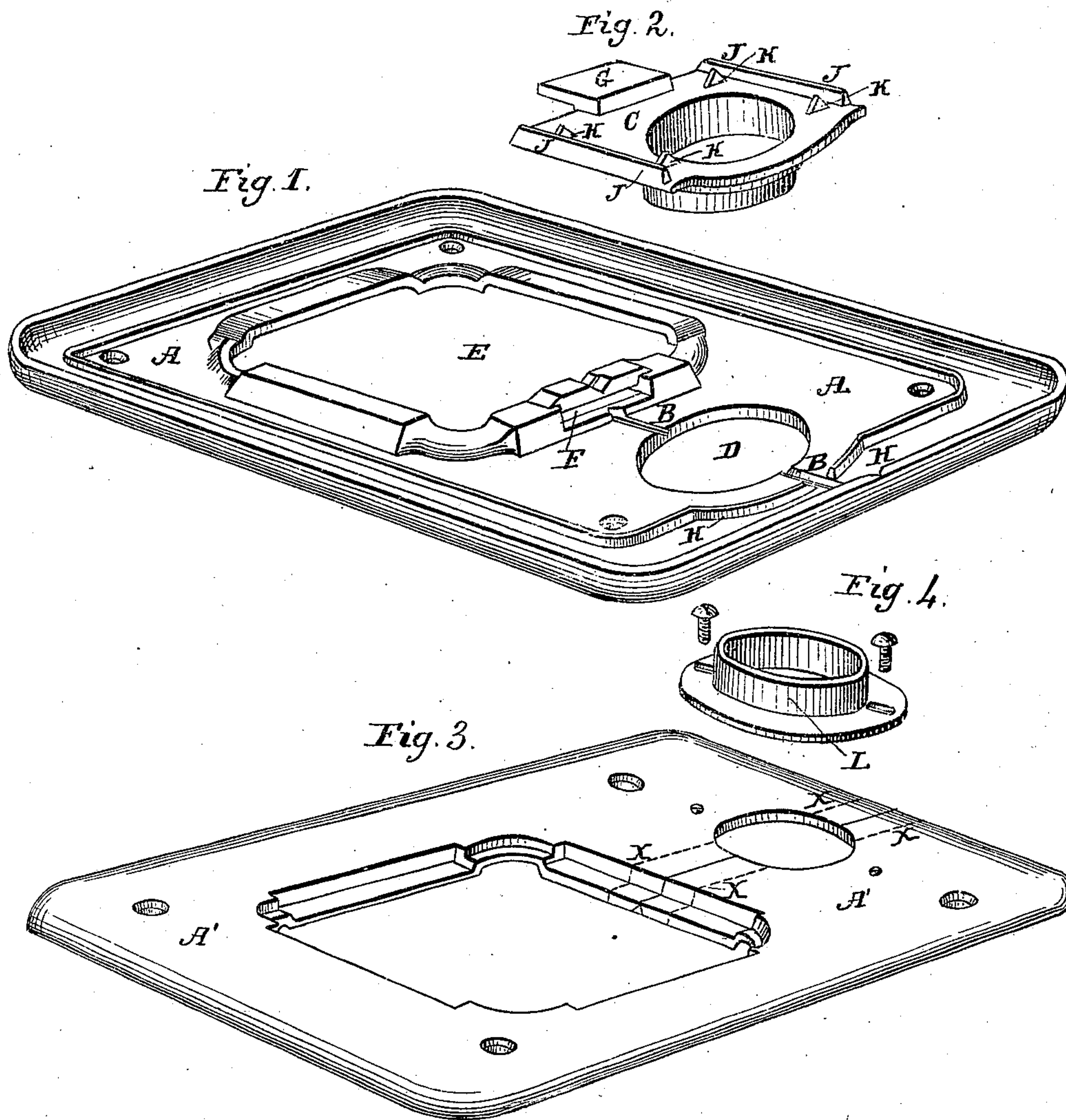


B. H. MENKE.  
Cooking Stove.

No. 95,501.

Patented Oct. 5, 1869.



Witnesses:  
S. S. Morris  
J. Millward

Inventor:  
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# United States Patent Office.

BERNARD H. MENKE, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 95,501, dated October 5, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COOKING-STOVES.

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, BERNARD H. MENKE, of the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stoves; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making part of this specification.

Experience has shown that stoves having large top plates, the different parts of which are unequally exposed to the action of the fire, are very liable to be fractured by a rapid heating of the stove, causing a greatly unequal expansion of the different parts of the plate, and thereby fracturing it. The top plates of cooking-stoves, as they are now constructed, are very liable to this accident.

The object of my invention is to alleviate this difficulty. This I do by making a crack or fissure in the plate, extending from the rear part to the opening for the collar, and from thence to the large opening in the forward part of the plate, as clearly shown in the annexed drawings, figs. 1 and 2.

By this construction, when fire is made in the stove, and the forward parts of the plate more rapidly heated than the rear part, as the forward part expands by the action of the heat, the rear part is enabled to expand with it, by widening the fissure, which closes again when the plate is brought to a uniform temperature; and this, in a great measure, prevents the fracturing of the plate by its being rapidly heated or cooled.

To enable others skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I give the following description of the same:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the large top plate of a cooking-stove inverted.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the collar-piece detached from the top plate, also inverted.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the top plate of a cooking-stove, showing a crack or fissure through its rear part.

Figure 4 is another collar-piece, used on the plate shown in fig. 3.

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

A A, fig. 1, represent the large top plate of a flat-top cooking-stove.

In the application of my invention, this plate may be of the ordinary form and construction, except in the following particulars: It has, in the rear of the plate, the crack or fissure B B, extending, from the back part of the plate, through the opening D, for the collar, and to the large opening E, in the forward part

of the plate, as clearly shown in the drawing; also, the slot F, as shown in the drawing, fig. 1.

The collar-piece C is cast separate from the plate A A.

To put these two parts of the stove together, the tongue G, of the collar-piece C, fig. 2, is first inserted in the slot F, fig. 1, and the collar proper passed through the opening D; and, when the whole stove is put together, this collar-piece is held in place by the tongue G, the flanges H H, and the side walls of the flue, which fit into the notches formed by the flanges J J and projections K K, fig. 2.

To make the crack or fissure B B, I employ the following method:

In casting the plate A A, I so construct the pattern as to form a groove on the bottom part of the plate, on the line of the proposed crack, this making the plate quite thin on this line; and, when thus cast, a slight stroke with a hammer makes the fracture desired.

My invention may also be applied to the plate of a stove in the manner shown in figs. 3 and 4. In this construction, the crack or fissure is formed in the manner already described, and the collar-piece L, fig. 4, is screwed on the plate with screws, the screws passing, through slots in the flange, to the collar, the heads of the screws holding the collar in place.

My invention may also be applied by casting the plate of stoves with an opening of some width, as shown between the dotted lines  $x x$  and  $x' x'$ , fig. 3, and covering or closing the opening thereby formed with a plate of sufficient size, and fastened through slots, as last described; or the opening may be closed by making a raised projection on the upper part of the collar-piece C, corresponding with the opening in the top plate.

I prefer the method first described, as that makes a stove of neater appearance than either of the others, and more effectually prevents the escape of smoke, &c., through the fissure, when opened, by the greater expansion of the forward part of the plate.

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

1. A stove-plate with a crack or opening, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.
2. The combination of the collar-piece C with the plate A A, for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

BERNARD H. MENKE.

Witnesses:

S. S. MORRIS,  
JAMES MOORE.