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E. ENDERES

CAN OPENER

Filed March 24, 1924

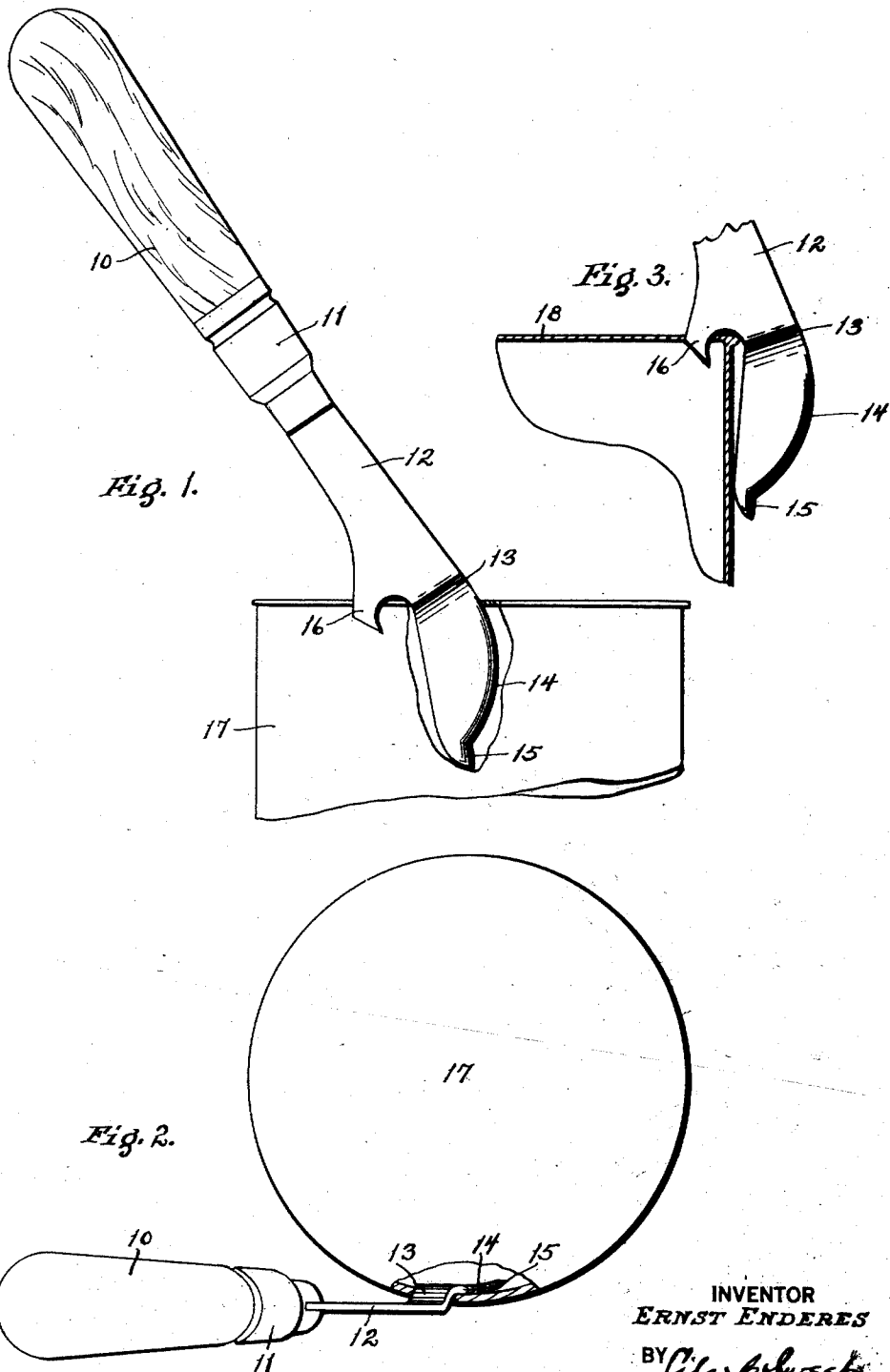


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

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CAN OPENER.

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The object of this invention is to provide an improved construction for can openers.

A further object of this invention is to provide a can opener of very simple and inexpensive construction, easily assembled and with no movable parts, yet adapted for use in a variety of ways.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of elements hereinafter set forth, pointed out in the claim and illustrated by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation showing my improved can opener in position for practical use relative to a can, a portion of which is broken away. Figure 2 is a plan of the same, partly in section. Figure 3 is a side elevation of the blade in position for use in a different manner relative to a can, shown in section.

