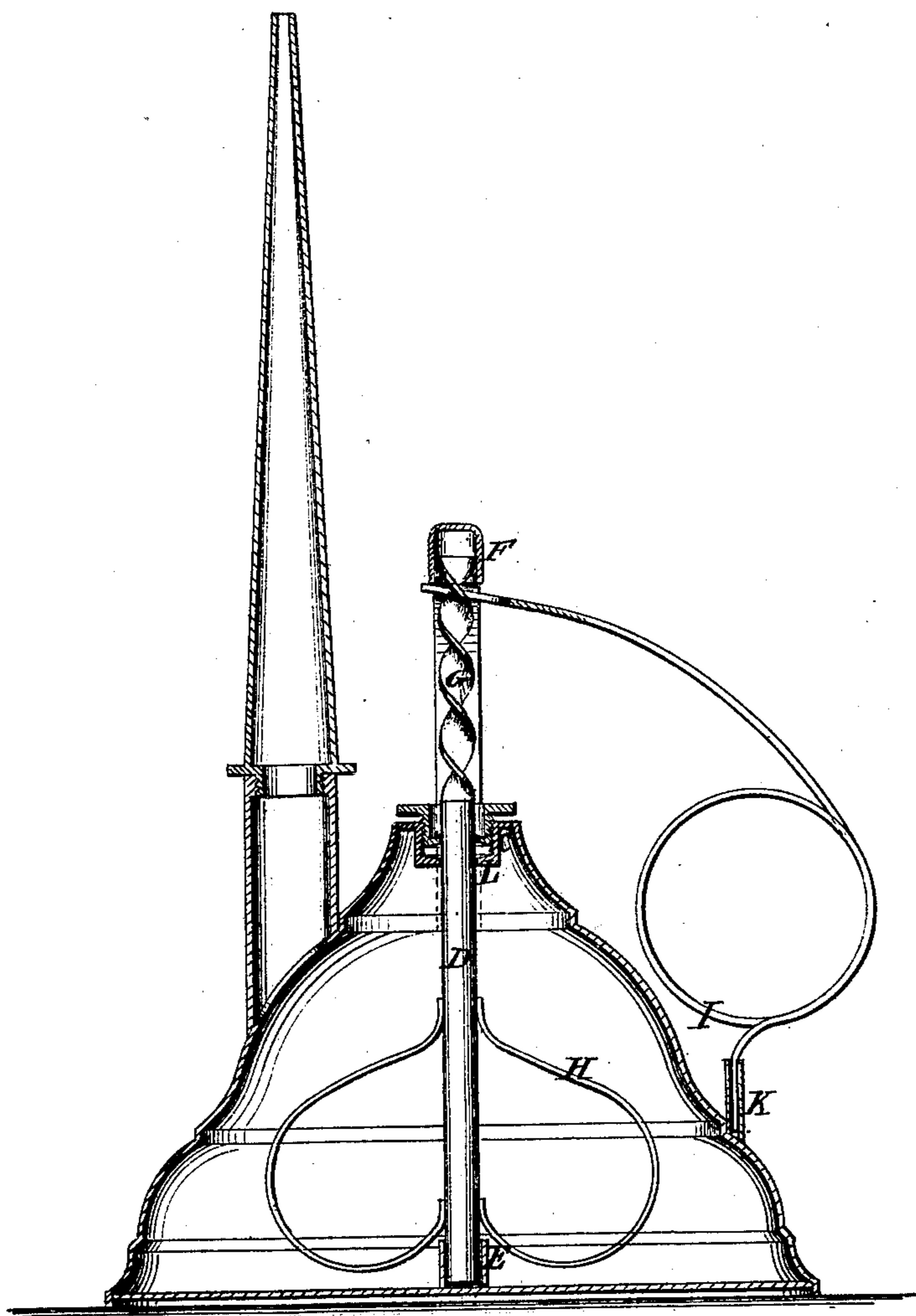


*Mackay & Butler,*

*Oil Can.*

*No. 113783.*

*Patented Apr. 18. 1871.*



**Witnesses:**

*E. Wolff*  
*Wm. H. C. Smith.*

**Inventor:**

*D. D. Mackay.*  
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**PER**

*Munn & Co.*  
**Attorneys.**

# United States Patent Office.

DONALD D. MACKAY, OF WHITESTONE, AND CYRUS BUTLER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 113,783, dated April 18, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PLUMBAGO OIL-CANS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, DONALD D. MACKAY, of Whitestone, in the county of Queens and State of New York, and CYRUS BUTLER, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Plumbago Oil-Can; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in oil-cans; and

It consists in a combination, with an oil-can, of a stirring apparatus arranged in a simple manner, to be actuated by the same hand by which the can is taken for use, to stir the oil rapidly before using, to thoroughly mix the plumbago or other substance which is not soluble in the oil, with the latter.

The drawing is a sectional elevation of an oil-can with our improvement applied.

A is an ordinary spring-bottom oil-can, but having the nozzle B arranged at one side of the stop, instead of on it, as they commonly are.

In the top *c* we arrange a vertical shaft, D, extending from the bottom through the said top and a short distance above it, being supported in a step at E, and a top bearing at F, the latter being supported above the top of the can in any suitable way.

This shaft is grooved or twisted spirally at G, and carries stirring-arms H of any kind within the can, for agitating the contents.

I is a spring handle, connected to the can at K, and with the spirally-fluted part G of the shaft, for holding the can and operating the shaft, being intended to enable the operator to perform both offices simultaneously with one hand.

The end engaging the shaft has a slot just wide enough to receive the shortest diameter of the fluted part of the shaft between its walls, and it is so adjusted as to spring to the upper end of the shaft when let free.

The moving of this spring handle up and down imparts a rotary motion to the stirrer back and forth,

well calculated to stir up and mix anything of the character of plumbago with the oil very thoroughly.

The spring handle is detachably connected to the can, as well as to the shaft, so that it may be removed in case such oils are to be used as do not require to be mixed before ejecting.

When applying these agitators to oil-cans with spring bottoms we make a little play between the ends of the shaft and the end bearings, to admit of springing the bottoms inward, as required for ejecting.

A stuffing-box, K, of any kind will be arranged in the top, as at L, for packing the shaft to prevent leakage thereat.

The apparatus may be applied to cans of any kind, and the spring handle for actuating the stirrer may be arranged in various ways.

These cans are designed for using oil mixed with plumbago, which does not dissolve, but settles in the oil; but they are equally applicable for oil having other substances of like character mixed with it.

We may dispense with the spring handle and use a reciprocating nut on the shaft, to work it by the fingers, at the same time the can is taken in the hand, by the thumb against the bottom and the fingers on the said nut, so as to force it down by the fingers.

The nut may be arranged to slide back and forth on any suitable guide which will hold it against turning, and cause it to turn the shaft, and it may be forced back by a spring. We do not, therefore, limit ourselves to the combination with the shaft of the spring for actuating it.

Having thus described our invention,

We claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination, with the oil-can, of the stirrer, having the spirally-fluted or twisted shaft, and means for operating it, substantially as specified.

The above specification of our invention signed by us this 4th day of March, 1870.

DONALD D. MACKAY.  
CYRUS BUTLER.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. MABEE,  
ROBERT M. HILLIARD.