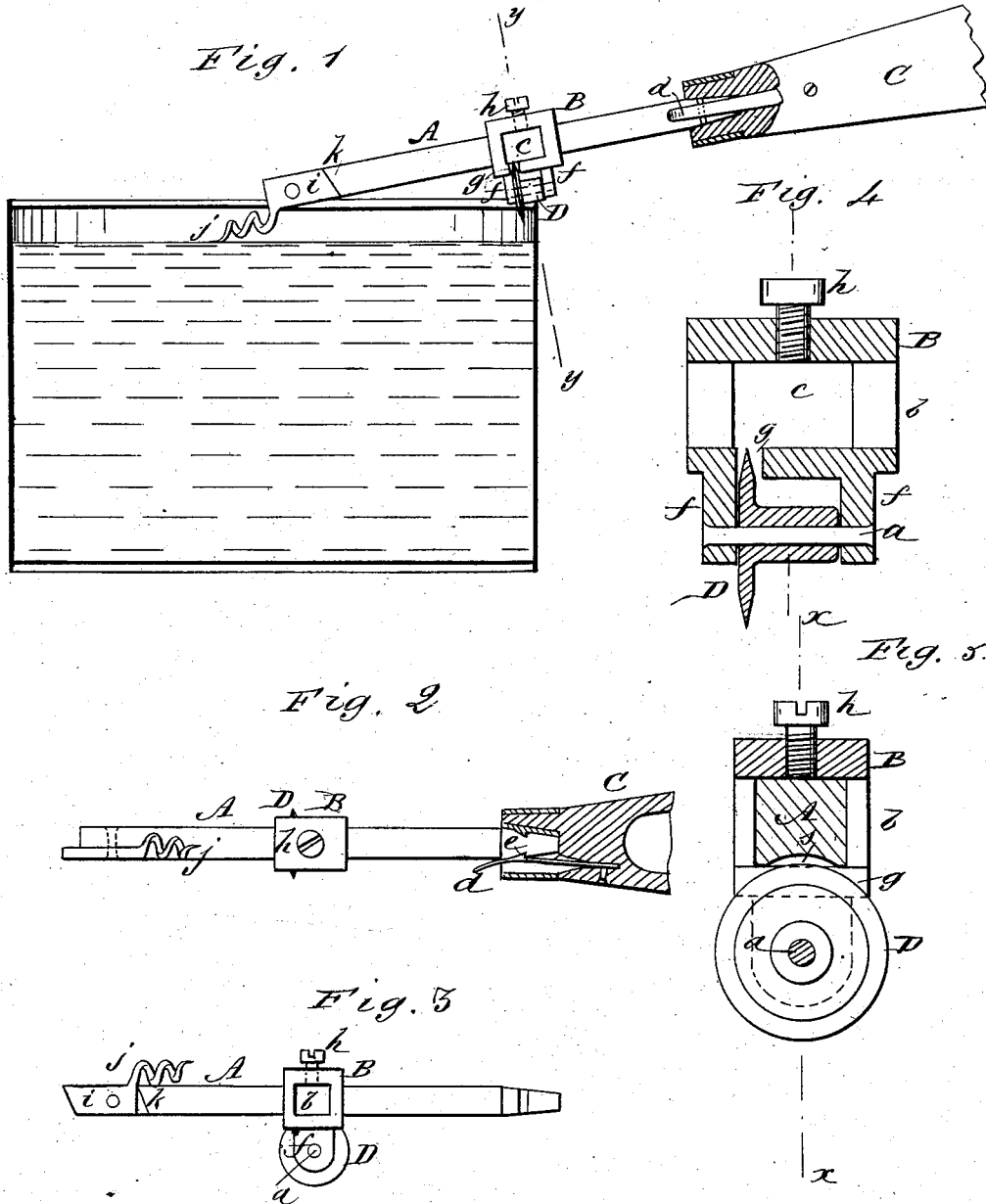


(No Model.)

W. A. McFARLANE.  
CAN OPENER.

No. 264,549.

