W. SCHWAB.

CAN OPENER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 7, 1910.

1,020,954. Patented Mar. 19, 1912.

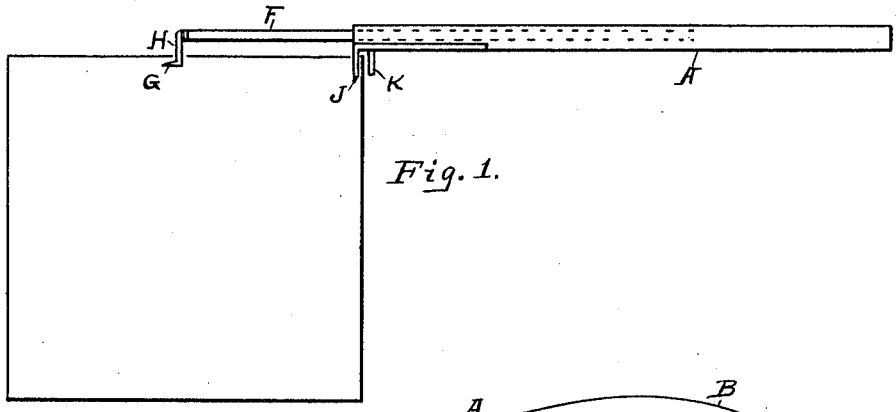

Fig. 1.

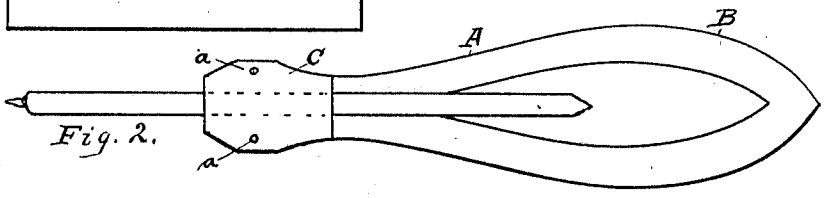

Fig. 2.

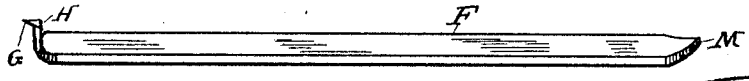

Fig. 6.

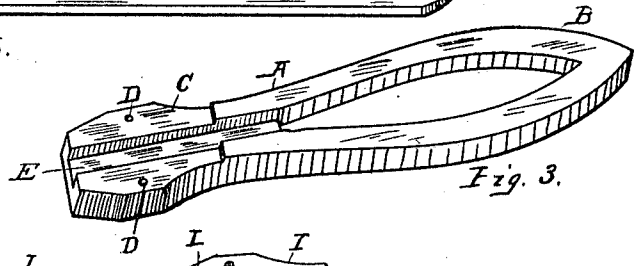

Fig. 3.

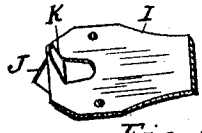

Fig. 4.

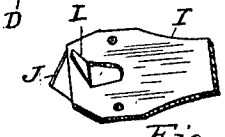

Fig. 5.

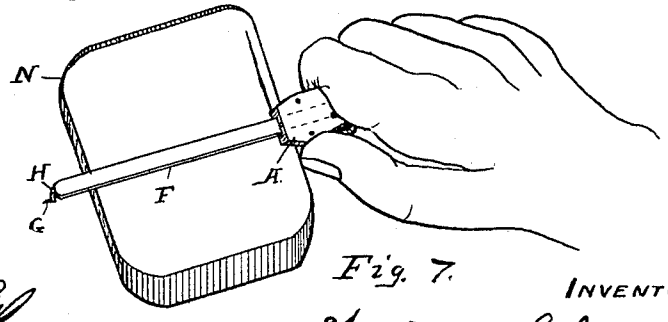

Fig. 7.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CAN-OPENER.

1,020,954. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 19, 1912.

Application filed November 7, 1910. Serial No. 591,163.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM SCHWAB, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fremont, in the county of Sandusky and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Can-Opener, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in can openers, and the object is to provide a device simple and inexpensive in construction and at the same time easy to operate and certain of execution.

