May 5, 1925.

1,536,070

G. W. BRIGHT

CAN OPENER

Filed April 21, 1924

Fig. 1.

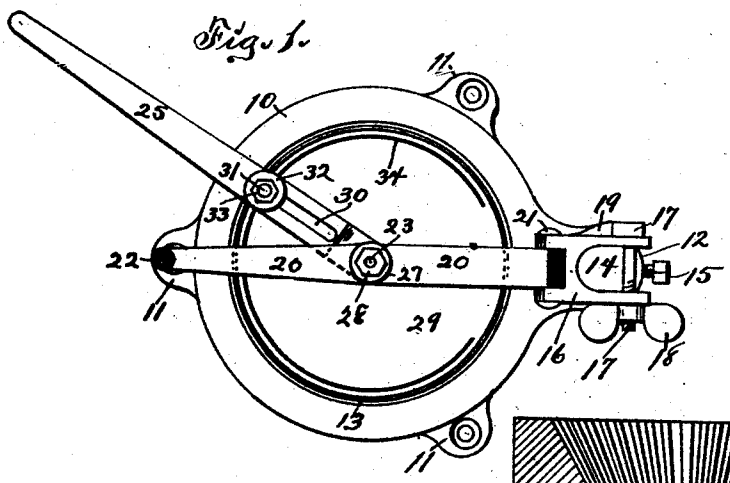


Fig. 3.

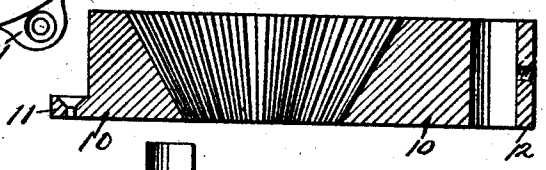
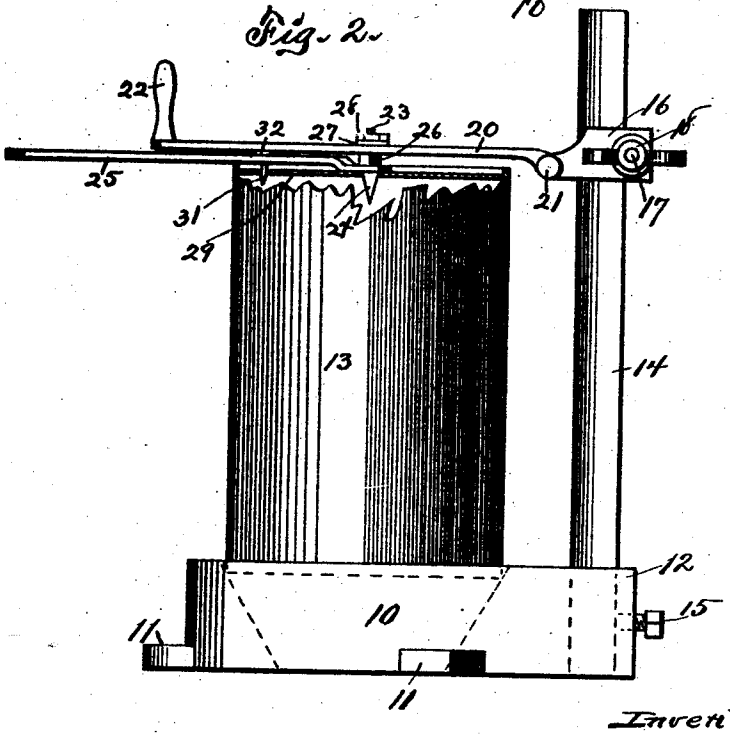


Fig. 2.



Inventor:
George W. Bright.
By Silas L. Sweet.
Atty

Patented May 5, 1925. 1,536,070

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. BRIGHT, OF DENVER, COLORADO.

CAN OPENER.

Application filed April 21, 1924. Serial No. 707,925.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BRIGHT, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the city and county of Denver, Colorado, have invented a new and useful Can Opener, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved construction for a can opener, whereby a container or can may be held rigidly in a given position during the operation of cutting an arcuate slit in one end thereof. A further object of this invention is to provide improved means for adjusting the can opening appliances to containers or cans of varying heights.

A further object of this invention is to provide improved means for cooperatively associating a holding lever and a cutting lever.

A further object of this invention is to provide improved means for holding a container or can against rotation by frictional engagement with a serrated base.

A further object of this invention is to provide a base with a tapering serrated socket, adapted to accommodate and engage containers or cans of varying dimensions.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved construction of and means for mounting a center pin.

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

Figure 1 is a plan of the complete device in position for practical use. Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same, a container therein being shown partly in section. Figure 3 is a diametrical section of the base member of the device alone.

