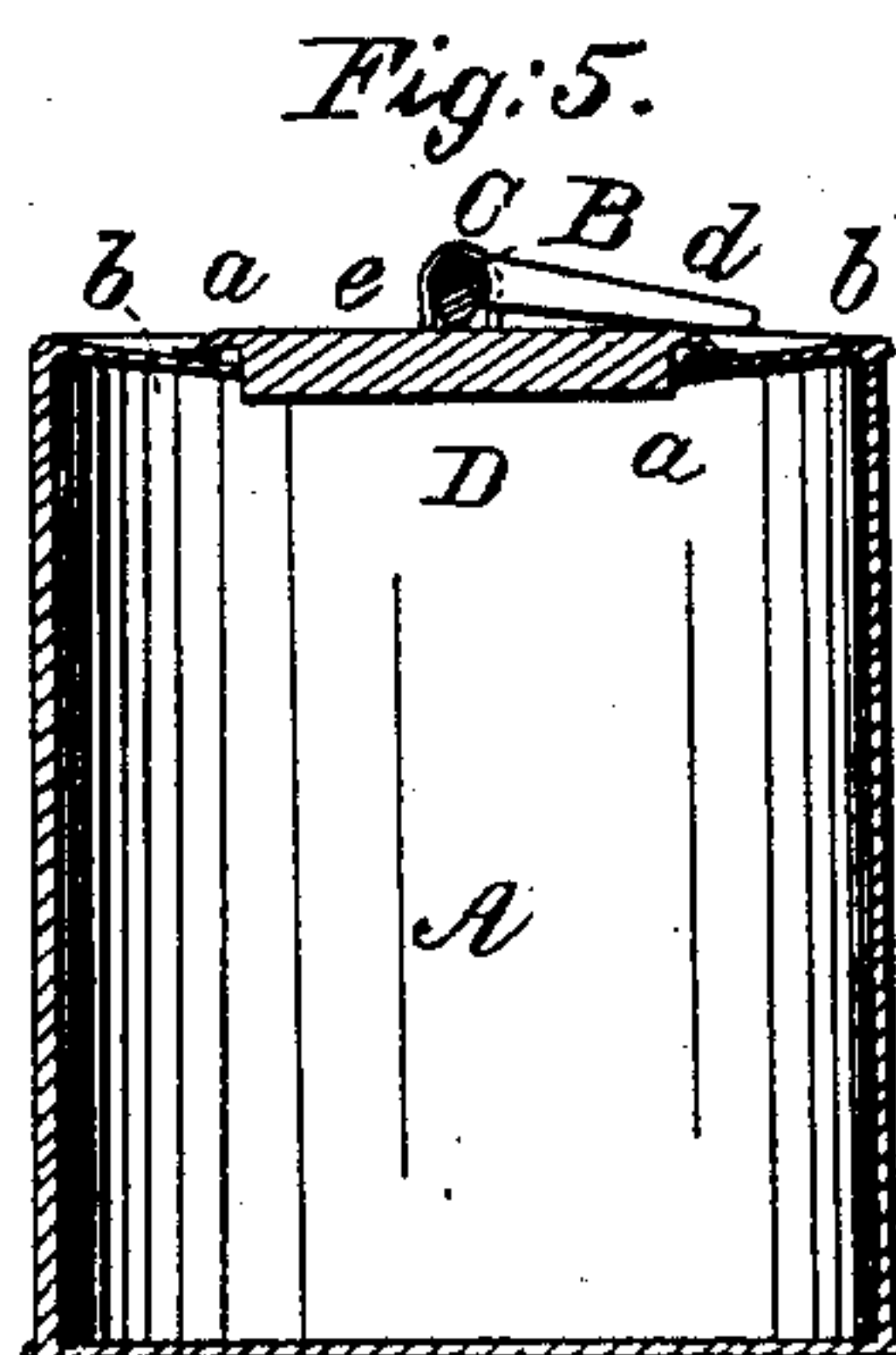
