

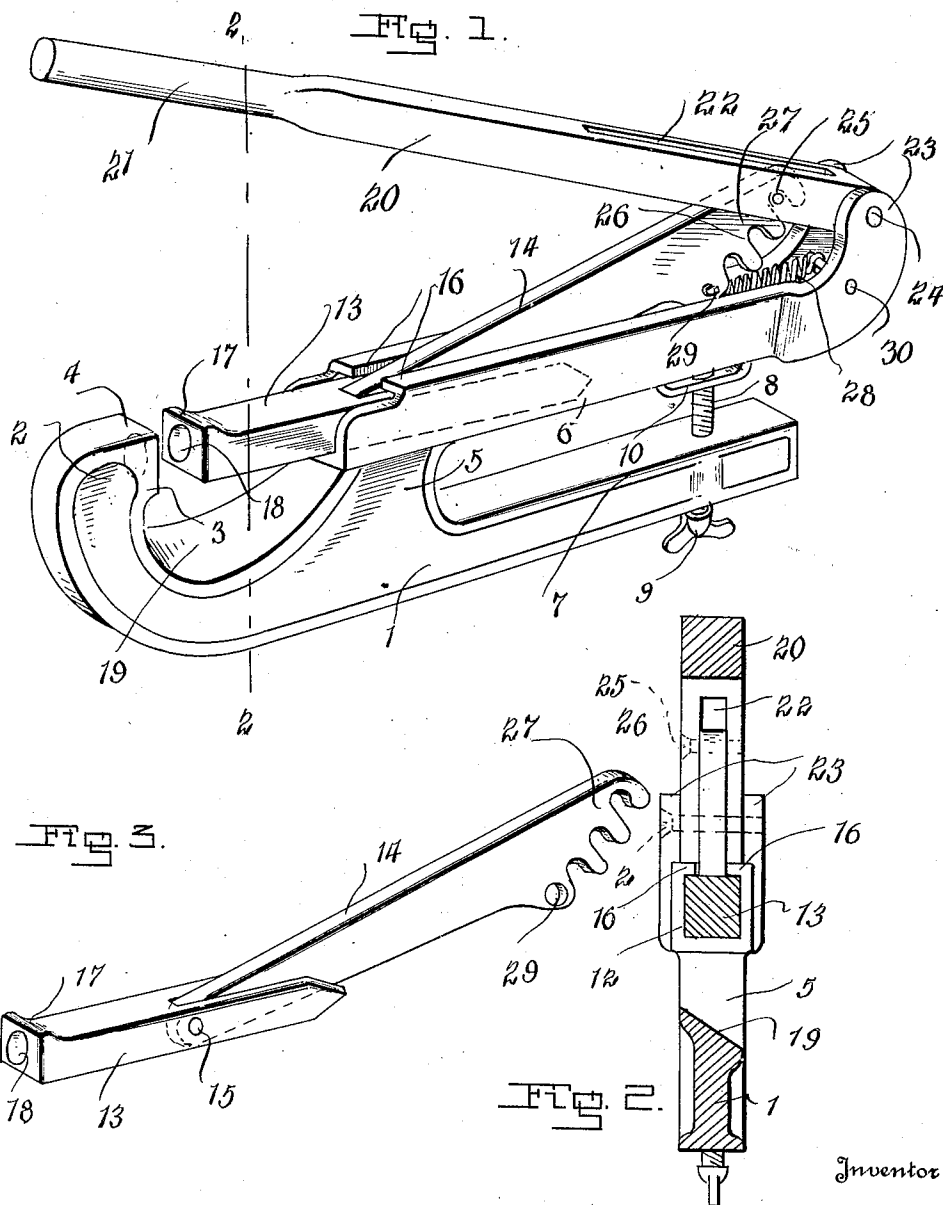
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NUTCRACKER

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NUTCRACKER.

