

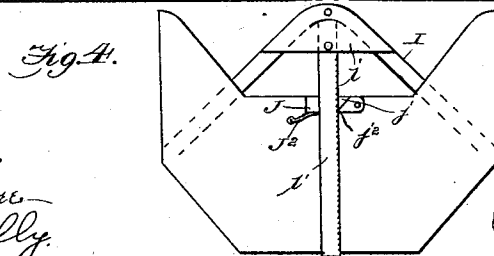
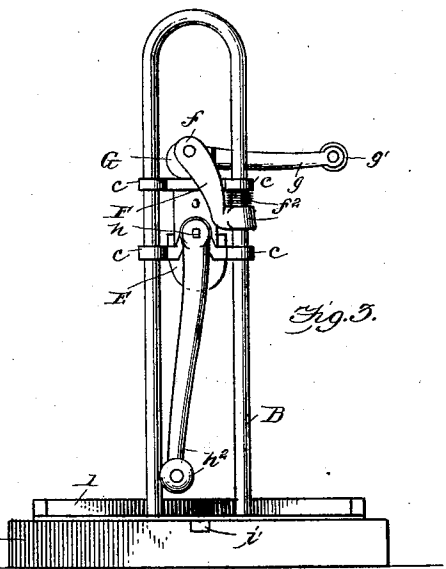
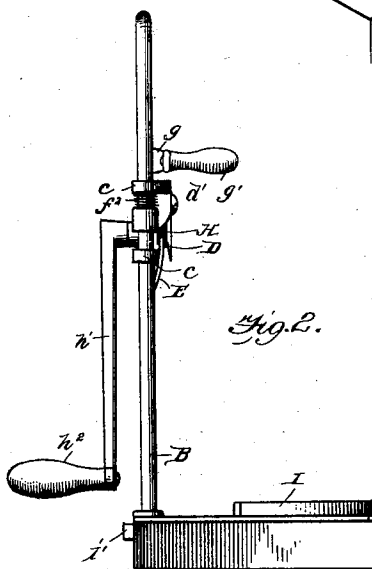
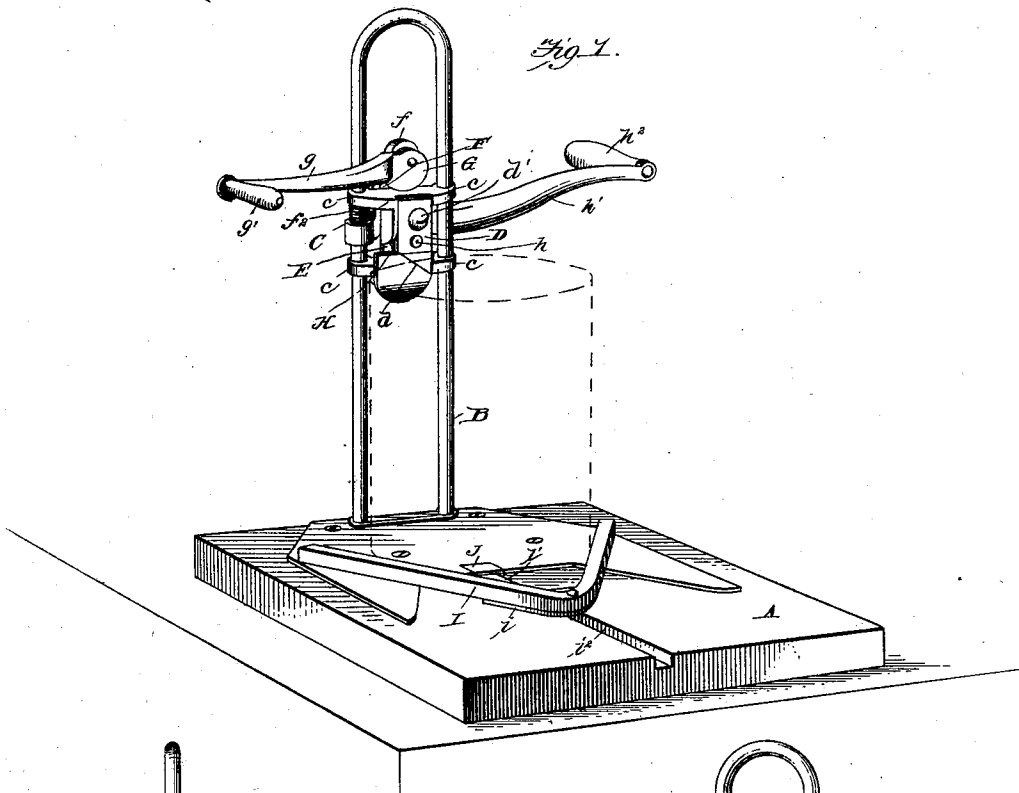
No. 608,575.