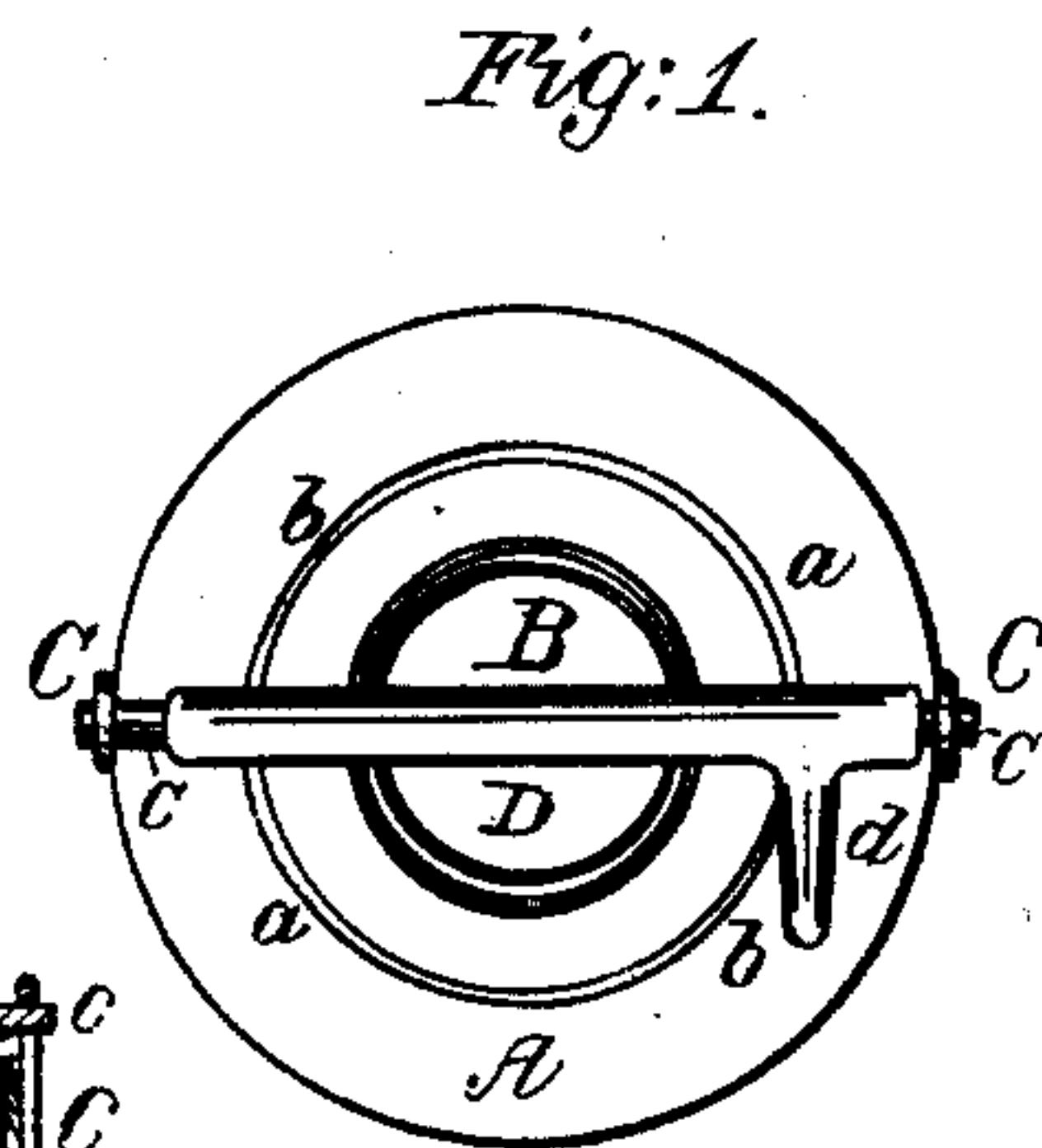
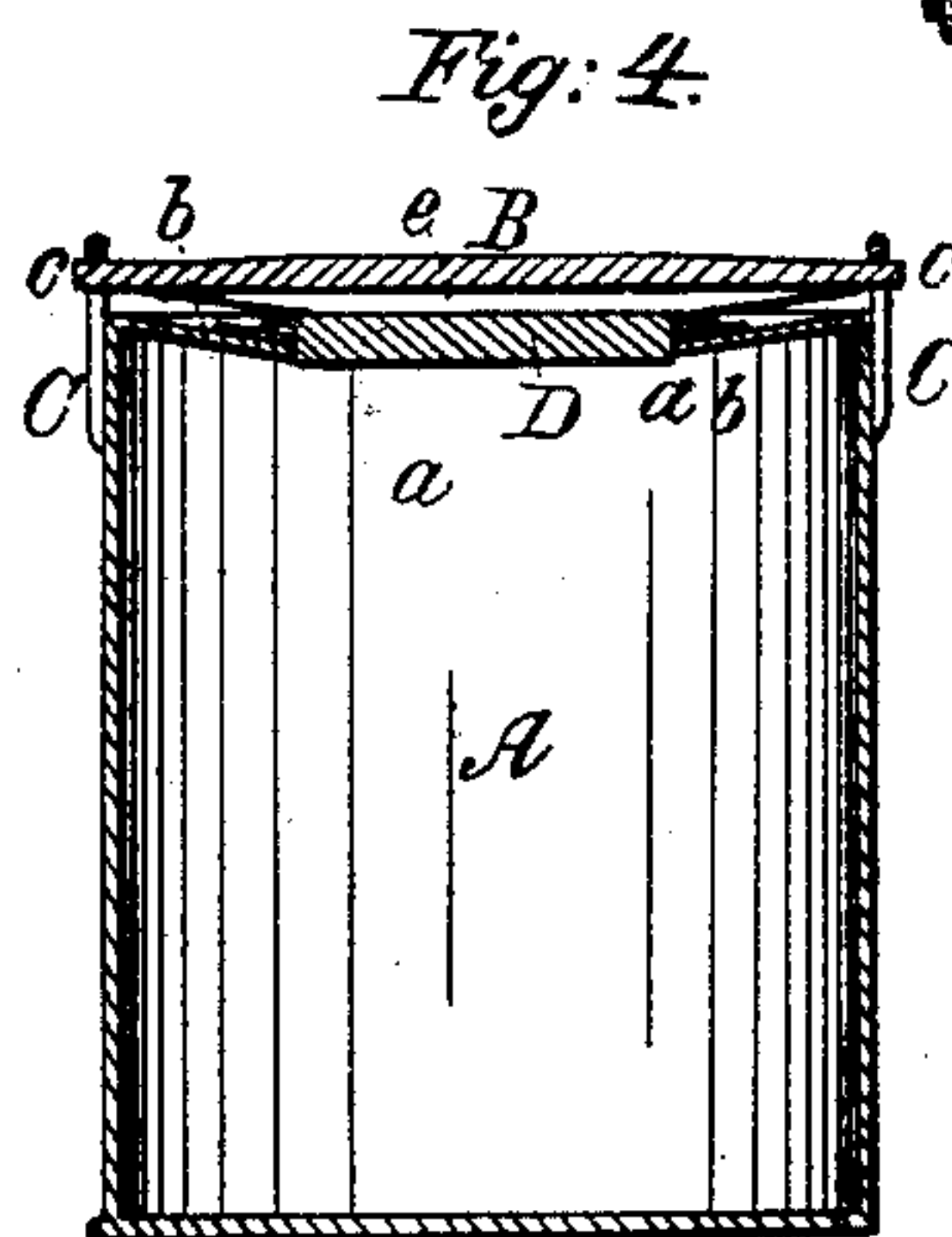
