Sept. 13, 1955 W. J. CRONIN 2,717,526

CLOSURE OPENER WITH SLIDABLY ADJUSTABLE GRIPPER

Filed Oct. 26, 1953

Fig. 1

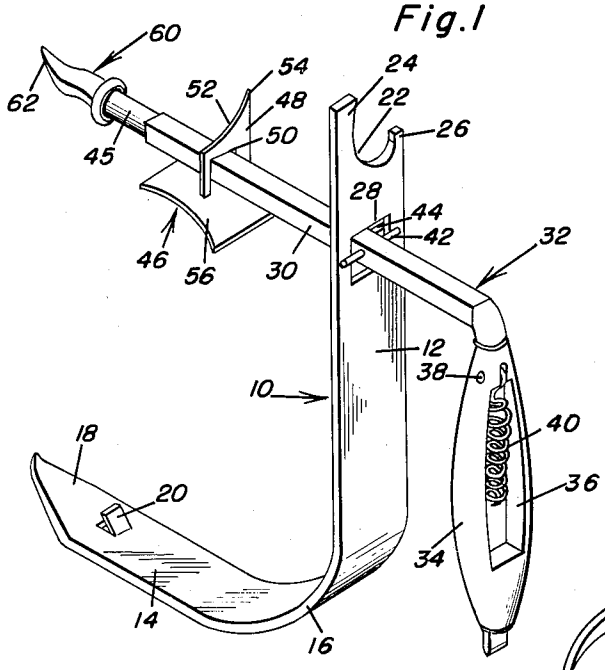
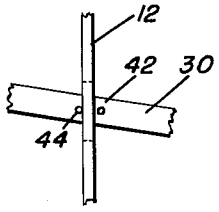


Fig. 2



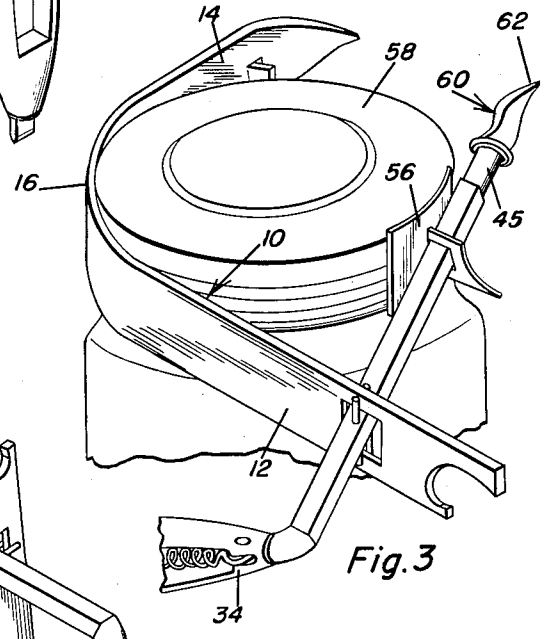
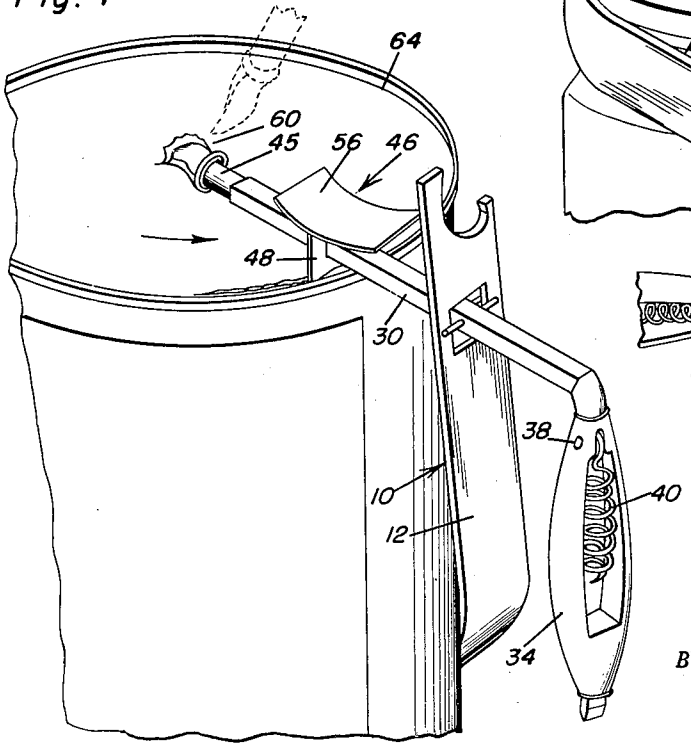


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



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CLOSURE OPENER WITH SLIDABLY ADJUSTABLE GRIPPER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 81—3.44)

