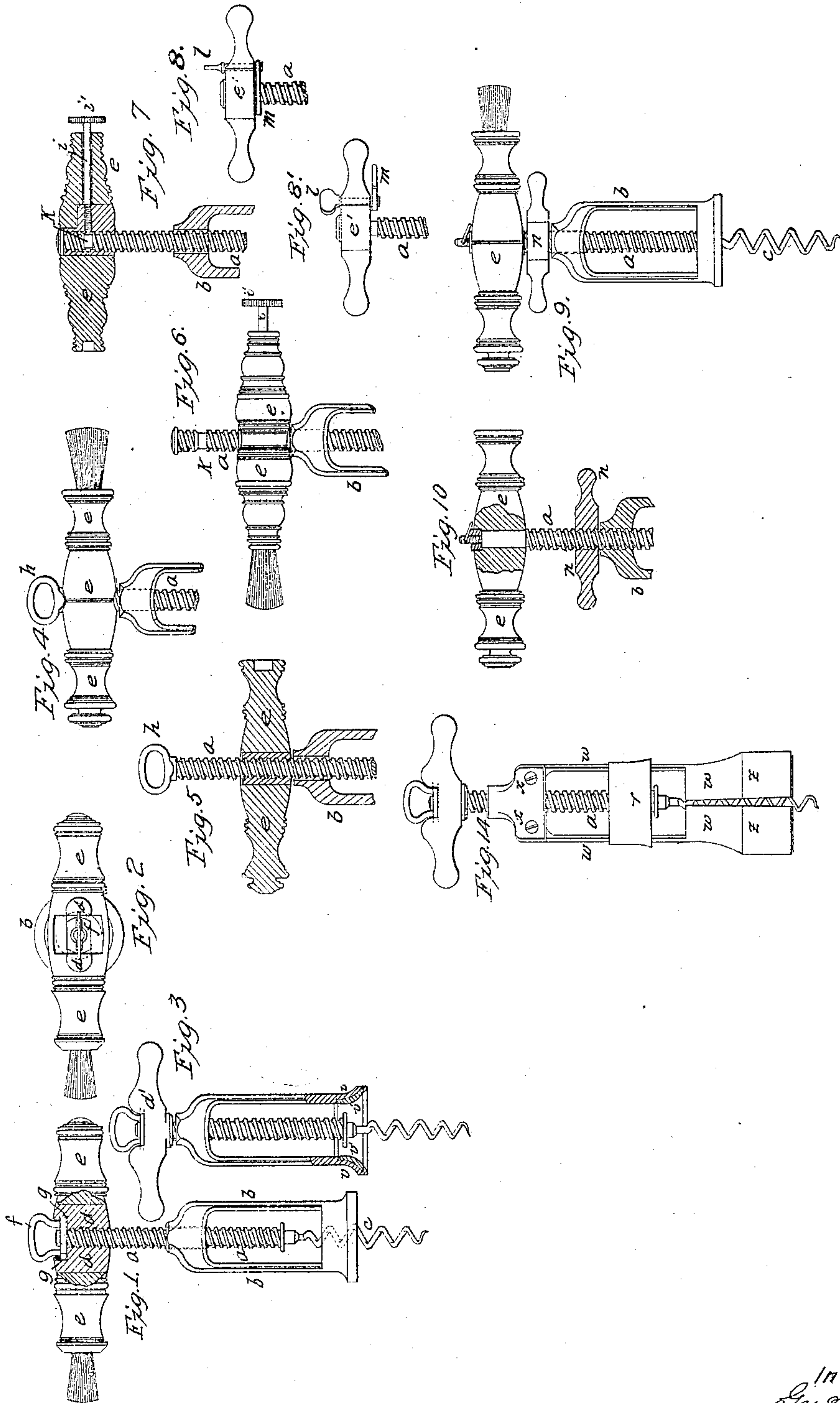


G. TWIGG.  
CORKSCREW.

No. 73,677.

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Witnesses:  
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# United States Patent Office.

GEORGE TWIGG, OF BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

Letters Patent No. 73,677, dated January 21, 1868.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CORKSCREWS.

