

Ira F. Thompson.

PATENTED

JAN 21 1868

Improvement in Knife Cleaners.

Fig. 1.

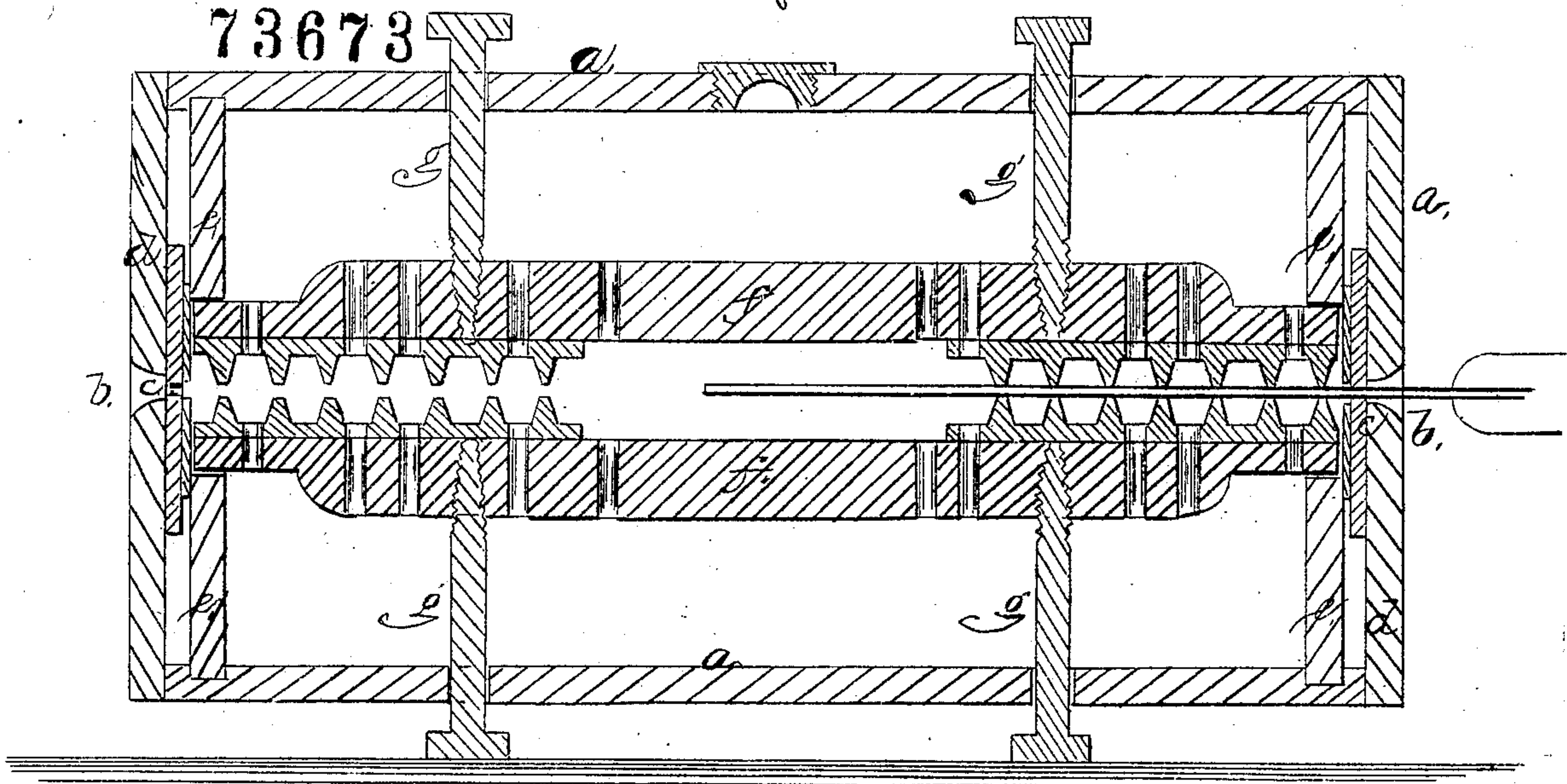
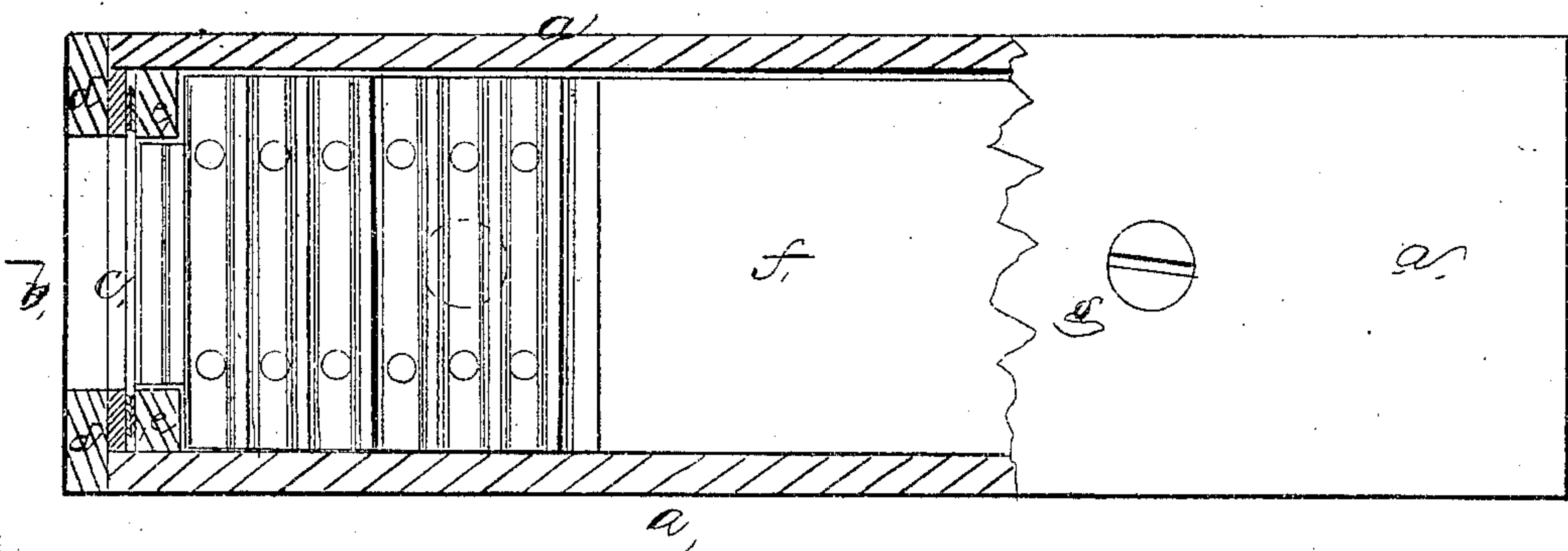


