22** is a perspective view illustrating the spatula **500** in a spatula-mounted container **1300** according to the third disclosed embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **22**, a spatula **500** according to an embodiment of the invention can include a head part **520**, a flange **530**, a coupling part **540**, a rod **560**, and a blade **570**. Here, the head part **520**, flange **530**, and coupling part **540** can form the grip part **510**, while the rod **560** and the blade **570** can form the stick part **550**.

[0128] The head part **520** can be formed on an upper portion of the rod **560** and can have a diameter larger than that of the wiper hole **315** of the wiper plug **300**. A lower portion of the head part **520** can form an inclined part **522**, which becomes narrower towards the bottom. While the spatula **500** is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug **300**, the head part **520** can be positioned on the inner side of the plug part **330** of the wiper plug **300**. In certain embodiments not shown in the drawings, the outer perimeter of the head part **520** can be pressed against the inner perimeter of the plug part **310**. Also, in certain embodiments not shown in the drawings, the inclined part **522** forming the lower portion of the head part **520** can be pressed against the inner side of the passage part **350**. In such structures, the spatula **500** can aid in sealing the wiper hole **315** more airtightly.

[0129] The flange **530** can protrude outward from an upper portion of the head part **520**. When the overcap **700** coupled to the spatula **500** is coupled to the neck **130** of the container body **100**, the flange **530** of the spatula **500** can press the flange **340** of the wiper plug **300** downward.

[0130] The coupling part **540** can protrude upward from the flange **530** and can be used for the coupling between the spatula **500** and the overcap **700**. One or more indentations and/or protrusions can be formed on the coupling part **540** for the coupling with the overcap **700**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**, a coupling protrusion **542** is formed on the outer surface of the coupling part **540**, and a coupling groove **725** is formed in the inner surface of the overcap **700**. The coupling protrusion **542** can be inserted into the coupling groove **725**, so that the spatula **500** may be coupled to the overcap **700**.

[0131] As in the example illustrated in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**, the coupling groove **725** formed in the overcap **700** and the coupling protrusion **542** formed on the spatula **500** can be formed in an annular shape. This structure allows the grip part **510** of the spatula **500** to rotate relative to the

overcap **700**. When the user rotates the overcap **700** to separate the overcap **700** that is screw-joined onto the container body **100**, the spatula **500** can thus be made to remain stationary without rotating if necessary. If the spatula **500** is unrotatably secured to the overcap **700** and hence is rotated together with the overcap **700**, there is a risk of unnecessary friction at the points of contact between the rod **560** and the wiper member **360** or between the wiper plug **300** and the neck **130**. Such friction can lower the sealing performance of the spatula-mounted container **1300** in sealing the holding space **105**.

[0132] The rod **560**, which is a portion of the stick part **550**, can extend down from a lower portion of the grip part **510** and can have an outer diameter corresponding to the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315**. That is, in the spatula-mounted container **1300** based on the third disclosed embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. **18** to **21**, the wiper hole **315** can be implemented in a circular shape, and the rod **560** can have a circular cross section in a shape and size corresponding to those of the wiper hole **315**.

[0133] According to an embodiment of the invention, a venting groove **563** can be formed in the outer perimeter of the rod **560**. The venting groove **563** can be formed along the outer perimeter of the rod **560** to have an annular shape, and at the part where the venting groove **563** is formed, the outer diameter of the rod **560** can be smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315**. While the spatula **500** is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug **300**, the venting groove **563** can be positioned below the wiper member **360**.

[0134] Since the rod **560** has an outer diameter corresponding to the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315**, the rod **560** can seal the wiper hole **315** while the spatula **500** is in a coupled state with the wiper plug **300**. In a structure where there is no venting groove **563** formed in the rod **560**, when the user pulls out the spatula **500**, the wiper hole **315** would remain sealed until the entire rod **560** is completely pulled out over the wiper hole **315**. This would continuously decrease the pressure within the holding space **105** and make it gradually more difficult to pull out the spatula **500**. In cases where a venting groove **563** is formed in the rod **560** according to an embodiment of the invention, a gap may be formed between the rod **560** and the wiper plug **300** when the venting groove **563** passes through the wiper hole **315**, thus allowing air to enter the holding space **105** through the gap and allowing the interior of the holding space **105** to return to normal pressure.

