Sept. 16, 1952 W. A. THOMPSON 2,610,664

POTATO CUTTER

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Fig. 1.

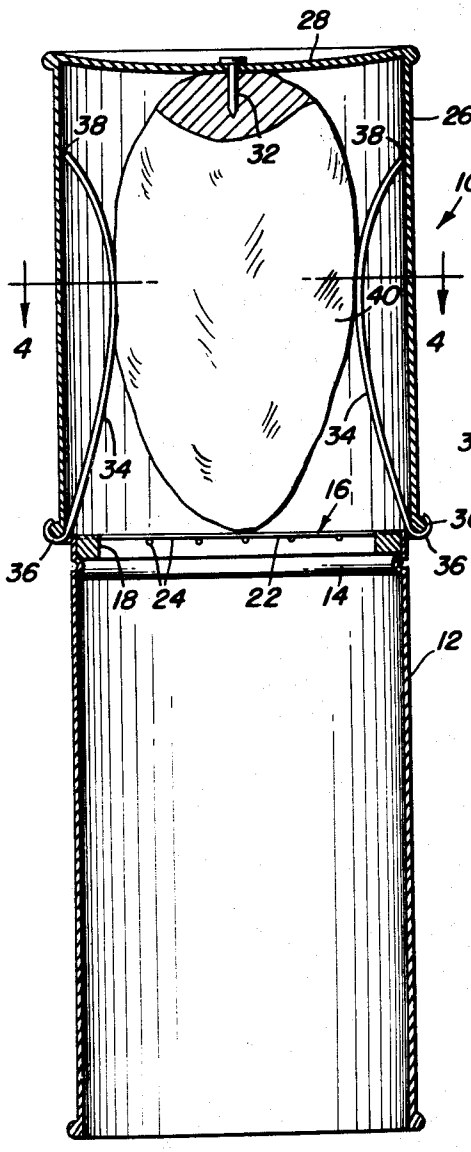


Fig. 2.

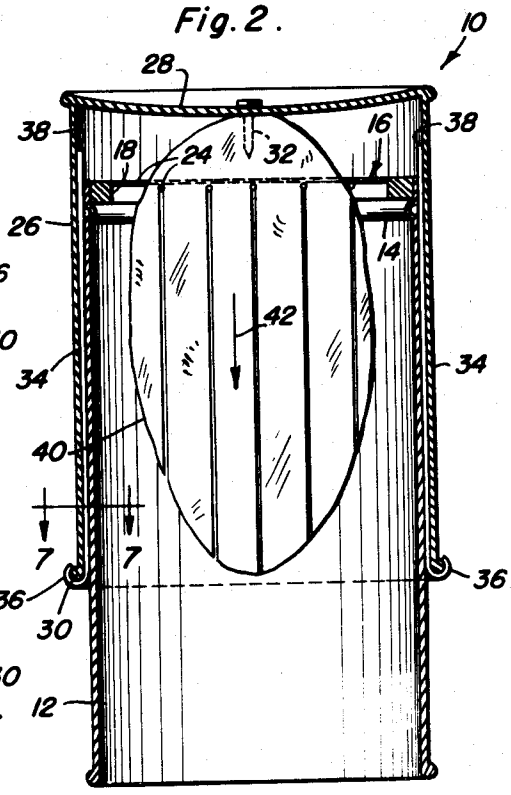
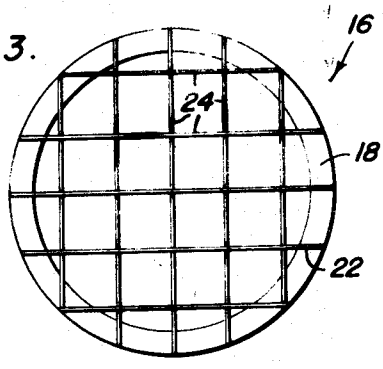


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

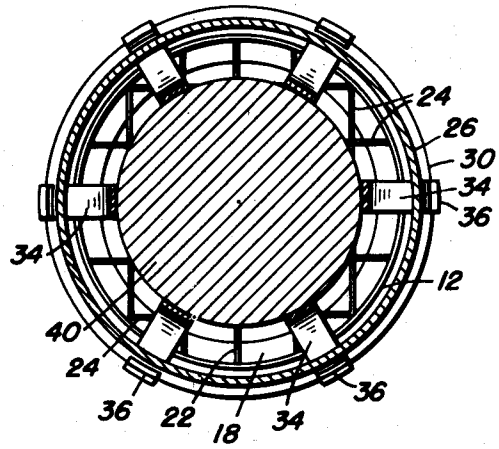


Fig. 8.

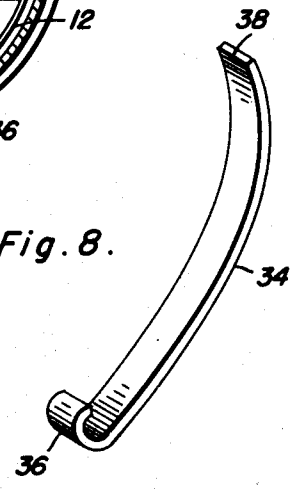


Fig. 5.

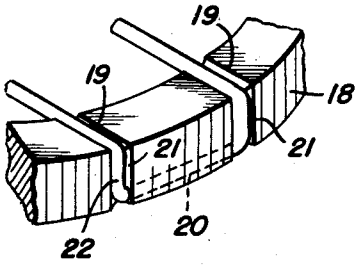


Fig. 7.

