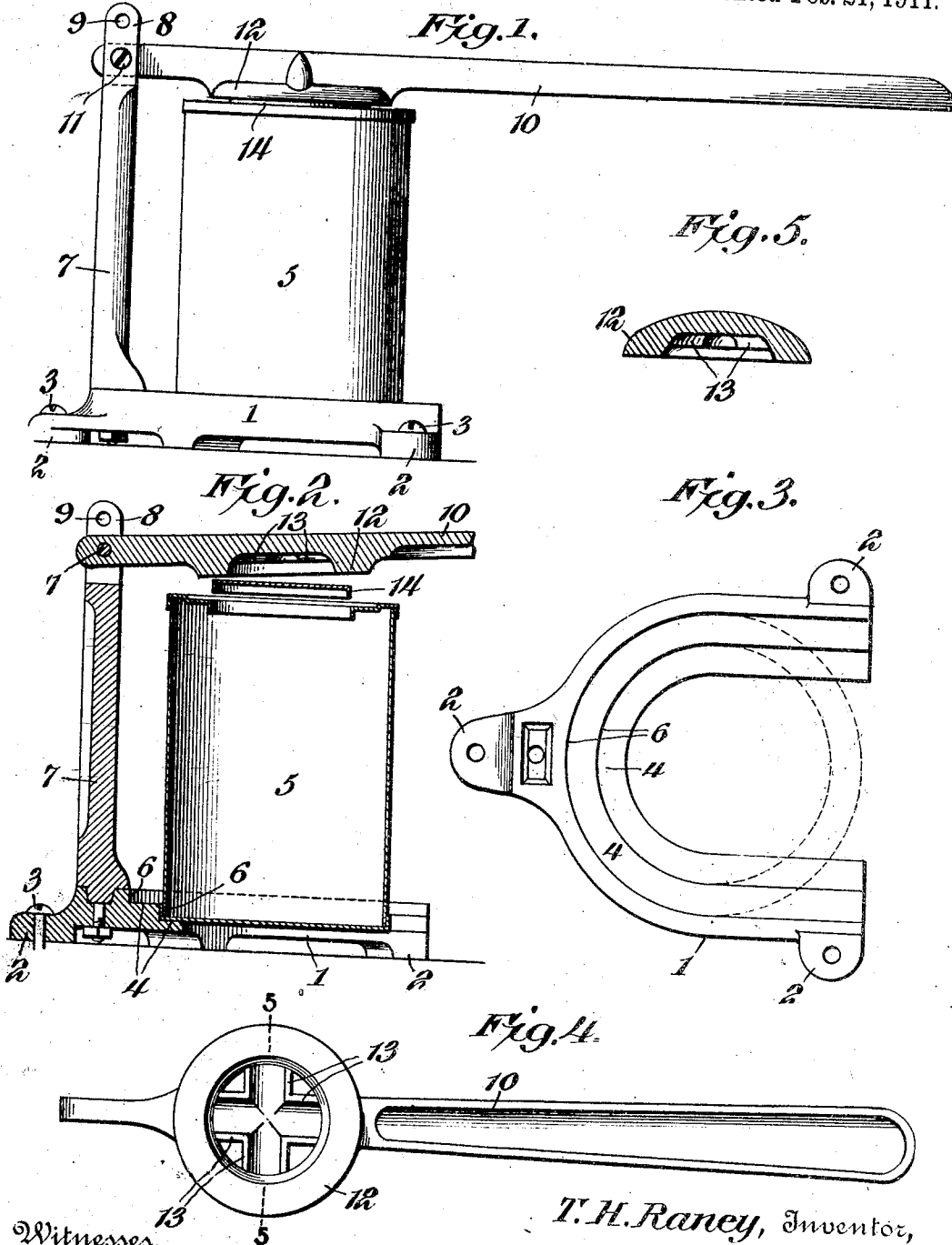


T. H. RANEY.
MACHINE FOR APPLYING CAPS TO CANS.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 8, 1910.

984,966.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS H. RANEY, OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, ASSIGNOR TO THE RANEY CANNER COMPANY, OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, A CORPORATION.

MACHINE FOR APPLYING CAPS TO CANS.

