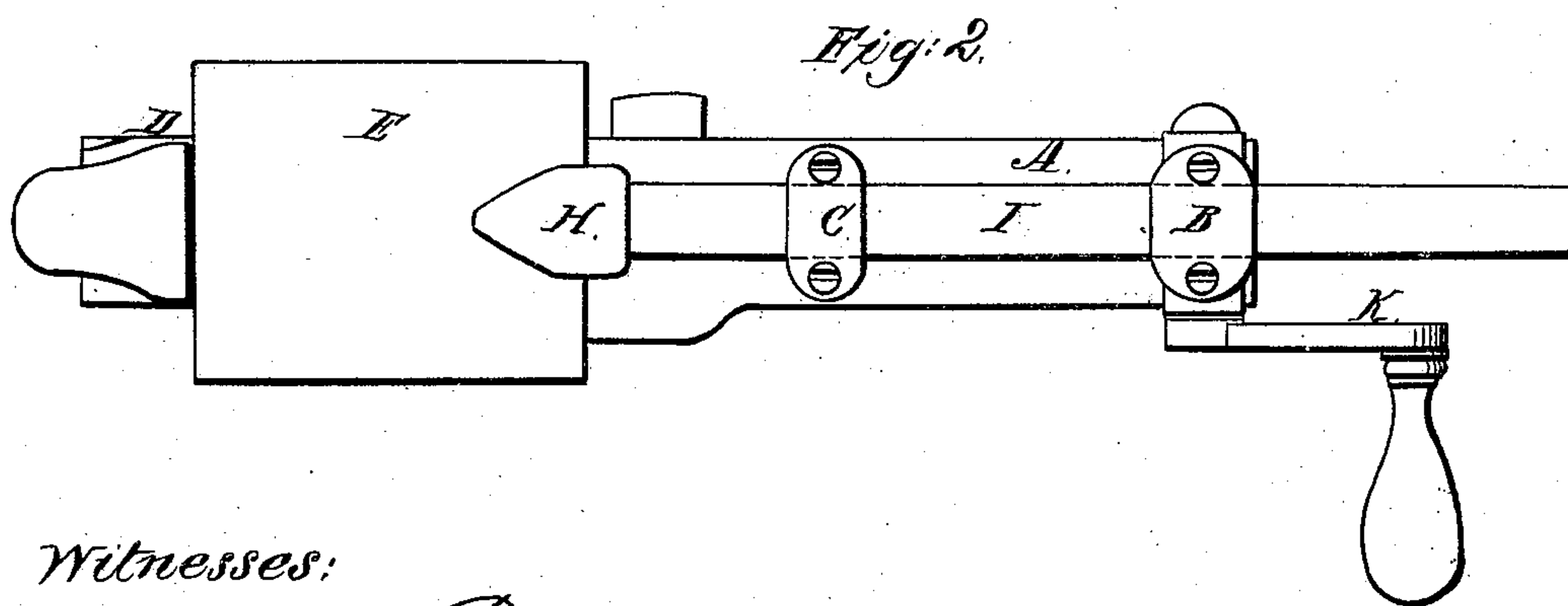
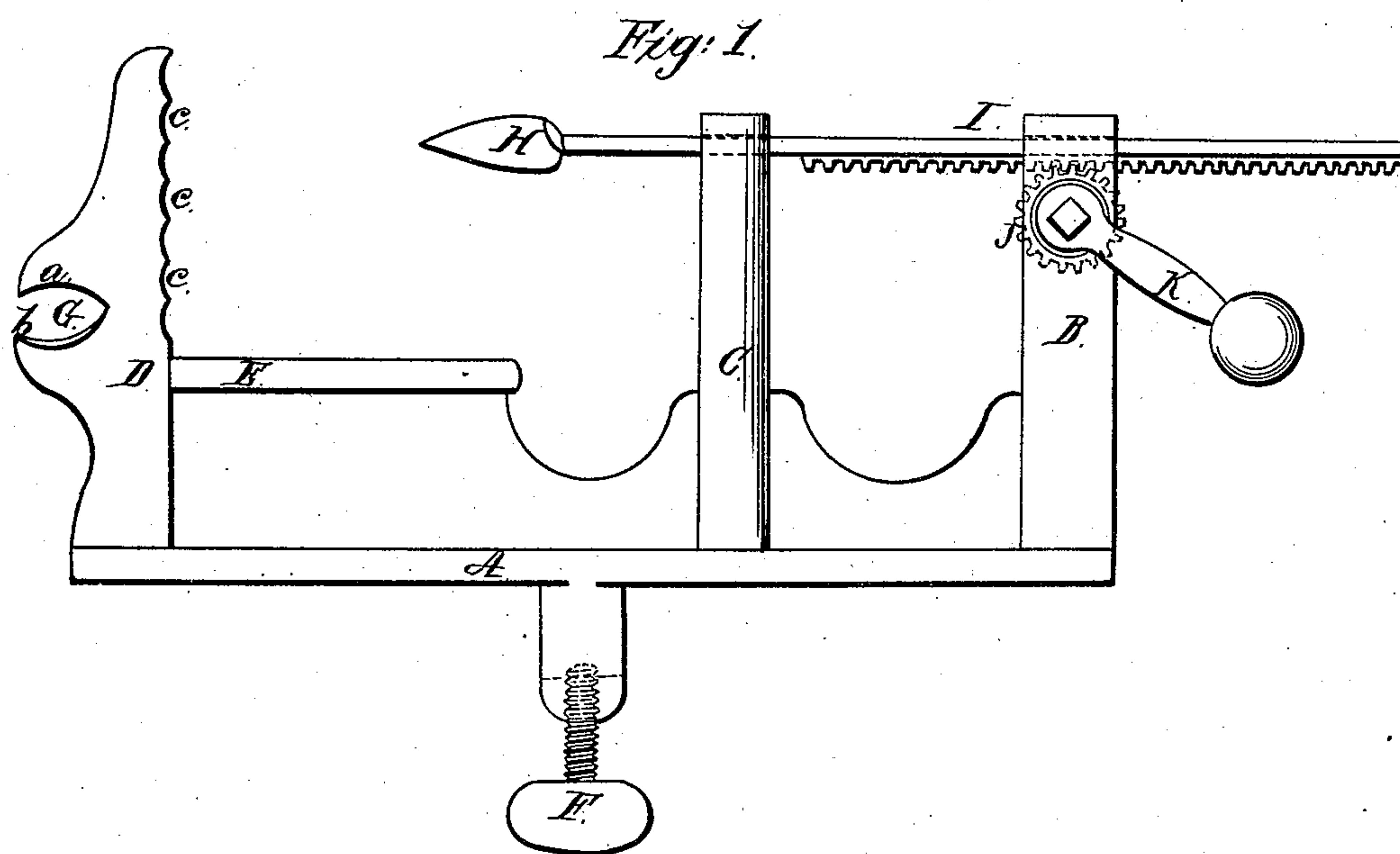