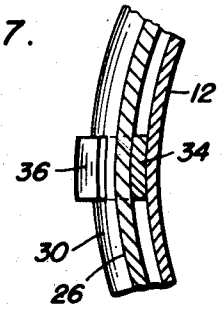
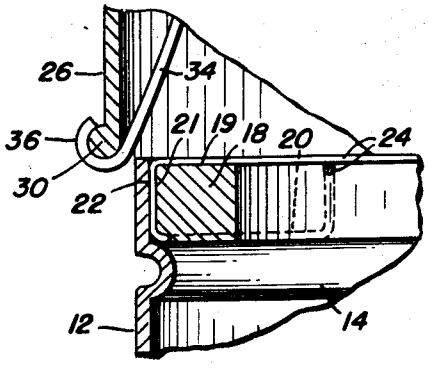


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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POTATO CUTTER

Wallace A. Thompson, Pontiac, Mich.

Application November 14, 1949, Serial No. 127,048

2 Claims. (Cl. 146—169)

1

This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in devices for cutting potatoes, and the principal object of the invention is to provide a device of the character herein described, whereby the cutting operation may be quickly, easily and conveniently effected.

Some of the advantages of the invention reside in its simplicity of construction, in its convenient operation, in its adaptability to efficient and expeditious cleaning, and in its adaptability to economical manufacture.

With the above more important objects and features in view, and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention consists essentially of the arrangement and construction of parts as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a vertical cross sectional view of the invention at the commencement of the cutting operation;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view similar to that shown in Figure 1, but illustrating the invention near the conclusion of the cutting operation;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the cutting member used in the invention;

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view, taken substantially in the plane of the line 4—4 in Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective detail showing the structural arrangement of the cutting member;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the relationship of the different components of the invention;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross sectional detail, taken substantially in the plane of the line 7—7 in Figure 2; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of one of the leaf springs used in the invention.

Like characters of reference are employed to designate like parts in the specification and throughout the several views.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the invention consists of a potato cutter designated generally by the reference character 10, the same embodying in its construction a vertically elongated tubular barrel 12 having open upper and lower ends, the barrel being provided at a point spaced downwardly from its upper ends with an inwardly projecting annular bead constituting a seat for a circular cutting member 16.

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The cutting member 16 consists of a supporting annulus 18 which is seated on the bead 14 and is provided at its upper, lower and outer edges with suitable grooves 19, 20, 21 respectively (see Figure 5) so that a continuous wire 22 may be wound around or weaved on the annulus in criss-cross formation as shown, the stretches of this wire constituting a set of cutting elements 24.

The invention also contemplates the provision of a tubular potato receiving sleeve 26 having a closed upper end 28 and an open lower end, the lower edge of the sleeve terminating in an outturned annular bead 30 as will be clearly apparent.

A downwardly extending pin or prong 32 is provided at the center of the top end 28 of the sleeve 26 while a plurality of arcuate leaf springs 34 are positioned in the sleeve 26, this being effected by providing lower ends of the springs 34 with suitable eyes 36 in frictional engagement with the bead 30.

It is to be understood that the free ends of the springs 34 are slidable longitudinally on the inner surface of the sleeve 26, and when the invention is placed in use, the sleeve is simply removed from the barrel 12 and a potato 40 is inserted into the sleeve so that the upper end portion thereof is supportably engaged by the prong 32 while the springs 34 frictionally engage the sides of the potato to centralize the potato on the prong and in the sleeve 26, as will be clearly apparent.

Thereupon, the sleeve 26 is simply slid downwardly over the barrel 12, during which action the potato will pass longitudinally through the cutting elements 24 as indicated at 42, and will be separated thereby into elongated sections or strips suitable for "French frying."

It is to be noted that after the sleeve 26 commences its downward sliding movement on the barrel 12, the potato will be automatically centralized in the sleeve by its engagement with the cutting elements 24, so that the centralizing action of the springs 34 is no longer required. Indeed, the sleeve 26 is sufficiently large as compared to the diameter of the barrel 12 that the springs 34 may become flattened and disposed between the barrel and the sleeve as shown in Figure 2, until such time as the sleeve is again drawn upwardly and separated from the barrel when the springs will again resume their arcuate positions in readiness for subsequent centralizing operation.

It is believed that the advantages and use of the invention will be clearly apparent from the

foregoing disclosure and accordingly, further description thereof at this point is deemed unnecessary.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention, it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a potato cutter, the combination of a vertically elongated barrel having an open upper end, cutter means mounted in the upper end of said barrel, a vertically elongated sleeve having an open end and movable downwardly from an initial position above the barrel to an ultimate position wherein it is telescoped over the barrel, said sleeve being of such size relative to the barrel as to provide an annular space between the barrel and the sleeve when the latter is in its ultimate position, and a set of leaf springs attached at one end thereof to the lower edge of said sleeve and extending upwardly therein, said springs being inwardly convexed in said sleeve to supportably engage a potato therein when the sleeve is in its initial position and being receivable in a flat position in said space between the sleeve and the barrel when the sleeve is drawn downwardly.

2. The device as defined in claim 1 together with an annular bead provided at the lower edge of said sleeve, and outturned hooks provided at the lower ends of said leaf springs and engaging said bead.

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