

(No Model.)

E. H. TRENCHARD.
CAN OPENER.

No. 552,212.

Patented Dec. 31, 1895.

Fig. 1.

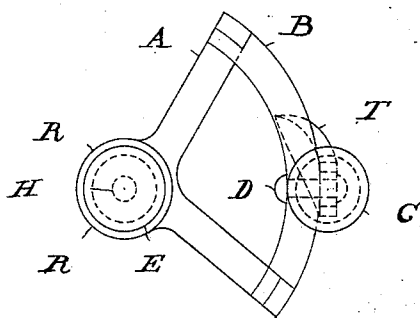


Fig. 3.

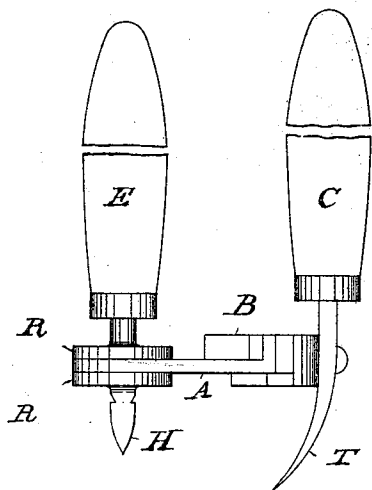
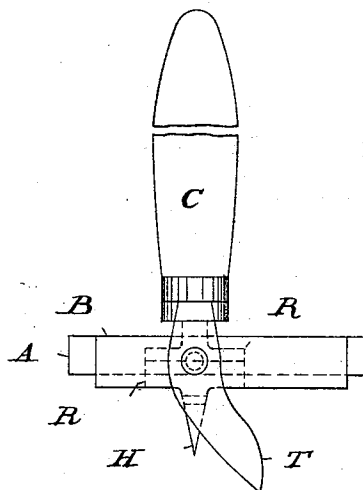


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

J. R. Massey -----

M. A. Jones -----

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELVIN H. TRENCHARD, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 552,212, dated December 31, 1895.

Application filed December 11, 1894. Serial No. 531,509. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELVIN H. TRENCHARD, of the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Can-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

My improvements relate to the introduction of, first, a curved knife co-operating with a convex cutting-edge; second, a knife-carrier pivoted to the center of the can for the purpose of carrying the knife in a circle without the effort of guiding. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of the knife-carrier, the outer edge B, to which the knife is fastened, being a segment of a circle. Fig. 2 is an end view of the device, showing the knife-blade T pivoted to the curved portion B of knife-carrier and having the same curve. Fig. 3 is a side view of the can-opener complete with one end of the knife-carrier resting between two washers R R, with an awl E passing through the center forming a pivot, the awl E having a point H extending half an inch below for the purpose of puncturing the can-lid in the center in order to carry the knife-blade T in a circle.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A is the side of the knife-carrier, C being the knife-handle.

The objects of my invention are, first, to adopt a method whereby the least possible pressure will be required to make an incision in the can-lid; second, to overcome all possible resistance in placing the knife in proper position for the next cut after it has made an incision; third, to entirely relieve the operator from the effort of guiding the knife in a circle around the can. These objects I gain, first, by having the knife pivoted close to the keen cutting-edge; second, by making a knife-carrier, as shown in Fig. 1, the outer edge B describing a three-and-a-half-inch circle, (size of smallest can-lid,) there

being a keen cutting-edge of steel where the knife has contact. To this outer edge B a knife-blade with the same curve is pivoted, they holding the same relation to each other as the two blades of a pair of shears, the curved blade offering the slightest possible resistance as it moves through the incision in the can-lid. The third object I attain by pivoting the other end of the knife-carrier between the washers R R, Fig. 3, and pivoting them together by the awl E, Fig. 3, and forcing the point H through the center of the can-lid. The knife-carrier is free to revolve and it takes but a slight pressure forward to carry it and the knife in a circle, making each incision a part of a true circle without the slightest effort of guiding on the part of the operator.

I am aware that prior to my invention can-openers have been made in various ways. Therefore

What I claim, and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a can opener, the combination with an awl or point adapted to be inserted in the can, of a frame pivoted to the awl and a knife co-operating with a cutting edge on the frame, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. In a can opener, the combination with a handle carrying an awl or point, of a frame so connected to said handle as to be swung thereon, and a curved knife pivoted to the forward part of said frame and co-operating with a cutting edge thereon, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a can opener, the combination with an awl or point for puncturing the can lid, of a frame pivoted between washers thereon a convex cutting edge carried by said frame and a curved knife pivoted to the cutting edge substantially as and for the purpose specified.

ELVIN H. TRENCHARD.

Witnesses:

J. R. MASSEY,
M. A. JONES.