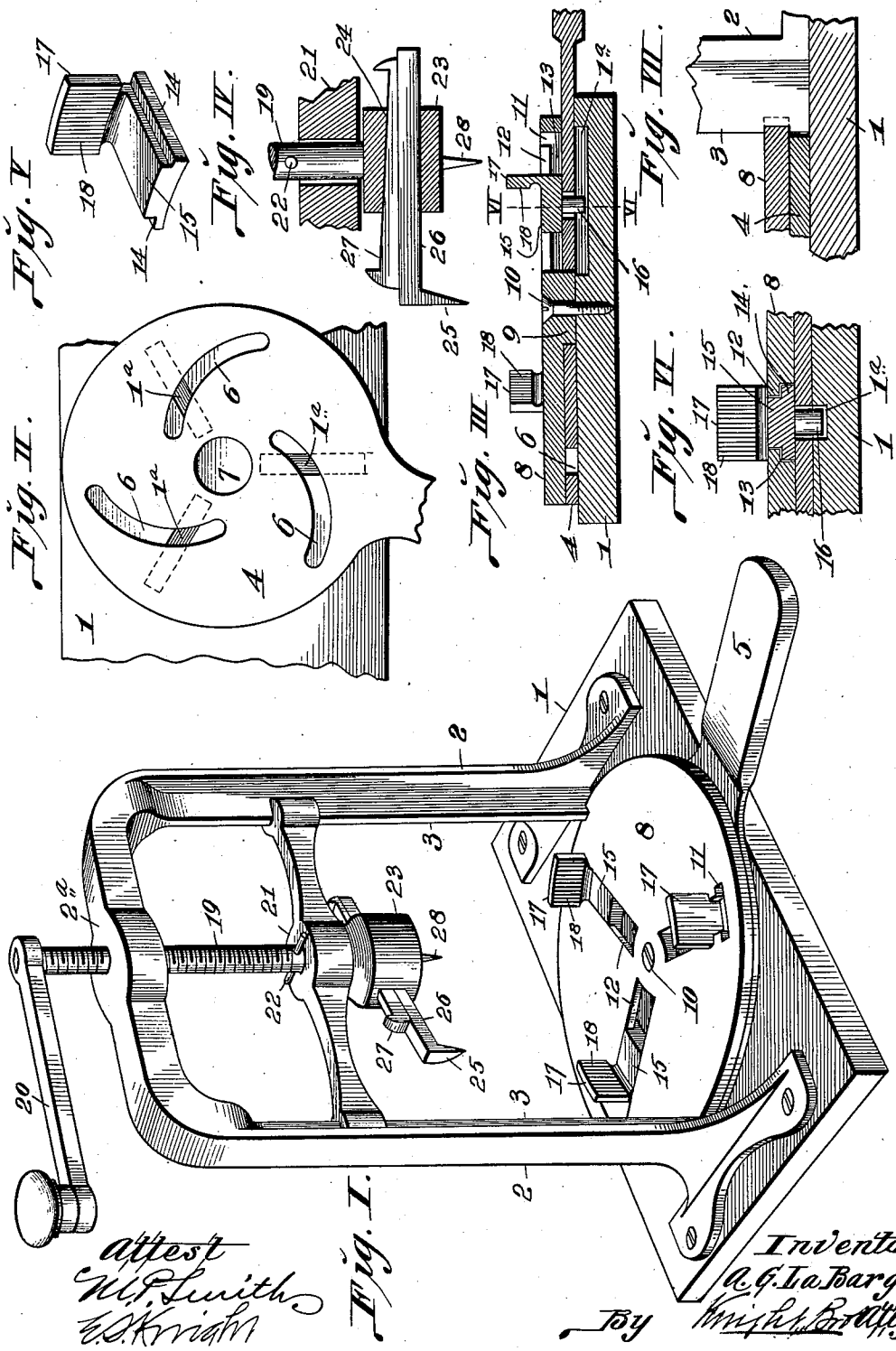
No. 648,763. Patented May 1, 1900.

A. G. LA BARGE.

CAN OPENER.

(Application filed Sept. 18, 1899.)

(No Model.)



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT G. LA BARGE, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,763, dated May 1, 1900.

Application filed September 18, 1899. Serial No. 730,809. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT G. LA BARGE, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to a can-opener provided with a clamping-holder adapted to receive and hold cans of various sizes and having a revoluble cutter mounted in a frame and carried by a screw-shaft adapted to be turned to operate the cutter in a shearing manner in effecting the opening of the can.