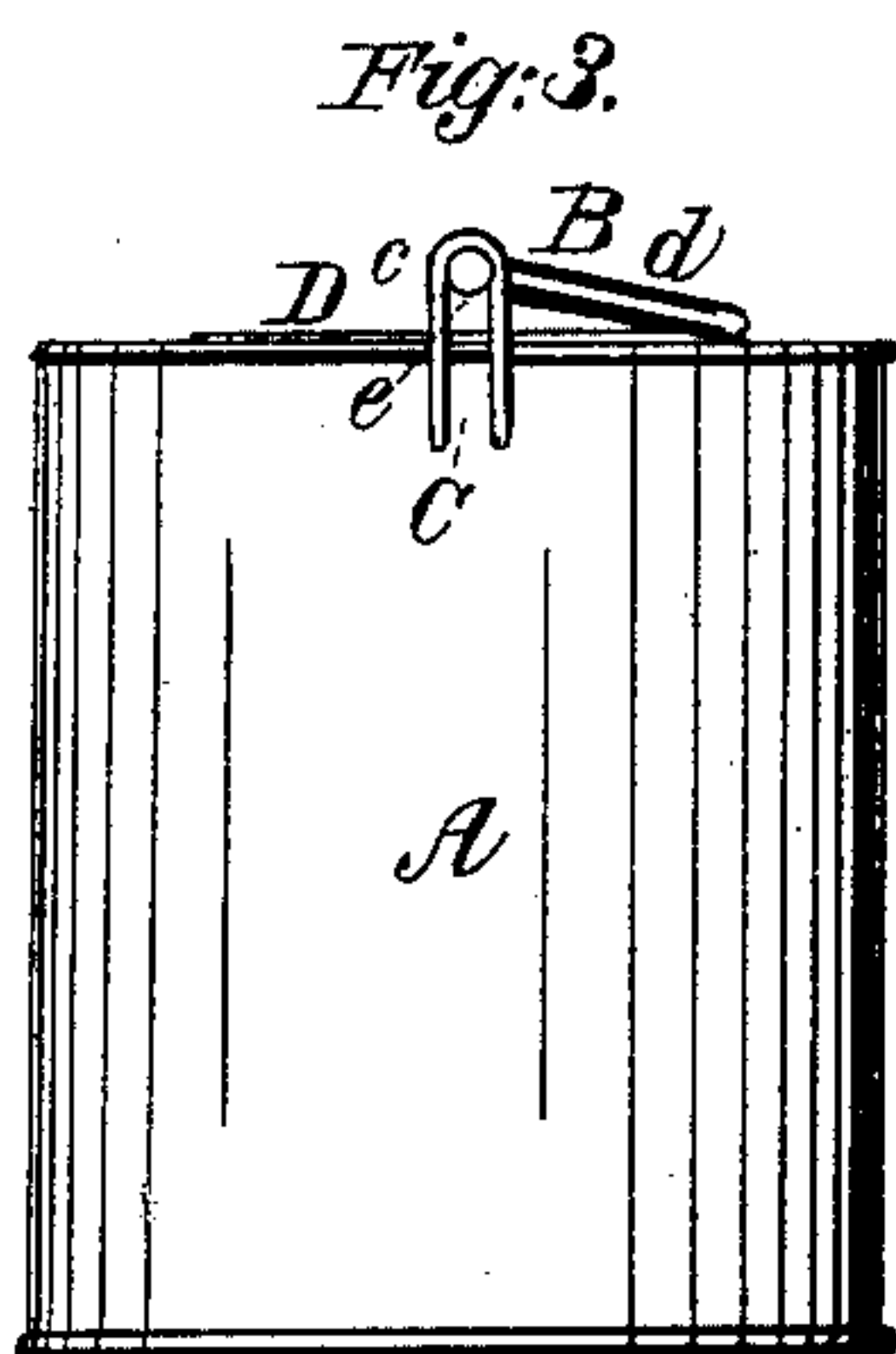