[0135] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the venting groove **563** can be formed directly below the wiper member **360**. Specifically, the position of the venting groove **563** can be between the wiper member **360** and the surface level of the content (not shown) when the content (not shown) is first filled in the holding space **105**. This can prevent the content from entering the venting groove **563** and being pulled out through the venting groove **563** when the spatula **500** is pulled out. Although the example illustrated in FIGS. **18** to **22** depict only one venting groove **563** formed in the rod **560** of the spatula **500**, it is possible, in certain other embodiments of the invention, to have more than one venting groove **563** formed in the rod **560**. However, in cases where the spatula-mounted container **1300** is provided in a small size, it can be sufficient to have just one venting groove **563** formed above the level of the content as described above.

[0136] In a lower portion of the rod **560**, an insertion recess **565** can be formed for coupling the blade **570**. This can be used in cases where the blade **570** and the rod **560** are fabricated separately and coupled together, for instance when they are made from different materials, etc. For example, in an embodiment of the invention, the rod **560** can be fabricated from a material such as PP, etc., and the blade **570** can be fabricated from a material such as stainless steel, etc., before the rod **560** and blade **570** are coupled to each other. Of course, in certain embodiments, the rod **560** and the blade **570** can both be fabricated from the same material, such as PP, etc., in which case the rod **560** and the blade **570** can be fabricated as a single integrated member.

[0137] The blade **570** can extend down from the bottom of the rod **560** and can have a width that is smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** with respect to at least one direction within a horizontal plane. For instance, in the example illustrated in FIG. **19**, which is a cross-sectional view

of the spatula-mounted container **1300** as cut along the front-rear direction, the width of the blade **570** is smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** with respect to the front-rear direction.
[0138] Incidentally, the width of the blade **570** along the left-right direction is also slightly smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** in the example illustrated in FIG. **20**, which is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1300** as cut along the left-right direction. However, as long as the blade **570** has a width smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** along at least one direction within a horizontal plane, it can be possible for the blade **570** to pass through the wiper hole **315** even if the width of the blade **570** is slightly larger than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** in another direction within the same horizontal plane, since the wiper member **360** of the wiper plug **300** may be made from an elastically deformable material.
[0139] In cases where the wiper hole **315** is formed in a circular shape as in the third disclosed embodiment of the invention, the wiper plug **300** can be structured slightly differently from the wiper plug **300** of the first and second disclosed embodiments in which the wiper hole **315** is formed in the shape of a slit.
[0140] FIG. **21** is a cross-sectional perspective view illustrating the wiper plug **300** in a spatula-mounted container **1300** according to the third disclosed embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **21**, the wiper plug **300** can include a plug part **330**, a flange **340**, a passage part **350**, and a wiper member **360**.
[0141] In the third disclosed embodiment, the plug part **330** can form the main part of the wiper plug **300** and can be generally shaped as a hollow cylinder. The outer diameter of the plug part **330** can correspond to the inner diameter of the neck **130** of the container body **100**. The plug part **330** can be formed from a flexible material such as PE, etc., and one or more contact protrusions **334** can be formed on the outer perimeter. When the wiper plug **300** is coupled to the neck **130** of the container body **100**, the outer perimeter of the plug part **330** can press against the inner perimeter of the neck **130**, and as slight elastic deformations occur at the contact protrusions **334**, the interface at the wiper plug **300** and the neck **130** can be sealed with a high level of airtightness. The plug part **330** can be formed with a thickness that provides a sufficient level of strength such that no significant elastic deformations occur at portions other than the contact protrusions **334**.
[0142] The flange **340** can protrude outward from an upper portion of the plug part **330**. The flange **340** allows the wiper plug **300** to be more securely coupled to the neck **130** of the container body **100**, while also allowing the user to grip the wiper plug **300** more easily when the user wishes to separate the wiper plug **300**. The flange **340** may be similar to the cover part **310** in the wiper plug **300** of the first and second disclosed embodiments described above and can be regarded as a cover part **310** from which the portions on the inner side of the plug part **330** have been omitted.
[0143] The passage part **350** is a part having a decreasing diameter at a lower portion of the plug part **330**. The passage part **350** can have a thickness that is generally the same as or similar to that of the plug part **330**. The wiper member **360** portion may be formed with a smaller thickness relative to other portions of the wiper plug **300** and may form the wiper hole **315** on its inner side, which has a smaller inner diameter compared to the passageway of the plug part **330**. The passage part **350** may maintain a sufficient strength while supporting the wiper member **360**, so that the wiper member **360** may provide only a slight degree of elastic deformation within the required range. In certain embodiments of the invention, the passage part **350** can be omitted or replaced with a component of another shape.
[0144] The wiper member **360** is a part that protrudes inward from the plug part **330** to form the wiper hole **315** on its inner side. That is, the wiper member **360** can have a decreasing outer diameter and a decreasing inner diameter to protrude inward from the plug part **330**. Although the example illustrated in FIGS. **19** to **21** has the wiper member **360** protruding inward from the bottom of the passage part **350**, the wiper member **360** does not necessarily have to be provided on a lower portion of the wiper plug **300**.
[0145] As illustrated in FIG. **21**, the wiper member **360** can have a smaller thickness compared to

