

H. FERGUSON.
CAN OPENER.
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963,283.

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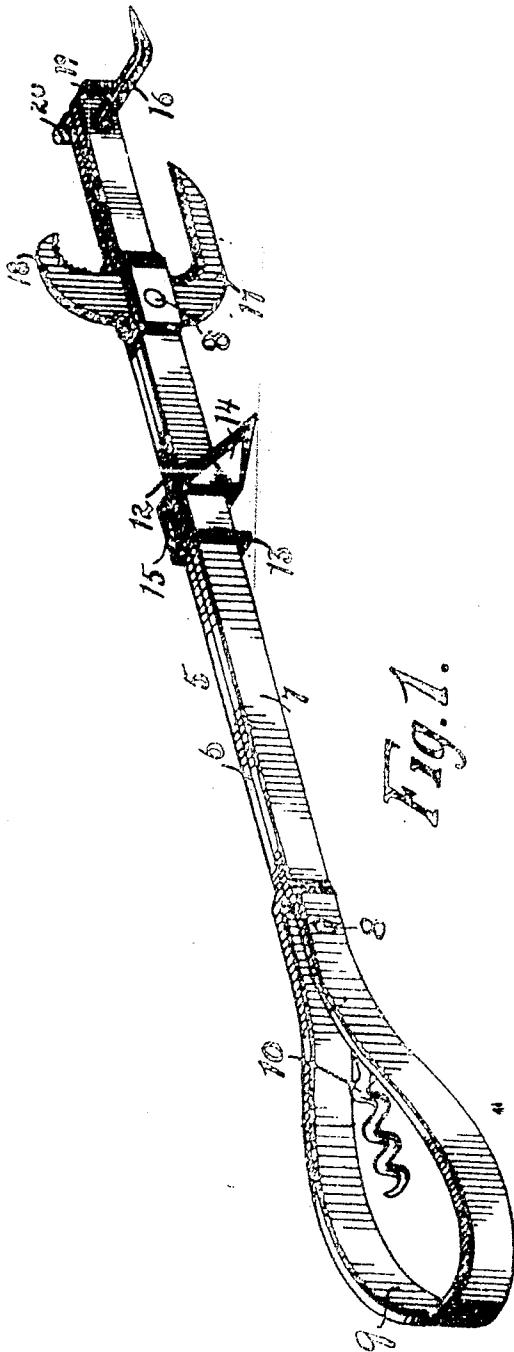


Fig. 1.

