# R. H. Atwell,

## Can Opener.

No. 86,626. Patented Feb. 9. 1869.

Fig. 1.

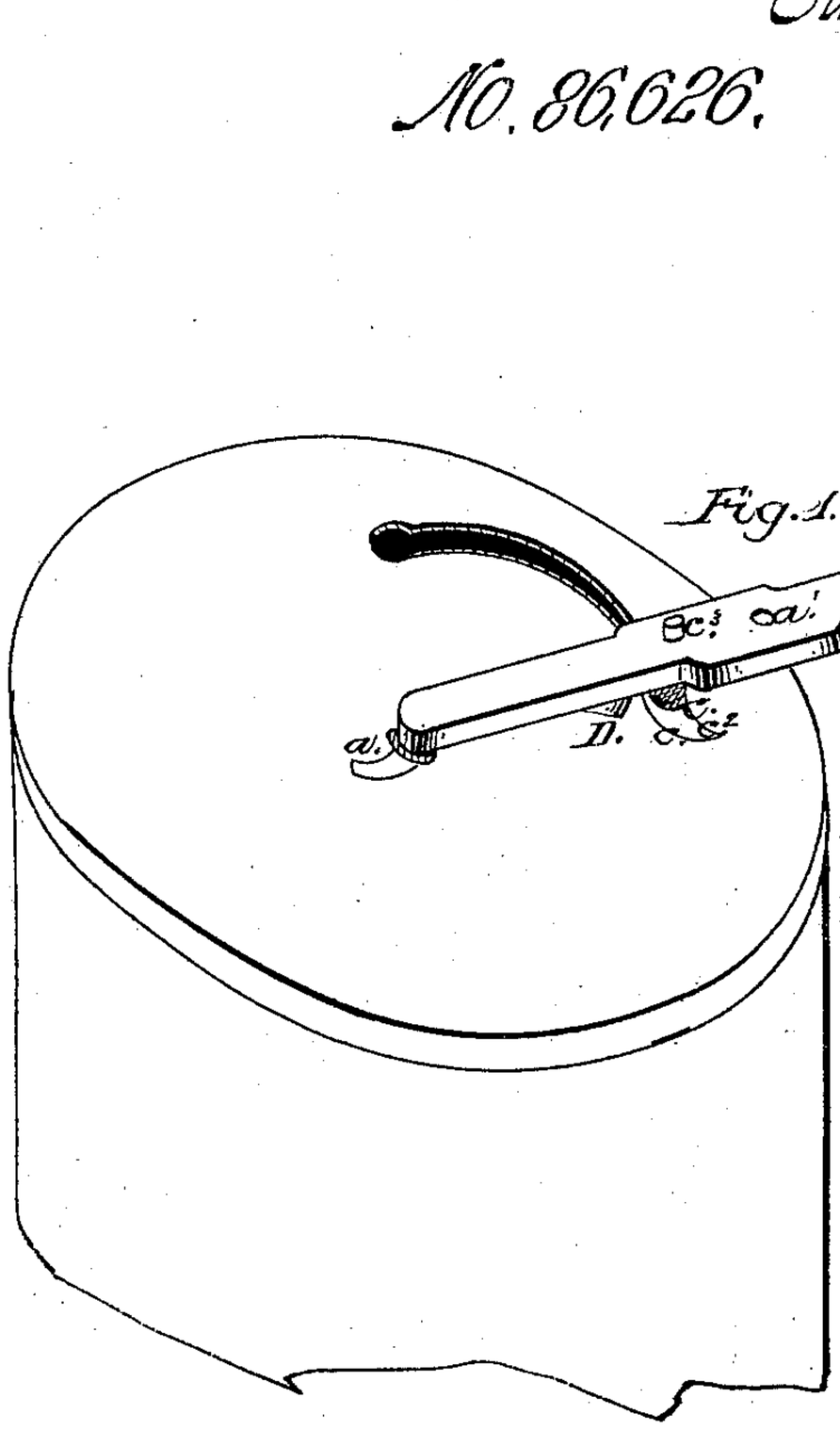



Fig. 3.