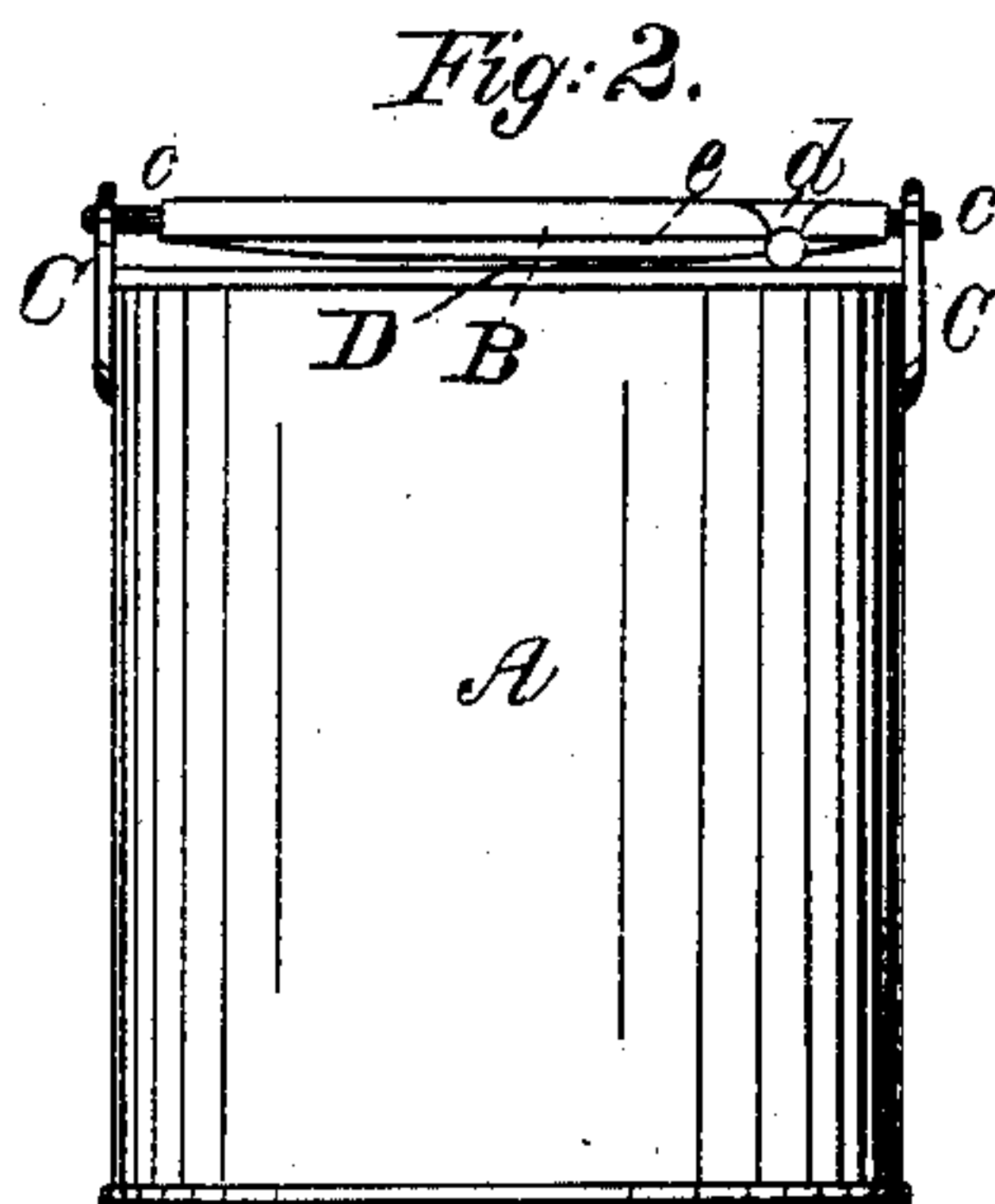


