

F. ZUCCHINI.
OYSTER OPENING MACHINE.

Patented Aug. 27, 1895.

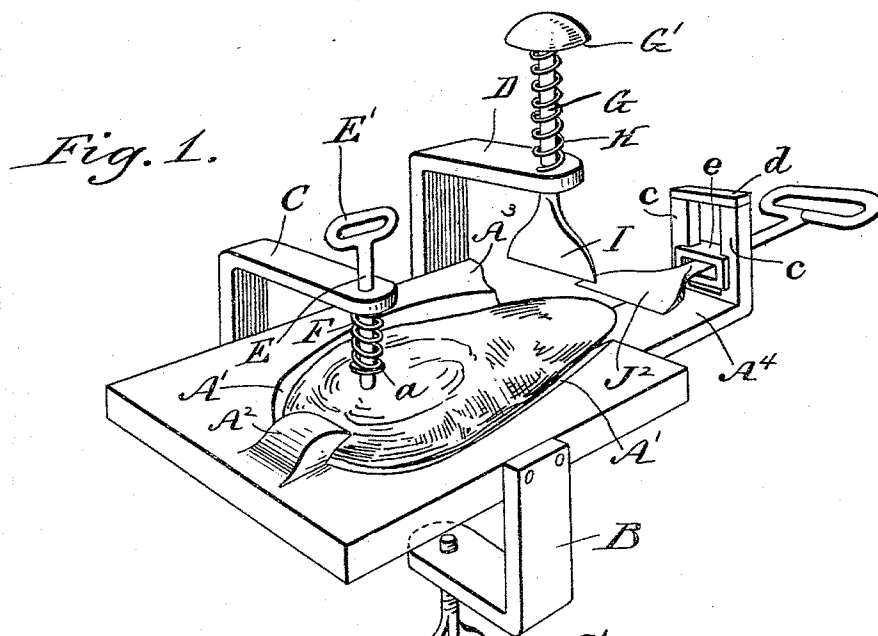


Fig. 2.

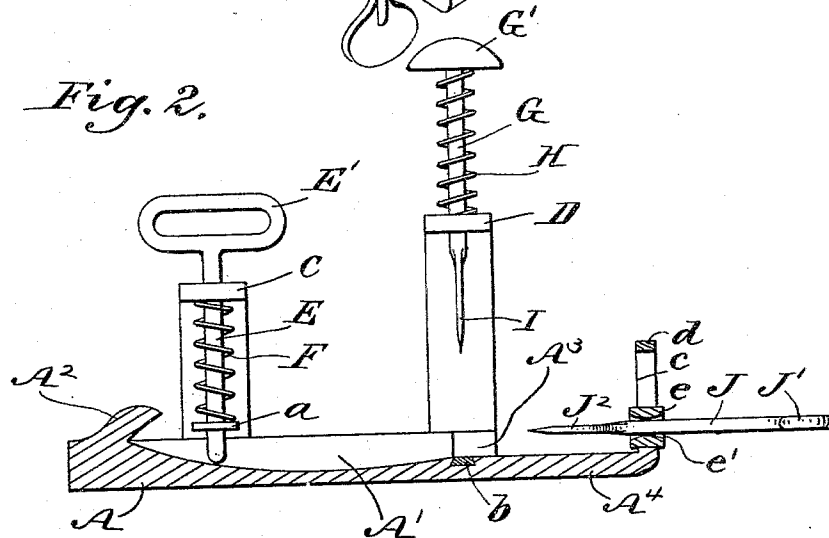
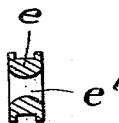


Fig. 3



WITNESSES:

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FERDINAND ZUCCHINI, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

OYSTER-OPENING MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 545,329, dated August 27, 1895.

Application filed October 17, 1894. Serial No. 523,168. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FERDINAND ZUCCHINI, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Oyster-Opening Machines, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to oyster-opening machines, and has for its object to provide a simple, cheap, readily-constructed, and perfectly-operating device of this character, by means of which an oyster may expeditiously be opened in similar manner to that in which it is ordinarily effected by hand.

The invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, and disclosed in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device ready to be operated. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the device. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the opener box or bearing.

In the practice of my invention I construct a base or bed plate A, having a depending clamp B, by means of which it may be secured to a bench, table, or other support. The bed-plate A is cut out in its upper surface centrally to form a recess or concavity A', extending through the front end of the plate and of sufficient size to receive an oyster therein. At the opposite side of the plate is an integral upwardly-projecting lug A², which extends over the recess A' to bear upon the oyster, and thus maintain the same in position. Upon the rear side of the bed-plate A' and upon an extension A³ thereon are secured angular bearings C and D, in the first of which is journaled a vertical rod E, having a head or handle E' and bearing directly upon the oyster, being maintained in the depressed position by means of a spiral spring F, surrounding the said rod, between the under surface of the bearing and a collar a near the lower end of the said rod. Journaled in the bearing D is a plunger G, having a convex head G', between which and the bearing is a spiral spring H, surrounding the said plunger to maintain the same normally raised.