Fig. 2.



Witnesses,

Chas. F. Smith

Geo. A. Walker

Ira F. Thompson
per L. M. Sevell
Atty.

United States Patent Office.

IRA F. THOMPSON, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Letters Patent No. 73,673, dated January 21, 1868.

IMPROVED KNIFE-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, IRA F. THOMPSON, of the city and county of Providence, and State of Rhode Island, have invented, made, and applied to use, a certain new and useful Improvement in Knife-Cleaners; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of said knife-cleaner, and

Figure 2 is a sectional plan of the same, showing one end of the rubber or cleaner.

Similar marks of reference denote the same parts.

The object of my said invention is to clean dinner and other knives in a thorough and rapid manner, and to be able to regulate the extent of pressure at will, so as to scour or polish, as the condition of the knife may require.

The nature of my said invention consists in a box, containing a pair of rubbers, fitted with screws or pins, passing through the box, so that a person taking the box in one hand inserts the knife between the rubbers, and regulates the pressure by more or less force applied to press the pins or screws against the surface of a table or support, the knife being entered through an opening at the end of the box, and the box containing the cleaning-material in the form of dust that passes in between the said rubbers.

In the drawing, *a* is a box, made tight, except that one portion is to be removable for the introduction of the cleaning-material. I prefer, for this purpose, a hole with a screw-cap. At one or both ends is a slit, *b*, for the introduction of the knife. To make this as tight as possible, so that the dust will not work out, I employ the septum *c*, that is made of India rubber, to which small metal plates are attached, on each side of the split through which the knife passes, so as to protect the edges of the rubber from being cut or worn, and at the same time, by the contraction of the rubber around the knife-blade, prevent the cleaning-dust passing out. These plates lap on each other at the projecting portions that come at the top and bottom ends of the split in the rubber. This rubber septum is between the box-head *d* and inner head *e*, and is secured in place by tacks or other fastenings, near its edges. Between the heads *e* are the cleaners or rubbers *f f*, the ends of which pass into mortises in said heads *e*, and a slight play is allowed to these rubbers, in order that different thicknesses of knives may be introduced, and also that wear on the surface of said rubbers may be compensated by their being brought together.

The surfaces of these rubbers are to be formed of sponge, leather, India rubber, or other similar yielding material. I prefer to have the same formed with transverse ribs, as shown; and this elastic material is supported by the wooden body *f* of the rubber, and said rubber is to be perforated with suitable holes, in order that the dust may pass into the rubber and come into contact with the knife as it is moved endwise between the rubbers.

I provide screws or pins *g*, projecting from the rubbers *f*, and passing through holes in the box, at which point a small packing may be applied, and a button or head, on the end of each of said pins or screws, allows them to be pressed upon the table or other support, and give the necessary pressure upon the knife between the rubbers while being cleaned, the pressure being given by bearing down the box against the rubber supported by the pins.

The box may be inverted, so that when the cleaning-dust has passed through the rubbers from one side, it may be turned over and operated as before, thus effecting a saving of the dust, insuring a constant and copious supply, and insuring the rapid cleaning without the dust coming out of the apparatus.

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

1. The knife-cleaner, formed of the rubbers *f*, introduced within the box *a*, and provided with the pins or screws *g*, as and for the purposes set forth.
2. I also claim the elastic septum *c*, fitted as specified, in combination with said rubbers *f*, box *a*, and pins or screws *g*, as and for the purposes specified.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my signature, this fifteenth day of August, A. D. 1867.

I. F. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

PEYTON H. RANDOLPH,
ROBERT THOMPSON.