

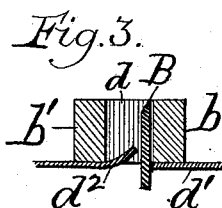
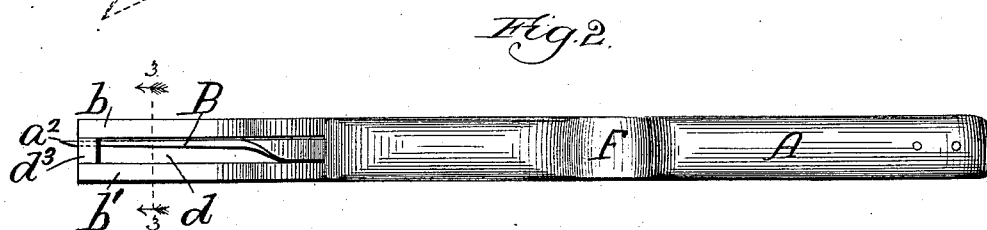
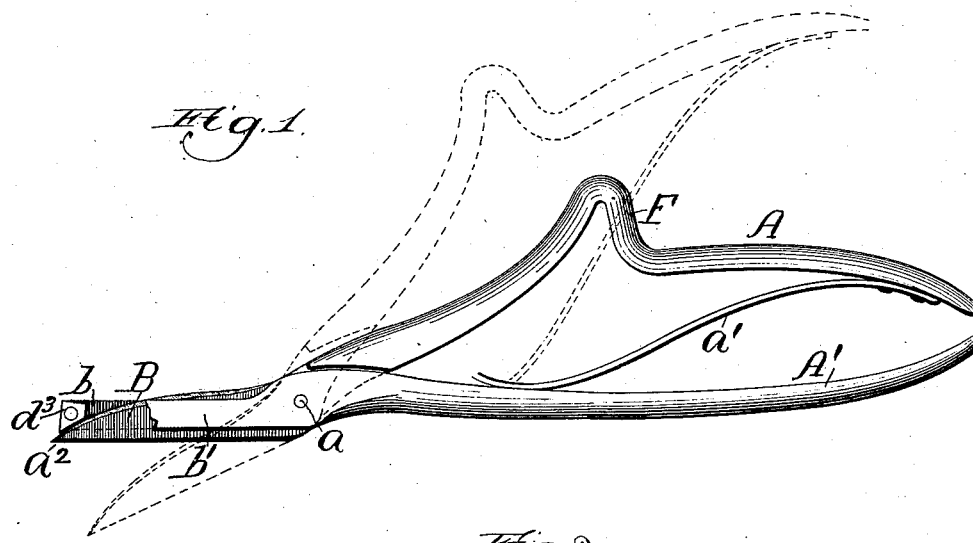
(No Model.)

E. A. WHEELER.

CAN OPENER.

No. 347,674.

Patented Aug. 17, 1886.



Witnesses:
Chas. E. Gaylord.
V. Stannwood.

Inventor:
Emory A. Wheeler
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMORY A. WHEELER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 347,674, dated August 17, 1886.

Application filed August 20, 1885. Serial No. 174,882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMORY A. WHEELER, of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, that will enable others to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in can-openers; and it consists in certain novel features in the construction and operation of the device, as will be hereinafter set forth.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device embodying my improved features; Fig. 2, a top view; Fig. 3, a transverse section in the plane 3 3, Fig. 2, looking in the direction indicated by the arrows. Fig. 4 shows the incision or path of the cutting-blade in the metal, and Fig. 5 a transverse section of the same.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the upper lever-handle when the implement is held in proper position for use, and A' the companion lever-handle, these two handles being pivoted together at *a*. The spring *a'*, arranged between the handles, serves to automatically spread the same apart each time that the pressure from the hand of the operator is relaxed.

The handle A is provided with the cutting-blade B, having a curved or convex cutting-edge terminating in the sharp point *a''*.

The fulcrum end of the companion handle A' consists of the two parallel bars *b b'*, having the rectangular space or slot *d* between the same, as shown in Fig. 2. The cutting-blade B is inserted between these bars, and is set at one side and bears close against the inside face of the bar *b*, leaving considerable space between the cutting-blade and the inner side of the companion bar *b'*, as shown. The cutting-edge of the blade B is beveled on the side next the bar *b'*, a portion of said bar being broken away, as shown in Fig. 1, exposing the bevel-edge, the opposite side of blade being straight, thus producing a shearing cut against the bar *b*, leaving the cut edge *d'* of the metal on that side flat, while the beveled side of the blade bends the opposite cut edge,

d'', of the metal up between the blade and the bar *b'*, by reason of the metal being bent over the lower inner corner of the bar *b'*, as shown in Fig. 3, thus effectually preventing the cutting-blade from binding or being cramped between the edges of the metal, and enabling the operator to open a can with the greatest ease and facility.

The relative position of the cut edges of the metal after the operation is performed is shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5. It will be readily observed and understood from this showing that it is impossible for the cutting-blade to stick or bind in its pathway, as the upturned edge *d''* of the metal remains in the fixed position illustrated, thus insuring a free cutting movement. The block *d'* is inserted between the ends of the bars *b b'*, and serves as a fixed stop for the blade B, the point *a''* of which extends a little beyond the block and ends of the bars *b b'*, thus preventing the blade from cutting out. The extended or projecting point *a''* is also a very essential feature in starting the incision, as that operation may be performed with the handles closed. If the point of the cutting-blade did not project, the start would have to be made with the handles thrown open, as is ordinarily the case, which is both awkward and inconvenient.

The hump or irregularity F in the handle A prevents the hand from slipping while manipulating the implement.

The peculiar construction and operation of the device permit of a very short curve being followed and a small opening made when a large one is not required.

The operation is as follows: The implement should be tightly grasped in the hand with the handles closed and held nearly in a vertical position, with the handle A uppermost. The extended point of the cutting-blade is then forced through the metal and the handles gradually opened and worked until the incision is large enough to insert the whole blade and the fulcrum-bars brought to a bearing, when the handles may be opened to the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, and a full cut made at each stroke.

I am aware that can-openers formed of two handles pivoted together, one handle having

a blade and the other a slot for the blade, are old, and that form I do not claim. My device has a shear cutting-blade, the straight side of which works against one of the walls of the slot to give a shearing cut, whereas in the devices above described the blade is so pivoted that the metal is broken and leaves a ragged edge upon the can. Therefore,

What I claim as new is—

10 In a can-opener, the combination of a jaw having a rectangular slot formed by bars b , b' , and c and a plane bearing-face, and a second

jaw pivoted to the first and having a shear-blade abutting against one side of the rectangular slot, and leaving a space between it and the opposite side of the rectangular slot, substantially as described, so that in cutting the surplus metal will have free play between the blade and bar b' , for the purpose set forth. 15

EMORY A. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

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