984,966.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

Application filed June 8, 1910. Serial No. 565,764.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS H. RANEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chapel Hill, in the county of Orange and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and useful Machine for Applying Caps to Cans, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to machines for applying caps to cans and its object is to provide a simple and inexpensive hand-operated device by which the friction caps may be rapidly and easily applied to the cans and which will be constructed to accommodate cans of various heights and diameters.

A structure embodying my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and the invention consists in certain novel features of the same which will be hereinafter first fully described and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,—Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved can cap applying device showing the can in position therein. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the base or can support. Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the handle or operating lever with the cap engaging head thereon. Fig. 5 is a vertical section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a base 1 which is provided with a plurality of lugs 2 through which fastening screws 3 may be inserted to secure the device upon a work bench or other support. This base is U-shaped in plan view and upon its upper surface I provide a series of rests T upon which a can body may be placed, the said rests being arranged in stepped relation whereby they will have successively increasing diameters from the lowermost rest to the uppermost one and, consequently, will be adapted to receive and support can bodies of various diameters firmly against lateral movement, as will be readily understood on reference to the dotted lines in Fig. 3. These dotted lines indicate can bodies of different diameters, and it will be noted that the smaller circle coincides with the inner curved portion of the lowermost rest 4, while the larger circle occupies the same relation to the top rest. Upon considering Fig. 2 in connection with Fig. 3, it will be

noted that the can body 5 will be held in an upright position when its lower end is placed upon the upper surface of either rest or stop, and, by pushing the body home against the vertical shoulder 6 at the rear and sides of the rest, the body will be brought into proper position to receive the cap when the same is forced downward by the operating lever or handle.

Adjacent to the rear side of the support or rest, I secure to the base plate 1 a standard 7 which rises from the base plate and is provided at its upper end with a fork or slot 8 and a plurality of openings 9 whereby the operating lever or handle 10 may be pivotally connected to the upper end of the standard at various heights to accommodate can bodies of different sizes. The operating lever or handle is secured to the standard by a pivot pin or screw 11 inserted through the openings 9 and the end of the handle, as clearly shown. Adjacent its pivotal point, the lever has formed on its under side a flat circular presser head 12, the central portion of which is open and is reinforced by integral ribs or braces 13 cast with the handle and the presser head. As shown most clearly in Fig. 2, this presser head is of such diameter as to rest flat against the flat upper surface of the cap 14 and project beyond the edge of the cap so that when the cap has been driven home, the projecting portion of the presser head 12 will impinge against the upper head or end of the can and thereby be limited in its downward movement so that the cap will not be forced into the can to too great an extent. The construction of the presser head will permit the cap to spring slightly upward when pressure is applied to its edges so that it will move readily into its proper engagement with the flange opening in the head of the can.

It will be readily seen, from the foregoing description, that I have provided an exceedingly simple device which may be readily operated without liability of spilling the contents of the can and without requiring any intricate adjustment of parts in order to accommodate cans of various sizes. It will be noted that the rests upon which the can bodies are supported follow the shape of the base 1 so that a U-shaped platform is provided having an open front end and a semi-circular closed rear so that in

placing a can body in position it is necessary only to raise the can sufficiently to clear the step of the corresponding diameter and then slide the can rearwardly on the rest 5 as far as it will go. The cap is then placed by hand in position over the opening in the upper end of the can, and the lever brought down upon the same, as will be readily understood. It will be noted that 10 the presser head or plate is formed integral with the lever so that there is no liability of the head moving out of position to properly engage the cap, and as it is in effect a flat disk on the under side of the operating lever, 15 the liability of the device being damaged or broken by contact with adjacent objects is avoided.

The lever 10 is pivoted to the standard 7 slightly above the top of the can, and the 20 head 12 does not project far beyond the under side of the lever. As a result, the movement of the lever before the head comes in contact with the can is short, and there is less danger of forcing the cap into the can 25 too far.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

A can cap applying device comprising a U-shaped base formed of a single piece and having its upper face provided with a 30 stepped series of correspondingly-shaped recesses having successively increasing diameters, thereby providing a plurality of U-shaped rests arranged in different horizontal planes and which open out at the open 35 side of the base and are adapted to receive and hold from lateral movement can bodies of various diameters, a rigid standard rising from the base at the closed side, and an operating lever pivotally connected to the 40 standard and provided on its under side with a presser head adapted to engage the can caps.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses. 45

THOMAS H. RANEY.

Witnesses:

W. H. BOGER,

W. H. THOMPSON.