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This invention relates to nut crackers, and one object of the invention is to provide a nut cracker which may be firmly secured to a table or other support and project from the support above a bowl or other receptacle placed beneath the device to catch the nuts after being cracked.

Another object of the invention is to so form the nut cracker that an upper arm thereof which engages the upper face of the table or other support may also serve as a mounting for a reciprocating jaw or plunger and in addition constitute means for carrying an operating element for the plunger.

Another object of the invention is to prevent the plunger from having turning movement in the arm through which it slides and to so mount its actuating handle or lever that a great deal of pressure may be exerted upon a nut gripped between the forward end of the plunger and a co-operating jaw.

Another object of the invention is to provide a nut cracker which will be simple in construction and very strong and durable.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved nut cracker;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the plunger and pitman forming part of the nut cracker.

The nut cracker disclosed in the accompanying drawing is provided with an elongated body portion 1 formed of metal and having its forward end portion curved upwardly to provide a jaw 2, the upper end portion of which extends rearwardly a short distance, as shown at 3, and at its end is provided with a recess or seat 4 adapted to receive a nut to be cracked. A post 5 extends upwardly from the body in spaced relation to the jaw 2 and at its upper end carries an arm 6 which extends rearwardly therefrom in spaced relation to the rear portion 7 of the body. Adjacent its rear end the body is formed with a threaded vertically extending passage through which a threaded stem 8 passes, and this stem has its lower end formed with a turning head 9, by means of which it may be adjusted and its bearing head 10 moved into tight gripping engagement with the under face of a table or similar support and cause the table to be firmly gripped between the bearing head and

upper arm 6 which extends across the upper face of the table. It will thus be seen that the nut cracker may be securely clamped to the table but may be easily released when it is to be removed.

A longitudinally extending pocket 12 is formed in the arm 6, and this pocket is rectangular in cross section, as shown in Fig. 2, so that the plunger 13 which is also rectangular in cross section may slide freely in the pocket but be prevented from having turning movement therein. The upper surface of the arm is slotted, as shown in Fig. 1, in order to provide a passage for the link or pitman 14 which is pivoted in a slot formed in the rear end of the plunger by a pin 15 and projects upwardly and rearwardly from the plunger. It should be further noted that the slot provides the side walls of the pocket with inwardly extending flanges 16 which overlap the upper face of the plunger and prevent the plunger from having upward movement out of its pocket. At its forward end the plunger is enlarged to form a head 17, the forward end face of which is recessed, as shown at 18, to provide a seat disposed in facing relation to the seat 4. Therefore, the jaw and the plunger may have firm gripping engagement with a nut placed between them and cause the nut to be very effectively cracked when the plunger is moved forwardly and pressure applied. The portion of the body between the jaw 2 and the post 5 has its upper surface 19 beveled so that it extends toward one side, as shown in Fig. 2, and thereby provides a surface which will cause cracked nuts released from the jaw and plunger to be guided into a bowl or other receptacle placed beneath the portion of the nut cracker which projects forwardly from the support.

In order to move the plunger longitudinally and apply cracking pressure to a nut gripped between the plunger and jaw, there has been provided a handle or lever 20 which has its free end portion rounded to form a hand hold 21 and adjacent its rear end is formed with a longitudinally extending slot 22. The handle extends longitudinally above the arm 6 and over the jaw 2 and has its rear end fitted between bearing ears 23 which project upwardly over the rear end of the arm 6 and pivotally connected therewith by a pin 24 preferably consisting of a screw. The upper rear end portion of the pitman 14 fits into the slot 22 of