the thicknesses of the plug part **330**, flange **340**, and passage part **350** and hence can better undergo elastic deformation. When the spatula **500** is coupled to the wiper plug **300**, the rod **560** portion of the spatula **500** may pass through the wiper hole **315**, at which time the wiper member **360** can press against the outer perimeter of the rod **560**. As the plug part **330** of the wiper plug **300** presses against the neck **130** of the container body **100** and the wiper member **360** presses against the rod **560** of the spatula **500**, the holding space **105** of the container body **100** can be sealed from the exterior in an airtight manner.

[0146] If the wiper hole **315** is formed in a circular shape, the rod has an outer diameter corresponding to the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315**, and the blade **570** has a width that is smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole **315** as in the third disclosed embodiment of the invention, the wiper member **360** may wipe off the content from the rod **560** but may not wipe off the content from the blade **570** when the user pulls out the spatula **500**. That is, in this embodiment, at least a portion of the coated surface can be formed on the blade **570**, and at least a portion of the non-coated surface can be formed on the rod **560**.

[0147] Referring to FIG. **20** and FIG. **22**, the blade **570** can have a flat shape with rounded or chamfered edges. When facing a flat portion **552** of the blade **570**, the edges of the blade **570** can include a first side **571**, a second side **572**, a third side **573**, and a round point **574**.

[0148] The first side **571** on one side of the blade **570** can form a side portion **554** by itself. That is, the first side **571** can extend along the up-down direction while forming one side of the blade **570**, as illustrated in FIG. **20** and FIG. **22**. The second side **572** can form a side portion **554** together with the third side **573** at the other side of the blade **570**. The second side **572** can extend along the up-down direction while forming the other side of the blade **570** and can extend to a length smaller than that of the first side **571**. The third side **573** can extend inwardly in a sloped manner from the bottom of the second side **572**. The third side **573** and the first side **571** can be joined at the round point **574**.

[0149] As the blade **570** of the spatula **500** is shaped as above, the user can utilize the spatula **500** in various ways using different portions of the blade **570**. For instance, in cases where the user wishes to spread the content over a relatively broad area, the user may apply the content onto a target area using the first side **571**. In case where the user wishes to spread the content in a relatively narrow area, the user may apply the content onto a target area using the third side **573**. In case where the user wishes to apply the content as a dot, the user may apply the content onto a target area using the round point **574**.

[0150] FIG. **23** is a perspective view illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1400** according to a fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention. FIG. **24** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1400** as cut along the front-rear direction, and FIG. **25** is a cross-sectional view of the spatula-mounted container **1400** as cut along the left-right direction.

[0151] A spatula-mounted container **1400** based on the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention may have many features in common with the spatula-mounted containers **1100˜1300** based on the first, second, and third disclosed embodiments described above. The descriptions below will focus more on the differences of the spatula-mounted container **1400** based on the fourth disclosed embodiment. Certain features described with reference to the first, second, or third disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the fourth disclosed embodiment, and likewise certain features described with reference to the fourth disclosed embodiment can just as well be applied to the first, second, or third disclosed embodiment. In describing the fourth disclosed embodiment, certain reference numerals are intended to indicate corresponding components of the components in the first, second, and/or third disclosed embodiment to which said numerals are designated.

[0152] Referring to FIGS. **23** to **25**, in spatula-mounted container **1400** based on the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention, the container body **100** can be formed with a cross section that is elongated along a particular direction within a horizontal plane, having an elliptical shape in

particular. Regarding the direction in which the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** is elongated within a horizontal plane as the left-right direction as described above, the container body **100** can be elongated along the front-rear direction. That is, the container body **100** can be formed such that the length along the front-rear direction is greater than the width along the left-right direction. In this case, the side wall **120** of the container body **100** can have a broadly curved face **122**, which is curved with a relatively larger radius of curvature, formed on each of the left and right sides and a narrowly curved face **124**, which is curved with a relatively smaller radius of curvature, formed on each of the front and rear surfaces.