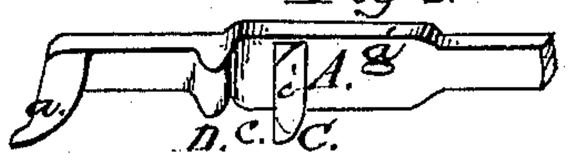
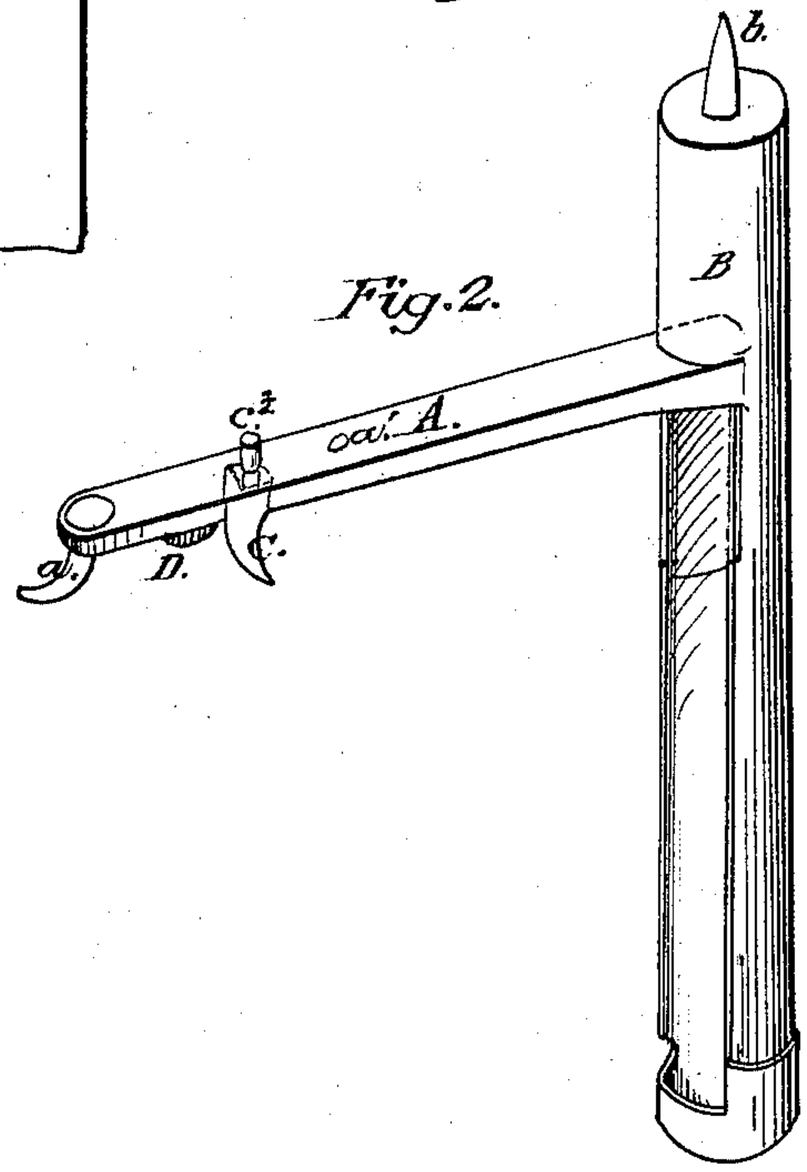



Fig. 4.


Fig. 2.

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*Letters Patent No.* 86,626, *dated February* 9, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CAN-OPENERS.

**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, RICHARD H. ATWELL, of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which is made a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of instruments for opening sheet-metal cans, which consists essentially of a knife, mounted on a bar or lever, adapted to be fulcrumed in a hole formed in the centre of the piece which it is desired to remove, and operating, by the rotation of said bar around its fulcrum, to cut a circular opening through which to withdraw the contents of the can. My improvements relate to a superior construction of said instruments, to facilitate their operation and use, as hereinafter more fully described.

In the drawings—

Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of different forms of my improved can-opener, the former illustrating the manner of using it.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the under or face side of a portion of the bar or lever of the instrument represented in fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a side view of a knife, or cutter, detached.

A may represent a bar, or lever, formed of iron or other suitable material, and projecting or adapted to be projected at about right angles from a handle or stock, B, of the same, or other suitable material, as represented in figs. 1 and 2, being cast or otherwise formed in one piece therewith, as represented in the former figure, or hinged thereto, as in the latter, said handle or stock being, in the latter case, preferably made hollow, and suitably recessed for the reception of said bar and its appurtenances when in its folded position, as represented.

The end of the bar A forms or is provided with a hook-shaped pin, *a*, projecting obliquely backward therefrom, and which, on being inserted in a hole made in the top or other convenient part of the can to be opened, forms the fulcrum of the instrument in its operation, its oblique position relatively to the direction of the pressure of the knife preventing its accidental withdrawal, and affording a much more steady bearing.

C represents the knife, which may be of steel, of the form represented in figs. 3 and 4, having a flat side, *c*, which is nearest the fulcrum when in place, and in about the line of the circle it cuts.

Its bevel, being thus all on its outer side, $c^1$, opens the cut in that direction, relieving the cutting-edge from lateral pressure and bending, and adapting it thus to cut more easily and cleanly than it could otherwise.

The edges of the opening made in the can are so turned, by this construction of knife, as to adapt the can to be again used.

The cutting-edge $c^2$ of the knife is preferably concave, as represented in fig. 4, so as to obviate the necessity of pressing it down to its work; but I do not limit myself to this form.

One or more perforations *a* are provided in the bar A for the reception of the shank $c^3$ of the knife, the adjustment allowed by the plurality of perforations adapting the instrument for different sizes of cans.

A rest or stop, D, preferably cast on the bar, and arranged between the fulcrum *a* and knife C, limits the insertion of the knife, and thus prevents its hanging in the tin at its shank.

One end of the handle B forms or is provided with a point or piercer, *b*, by which to form the perforation for the reception of the fulcrum-pin *a*.

The operation of the instrument is as follows:

A central perforation having been made in the centre of the part of the can which it is desired to remove, by means of the point *b*, the hook-shaped pin *a* is inserted in said opening, and the knife C forced through the metal until the stop D comes in contact with its surface, care being taken to have the flat side of the knife nearest the fulcrum. A complete rotation around its fulcrum is then imparted to the instrument, severing a circular piece of metal, which is removed with the instrument. The contents may then be removed through the opening thus formed, and the can cleansed, and again used when desired. When it is not desired to refill the cans, it may be preferable not to cut a complete circle, but, on describing a sufficient part of it, to form an opening of the requisite area to bend over the metal occupying that space.

Having described my invention, the following is what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. I claim the combination of the handle B, piercing-point *b*, bar A, oblique hook *a*, rest D, and bevelled-hooked knife C, all constructed and arranged to operate in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

2. I claim the hollow recessed handle B, having the bar or lever A hinged thereto, and adapted to receive said bar when in its folded position, substantially as described.

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