Heretofore the can openers have been so constructed that only the central part of the top could be cut out, leaving a wide border around the margin, which made it difficult to remove the contents, and thus in case of haste a considerable part of the contents of the can would remain therein. My improvement is designed to obviate this particular defect, inasmuch as the construction enables or permits the cutting of the top at a uniform distance close around the margin, making a complete circle and severing the disk so that it can be readily and entirely lifted out and removed, thus leaving the top edge of the receptacle smooth and free from the usually objectionable jagged edge and broad margin. Furthermore I provide a give and take pivot lever which readily allows of the handle carrying the cutter to follow around the circumference of the can, and does not necessitate the puncturing of the exact center of the can as is usually the case in this class of can openers, so that, even though the piercing point in the haste of the operator is placed at a little distance from the center of the can, the handle will still readily follow the margin of said can, and a guide which presses against the outside of the can always holds the cutter at a fixed distance from the rim within the top of the can.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view of a can with my opener in conjunction therewith. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the can opener complete. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the underside of the main part of the handle with the retaining plate removed. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the face plate detached from the handle, showing the vertical cutter and guide. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of the face plate. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the pivot lever detached from the handle. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a sardine can showing its application thereto.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Fig. 3 shows the main portion of the handle A, as viewed from the underside cast as a single piece. This is somewhat flattened vertically as shown in Fig. 1, broadened at its outward end in outline so as to afford a good grip for the hand, and at the same time require as little material as possible in its construction. Forwardly at C, it is also somewhat broader and is formed with oppositely disposed openings D. Centrally on this underside is a longitudinal channel E, preferably rectangular in cross section extending from the forward end to about midway of the handle which is designed to receive the pivot lever F, as shown detached in Fig. 6 and in proper position in Figs. 1, 2 and 7. This pivot lever F, is rectangular in cross section and has an L shaped piercing point G, at the end of said bar forming a part of the set off H, and preferably formed as an integral part of the said bar.

Fig. 4 illustrates the face plate I, designed to be secured on the underside of the part A, by means of rivets *a*, through the openings D. This part I, is composed of a metal piece with a knife J, formed integral therewith and upturned at right angles thereto. Just back of this cutter or knife J, is an upturned lug K, set at such a distance from the said cutter as to enable it freely to pass around the periphery of the can while the said cutter, perforating the top of the can moves along just on the inside of the can, the cutter J, and lug K, always being in the same position relative to each other on the handle. Fig. 5 shows a modified form of this piece I, in which I substitute a round lug L, for the upturned lug K, as shown in Fig. 4. This lug L, may be either riveted or screwed into the plate as found most convenient.

When the piece I, is secured in position on the underside of the handle A, as shown in Fig. 1, by means of rivets *a*, the pivot lever or bar F, will readily slide backward and forward within the channel E. The back or inner end of the pivot lever F, is bent slightly as at M, in Fig. 6, after being

inserted in the channel which will prevent the said lever from being removed from the handle.

The practical operation of opening the can consists in puncturing the center of the can, as nearly as possible with the piercing point G, then sliding the handle along the lever F, until the guide K, presses against the rim of the can and the cutter just within the periphery of the top, then by bearing down on the handle, the cutter will puncture the metal of the cover, and by revolving the handle around the can the said top will be cut out close to the vertical sides of the can. While it is desirable that the piercing point G, be placed at or near the center of the lid, exactness is not essential as the pivot lever or bar F, is designed to move freely in the channel E, and the construction of the entire device is such that it will give and take freely as the handle A, and cutter J, are moved around the can and maintained in position relative to the periphery of the can, by means of the guide lug K, on the outer side.

Fig. 7 illustrates the method adopted to open a sardine can. In this case I simply pull out the pivot lever F, far enough so that the piercing point will not interfere with the top and then by taking a firm hold on the can with one hand, with the other the opener is forced around the rim of said can. The lug K, acting as a guide, the opener will move around the margin of the can, and thus cutting out the top smoothly and expeditiously.

What I claim as my invention is:

A can opener comprising a handle having a longitudinally disposed open sided channel angular in cross section, said handle having at its end and in one side a recess through which said channel passes, a lever fitting snugly and slidably in said channel, a face plate fitting in said recess with its end abutting against the end wall of the recess and carrying at its other end a cutter, and devices securing the plate to the handle at points between the ends of the plate.

WILLIAM SCHWAB.

Witnesses:
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J. B. Cole.