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, GEORGE TWIGG, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, and Kingdom of England, manufacturer, a subject of her Britannic majesty, have invented "Improvements in Corkscrews;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of my said invention; that is to say—

My invention refers, firstly, to certain improvements in the upper or handle-portions of corkscrews; and, secondly, to improved methods of manufacturing the bells or barrels of such articles. It consists of the handle of the same being provided, in the centre, with a nut fitting the screw-thread on the shank of the corkscrew, so as that, by turning the handle in one direction, the nut will bear upon a shoulder on the bell or barrel of the same, and thus draw the corkscrew and any cork attached thereto up into said barrel or bell, said handle being provided with a set-screw, or its equivalent, on a swivel on the end of said shank, by means of which said handle may be rigidly secured to said shank when required to screw the corkscrew thread into any cork, or the handle of the corkscrew may be rigidly secured to said shank, and said shank provided below the said handle with a thumb-nut, fitting upon the screw-thread of said shank, which, being turned in one direction, bears upon the shoulder of said barrel or bell, the cork attached to said corkscrew thread will be drawn.

It consists, also, in the mouth of the barrel or bell being lined with rubber or other substance having like qualities, so that said bell or barrel will adhere more firmly to the neck of a bottle; and it consists also of said barrel or bell being cut longitudinally into two parts, whereby the same is adapted to the necks of any sized bottles.

The nature and object of these improvements will be better understood by the aid of the drawings hereunto attached, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 show, in part sectional front and top views, a corkscrew constructed with one of my improved handle-portions. *a* is the main wormed shaft, working loosely within the bell or barrel *b*, and provided, at its lower end, with the usual corkscrew *c*. *d* is a metal plug, inserted in an ordinary handle, *e*. This plug *d* is tapped, and works upon the main screw *a*, being retained or held rigidly in position, as shown in fig. 1, when necessary, by means of a swivel or catch-piece, *f*, attached to the upper end of the wormed shaft *a*, working within and out of a grooved recess, *g*, formed in the plug *d*.

When it is required to draw a cork from a bottle, the handle part, *d* and *e*, is secured rigidly, by means of the swivel or catch-piece *f*, and the corkscrew *c* is penetrated into the cork in the usual manner. To withdraw the cork, the swivel or catch-piece *f* is released from its groove or recess *g*, in the plug *d*, and the handle is turned around upon the screw *a*, causing the screw *a* to move upwards, and also the corkscrew *c*, and thus withdraw the cork from the bottle.

As shown at Figure 3, the plug *d*, instead of being secured within an ordinary handle, *e*, (figs. 1 and 2,) may be suitably formed into a handle, (seen at *d'*,) if preferred.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate, in part front elevation and part section, another way in which I form the handle-portions of corkscrews. In this instance, the upper part or end of the main screw *a* is formed into a loop or handle-piece, *h*, the ordinary handle *e* being tapped, and working free upon the screw *a*. In this case, the loop or handle-piece *h* is employed for passing the screw *a* into the cork, while the handle *e* becomes the lever for the withdrawal of the same, when the corkscrew will assume a similar position to fig. 5.

By another method, as seen at Figures 6 and 7, in part elevation and section, I propose to employ a set-pin, *i*, working through a portion of the handle *e*, wormed upon its one end, and provided at its outer end with a thumb-piece, *i'* or similar means for actuating it. This set-pin *i'* is for the purpose of setting the handle *e* in position when requisite, by entering a recess, *k*, formed around the main screw *a*. The release of the set-pin *i* from this groove *k* will set at liberty the handle *e*, fig. 7, showing the handle as fixed in position, and fig. 6 after the withdrawal of the cork. Or again, I purpose setting the handle rigidly when desired, by providing a set-pin, *l*, Figures 8 and 8', passing through and working in the handle *e'* vertically, and this pin is provided at its bottom end, upon the under side of the handle *e'*, with a clutch-piece, *m*, secured upon the pin *l*, and, actuated thereby, this clutch *m*, when engaged upon the screw *a*, will retain the handle *e* in the position required for use. Or again, as exhibited in part elevation and part section, Figures 9 and 10, I form the handle *e* a fixture upon the screw *a*, and furnish such screw with a lever-collar piece, *n*, tapped to work upon the screw *a*, so that



upon a cork being penetrated by the corkscrew-end *c*, the lever-collar piece *n* is turned around, and the cork withdrawn by the upward motion thereby given to the screw *a*.

