2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. SCHINZEL & P. HENRICHS.

Bottle-Stopper Fastening.

No. 214,958. **Patented April 29, 1879.**

Fig. 1.

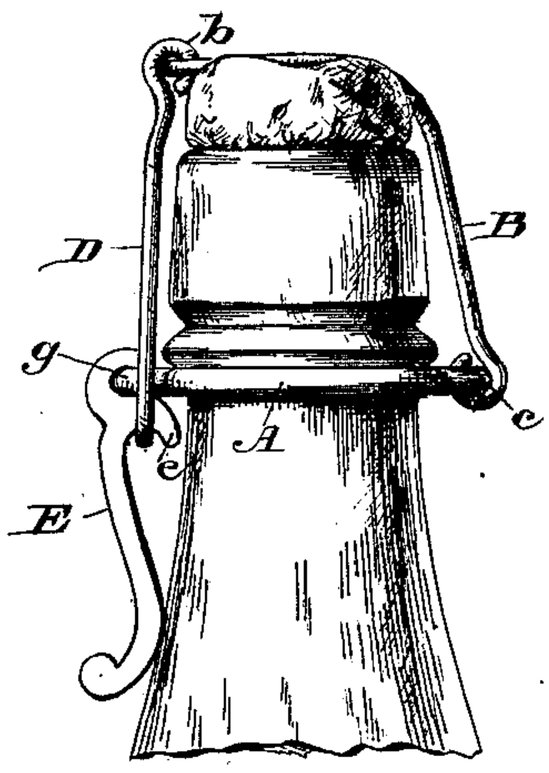
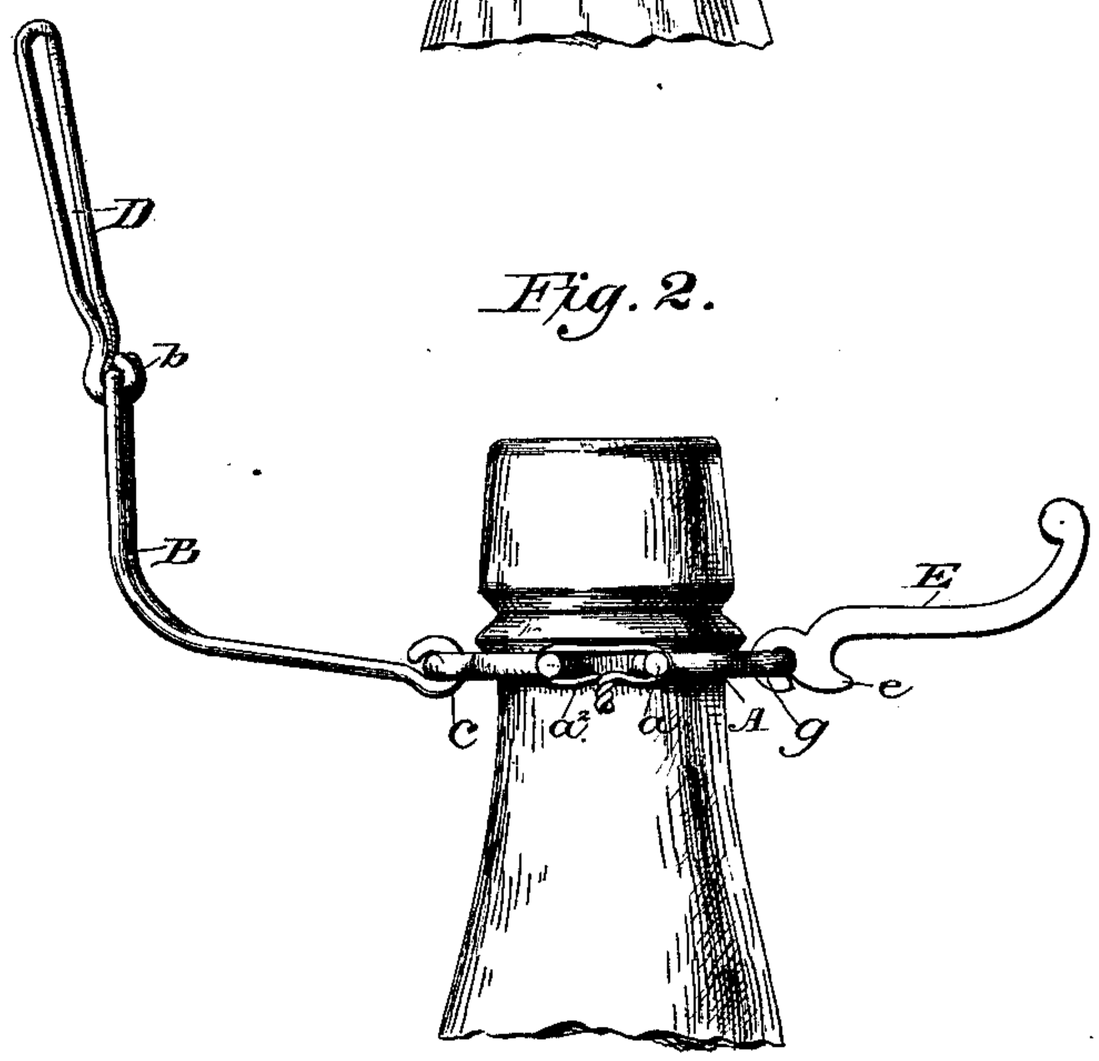


Fig. 2.