The plunger has formed or secured upon the lower end thereof an elongated flat knife-blade I, and by reason of the extension A³ holding the bearing D beyond the forward edge of the plate A the said knife, when depressed, passes slightly in front of the said plate. Projecting forwardly from the center of the bed plate is an extension A⁴ in alignment with the base of the recess A', at the junction of which extension and the plate is embedded a strip of elastic or flexible material b, which receives the impact of the knife I. At the forward end of the extension A⁴ are upwardly-projecting posts c, connected by a cross-piece d, between which is inserted a vertical sliding box e, which has journaled therein a rod or lever J, provided with a handle J' upon the outer end thereof and upon the inner end with a flat knife-blade J², shaped similarly to the knife-blade I. The box e has a circular aperture e' extending therethrough to receive the rod or lever J, which said aperture is outwardly flared at each end to permit the upward and downward and also slightly lateral movement of the said rod to accommodate itself to the edge of the oyster.

The operation of the device will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings. The oyster having been placed in the recess or concavity A' beneath the lug A² and the rod E, the same is held comparatively firmly in place, whereupon the head G' of the plunger G is struck sharply with the hand, thereby causing the knife I to descend and strike off one end of the oyster, the said knife immediately thereafter rising out of contact therewith. The rod J is then forced inwardly and manipulated until the knife-blade J² thereon enters between the cut or broken shells, and the said rod is given a half-turn to force the said shells apart, the spring F upon the rod E affording a cushion which permits sufficient upward movement of the top shell to enable the knife J² to separate the said shells. Such rod, however, might possibly be dispensed with and the lug A² alone used. The rod J is then drawn outwardly and the oyster slipped out of the recess A', whereupon the upper shell may be immediately removed by the hand and the oyster is ready for serving.

The advantages resultant from the use of

the invention will be manifest to all who are conversant with the inconvenient and crude devices heretofore employed in opening oysters.

5 I do not confine myself to the exact formation of parts and construction of details herein set forth and illustrated, as the same may be changed or varied in many particulars.

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

1. An oyster opening machine comprising a bed-plate adapted to receive an oyster therein, means thereon for holding the oyster, a 15 knife journaled vertically upon said plate, adapted to be depressed to strike off one end of the oyster, a spring above the knife to maintain the same normally raised, and an opening blade at one end of the plate adapted to be forced inwardly between the shells of 20 the oyster to separate the same.

2. An oyster opening machine comprising a bed-plate having a recess therein to receive an oyster, a normally depressed plunger journaled above the plate to retain the oyster in 25 position, a vertically journaled depressible knife adapted to strike off one end of the oyster and mounted near the edge of the plate, an extension at said end of the plate, and a reciprocable and partially rotatable knife 30 mounted in said extension, and projecting inwardly upon a substantial level with the plate to enter between the shells of the oyster.

3. An oyster opening machine comprising 35 a bed-plate having a clamp to secure it to a supporting surface, and a recess therein to receive the oyster, a spring pressed rod mounted upon the plate and arranged to bear upon the oyster and hold the same yieldingly in 40 place, a normally raised spring plunger mounted upon said plate and having a flat elongated knife blade upon the lower end thereof to strike off one end of the oyster, an extension projecting forwardly from the bed- 45 plate, having bearings thereon in which is mounted a vertically sliding box, a rod journaled in the said box in such manner as to be capable of pivotal movement, a flat knife blade upon the inner end of the said rod, and

a handle upon the outer end thereof adapted 50 to force the same inwardly to bring the knife blade into engagement between the shells of the oyster.

4. An oyster opening machine comprising a bed-plate having a clamp depending there- 55 from to secure the same to a supporting surface, a recess or concavity to receive the oyster in the top of the said plate, opening at the front of the same, a lug projecting from the said plate over the recess to receive the oys- 60 ter thereunder, an angular bearing at the rear of the plate overhanging the recess, a rod journaled therein having a handle thereon to raise the same, and a spiral spring surrounding the said rod to normally press the same 65 downwardly upon the oyster, an extension at the rear of the plate, a similar angular bearing secured to the said extension, ranging over and slightly in front of the recess, a vertical plunger journaled in the said bearing, 70 having a flat elongated knife blade formed upon the lower end thereof, a head upon the top thereof, and a spring between the bearing and the head arranged to maintain the said plunger normally raised, an extension 75 projecting forwardly from the plate, having yielding material secured thereto in alignment with the plunger to take the impact of the knife, bearings projecting upwardly from the end of the said extension, a box sliding 80 vertically between the same, having an aperture extending therethrough and outwardly flared at each end, a rod journaled in the said aperture having a flat elongated knife blade upon the inner end thereof, and a handle upon 85 the outer end thereof to force the said rod inwardly, whereby the knife may be brought into engagement between the shells of the oysters to separate the same, substantially as shown and described. 90

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 12th day of October, 1894.

FERDINAND ZUCCHINI.

Witnesses:

PERCY I. GRIFFITH,
THERESE WALSH.