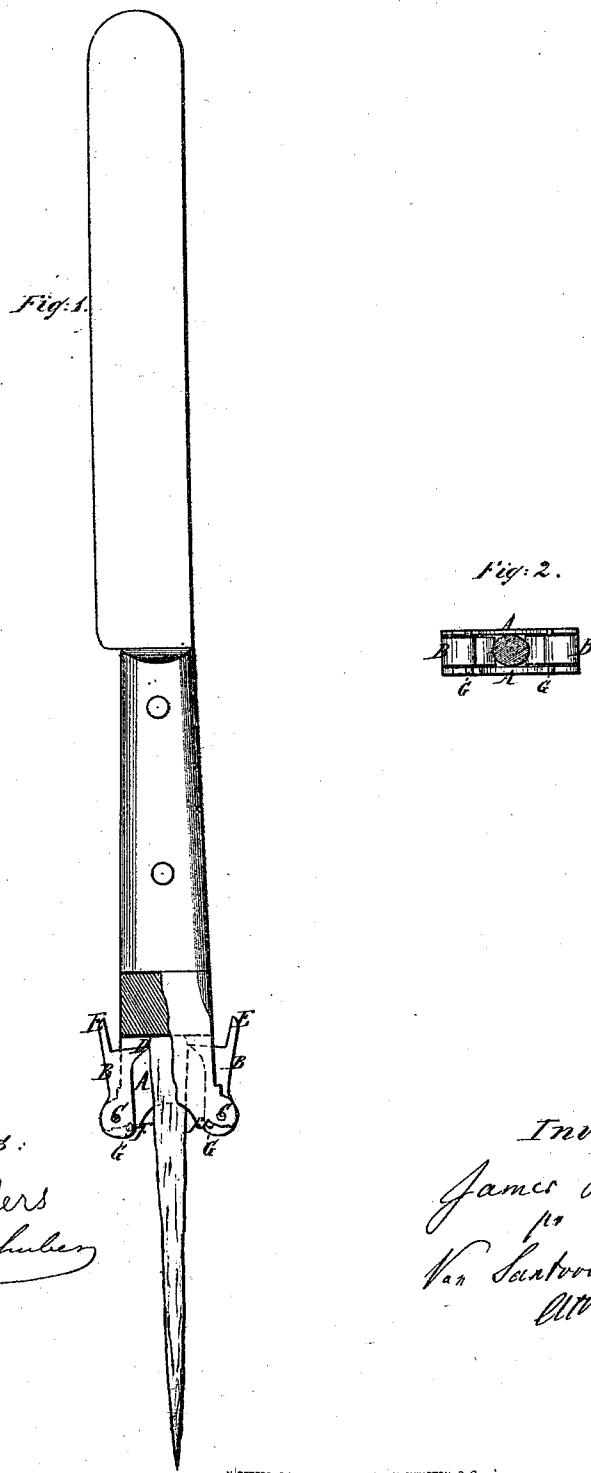


J. Ball,

Knife & Fork.

No. 97,152.

Patented Nov. 23, 1869.



Witnesses:

C. Mahlers
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JAMES BALL, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 97,152, dated November 23, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN KNIVES AND FORKS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES BALL, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Knives and Forks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which drawing—

Figure 1 represents a knife containing my improvement, the part containing the clamps being partly in section, to show the socket and one of the jaws of the clamp.

Figure 2 is an end view.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in the combination, with a knife or fork, of a clamp for seizing and withdrawing skewers from pieces or joints of meat.

Pieces of meat, when prepared for table, are usually dressed, and held compactly, and in symmetrical shape, by means of wooden skewers, which it is desirable to remove when the meat is to be carved.

My invention enables the carver to remove the skewers with facility.

In the present illustration of my invention, I have shown the clamp set in the end of the handle of a table-knife, but it can be placed in the end of a fork, and in practice it will only be necessary to place the clamp in the handle of carving-knives and forks.

The clamp, which I have here shown, is only one of many forms which may be used in carrying out my invention.

I form in the handle, at its end or elsewhere, a socket, A, to receive the end of the skewer.

In the sides of this socket are two clamps or jaws, B B, which are arranged to swing in the socket upon pivots, C C, placed on opposite sides of the mouth of the socket.

Two sides of the socket are open, and in these openings the clamps B B are, in this example, arranged so that they can be moved or swung inward and outward, to clamp and to release the skewer.

The inner faces of the clamps, near the bottom of the socket, are made with projecting edges or teeth, D D, which grasp the skewer when it is inserted into the socket, and the clamps are pressed together.

The clamps are operated by means of arms, E E, which extend downward outside of the socket, along

the edges of the handle, so as to enable one to draw the clamps outward, away from each other, to release the skewer, or to push them together to seize it, said arms answering the purpose of finger-pieces for operating the clamps.

The clamps are not long enough to reach the bottom of the socket, but a space is left between the ends of the clamps, where the teeth D D are placed, and the bottom of the socket, so that the end of the skewer can pass the clamps and enter such space, when the sides of the skewer will be in proper position to be seized by the clamps.

The swing of the clamps outward is limited by stops, F F, formed at the end of the handle, above the pivots C C, and I have placed pins or studs, G G, on the sides of the clamps, on their outer ends, beyond the pivot-joints, which pins strike against the stops F, and the further movement of the clamps in that direction is arrested. In the opposite direction their movement is arrested by the contact of the arms E with the sides of the handle.

I do not confine myself to this construction and arrangement of clamps, but I claim the combination, with a knife or fork, of any clamp for seizing and withdrawing skewers from meat.

The clamp can be made in various forms; as, for instance, it can be formed with only one movable jaw, and a fixed jaw can be formed in the socket A, for the movable jaw to operate against, in which case one side of the socket can be left solid; or it can be made so that the clamp shall work automatically when a skewer is inserted in the socket, the jaw or jaws of the clamp being arranged with a spring or springs, to push them constantly inward, so as to grasp with their teeth any object that forces them apart, in which case, the arms E, or some equivalent device, are necessary to open the clamp, to release the skewer after it has been withdrawn from the meat.

The clamp can be placed in any part of the handle, or at the heel of the knife-blade, as may be desired by the maker.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with a knife or fork, of a skewer-clamp, substantially as set forth and described.

JAMES BALL.

Witnesses:

W. HAUFF,

J. VAN SANTVOORD.