Dec. 11, 1956 G. R. HARRAH 2,773,272

COMBINATION CAN AND BOTTLE OPENER

Filed April 5, 1950

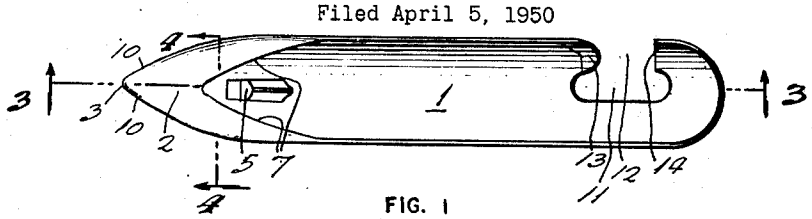


FIG. 1

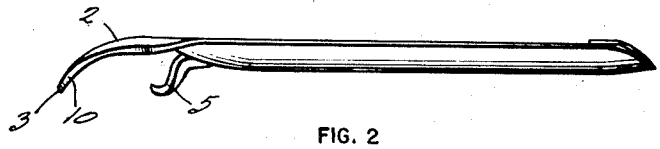


FIG. 2

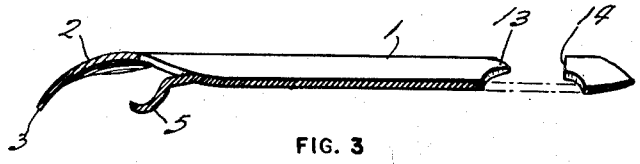


FIG. 3

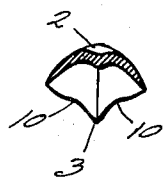


FIG. 4

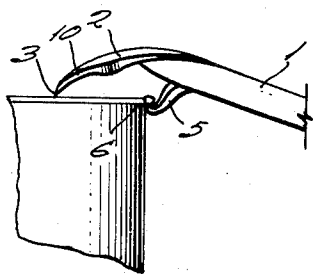


FIG. 5

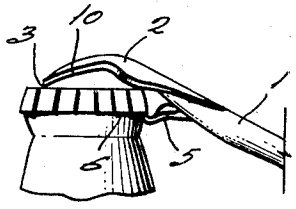


FIG. 6

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COMBINATION CAN AND BOTTLE OPENER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 7—14.25)

This invention relates to improvements in can openers. More particularly, the invention is concerned with improvements in the familiar type of can opener having a cutting head together with a hook for catching under the bead of a can and serving as a fulcrum so that by lifting the handle a triangular section of the can top is cut out and pressed down to make an opening for pouring.

It is an object of the invention to provide a can opener of the type indicated which is more easily handled and possesses greater strength for given weight of metal.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a can opener of the type indicated having improved means for removing bottle caps.

With these and still other objects which will appear in mind, the invention consists in the combinations and arrangements of parts and details of construction, which will now first be fully described with reference to the accompanying drawing and then be pointed out more particularly in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a bottom plan view of the can opener;

Figure 2 is a side elevation;

Figure 3 is a central longitudinal section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a cross section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1; and

Figures 5 and 6 are fragmentary views, respectively illustrating the use of the can opener in opening a can and in removing a bottle cap.

The can opener is preferably formed by stamping and drawing out of sheet steel and may be hardened and plated as desired. It includes a body or handle section 1 and a cutter head 2 formed with a cutting tip 3. A hook 5 is struck down out of the metal of the handle in position to engage under the bead 6 of a can, as indicated in Figure 5. The body or handle section 1 is concave upwardly and convex downwardly and the cutter head 2 is convex upwardly and concave downwardly, the curvature reversing along a line 7 between handle 1 and head 2. The hook 5 is preferably struck down more deeply than usual in this type of opener so that the opener is engaged with a can as indicated in Figure 5, in an almost horizontal position instead of in a more nearly vertical position, as with can openers heretofore constructed. By reason of the deep drawing of the hook 5 and by reason of the concavity of the cutter head 2, it is possible to use the can opener for removing bottle caps of the usual type, as indicated in Figure 6.

As will be apparent from Figures 1, 3 and 4, the drawing down and concave formation of the cutter head permits grinding surfaces 10 on each side of the cutting tip, producing a sharp cutting point which is nevertheless rigid and backed up by metal of heavy section in the line of application of force.

The handle has an aperture 11 by means of which it

may be hung up and this aperture preferably extends through to one side of the handle, as indicated at 12. Cooperating projections 13 and 14 are formed for opening a bottle cap and it will be observed that the bottle cap may be engaged with projection 14 on its top and projection 13 under its edge with the opener held more or less flat instead of on its edge, since the curvature of the handle permits such accommodation of the bottle cap. In using the opener for opening either cans or bottles and regardless of which end is used, the handle formation provides a concave surface within which the thumb rests without danger of slipping off either edge and a convex lower surface which may be gripped comfortably by the fingers.

The arched construction of the handle as viewed in cross section materially increases the strength of the opener with metal of given gauge and it is found that the cutter head construction materially reduces the force required for opening a can. The relatively great depth of the hook 5 permits the initial force to be applied with the cutter very nearly horizontal, thus arranging the parts in a position for maximum convenient leverage at the time when the maximum force is required in an initial piercing of the can.

The hook 5 is also preferably sufficiently deep so that when the can opener is placed on a flat surface, the hook and the handle end will rest flat with the cutting tip slightly off the flat surface. With the elements thus disposed, it becomes possible to package the can opener in a case of beer or the like without fear of accidental puncturing of the cans by the cutting tip, since the hook 5 and the handle end may rest against a can and hold the cutting tip a slight distance away.

The arched cross-sectional form of the cutting tip results in cutting edges which are acute in cross section, when the faces adjacent the point are shaped to be at right angles to top of a can in cutting position. Thus a sharp cutting point and edges are provided even where the tip is not ground and the sharpness may be enhanced by grinding, wherever desired.

What is claimed is:

1. A can opener comprising a unitary sheet metal blank shaped to form a cutting tip, a handle, and a hook for engaging under a bead of a can to act as a fulcrum for forcing the cutting tip into the top of the can, the handle and tip being arched in cross section reversely to each other, the tip being concave and the handle convex on the hook side of the opener.

2. A can opener according to claim 1, in which the hook extends downwardly sufficiently to permit hooking under a bottle cap with the cutting tip on top of the same.

3. A can opener according to claim 1, in which the cutting tip has cutting edges which are acute in cross section.

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