In the construction of the device as shown, the numeral 10 designates a base member, preferably formed of metal by moulding of considerable thickness, and generally circular in plan view. Apertured ears 11 are formed on and radiate from the lower portion of the base 10, and are adapted to receive screws whereby to secure said base to a support such as a bench or table. An ear 12, of substantially the same thickness as the base, is formed thereon and extended radially therefrom. The base 10 is formed with a central tapering opening of greater dimension at its top than at its bottom, generally of frustum-shape, and the wall of said opening is serrated, thus providing means for engaging a metal container or can 13, mounted therein. The opening in the base 10 is tapered to accommodate containers or cans of varying diameters and within the range thereof, any container or can will be engaged and held against rotation by the serrations. A post 14 is mounted in an upright opening in the ear 12 and is secured by a set screw 15. The post 14 is partly circular and partly angular in cross section (Fig. 1), at least throughout the major portion of its length, although the lower end thereof may be circular and the hole in which it fits in the ear 12 may also be circular for convenience in manufacture. A forked bracket 16 is mounted slidingly on and in embracing relation with the post 14, and the base of the fork thereof is shaped to conform to the cross section of said post. A clamping bolt 17 is mounted in registering holes in the arms of the fork and extends across the plane face of the post 14 and is provided with a wing-nut 18 on its threaded end. The forked bracket 16 is formed with a lug 19 on one side, adapted to be engaged by the head of the bolt 17 and prevent rotation thereof. The inner end portion of the bracket 16 also is forged and a holding lever 20 has one end portion extended within the said inner end fork and pivoted therein by means of a rivet 21. The pivot end portion of the holding lever 20 is curved downwardly, as shown, so that the axis of oscillation of said lever may be lower relatively to the plane of the lever. A handle 22 is mounted on and extends substantially at right angles upwardly from the outer end portion of the holding lever 20, by means of which said lever and associated elements may be moved relative to the bracket 16. A center pin 23 is mounted through the central portion of the holding lever 20. It is formed with a conical penetrating point portion 24, having a shoulder at its base. A cutting lever 25 is pivoted at one end on the center pin 23, parallel and in contact with the shoulder at the base of the point portion 24, and a washer or bushing 26 is interposed between the end portion of the cutting lever and the central portion of the holding lever 20. A washer 27 and nut 28 are mounted on the center pin 23 in superposed relation to the central portion of the holding lever 20, thus substantially

connecting the center pin, cutting lever and holding lever. The inner or pivoted end portion of the cutting lever 25 is offset downwardly relative to the body of said lever to compensate for the depressed arrangement of a head 29 of the can or container 13 relative to its wall, so that in use said offset portion may approximate closely to or contact with said head while the body of the cutting lever rides on the rim of the wall. The cutting lever 25 is of greater length than, and extends radially beyond, the handle end of the holding lever 20, in order that said cutting lever may be manipulated through an arc beneath said handle end. The cutting lever 25 is formed with a longitudinal slot 30 and a knife 31 is slidingly and non-rotatively mounted in said slot and is secured to said lever by a washer 32 and nut 33 superposed relative to the lever. The cutting knife 31 is formed to move longitudinally of the slot 30, to accommodate its location to containers or cans 13 of varying diameters.

In practical use the base 10 is secured to a support; a container 13 is mounted in the tapering hole in the base with its lower rim in contact with the serrations thereof; and the bracket 16 is adjusted altitudinally on the post 13 and secured by manipulation of the wing-nut 18. During this operation the cutting lever and holding lever are elevated manually. After the preliminary adjustments are made the holding lever is moved downwardly, carrying the cutting lever with it, the point 24 is forced through the central portion of the head 29 of the container, and the knife 31 is likewise forced through said head adjacent to the wall of the container. The holding lever is held by one hand of the operator grasping the handle 22, and applies pressure to the container, while the cutting lever is moved through an arc by the other hand of the operator, in opposite directions, to the end of forming an arcuate slit 34 in the head. Then the holding lever and cutting lever are elevated to a plane substantially perpendicular to the base, the cut out portion of the head 29 is disengaged from the point 24 and knife 31 and the opened can or container is removed from the base. The length of the center point 24 is such that when the levers are raised after the cutting operation is completed, said point tends to elevate the cut out portion of the head and presents the can or container to the operator in opened condition.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A can opener comprising a base adapted to be secured to a support and formed with a frustum shaped central opening, having a serrated wall adapted to receive a container, a post rising from said base, a bracket adjustably mounted on said post, a holding lever hinged to said bracket, a center pin mounted in the central portion of said holding lever and adapted to penetrate the head of said can or container, a cutting lever pivoted at one end on said center pin and extended to an orbit beyond that of the free end of the holding lever, and a knife slidingly mounted on said cutting lever and adapted to penetrate and cut an arcuate slot in the head of the container under arcuate movement of said cutting lever.

2. In a can opener, a base, formed with apertured ears, whereby it can be secured to a support and also formed with a frustum-shaped central socket, having a serrated wall adapted to engage the rim of a container mounted in said socket.

Signed at Denver, in the county of Denver and State of Colorado, this 5th day of January, 1924.

GEORGE W. BRIGHT.