This invention relates generally to kitchen tools and pertains more particularly to an improved form of closure opener.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an improved form of closure opener having its parts so constructed and arranged as to be capable of performing a variety of diversified closure opening processes.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved form of closure opener which includes a blade member and a handle member pivotally and rotatably interconnected, and a combined cutting and gripping element slidably received on a portion of the handle member and cooperable therewith and with the blade member for removing jar tops and the like, as well as removing tops of cans.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved tool;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view showing a portion of the tool and illustrating the manner of interconnection between the blade and handle members;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the tool in use for removing a jar top; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the tool as utilized in removing the top of a can.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, reference numeral **10** indicates generally what may be termed the blade portion of the tool, which includes an upper end portion **12** and a lower end portion **14** which are disposed substantially at right angles to each other and which are joined by a curved intermediate portion **16**, the purpose of which will be presently apparent.

The free end of the lower end portion **14** terminates in a tapered point **18** deformed angularly with respect to the main body of that portion, and adjacent this point is an up-struck flange or ear element **20**, the ear and point cooperating to present a can-puncturing assembly. Likewise, the free end of the upper portion **12** is formed with an arcuately cutaway portion **22**, presenting the finger portions **24** and **26** for removing bottle caps and the like. In this manner, the maximum of usefulness is derived from the tool assembly.

Adjacent the upper end of the portion **12** is provided an opening **28** through which the shank **30** of the handle member indicated generally by the reference character **32** projects with the hand grip portion **34** extending laterally therefrom and in a direction toward the arcuate intermediate portion **16**, in the manner shown. The hand grip may be provided with a recess **36** and a pivot pin member **38** which receives the eye of a cork-screw member **40** such that the cork-screw may be selectively closed within the handle or projected therefrom for use in its intended manner. The shank **30** is of smaller dimensions than the opening **28** in the blade and is provided with a pair of spaced pin members **42** and **44** overlying and engaging opposite sides of the blade portion **12** to affix the longitudinal positioning of the shank with respect to the blade portion while at the same time permitting rotation of the shank within the blade element. At least that portion of the shank which extends beyond the blade portion **12** in the same direction as the lower portion **14** of the blade is formed of polygonal cross section except at the forward end thereof as indicated by reference character **45**, wherein the shank is of circular cross-section. In this manner, the combined cutting and gripping assembly illustrated generally by the reference character **46** is non-rotatably received on the polygonal portion of the shank but is slidable therealong by virtue of the fact that the cutting blade element **48** is provided with a correspondingly formed polygonal opening **50** receiving the polygonal portion of the shank. When the assembly **46** is moved up to the shank portion **45**, the assembly can, of course, be reversed or inverted. The cutting blade **48** presents a cutting edge **52** and a piercing point **54**, as will be evident. This blade is secured to an arcuated gripping element **56** on the convex side thereof and in upstanding relation thereto, in the manner shown, the element **54** being arcuated in a direction longitudinal to the shank **30**.

As seen most clearly in Figure 3, one position of use for the tool involves cooperation between the gripper blade **54** and the arcuate portion **16** of the blade element **10** such that the inner surfaces of these elements engage at spaced points on the jar top which is indicated by the reference character **58** whereupon the handle **34** is manipulated to increase the grip on the jar top and impart force thereon in a direction to remove the same from the jar.

Obviously, the inner surfaces of both the gripper blade **56** and the arcuate portion **16** of the blade assembly **10** may be provided with ridges, teeth or other friction increasing means to enhance the engagement with the jar top.

The free end of the shank **30** is provided with a tip assembly indicated generally by the reference character **60** which may be of any suitable configuration but which is provided with a piercing portion terminating in a sharp point **62** and the main body of which is inclined slightly from the longitudinal axis of the shank **30** in a direction to the longitudinal axis of the shank **30** and in the same direction generally in which the point **54** of the cutter blade **48** projects with relation to the shank **30**. By this construction, the tool may be utilized as illustrated in Figure 4 by simply piercing the center of a can top **64** with the point **62** and sliding the cutter blade along the shank **30** so as to engage near the outer edge of the can top in the manner shown whereupon the assembly is rotated around the can to cut the top away. At the same time, it will be evident that the blade element **10** has been positioned in the depending manner shown either by manipulation of this element itself or rotation of the shank within the blade.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A kitchen tool comprising an elongated blade member having its opposite end portions disposed substantially right angularly, the intermediate portion of said blade

joining the end portions being curved, said blade member having an opening in one end portion, a handle member including a shank projecting through said opening and of smaller dimensions than the same whereby the shank may be rotated in said opening, means on said shank engaging said blade member for affixing the positioning between the shank and blade member longitudinally of the shank, and an element slidably received on that portion of the shank projecting beyond said one end portion in the same direction as the other end

portion of the blade member, said element presenting a gripping surface on one side of the shank.

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