

S. O. Church,

Can Opener,

Nº 61,161,

Patented Jan. 15, 1867.

Fig 1.

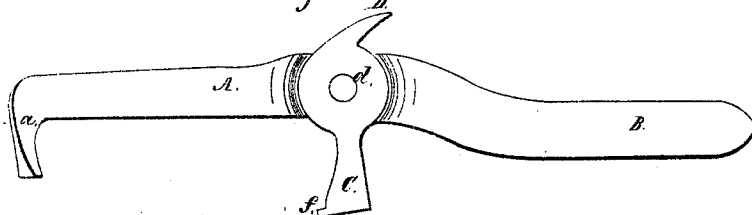


Fig 2.

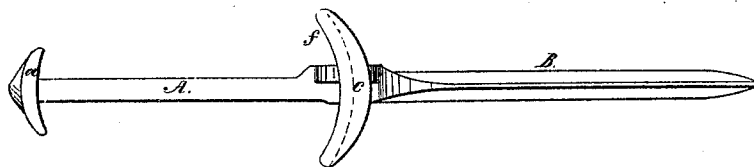
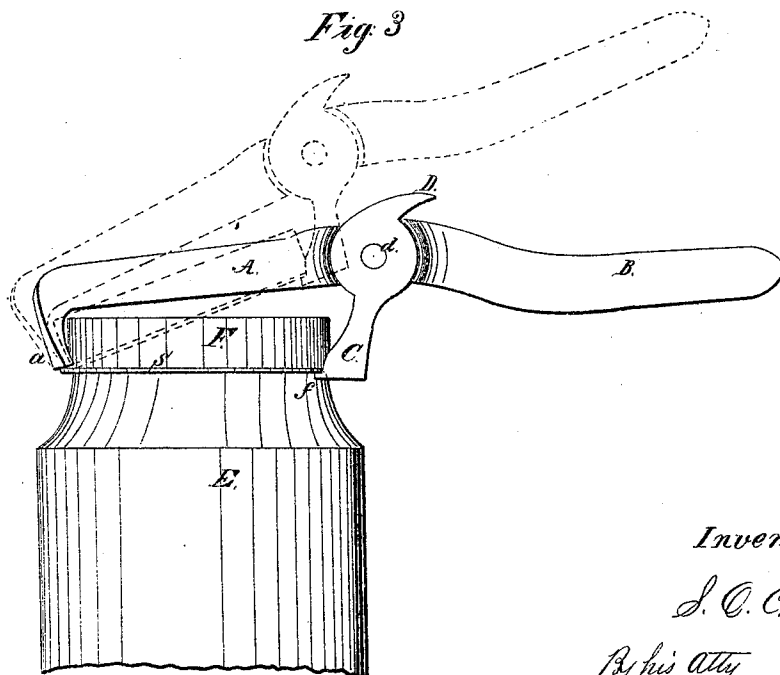


Fig 3.



Inventor:

S. O. Church.

By his Atty

John E. Case

Witnesses:

John H. Shumway
A. J. Tibbitts

United States Patent Office.

S. O. CHURCH, OF WEST MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
AND S. S. WILCOX, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 61,161, dated January 15, 1867.

IMPROVED CAN-OPENER.

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, S. O. CHURCH, of West Meriden, in the county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Device for Opening Fruit Cans, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent in—

Figure 1, a side view.

Figure 2, an under view, looking up; and, in

Figure 3, its operation.

This invention is specially designed for removing the cover from what is known as the "Lyman Patent Fruit Can," but is equally applicable to other cans of similar construction for like purposes. The greatest difficulty experienced in the use of these cans is in removing the cover, to facilitate which various devices have been resorted to, but other than purely mechanical. My invention, which fully overcomes the difficulty, is purely mechanical, and consists in a peculiarly formed lever, constructed so that one end forms the fulcrum to bear upon the upper side of the flange of the cover, while the other end forms a handle, and between which and the fulcrum is hinged a hook which takes hold beneath the flange of the cover upon the opposite side to the fulcrum, so that by raising the handle the cover is easily removed from the can.

To enable others to construct and use my improvement I will proceed to describe the same as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

A is the lever, its one end, *a*, turned down and spread as seen in figs. 1 and 2, so as to form an extended bearing. The other end, B, is formed into a handle of any convenient shape. To the lever A, upon a pivot, *d*, is hung a hook, C, also spread and curved as seen in fig. 2, and having a flange, *f*, projecting inward so as to form an extended bearing upon the cover to be raised. Upon the upper end of the hook C I form a projecting arm, D, so that the thumb of the hand which grasps the handle may rest upon the said arm to operate the hook. This completes the construction of my invention. Its operation is as follows, (shown in fig. 3:)

E is the can, and F the cover, of the usual construction; *s*, a flange formed upon the lower edge of the cover. This flange is formed when the cover is "struck up," and is designed to facilitate the removal of the cover from the can; and for this purpose I make use of it. Resting the broad end, *a*, of the lever upon the upper side of the flange, holding the can with one hand, the handle B of the lever in the other, the thumb resting on the arm D, press the hook C so that the flange *f* comes below the flange upon the opposite side to the end *a*, which forms the fulcrum; then, holding the can, raise the lever as denoted in red, which easily draws the cover from the can.

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

The lever A provided with a fulcrum *a*, in combination with the hook C and the handle B, constructed and arranged so as to operate in the manner described.

S. O. CHURCH.

Witnesses:

HENRY M. FOSTER,

ORVILLE H. PLATT.