And secondly, my invention consists of certain improvements in the manufacture of the bells or barrels to be used with these and other kinds of corkscrews.

Referring to the sectional portion of fig. 3, *v* is the lip of the bell or barrel, which I purpose cutting, shaping, grooving, or recessing upon its inner side, in such manner, and, for instance, as here shown at *v'*, so as to receive a ring or strip of India rubber, gutta percha, or other flexible or suitable material, which will act as a cushion or cap for fitting upon the neck of the bottle during the process of drawing a cork, and will also serve to prevent breakage of the bottle.

Figure 14 shows in elevation another mode in which I construct the bell or barrel portions in this instance I divide the bell or barrel into two parts, *w*, or into more than two, if preferred. These parts are hinged at or near their upper ends, *x*, and provided with a ring, *y*, which fits over and upon the two parts *w*, so as to have a tendency to keep them always clipped, held, or closed upon the bottle, and by this means I make my corkscrews suitable to various sizes of bottles, as shown. I prefer to make this description of barrel, with its lower part *z* longer than is usually made, for the purpose of fitting more readily upon the neck of the bottle, and I employ a similar cushion or cap for this barrel, as already specified, and shown at fig. 3. This kind of bell or barrel, as shown in fig. 14, may be formed solid, if preferred, instead of being formed into two or more parts.

The corkscrew is constructed in the general form of similar corkscrews now in use, and is made of like materials, all the modified forms of the same, above described, being composed of a shank, *a*, provided with a screw-thread, the lower end of the shank *a* terminating in a corkscrew, *c*, said shank *a* moving up and down loosely through a hole in the upper part of the barrel or bell *b*. The handle *e* is either rigidly secured to the shank *a*, or is provided with a thumb-nut, *d'*, Figure 1, fitting loosely on the screw-thread on said shank *a*, or fastening-devices in Figures 6 and 8.

When the handle *e* is rigidly secured to said shank *a*, as shown in the drawing, Figure 9, said shank *a* is provided with a thumb-nut, *n*, fig. 9, fitting loosely on the screw-thread of the shank *a* in such a way as, when the nut *n* is turned in one direction upon the shoulder on the upper part of the bell or barrel *b*, the shank *a* will be forced upwards, and when the handle *e* is provided with a nut in the same, fitting loosely in the screw-thread of the shank *a*, said handle *e* is rigidly secured to said shank *a*, so as that the corkscrew *c* may be forced into any cork by either of the methods above shown and described, and so that the same may at any time be released. When the cork is to be drawn by the turning of the handle *e* upon the shoulder on the top of the bell or barrel *b*, the shank *a* is forced upwards through the top of the barrel or bell *b*, and the cork, upon the corkscrew *c*, is withdrawn from the bottle—all of said devices being only different methods of securing the handle *e* to the shank *a*, or to prevent said handle *e* from turning on said shank *a* while the corkscrew *c* is being forced into the cork, and also so that the same may be instantly loosened when the cork is to be drawn.

The operation is similar to that of like corkscrews now in use.

Constructed as above described, they constitute neat, convenient, and reliable corkscrews, the advantages of which are, that the handles of the same may be quickly and securely fastened to the shank, or as quickly loosened from the same, and that they will fit the necks of any sized bottles, and adhere more firmly thereto.

Having thus described the nature of my said invention, and the manner in which I propose to carry out the same, I wish it to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise details of the various parts, as shown and described, but that which I claim, is—

1. The handle *e*, in combination with the shank *a*, swivel *f*, and nut *d*, as shown in fig. 1, substantially as described for the purpose specified.
2. The handle *e*, in combination with the set-screw *i* and groove *k*, as shown in fig. 6, substantially as described for the purpose specified.
3. The handle *e'*, in combination with the screw *a*, pin *l*, and clutch-piece *m*, as shown in fig. 8, substantially as described for the purpose specified.
4. The rubber ring or band *v'*, fig. 3, in combination with any bell or barrel *b*, fig. 1, substantially as shown and described, and for the purposes set forth.
5. The split barrel *w*, fig. 14, in combination with the ring or ferrule *r*, substantially as shown and described, and for the purposes set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me, this 18th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

Witnesses:

ELIHU BURRITT,  
WM. TADMAN FOULKES.

GEORGE TWIGG.