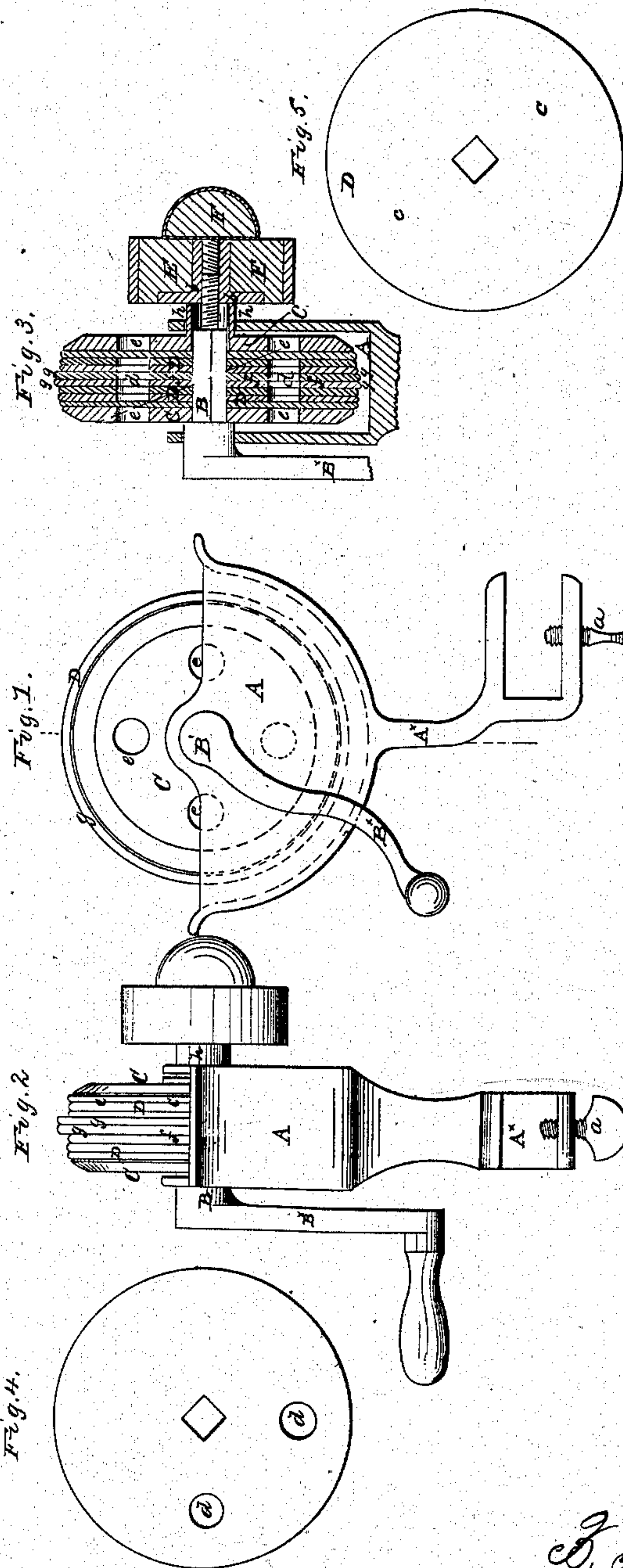


No. 68,079.

PATENTED AUG. 27, 1867.

B. F. HUGHSON.
KNIFE AND FORK CLEANER.



Witnesses.
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United States Patent Office.

BENJAMIN F. HUGHSON, OF COLD SPRING, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 68,079, dated August 27, 1867.

IMPROVED KNIFE AND FORK CLEANER.

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, BENJAMIN F. HUGHSON, of Cold Spring, in the county of Putnam, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Cleaning Knives, Forks, Spoons, etc.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a portion of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an apparatus constructed according to my invention.

Figure 2 is an end elevation of the same.

Figure 3 is a central vertical transverse section of the same.