Patented Aug. 9, 1898.

M. F. CONNETT.
CAN OPENER.

(Application filed Jan. 10, 1898.)

(No Model.)



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATTHEW F. CONNETT, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR TO LAYTON Y. HANCOCK, OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 608,575, dated August 9, 1898.

Application filed January 10, 1898. Serial No. 666,134. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATTHEW F. CONNETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to can-openers.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, cheap, easily-constructed device by which the tops of ordinary sheet-metal cans may be quickly cut preparatory to removal by the exercise of very little exertion on the part of a user and whereby the danger of cutting the hands of a person opening a can will be entirely obviated.

Further, the object of the invention is to provide a can-opener of such construction that by its operation a smooth edge not liable to injure a person handling a can after having its top removed by the device will be produced.

Further, the object of the invention is to provide a can-opener of such construction that cans of varying sizes and shapes may all have their tops cut with equal facility.

With these objects in view the invention consists of a can-opener comprising a blade or cutter vertically adjustable to allow it to be forced into a can-head to be cut, means substantially as hereinafter described for retaining the cutter or blade in operative position, and a roller adapted to bear on the can and by its revolution force the can-head against the cutter.

The invention consists, further, of a can-opener comprising an adjustable holder whereby cans of different sizes may be retained in position during the cutting of their heads, a vertically-adjustable blade or cutter, a support for the blade or cutter, and a revoluble roller also mounted on the support and adapted to come in contact with the can when retained in place by the holder and to move the can against the blade or cutter.

The invention consists, further, in various novel details of construction whereby the objects of the invention are attained and the effectiveness of the device insured.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the can-opener, showing by dotted lines a can in position to have its head cut. Fig. 2 is a side view. Fig. 3 is a rear view of the frame carrying the blade or cutter and of the means for attaching the frame to its supports and for forcing the blade or cutter into a can-top; and Fig. 4 is an inverted plan view of the base of the device, showing the means for holding cans of varying sizes in position during cutting.

In the drawings, A represents the base of the device, which may be of any suitable form, size, and material, being preferably composed of cast metal. Formed with or permanently attached to the base is an upright support B, shown in the present form of embodiment of the invention as composed of one piece of metal bent upon itself and having its ends terminating in the base A. Mounted on the support B is a frame C, having four guides *c* receiving the support B. Rigidly attached to the front face of the frame C is a blade or cutter D, having an oblique beveled cutting edge *d*. The blade is detachably connected to the frame C by a set-screw *d'*, facilitating the removal of the blade for sharpening or for substituting a new blade when one becomes worn.

Formed with or attached to the frame C is a plate E, located adjacent to the blade or cutter D and at a distance from the cutter corresponding to the distance from the side of the can it is desired that the cutting in the head shall take place. The plate is bent rearward at its lower end to offer no obstruction to the entrance of the wall of the can between the plate and the blade D.

F represents a clamp composed of the arm *f*, having an opening in its lower end of a size and form corresponding to that of one side of the support B and capable of sliding freely on the support. Arranged between the arm *f* and one of the guides *c* of the frame C is a coil-spring *f*², which tends to keep the arm at

its lowest position, with the opening therein in line with the side of the support received by the opening. An eccentric G, having an arm *g* and a handle *g'* attached thereto, is

5 pivotally connected to the arm *f*, and the eccentric bears on the upper face of the frame C.