[0153] In order to reinforce the container body **100** that is formed in an elliptical shape, the spatula-mounted container **1400** can further include a shoulder part **600**. The shoulder part **600** can include a cover part **610** and a side wall **620** and can be coupled to an upper portion of the container body **100**. A through hole **615** through which the neck **130** of the container body **100** may pass can be formed in the shoulder part **600**, and indentations **613** through which the stopper protrusions **128** of the container body **100** may pass can also be formed as necessary, joined with the through hole **615**.

[0154] In the spatula-mounted container **1400**, the overcap **700** can also have an elongated shape along the front-rear direction in correspondence with the container body **100**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **24** and FIG. **25**, the overcap **700** is composed of an inner cap **800** and an outer cap **900** that are assembled together for easier manufacture.

[0155] The inner cap **800** can be coupled to the inner side of the outer cap **900**. The inner cap **800** can include an upper part **810**, a side wall **820**, a lower part **830**, and an outer flange **840**. While the overcap **700** is in a fully coupled state with respect to the container body **100**, the upper part **810** of the inner cap **800** can contact an upper portion of the grip part **510**. The side wall **820** of the inner cap **800** can extend down from the upper part **810**, and a protrusion such as a female thread **722**, etc., can be formed on the inner surface of the side wall **820**.

[0156] The lower part **830** of the inner cap **800** can extend outward from a lower portion of the side wall **820** and can form a lower portion of the overcap **700**. Stopper protrusions **836** can be formed on the lower part **830** of the inner cap **800**. When the overcap **700** is fully coupled to the container body **100**, the stopper protrusions **836** of the inner cap **800** can be caught on the stopper protrusions **128** of the container body **100** so as to prevent any further rotation.

[0157] The outer flange **840** of the inner cap **800** can be used for the coupling between the inner cap **800** and the outer cap **900**. The outer flange **840** can, for instance, be fitted into a coupling indentation **940** formed in the inner surface of the side wall **920** of the outer cap **900**. Other indentations and/or protrusions for coupling the inner cap **800** with the outer cap **900** can additionally be formed on the outer flange **840**.

[0158] The outer cap **900** can be coupled to an outer side of the inner cap **800** to form a part of the overcap **700** and a part of exterior of the entire container **1400**. The outer cap **900** can include an upper part **910** and a side wall **920**, where the side wall **920** of the outer cap **900** can have a shape corresponding to that of the side wall **120** of the container body **100**, so that the spatula-mounted container **1400** may have a consistent exterior. As described above, a coupling indentation **940** can be formed in the side wall **920** of the outer cap **900** for coupling with the inner cap **800**, and other indentations and/or protrusions for the same purpose can also be formed additionally.

[0159] In cases where the container body **100** is elongated in a particular direction as in an embodiment of the invention, there is the advantage that the container body **100** can be stored in a recumbent position. For example, FIG. **26** is a cross-sectional view conceptually illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1400** according to the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention. Whereas in FIGS. **23** to **25** the spatula-mounted container **1400** is oriented with the bottom face **110** facing downward, in FIG. **26** the spatula-mounted container **1400** is laid down with the side wall **120** facing downward, with a broadly curved face **122** of the side wall **120** in particular facing downward. As the container body **100** is in a recumbent position, the content **1** held within the

