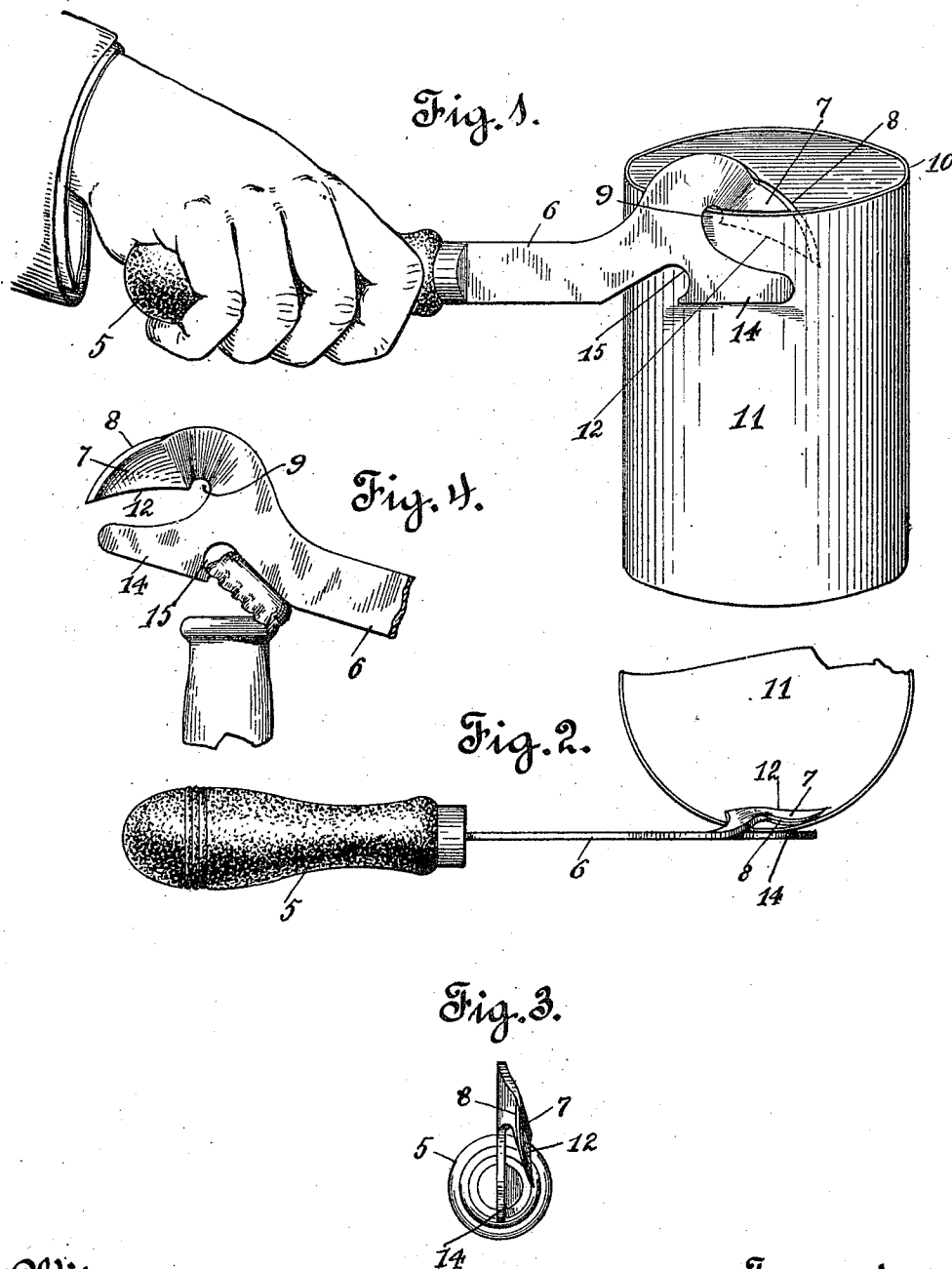


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CAN OPENER.
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Patented June 21, 1910.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CAN-OPENER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT FRANKEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to improvements in can openers, and a main object thereof is to provide a cutting blade of a novel configuration, whereby the sealed top may be removed from a can without injury to the contents thereof.

Another object is to provide a device that will enable the operator to form a shearing cut close to the vertical inner wall of the can, so as to facilitate the removal of the contents in an uninjured state.

A further object is to provide a device that is simple in construction, efficient in operation, and that will not injure a person during the operation thereof.