Arranged upon a shaft *h*, having bearings in the frame C and the blade or cutter D, is a wheel or roller II, having a roughened, 10 toothed, or serrated periphery. The wheel or roller is so arranged that its edge is slightly below the upper portion of the blade or cutter. An arm *h'*, having a handle *h²*, is keyed or otherwise permanently attached to the 15 shaft *h*, and by this means the wheel or roller may be given rotation.

I represents a holder by which the outer lower face of a can to be cut is engaged during cutting. The holder consists of the bar 20 bent as shown to form two confining sides. In the center of the bar is a plate *i*, upon which the bottom of a can is designed to rest. Attached to the plate is a rod *i'*, sliding in a groove *i²* in the base of the device. One side 25 of the rod *i'* is roughened for engagement with a friction-catch J. This catch J is pivoted in the base of the can-opener and has an opening *j* through it for the passage of the rod. A spring *J²* presses against the catch 30 and tends normally to keep the edge *j²* in contact with the rod *i*, thus preventing the outward movement of the rod, although permitting the free inward movement thereof. By pressing the catch rearward the same is re- 35 moved from the rod and free outward movement of the rod is permitted.

In the use of the opener a can is placed on the base A between the holder and the support B, and the holder is then pushed firmly 40 inward, confining the can between the two. After this the frame C is lowered to bring the point of the blade or cutter to bear upon the top of the can. When this is done, the arm *g* of the eccentric is moved to bring the 45 wider part of the eccentric to bear upon the upper part of the frame C. The first of this movement binds the arm upon the support, and a continuation of the movement results in forcing down the frame, causing the blade 50 or cutter to pierce the top of the can. If the top is not pierced a sufficient distance at the first operation, the eccentric may be partially released, allowing the spring *f²* to force the end of the arm inclosing the support downward. Then a turning of the eccentric will 55 force the blade or cutter the desired distance into the head of the can and will also bring the roll II to bear upon the top edge of the can. When the blade is introduced, the 60 wheel or roller II is rotated, and the result is that the can is turned against the blade,

making a clear cut of the metal of the top of the can near the edge thereof. The result of the cutting by the beveled blade is to force down the cut edge, forming a bead, which is 65 smooth and cannot injure the hand of a person handling it.

In the cutting of the head of a round can no guiding by the hand is necessary, but when a square can or one of any shape other 70 than round is to be cut the use of the holder may be dispensed with and the can guided by hand.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters 75 Patent, is—

1. A can-opener comprising a vertically-movable frame, a blade or cutter on the frame, supports on which the frame is mounted, and a clamp for forcing the frame down- 80 ward and retaining it in any desired position composed of an arm having an opening receiving one of the supports and an eccentric pivoted to the arm and bearing on the top of the frame, substantially as described. 85

2. A can-opener comprising a blade or cutter, a vertically-movable frame on which said cutter is mounted, a wheel or roller having a serrated periphery and mounted on the frame, supports on which the frame is capa- 90 ble of moving, and a clamp composed of an arm having an opening receiving one of the supports, and an eccentric pivoted to the arm and bearing on the top of the frame, substantially as described. 95

3. A can-opener comprising a blade or cutter adapted to move vertically, a support for the cutter, an adjustable holder for retaining a can in position adjacent to the cutter consisting of the angular bar arranged on the 100 base of the device, the rod connected thereto, and the friction-catch, and means for moving the can against the cutter, substantially as described.

4. A can-opener comprising a blade or cutter 105 having an oblique and beveled cutting edge, a vertically-adjustable frame on which the cutter is mounted, supports on which the frame is arranged, means for retaining the frame at any desired position on the supports, 110 and means for retaining the lower end of a can comprising the angle-bar, the rod connected to the bar, and the friction-catch, and means for rotating the can and for moving it against the cutter, substantially as described. 115

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MATTHEW F. CONNETT.

Witnesses:

L. Y. HANCOCK,
S. L. MCADOO.