E. W. GILMORE.

Fruit Can.

No. 20,203.

Patented May 11, 1858.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN W. GILMORE, OF NORTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN PRESERVE-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 20,203, dated May 11, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN W. GILMORE, of North Easton, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Preserve-Cans; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 denotes a top view of a preserve-can furnished with my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of it. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Figs. 4 and 5 are vertical and transverse sections taken in planes at right angles to each other.

My invention or improvement has relation to the application of mechanism for confining the cover in place on the can.

In the drawings, A represents a can or vessel for preserving fruits or vegetables, such vessel being provided with a mouth, *aa*, on its upper end, to which a cap or cover, D, is applied, an annulus, *bb*, of vulcanized india-rubber or other suitable equivalent being placed between the cover and the top of the can. A bar-lever, B, is arranged across the cover and top of the can, and has its ends respectively formed with journals *cc* to extend through two stirrups or staples, CC, or equivalent devices, affixed to the can and made to project above it, as shown in the drawings. One of the journals is made longer than the other, and the distance between the two should be such as to enable the shorter journal to be detached from its stirrup when the bar-lever is moved backward longitudinally a sufficient distance. This bar-lever, formed with an arm, *d*, which serves not only as a stop to arrest the transverse motion of the lever in one direction, but as a means of enabling a person to turn the lever in its stirrup, is furnished with a cam or projection, *e*, so arranged with respect to the arm *d* that while the latter is being turned down from a vertical to a horizontal position the said cam shall force the cover D firmly down upon its seat or rubber annulus, so as to effect an air-tight sealing of the can. The cam *e* extends lengthwise of the bar and nearly from journal to journal. It also serves to strengthen it as well as to per-

form its function of giving pressure on the cover, as stated.

The above mode of sealing the can is both simple and very efficient, and allows the can to be unsealed or opened at any time. It entirely dispenses with the use of wax or pitch in sealing the can.

I am aware that the cover of a preserve-can has been held in place by means of a screw working through a cross-bar held in place by two lugs or staples extending upward from the top of the can and on opposite sides of the cover. I am also aware that the same has been accomplished by a spring on the cover, borne down by a latch-bar and a catch.

I am also aware that a bottle-stopper has been held in place on the mouth of a bottle by means of a swinging frame and a cam-lever, as shown in the patent numbered 13,266 of United States patents. Therefore I do not claim such, my invention being analogous thereto only in some respects. In the first place, the cam *e*, by extending lengthwise of the bar and nearly from journal to journal, not only serves to perform the function of a cam, but to greatly strengthen the bar. Furthermore, the cam *e* and the arm *d* are disposed at or about at a right angle to each other, or in such manner that when the cover is forced down upon its seat the arm acts as a stop to prevent the cam from being moved out of place by any accidental cause. The peculiar arrangement, therefore, is novel and productive of important advantages. Therefore

What I claim is—

The arrangement of the arm and the cam and the bar B, whereby the cam is not only made to operate to aid in strengthening the bar when supported as described, but the arm is enabled to operate as a stop to maintain the cam in place while forcing down the cover, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature.

EDWIN W. GILMORE.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH BURROWS,
GEORGE BURROWS.