I accomplish these objects by means of the device described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1—is a perspective view of the can opener operatively applied to a can. Fig. 2—is a top plan view of the opener, illustrating the position of the opening prior to entrance of the point of the cutting blade. Fig. 3—is an end elevation of the opener showing the novel configuration of the cutting blade. Fig. 4—is a detail side elevation of the blade of the opener illustrating the method of removing seals from bottles or like containers.

In a practical embodiment of my invention the opener preferably consists of a handle 5 of suitable form, provided with a flat metallic shank 6, preferably formed of stamped steel. The outer end of this shank is formed into a bill, or can-piercing point 7, the bill extending downwardly and forwardly, as best illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The upper edge 8 of this bill is formed in a cutting edge, and the lower edge terminates in a semi-circular notch 9 that forms with the upper edge 10 of the can 11, a fulcrum during the cutting operation. The bill or piercing point 7 is bent outwardly from the shank 6 at its juncture therewith, and that portion of the bill on which the cutting edge is formed flares inwardly from the notch 9 toward the extreme point, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3

of the drawings. The bill also flares transversely from the cutting edge to the lower edge 12, as best illustrated in Fig. 3, the purpose being to bring the cutting edge into close proximity to the inner vertical wall of the can, so that the top may be entirely removed therefrom, leaving a clear upturned and smooth edge.

The lower outer portion 14 of the shank lies in a parallel plane with the body thereto, and is adapted to contact with the outer vertical walls of the can when in operation to form a bearing, and at the same time to force the cutting blade toward the upper edge of the vertical wall of the can. By flaring the cutting blade or bill in both a longitudinal and transverse direction and forming the bearing 14 parallel with the body of the shank, an operator is enabled without special skill to form the cut in the can top close to the vertical wall of the can, which is extremely essential when it is desired to remove the contents in an uninjured condition. It will be observed that as the outer portion of the shank, which forms the bill or piercing point extends upwardly and beyond the upper edge of the shank, that the hand of the operator will lie below the fulcrum point, thus enabling the operator to maintain the cutting blade in close proximity to the edge of the vertical wall of the can, and at the same time providing an increased leverage on the blade itself.

The lower portion of the outer end of the shank is formed into a hook 15, thus adapting it for use as a bottle seal extractor, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, and providing at the same time, a means of suspension for the opener when not in use.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that I have provided a can opener, whereby the top may be removed from the can without tearing the metal or injuring the contents thereof.

Having described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A can opener, comprising a single piece of flat metal terminating at the outer end thereof in a plurality of arms disposed in different vertical planes one above another, the upper arm being formed into a piercing bill and the upper edge of the bill formed into a cutting edge, said bill being offset from the body of the blade at its point of

- juncture therewith, the bill also being flared or inclined from the vertical inwardly from its lower to its cutting edge, the lower of said arms adapted to form a bearing against the outer vertical wall of the can and to guide the cutting edge of the bill against the inner vertical wall of the can during a cutting operation, and a fulcrum bearing formed at the juncture of the two arms.
2. A can opener, comprising a shank and a handle therefor, said shank terminating in a plurality of arms disposed one above another in different vertical planes, the upper of said arms being formed into a can-piercing point having a cutting edge, and the lower of said arms adapted to contact with the outer vertical wall of the can during a cutting operation, the upper arm being offset in a direction transverse to the plane of the shank, whereby to provide space for the insertion of the vertical wall of the can when operating the opener.
3. A can opener, comprising a flat metallic shank and a handle therefor, the outer end of the shank terminating in a plurality of arms vertically disposed one above another and lying in different planes, the upper of said arms being formed into a cutting blade and the lower of said arms forming a

guide for the upper arm during a cutting operation, and a fulcrum bearing formed at the juncture of the two arms.

4. A can opener, comprising a flat metallic shank and a handle therefor, the outer end of said shank terminating in two arms disposed in vertical planes one above another and lying in different parallel planes, the upper of said arms being formed into a cutting blade and the lower of said arms bearing against the outer wall of the can and guiding the upper arm during a cutting operation.

5. A can opener, comprising a flat metallic shank and a handle therefor, the outer end of said shank terminating in two arms disposed in a vertical plane one above another, the upper of said arms being formed into a cutting blade, and being offset in a parallel plane from the lower of said arms the lower of said arms forming a guide for the upper arm during a cutting operation.

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

ROBERT FRANKEN.

Witnesses:

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CHAS. H. BRIDGES.