My invention consists in features of novelty hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claim.

Figure I is a perspective view of my improved can-opener. Fig. II shows a fragment of the can-opener base and illustrates in top view the clamping-disk with the clamp-jaws removed. Fig. III is a cross-sectional view through the clamp mechanism of the opener. Fig. IV is a view, partly in section and partly in elevation, of the cutter-blade and its carrying-shaft. Fig. V is a perspective view of one of the clamp-jaws. Fig. VI is a cross-sectional view taken on line VI VI, Fig. III. Fig. VII is a detail view showing a fragment of the base and the edges of the clamping-disk and jaw-receiving disk in cross-section and the lower end of the guide-frame in elevation.

1 designates the base of the can-opener, surmounted by a frame 2, having interior guide-ribs 3.

4 designates a clamping-disk provided with a handle 5 and having curved slots 6 extending therethrough, the said slots extending from points near the edge of the clamping-disk to points near the central aperture 7 in the disk.

1^a represents radially-arranged grooves in the base 1, beneath the clamping-disk 4.

8 designates the jaw-receiving disk, mounted on the clamping-disk 4, having a centrally-located extension 9 fitting in the aperture 7 of the clamping-disk and held to said disk and the base 1 by a pivot-screw 10. In the jaw-receiving disk 8 are radially-arranged slots 11, provided with overhanging shoulders 12, that produce guideways 13, in which tongues 14 of clamp-jaws 15 operate. Each clamp-jaw 15 is provided with a downwardly-extending stud 16, arranged to travel in the curved slots 6 of the clamping-disk 4 and in the radially-arranged grooves 1^a in the base 1. Each clamp-jaw is formed with an upwardly-extending arm 17, having an inner serrated face 18. When a can is to be clamped in the can-opener, the handle 5 of the clamping-disk 4 is moved to one side, in which action the studs 16 of each clamp-jaw are caused to travel outwardly in the curved slot 6 of the clamping-disk and in the grooves 1^a of the base 1, thereby carrying the clamp-jaws toward the edge of their receiving-disk 8 and separating their arms 17, so that the can may be placed on the disk 8 between the arms of the jaws. The disk 4 is then rocked in the opposite direction, and the clamp-jaws are carried inwardly toward a common center by reason of the studs 16 being carried along the slots 6 toward the innermost ends of said slots. The clamp-jaws being serrated, the can gripped by them is held firmly between said jaws and prevented from turning.

19 designates a screw-shaft provided with a crank 20, passing through and operating in a threaded aperture in the head 2^a of the frame 2. The lower end of the shaft 19 is held from lateral sway by a guide-bar 21, fitted to the shaft, the forked ends of which engage the guide-ribs 3 of the frame 2, the guide-bar being held to the screw-shaft by a key 22. On the lower end of the shaft 19 is a head 23, provided with a transverse tapering opening 24.

25 is a cutter-blade, the shank 26 of which is located in the opening 24 in the shaft-carried head 23 and is held in place by a tapering key 27.

28 is a prong projecting downwardly from the head 23.

When the can has been clamped in the holder, as described, the screw-shaft 19 is revolved by the operator grasping the crank 20 and turning it so as to carry the screw-shaft downwardly, while the guide-bar 21 rides in contact with the guide-ribs 3 of the frame 2. As the head 23 is carried to the top of the

can the prong 28 is brought against the central portion of the can-top, effecting a puncture and steadying the upper end of the can while the operation is continued. The point of the cutter-blade next comes in contact with the can-top and is carried in a circular direction and cuts through the top of the can in a shearing manner, continuing downwardly, which effectually assists in the cutting operation.

By securing the shank 26 of the cutter-blade 25 in the shaft-carried head 23 through means of the tapering key 27 I am enabled to adjust the said cutter-blade inwardly or outwardly on loosening the key 27.

I claim as my invention—

The combination with the base, a frame surmounting the same, and interior guide-ribs formed on the sides of the frame, of a screw-shaft set in said frame and provided with a crank, the apertured head carried by the shaft, a cutter-blade and tapering key secured in said head and the forked guide-bar carried by the shaft and held thereto, by the key 22, the forked bar being adapted to engage the said guide-ribs of the frame.

A. G. LA BARGE.

In presence of—
E. S. KNIGHT,
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