holding space **105** may gather at the bottom of the recumbent container body **100**.
[0160] If the container body **100** is formed such that its length along the front-rear direction is greater than its width along the left-right direction and the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** coupled to the wiper plug **300** is formed such that its length along the left-right direction is greater than its width along the front-rear direction, then when the container body **100** is laid down, one side of the stick part **550** can be stood erect such that the side portion **554** on one side faces down, as illustrated in FIG. **26**. Therefore, even if the level of the content **1** becomes low within the holding space **105** after the content of the spatula-mounted container **1400** is used for prolonged periods, the content may still adhere to the entirety of a side portion **554**, as the stick part **550** stands erect with said side portion **554** facing downward.
[0161] In particular, in cases where the container body **100** has an elliptical cross section as in the example illustrated in FIGS. **23** to **26**, laying the container body **100** down would cause the broadly curved face **122** to face down rather than the narrowly curved face **124**. Also, in cases where the holding space **105** inside the container body **100** also has an elliptical cross section as in the example illustrated in FIGS. **23** to **26**, the content **1** may gather at the bottom to be collected near the stick part **550** positioned in the middle.
[0162] In a spatula-mounted container **1400** according to another embodiment of the invention, a securing groove **125** can be formed in the inner surface of the side wall **120** of the container body **100**. For example, FIG. **27** is a cross-sectional view conceptually illustrating a spatula-mounted container **1400** according to an embodiment of the invention. Similarly to the example illustrated in FIG. **26**, the spatula-mounted container **1400** shown in FIG. **27** is also laid down with a broadly curved face **122** of the side wall **120** facing downward, and the content **1** held within the holding space **105** is gathered at the bottom of the recumbent container body **100**.
[0163] In an embodiment of the invention, the securing groove **125** can be formed in the inner surface in a broadly curved face **122** of the side wall **120**. The side wall **120** and neck **130** of the container body **100** as well as the wiper plug **300** can be designed such that a side portion **554** of the stick part **550** in the spatula **500** coupled to the wiper hole **315** may be inserted into the securing groove **125** formed in the side wall **120**. For instance, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. **27**, the position of the neck **130** itself can be designed to be closer to the side wall **120** on one side compared to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. **26**, the wiper hole **315** formed in the wiper plug **300** can be designed to be closer to the side wall **120** on one side, or the holding space itself can be designed so as not to be aligned with the opening on the inner side of the neck **130**.
[0164] This structure in which a side portion **554** of the stick part **550** on a spatula **500** coupled to the wiper hole **315** is inserted into a securing groove **125** can not only secure the spatula **500** in a more stable manner but can also cause the content to flow into the securing groove **125** when the container body **100** is laid down, thereby increasing the likelihood of the content **1** adhering to the corresponding side portion **554** of the stick part **550**.
[0165] Referring to FIG. **23** and FIG. **26**, in an embodiment of the invention, cut surfaces **556** can be formed in the stick part **550** of the spatula **500**. One or more cut surfaces **556** can be formed in the front surface and/or rear surface of the stick part **550**. A cut surface **556** refers to a surface having a decreasing thickness compared to the flat portion **552** of the stick part **550** and thus shaped as if a portion has been cut away. Here, the term “cut surface” is intended merely to depict the shape. That is, the stick part **550** may not necessarily undergo an actual cutting process and, for instance, can be molded into a shape that includes a cut surface.
[0166] FIG. **28** is a top view conceptually illustrating the shapes of the wiper hole **315** and the stick part **550** in a spatula-mounted container **1400** according to the fourth disclosed embodiment of the invention.
[0167] In the example illustrated in FIG. **28**, the wiper hole **315** has a generally uniform width along the left-right direction, whereas a cut surface **556** is formed in the surface of the stick part **550**. Since the thickness of the stick part **550** is decreased at the cut surface **556**, the wiper member

360 may not contact the cut surface **556**, and the content adhered to the cut surface **556** may not be wiped off by the wiper member **360**. As a result, at least a portion of the coated surface can include the cut surfaces **556**, while the non-coated surface can include the flat portions **552** where the cut surfaces **556** are not formed.

[0168] Although the example illustrated in FIG. **28** has the cut surface **556** formed only on one side at the end portion on one side of the stick part **550**, it is possible to have the cut surface **556** formed at the end portions on both sides of the stick part **550** as in FIG. **26**, and it is possible to have cut surfaces **556** formed on both surfaces at the end portion on one side. For instance, having a side portion **554** of the stick part **550** implemented in a polygonal shape, as depicted in FIG. **11**, can also be regarded as having cut surfaces **556** formed in the stick part **550**. Of course, certain embodiments can have the cut surfaces **556** formed in both surfaces at both end portions.

[0169] A spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** based on an embodiment of the invention described above can effectively seal the holding space **105** in which the content is stored and can prevent the content that has adhered to the spatula **500** from contaminating other surrounding objects. When the content is not being used, the holding space **105** can be airtightly sealed, but when the content is being used, air may flow between the inside and outside of the holding space **105**, so that the problem of the user experiencing difficulty in coupling and separating the spatula **500** due to a pressure difference between the inside and outside of the holding space **105** can be avoided.

[0170] Even though the stick part **550** of the spatula **500** is stored in the holding space **105** together with the content, the content may not adhere to the stick part **550** in an excessive amount when the user utilizes the spatula **500**, so that the possibility of the content contaminating the surroundings by flowing or dripping may be significantly reduced. Conversely, the structure of a spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** according to an embodiment of the invention can increase user convenience by allowing the content to adhere to the spatula **500** in a sufficient amount, even after the amount of content remaining in the holding space **105** has decreased.