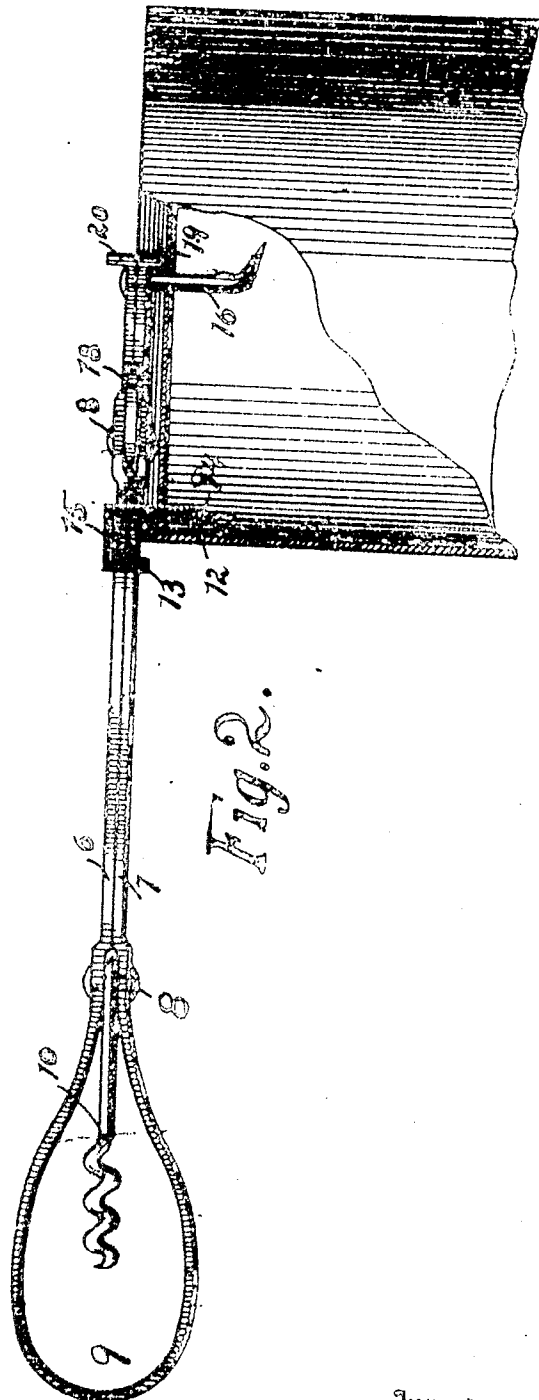


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY FERGUSON, OF SHERIDAN, WYOMING.

CAN-OPENER.

963,283.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY FERGUSON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Sheridan, in the county of Sheridan and State of Wyoming, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to can openers and has for its object the provision of a tool of this character constructed in such manner that it may be very economically manufactured and will efficiently serve the purposes for which it is designed.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description which now follows.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bottle and can opener embodying the invention, and, Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof, illustrating the manner of application of the device.

Like numerals designate corresponding parts in both of the figures of the drawing.

By referring to the drawing, it will be seen that the improved can and bottle opener forming the subject matter of the present invention comprises a shank 5 which is formed by bending a preferably steel strip upon itself to provide the parallel members 6 and 7, which are held together by rivets 8. At the rear end of the shank the material thereof is spread or bowed to form an open handle 9. A corkscrew 10 is pivoted upon one of the rivets 8 between the members 6 and 7, and when not in use lies within the handle 9 where it is out of the way and is not likely to injure the hands of the user. A cutter 12, which comprises two substantially parallel portions 13 and 14, and the connecting portion 15, is slidably mounted upon the shank 5, both of the members 6 and 7 passing through said cutter. A centering bar 16 extends transversely from the front portion of the shank and a second cutter blade 17 which terminates in a lid lifting member 18 is secured between the shank members 6 and 7 by one of the rivets 8.

The extreme front ends of the shank members are bent transversely as shown at 19 and 20 to give additional rigidity to the structure

and a bearing surface for the front end of the shank when the cutter blade 17 is being used in the ordinary manner to open square cans, or to open round cans, the material of which is so heavy as to render the use of the blade 14 inadvisable. Ordinarily however, in opening round cans, the barb 16 is forced into the top of the can at the center thereof, after which the blade 14 is caused to pierce the top of the can near the edge, the slidable mounting of this blade adapting it for use upon cans of varying diameters. It will be apparent that after this blade 14 has been forced into the top of the can, the top of the can may be cut out by swinging the shank upon the center afforded by the barb 16. When it is desired to remove a cork or stopper from a bottle, that result is readily accomplished by swinging the corkscrew 16 upon its pivot until said corkscrew lies substantially at right angles to the shank, after which the corkscrew may be used in the ordinary manner. The barb 16 is also useful for removing the usual paper caps used as closures for milk bottles.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that simple and efficient means are herein provided for accomplishing the objects of the invention, but while the elements herein shown and described are well adapted to serve the purposes for which they are intended, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction set forth, but includes within its purview such changes as may be made within the scope of the appended claim.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

In a device of the character described, the combination with a shank formed of a single strip of sheet metal bent upon itself to form two parallel portions, the free ends of which lie in the same plane and are oppositely out-turned, the material at the opposite end of the shank being outwardly bowed to form an open handle, the two portions of the shank lying close together, face to face, throughout the major portion of their length, of a cutter bent into U-shape, one of the legs thereof being extended beyond the other and having a cutting edge, the legs of said cutter having openings formed there-

through whereby said cutter is slidably
mounted upon the shank in front of said
handle, and a barb extending outwardly
from the shank near the front end thereof
5 and in the same direction as the cutting por-
tion of said cutter, said barb terminating
in a forwardly projecting point.

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

HENRY FERGUSON.

Witnesses:

WM. C. HENDERSON,
HUGH E. SNIVELY.