*J. E. Alger,*  
*Oyster Opener,*  
*No 67, 246,                      Patented July 30, 1867.*



*Witnesses:*  
*G. W. Reed*  
*McCombs*

*Inventor:*  
*J. E. Alger*

# United States Patent Office.

J. E. ALGER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 67,246, dated July 30, 1867.

## IMPROVED OYSTER-OPENER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, J. E. ALGER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Oyster-Opening Machine of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of an oyster-opening machine constructed according to my improvement, and

Figure 2 a plan of the same.

Like letters indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

It has long been a desideratum to construct an apparatus or machine that, by the application of manual power in an ordinary or easy manner, would operate to open oysters without the employment of skilled labor for the purpose. The accomplishment of such work by the knife is no less dangerous than difficult to those lacking experience in such matters, so that, especially in households and places where a skilled hand is not to be found, a machine that will answer the purpose, even if less expeditiously and perfectly, or even if requiring the knife to finish the work, is an article much needed. My improvement aims at supplying this want, and the nature of my invention consists in constructing a machine that, preferably by means of a holding-screw or other device, may be secured to a kitchen table or bench, and removed therefrom at pleasure, in which the shell of the oyster may first be broken at its mouth by introducing it between or in a fixed jaw of suitable configuration, so that by bending down upon the shell it will be broken for insertion of the opener; and afterwards, on resting the butt or hinged portion of the shell on or in any one of a series of grooves, and projecting forward, by suitable mechanical appliances, a reciprocating knife or opener, the oyster will be opened without material difficulty or exercise of extraordinary skill, and without risk of the hand being cut or injured.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, A represents the bed of the machine, formed with uprights B C D, and a table, E, and though the same may be made a fixture on a suitable table or bench, is preferably attachable to and detachable therefrom at pleasure by means of a thumb holding-screw, F. The one upright D has a fixed jaw or mouth-shaped recess, G, on its outside edge, formed of a roof, *a*, and under lip *b*, which serve, on introducing between them the mouth of the oyster, and bearing or striking down on the shell, to break the latter, so as to admit of the ready insertion of the knife or opener H, on resting the butt or hinge portion of the oysters in any one of a series of horizontal grooves, *c*, according to the shape of the oyster, and working up, by means of a rack, I, working through the uprights B C, pinion J, and handle K, or other suitable means, the opener H, which is of pointed and wedge-shaped form, so as to readily enter between the two halves of the shell, and to spread or open them as required, one hand being used to adjust or hold in its groove *c* the oyster to the action of the knife or opener, and the other hand to project or operate the latter, that may afterwards be returned to repeat its work.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an apparatus for opening oysters, the arrangement of a fixed jaw, G, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.
2. The combination of a reciprocating knife or opener, H, with a support having grooves or recesses *c*, for adjustment and retention of the oyster to and against the action of the knife, essentially as herein set forth.

J. E. ALGER.

Witnesses:

J. W. COOMBS,

G. W. REED.