the handle and is pivotally mounted through the medium of a pin 25 passed through aligned openings in the side walls of the slot and engaged in a selected notch or seat 26
 5 formed in the head 27 at the rear end of the pitman. It will be understood that the head 27 may be enlarged to provide room for additional recesses 26 if so desired. A spring 28 which is engaged with the ear 29 and pin
 10 30 retains the pitman in engagement with the pin 25 but permits the pitman to be easily adjusted. It will be readily understood that, when the nut cracker is in use, the handle is swung upwardly a sufficient
 15 distance to move the plunger rearwardly and after a nut has been placed between the plunger and jaw the lever or handle moved downwardly in order to slide the plunger forwardly into engagement with the nut
 20 and cause it to be gripped between the plunger and jaw. Additional pressure is then applied to the handle and the nut will be very easily cracked. After the nut has been cracked, the plunger is again moved
 25 rearwardly by raising the lever and the nut will be released and dropped downwardly into a bowl or other receptacle placed beneath the nut cracker. The distance the plunger moves out of the arm 6 towards
 30 the jaw is controlled by disposing the pin 25 in the proper recess 26 and, therefore, the nut cracker can be used for cracking either large or small nuts.

Having thus described the invention, I
 35 claim:

1. A nut cracker comprising an elongated body, a jaw extending upwardly from said body, a post extending upwardly from said body in spaced relation to said jaw, an arm
 40 carried by and extending rearwardly from the upper end of said post, said arm being formed with a longitudinally extending pocket opening through the forward end of the arm, the upper surface of the arm being
 45 formed with a longitudinally extending slot communicating with said pocket, a plunger slidable into and out of said pocket through the open forward end thereof towards and away from said jaw, a handle pivoted to
 50 said arm, and a link pivoted to said plunger and extending upwardly through the slot and pivoted to the handle and adapted to impart reciprocating movement to said plunger when the handle is moved.

2. A nut cracker comprising a body, a jaw carried by said body, a post carried by said body in spaced relation to said jaw, an arm
 55 extending rearwardly from said post, said arm being formed with a longitudinally extending pocket opening through the forward end of the arm, the upper surface of the arm being formed with a longitudinally extend-
 60 ing slot communicating with said pocket, a

plunger slidable into and out of said pocket through the open forward end thereof to-
 65 wards and away from said jaw, an operating handle pivotally connected with said arm and formed with a longitudinally extending slot adjacent its pivoted end, and a link pivoted to said plunger and extending
 70 upwardly through the slot in said arm and pivotally mounted in the slot of said handle.

3. A nut cracker comprising a body having its rear end portion formed with upper and lower longitudinally extending
 75 arms and at its front end formed with an upstanding jaw having its upper end portion facing the front end of the upper arm and formed with a nut receiving seat, said upper arm being formed with a longitudinally extend-
 80 ing pocket open at its forward end and along its upper portion formed with an entrance slot opening through the upper surface of the arm, a plunger slidably received in said pocket and having one end portion
 85 projecting out of the open end of the pocket and formed at its end with a nut receiving seat, an operating lever pivoted to the rear end of said upper arm and extending forwardly above the same, and a link pivoted to
 90 the rear end of said plunger and extending upwardly through the slot in the upper arm and pivotally connected with said lever adjacent the rear end thereof.

4. A nut cracker comprising a body
 95 having a longitudinally extending arm and at its front end formed with an upstanding jaw having its upper end portion facing the front end of the arm, said upper arm being formed with a longitudinally extending
 100 pocket opening through the forward end and along the upper surface of the arm, the pocket being non-circular in cross section and having its side walls formed with inwardly extending flanges along its open
 105 upper portion, a plunger slidable into and out of the pocket through its open end, said plunger conforming in cross section to the contour of the pocket and having its upper surface overlapped by said flanges, an oper-
 110 ating handle pivoted at its rear end to the arm and extending forwardly above the same, said handle having a longitudinally extending slot in its rear end portion, a pin carried by said handle and extending across
 115 its slot, and a link pivoted to the inner end of said plunger and extending upwardly and rearwardly therefrom between the flanges of said arm and having its rear end disposed in the slot of said handle and
 120 formed with vertically spaced recesses through a selected one of which said pin passes to pivotally connect the link with the handle.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
 JAMES F. MILLER. [L.S.]