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NUTCRACKER.

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1,351,983.

Patented Sept. 7, 1920.

FIG. 1.

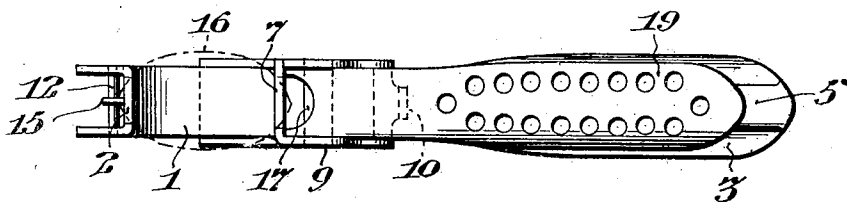


FIG. 2.

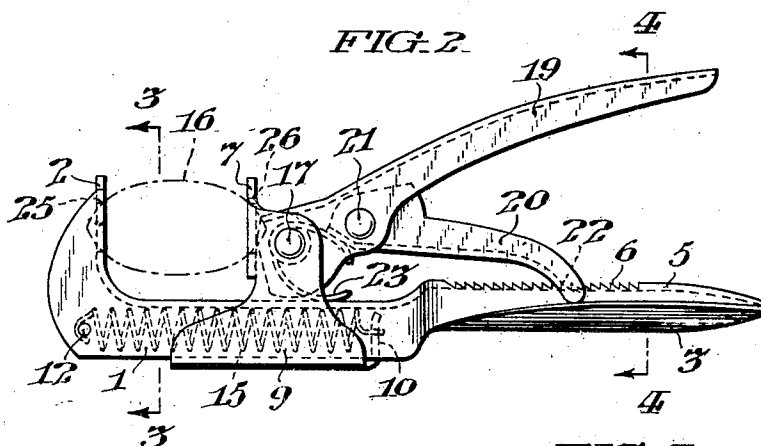


FIG. 4.

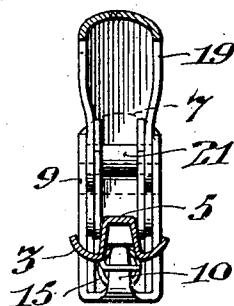
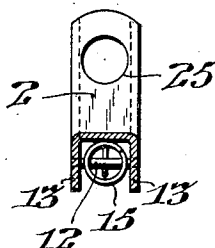


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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NUTCRACKER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL L. ALLEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Moorestown, in the county of Burlington and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Nut-crackers, whereof the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My invention relates particularly to that class of nut crackers that are designed to be held in the hand of the operator and especially adapted for household or table use.

The principal objects of my invention are to provide a nut cracker that will so engage a nut as to efficiently crush the shell in such a direction with respect to the longitudinal axis of the nut as to cause it to bulge uniformly and crumble without injury to the kernel.

Other objects of my invention are to provide a nut cracker which may be adjusted to automatically accommodate nuts of widely different sizes and shapes, and so designed as to avoid any possible injury to the operator.

My invention further comprehends a nut cracker having jaws arranged to engage the nut in zones intermediate of its ends.

Specifically stated the form of my invention hereinafter described comprises relatively opposed jaws movable linearly with respect to each other by relatively movable handles having ratch and pawl mechanism whereby their relative successive oscillation effects a relative linear approach of the jaws step by step.

My invention also includes all of the various novel features of construction and arrangement as hereinafter more definitely specified.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1, is a plan view of a nut cracker constructed in accordance with my invention, showing in dot and dash lines, a nut engaged therein; Fig. 2, is a side elevational view of the structure shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3, is a transverse-vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2 and showing the inner face of the stationary jaw; Fig. 4, is a transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line 4—4 in Fig. 2.

In said figures the frame 1 is preferably formed of channel bar and has its forward

end upturned to form the stationary jaw 2 and its rear end formed into a handle 3 having in its inner face a ratch bar 5 which is provided with ratch teeth 6 formed therein.

Opposing the stationary jaw 2 and movable linearly with respect thereto is the jaw 7 which is carried by the crosshead 9 embracing the frame 1 and arranged to slide longitudinally thereon toward and away from said jaw 1 and having the inturned tail piece 10 which is connected with the crossbar 12 between the depending flanges 13 of the frame 1, by the coiled spring 15 which tends to draw the jaw 7 toward the jaw 2 into engagement with the nut 16 which may be of any size or form.

The cross-head 9 is provided with the pintle 17 upon which the movable handle 19 is arranged to rock, and said handle 19 carries the pawl 20 which is mounted to swing upon the pintle 21 and which has its free edge engaging the teeth 6 of the ratch bar 5, so that when the handle 19 is rocked away from the handle 3 the tooth engaging edge of said pawl will be shifted forward to engage the next forward tooth of the ratch, which when the handles are again caused to approach each other the jaw 7 is forced forward toward the jaw 2, employing the last engaged tooth as an abutment.

The handle 19 is normally separated from the handle 3 in opposition to the grip of the operator by the spring 23 which is coiled around the pintle 17 and extends oppositely from the coil and respectively engaged with said frame 1 and with the pivoted end of the pawl 20 as shown in Fig. 2.

It will be readily seen that by thus pressing upon the pivoted end of the pawl 20 the handle 19 is forced away from the handle 3 by the spring 23 while the pawl 20 is forced into engagement with the teeth 6. Said handle may be perforated as shown in Fig. 1 if desired.

As best shown in Fig. 3, the jaws 2 and 7 are provided with aligned apertures 25 and 26 respectively which are preferably circular but which may be of any other desired configuration, of such dimensions as to permit the ends of the nut to extend through so as to engage said nut as close as practical to its transverse medial plane.

By thus engaging the nut in zones inter-

mediate of its ends the shell is caused to bulge uniformly about its medial zone, so that when it crumbles the kernel may be extracted intact.

- 5 I do not desire to limit my invention to the precise details of construction and arrangement herein set forth, as it is obvious that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the essential fea-
 10 tures of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

- 15 1. A nut cracker having a frame provided with a jaw and handle, a cross-head slidable on said frame and carrying a jaw in alignment with the jaw on said frame, a spring tending to force said jaws together, a handle pivoted to said cross-head, a pawl pivoted to said handle and arranged to engage
 20 said frame to effect the progressive approach of said jaws when said handles are relatively oscillated.

2. A nut cracker having a frame provided

with a jaw and handle, a cross-head slidable 25 on said frame and carrying a jaw in alignment with the jaw on said frame, a spring tending to force said jaws together, a handle pivoted to said cross-head, a pawl pivoted to said handle and arranged to engage 30 said frame to effect the progressive approach of said jaws when said handles are relatively oscillated and a spring tending to separate said handles.

3. A nut cracker having opposed nut 35 cracking jaws provided with means for retaining the nut, yielding means tending to force said nut cracking jaws together, and relatively movable handles arranged to effect the approach of said jaws lineally. 40

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SAML. L. ALLEN

Witnesses:

WM. H. ROBERTS,

WM. H. ROBERTS, Jr.