Figures 4 and 5 are detached views of different portions of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention consists in a scouring-wheel formed of a number of disks, of felt or other like material, clamped between two plates or flanges in such manner that a rotary motion being communicated to the said wheel, and the interstices between the disks thereof being filled with any suitable scouring-powder or material, a knife or fork may be scoured or cleaned by simply pressing it inward between the aforesaid disks.

The invention further consists in a novel means whereby the aforesaid interstices may be kept constantly supplied with powder or scouring material.

The invention further consists in a novel means whereby the efficiency of the apparatus in cleaning forks is materially enhanced.

The invention further consists in the combination of a trough with the aforesaid wheel, whereby, when desired, any suitable liquid may be employed to facilitate the scouring or cleaning operation.

To enable others to understand the construction and operation of my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawing.

A represents a semicircular trough, upon the under side of which is formed a clamp, A*, by means of which the apparatus may be attached when in use to a bench or table, being tightened upon such bench or table by a thumb-screw, a. Situated transversely at the top of trough A is a shaft, B, which is furnished at one end with a crank, B*, and at the other with a flanged nut, b. The central portion of this shaft B is made square, and has placed upon it, within the trough A, two circular plates, C. Also, placed upon the said shaft, and between the plates just mentioned, is any desired number of circular disks D, of felt or other like material, which are held closely together by the plates C, which serve as flanges to support the aforesaid disks and give sufficient solidity to the scouring-wheel C D thus formed. Formed transversely in the disks D, with the exception; when desired, of that one marked c, at one side of the said wheel, are one or more series of holes, d, and formed in the plates or flanges C, in line with the said holes d, is a corresponding number of openings, e, through which scouring or polishing powder or material may be passed into the holes d. The said holes being thus filled, the outermost one, marked f, of the perforated disks D, is turned around upon the shaft B, so that the series of holes d is covered by those portions of the said outermost disk intermediate between the holes thereof, the scouring material being thus prevented from escaping except into the interstices between the disks. The two central disks indicated by the supplementary letters g g are made of greater diameter than the others, so that their edges project beyond the circumference of the rest of the scouring-wheel, as shown in figs. 1, 2, and 3. The flanged nut b bears against a sleeve, h, formed upon the adjacent plate or flange C in such manner that by turning the said nut the plates or flanges may be tightened to compress the disks, and has secured upon it a wheel, E, which may be of wood, and the periphery of which is coated in any suitable manner with emery or other like polishing material. Secured to the outer side of this emery-wheel is a pad, F, of semi-spherical form, made of cloth or other fabric, and filled with saw-dust or other stuffing. It is designed that this pad be sprinkled or coated with suitable polishing material previous to being used.

In using the apparatus, it is first attached to a bench or table, as hereinbefore explained, and the scouring-wheel, together with the emery-wheel and pad, is rotated by means of the crank B*, whereupon a knife may be scoured or cleaned by thrusting or forcing it down between the disks D. The scouring-powder escaping from the holes d into the interstices between the disks and coating the surface thereof, is brought in frictional contact with the knife, and thus scours the same. A fork may be cleaned in a similar manner by thrusting it

between the disks, as just set forth, and then holding the prongs thereof astride the projecting edges of central disks, hereinbefore described, the scouring action of the said edges effectually cleaning the inner surfaces of the said prongs. In cleaning spoons the convex surface of the pad F is used for polishing the various parts of the surface of the spoon; the yielding nature of the said pad enabling it to be used to advantage in polishing the back as well as the concave surface of the bowl. When desired, water or other liquid may be placed in the trough A, so as to wet the scouring-wheel and the scouring-powder used therewith, in order to facilitate the scouring action of the aforesaid scouring-wheel.

The emery-wheel E is used for sharpening knives, the blades of the knives being held in contact therewith in any suitable position when the said wheel is rotated.

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

1. The several series of transverse holes *d* formed in the disks D for the reception of the scouring material, substantially as herein set forth.
2. The two central disks *g g* having their peripheries extended beyond the circumference of the main portion of the scouring-wheel, substantially as herein set forth for the purpose specified.
3. The combination with the scouring-wheel, constructed as set forth, of the trough A, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

BENJAMIN F. HUGHSON.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM HUMPHREYS, Jr.,
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