Patented Sept. 19, 1882.



WITNESSES:  
*C. Newell*  
*G. Sedgwick*

INVENTOR:  
*W. A. McFarlane*  
BY *Munn & Co*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. MCFARLANE, OF IVANPAH, CALIFORNIA.

## CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 264,549, dated September 19, 1882.

Application filed April 28, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. MCFARLANE, of Ivanpah, in the county of San Bernardino and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Devices for Opening Cans, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in can-openers; and it consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims. The block in which the cutter or blade is journaled is made reversible upon the bar, so that the blade may be held parallel with or at right angles to the bar for making a circular or straight cut, as desired, which also constitutes a feature of my invention.

The invention further consists in the details of construction and the combinations and arrangements of parts, all as hereinafter more fully described.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of my improved can-opener as it appears when placed upon the can ready for use. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view of the can-opener, the blade being placed at right angles to the bar. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the same, the blade being arranged parallel with the bar. Fig. 4 is a sectional elevation taken on the line *xx* of Fig. 5, and Fig. 5 is a similar view taken on the line *yy* of Fig. 1.

A represents the main bar, which is preferably square in cross-section.

B represents the block which carries the revolving blade or cutter D, and C represents the hollow handle, which is made detachable from the end of the bar by means of the spring *d* and catch *e*, which engage with suitable notches in the end of the bar, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. The blade or cutter is journaled in the lugs or projections *ff*, formed on the under side of the block, and the lower side of the block is formed with the slot *g*, to accommodate the edge of the blade or cutter, which in this instance is made more than twice the width of the lugs above the shaft or pivot *a*, upon which the blade revolves. The

block is mortised through in opposite directions with the mortises *b* and *c*, and is adapted to be placed upon the bar, so as to hold the blade at right angles with the bar, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5, or parallel therewith, as shown in Fig. 3, and the block is adapted to be moved upon the bar to suit the size of the can to be opened, and set at any desired point by the set-screw *h*.

The forward end of the bar is provided with the spiral or "corkscrew" point *j*, which is adapted to pass through the top of the can, as shown in Fig. 1, to act as a fulcrum, and as a pivotal center when the implement is used for making circular cuts. Instead of using a spiral point, a plain or curved point might be used for piercing the can and holding the implement. In both cases the point may be made a part of the bar A, or rigidly secured to it; but it is preferred to make the point a part of the plate *i* and pivot the plate to the side of the bar, so that it may be folded back, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, to permit the bar to be placed in the hollow handle when not in use.

The end of the plate *i* is made diagonal, which, when the point is brought in position for use, comes against the corresponding offset, *k*, of the bar and holds the point to its work.

When the implement is to be used for making straight cuts the point *j* will not be used, as the block will be placed upon the bar A, as shown in Fig. 3, so that the blade will be parallel with the bar, and no fulcrum will be needed.

Instead of using a separate handle, C, the bar A may be extended to form a suitable length of lever or handle; but in case a separate handle is used, it is designed to make the handle hollow, as above mentioned, to receive and hold the tool when not in use, thus making a handy and easily-carried implement.

When the radius of the wheel is greater than the length of the lugs *ff*, as shown in the drawings, the side of the bar A next to the wheel will be guttered or made concave, as shown at *s*, Fig. 5, so as to clear the edge of the wheel. In case the wheel is made of a less radius than the length of the said lugs, of course this gutter will not be needed, and the slot *g* can then also be dispensed with.

I am aware that a can-opener provided with a point at its end and with a revolving cutter adjustably secured on its shank has heretofore been employed, and I therefore lay no claim  
5 to such construction.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In combination with the bar A, the block B, mortised through in opposite directions and  
10 adapted to be reversed upon the bar A, for holding the blade D at right angles to or par-

allel with the bar, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a can-opener, the bar A, having the folding point *j*, in combination with a movable  
15 and reversible block, B, provided with the revolving blade or cutter D, as and for the purpose specified.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MCFARLANE.

Witnesses:

W. J. CURTIS,

JOHN W. SATTERWHITE.