[0171] Also, a spatula-mounted container **1100˜1400** according to certain embodiments of the invention allows the user to use up the content held in the holding space **105** as much as possible, to thereby prevent any waste of the content and reduce any environmental pollution incurred by the disposing of the remaining content.

[0172] While the foregoing provides a description with reference to an embodiment of the present invention, it should be appreciated that a person having ordinary skill in the relevant field of art would be able to make various modifications and alterations to the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention set forth in the scope of claims below.

Claims

1. A spatula-mounted container comprising: a container body forming a holding space on an inner side thereof for holding a content, the container body including a neck on an upper portion thereof, the neck formed around an opening to the holding space; a wiper plug made from a flexible material and coupled to the neck to close the opening, the wiper plug having a wiper hole formed in an inner side thereof, the wiper hole formed in a size smaller than that of the opening, the wiper plug including a wiper member, the wiper member protruding towards an inner side of the wiper hole; and a spatula separably coupled to the wiper plug and including a stick part and a grip part, the stick part having an elongated shape, the grip part formed on an end portion of the stick part, the spatula configured such that the grip part is unable to pass through the wiper hole and the stick part is able to pass through the wiper hole so as to be at least partially positioned within the holding space while the spatula is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug, wherein the wiper member is pressed against a non-coated surface of the stick part and not pressed against a coated surface of the stick part, so that the content is wiped from the non-coated surface and is left remaining on the coated surface when the spatula is separated from the wiper plug.

2. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, wherein a width of the wiper hole along a front-rear direction is smaller than a length of the wiper hole along a left-right direction such that the wiper hole is implemented in a form of a slit extending along the left-right direction, a thickness of the stick part along the front-rear direction is smaller than a width of the stick part along the left-right direction such that the stick part has a cross section corresponding to that of the slit, and at least a portion of the non-coated surface is formed on at least one of a front surface and a rear surface of the stick part.
3. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein at least one of both side portions of the stick part has a cross section corresponding to a polygon, and at least a portion of both end portions of the slit has a shape corresponding to an arc.
4. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein a concave recess is formed in at least one of the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part such that at least a portion of the non-coated surface is formed in the concave recess.
5. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein a length of the container body along the front-rear direction is greater than a width of the container body along the left-right direction.
6. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein a securing groove is formed in at least one inner surface of a side wall of the container body, and at least one side portion of the stick part is inserted in the securing groove.
7. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein the wiper member is formed with a smaller length than that of the slit along the left-right direction such that at least a portion of the coated surface is formed on at least one of the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part.
8. The spatula-mounted container of claim 2, wherein a cut surface is formed in at least one of the front surface and the rear surface of the stick part such that at least a portion of the coated surface is formed on the cut surface.
9. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, wherein the wiper hole is implemented in a circular shape, the stick part comprises: a rod extending down from a lower portion of the grip part and having an outer diameter corresponding to an inner diameter of the wiper hole; and a blade extending down from a lower portion of the rod and having a width smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole along at least one direction within a horizontal plane, and wherein at least a portion of the non-coated surface is formed on an outer perimeter of the rod, and at least a portion of the coated surface is formed on a surface of the blade.
10. The spatula-mounted container of claim 9, wherein a venting groove is formed in the outer perimeter of the rod, the outer diameter of the rod is smaller than the inner diameter of the wiper hole at a portion where the venting groove is formed, and the venting groove is positioned below the wiper member while the spatula is in a coupled state with respect to the wiper plug.
11. The spatula-mounted container of claim 9, wherein the blade has a flat shape with a rounded or chamfered edge, and the blade comprises: a first side forming one side of the blade and extending along an up-down direction; a second side forming an opposite side of the blade and extending along the up-down direction, the second side extending to a length smaller than that of the first side; a third side extending inwardly in a sloped manner from a bottom of the second side; and a round point connecting the first side and the third side.
12. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, further comprising: an overcap separably coupled to the container body, wherein the overcap contacts an upper portion of the grip part while the overcap is in a coupled state with respect to the container body.
13. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, further comprising: an overcap separably coupled to the container body, wherein the grip part is coupled to the overcap.
14. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, wherein the wiper member inclines inward towards a bottom.
15. The spatula-mounted container of claim 14, wherein the wiper member has a smaller thickness than that of a remaining portion of the wiper plug.

16. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, wherein a lower portion of the grip part completely closes the wiper hole.

17. The spatula-mounted container of claim 1, wherein the container body is implemented in a form of a tube made from a flexible material.