The device as shown is formed with a handle 10, preferably of wood, having a metal ferrule 11 on one end by means of which the blade 12 is attached to the handle in a common manner. The blade 12 is offset between its ends, at 13, and beyond said offset is formed with a curved, sharpened edge 14 formed on an arc which extends transversely partially across the end of the blade and terminates in a point portion 15 extending in the general direction of the axis of the blade. Thus the cutting portion of the blade, having the sharpened edge 14, lies in a plane spaced from and substantially parallel with the shank portion of the blade, but said sharpened portion preferably is also curved slightly laterally out of a plane and is concavo-convex in longitudinal section, the convex surface being on that side toward the plane of the shank of the blade, as indicated in Figure 2. Formed on one long margin of the shank portion of the blade 12, in the same plane as said portion and on the opposite side thereof from the curved cutting edge 14, is a prong 16, sharply pointed at its forward end and merging into the adjacent margins of the blade by curved lines. The point of the prong 16 is directed forwardly in the same direction as the point 15, and said points preferably are in substantially the same longitudinal line.

In practical use the device is used as commonly, for cutting the ends from, or cutting an arc of considerable extent in, the ends of tin cans such as 17. For this purpose the tool is held in upright position with the point 15 resting on the can top at the point where the cut is to be started, and caused to penetrate

the metal by pressure or a blow on the upper end of the handle 10, and the blade 12 is inserted through the opening thus started, the curved cutting edge 14 enlarging the opening as continued pressure is applied to the tool. The opening thus made should be adjacent the margin of the top of the can, so that when the cutting portion of the blade is completely inserted in the opening the offset portion 13 will engage the edge of the can and rest thereon. Downward pressure is then applied on the handle, causing the rounded cutting edge 14 to move upwardly against the metal and further enlarge the cut, the tool being used as a lever with its fulcrum at the offset 13 resting on the (usually beaded) margin of the can. The cut is continued to the desired extent by an oscillating movement of the tool, it being moved forwardly after each cutting movement, sliding on the edge of the can. During such movement the prong 16 projects downwardly outside of the wall of the can and assists in guiding the tool, by preventing movement inwardly of the can top and keeping the blade close to the edge. The point portion 15 engages the lower surface of the top of the can 17 and serves as a stop to prevent the accidental escape of the tool from the can, in that said point portion will not cut through the can top.

The tool may also be used for punching holes in the tops of milk cans such as 18, as shown in Figure 3. For this operation the tool is placed in upright position with the cutting portion of the blade extending down past the side wall of the can and the prong 16 thereof engaging the top of the can near its margin. The prong is caused to penetrate the can top, as by a blow applied to the end of handle 10, and the hole may then be enlarged to form a slot, by slight oscillatory movement of the tool in the plane of the blade, assisted by engagement of the end portion of the blade with the side wall of the can.

The prong 16 may also be employed for removing friction tops or caps from mustard jars and the like, by placing the straight side of the blade 12, opposite the curved edge 14, on the top of the cap, substantially radially thereof, and causing the end of the prong to engage beneath the edge of the top or cap, then prying or lifting with the handle 10 to cause the cap to be disengaged.

The sharp point 15 of the blade 12 may also be used with facility for an ice scraper upon occasion, and other handy uses may be found

for the tool when the operator becomes accustomed thereto.

I claim as my invention—

5 A can opener blade consisting of an elongated body having at one end a shank portion and at its opposite end a blade portion disposed in the same general direction, the median longitudinal dimensions of said end portions being disposed at an angle to each
10 other, and an intermediate offset portion merging with said end portions, the shank portion having at one edge a prong portion with a pointed end disposed transversely across the intermediate offset portion and
15 spaced from the end thereof, the blade portion

being curved longitudinally and transversely and having one edge sharpened forming a cutting edge, said cutting edge extending from the offset portion to the extremity of the blade portion, said cutting edge being curved longitudinally and disposed across the median longitudinal dimension of the shank portion, and said cutting edge having a straight end portion extending to the extremity of the blade portion and forming a point. 20 25

Signed at Albert Lea, in the county of Freeborn and State of Minnesota, this 6th day of February, 1924.

ERNST ENDERES.