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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

J. SCHINZEL & P. HENRICHS.

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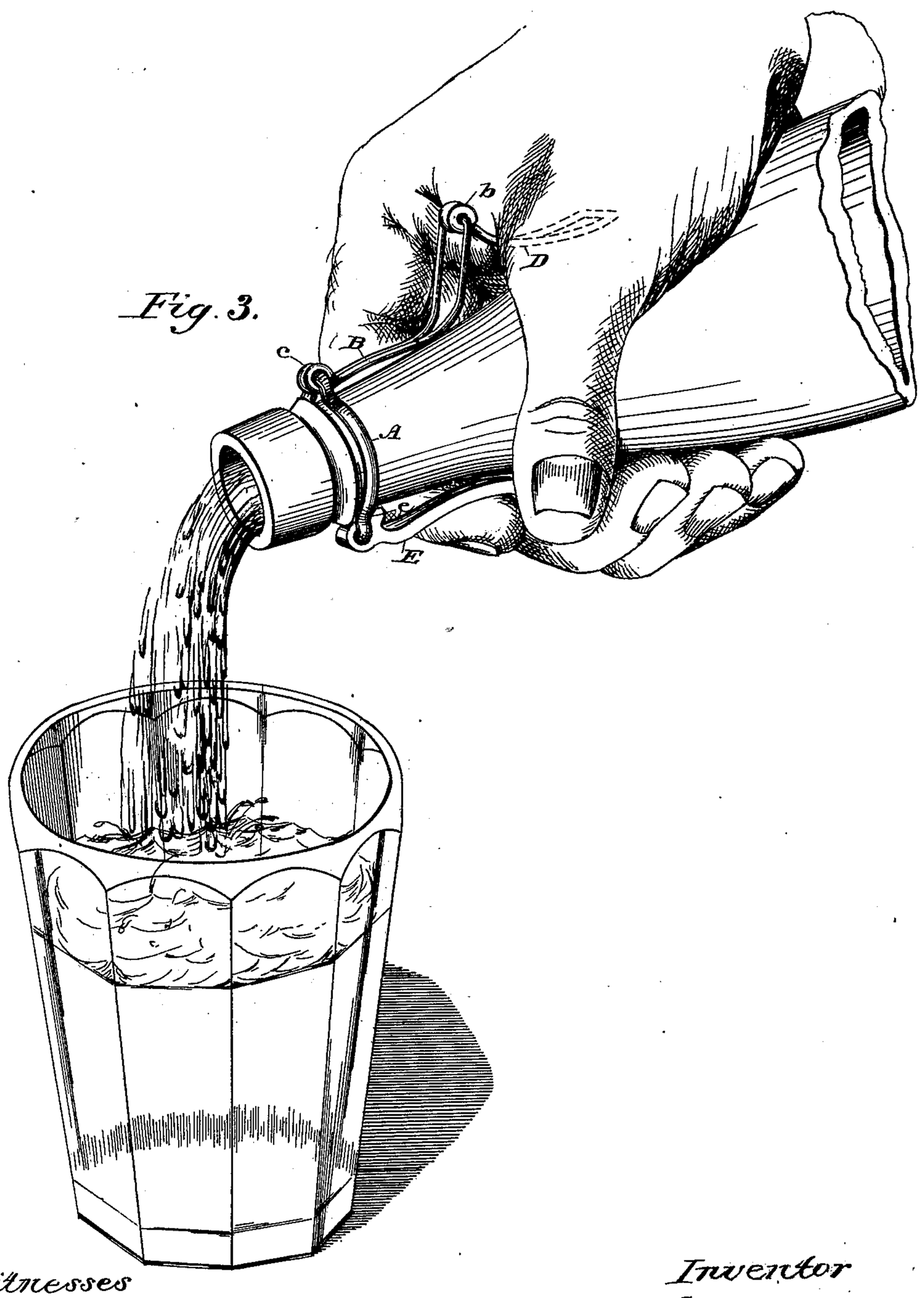
Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SCHINZEL, OF LANSING, IOWA, AND PETER HENRICHS, OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOTTLE-STOPPER FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **214,958**, dated April 29, 1879; application filed February 21, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN SCHINZEL and PETER HENRICHS, respectively of Lansing and La Crosse, in the counties of Alamakee and La Crosse and States of Iowa and Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Bottle-Stoppers; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The invention consists in a fastening device for an ordinary bottle-stopper, consisting of a swinging or pivoted bail or yoke, made in two parts of unequal lengths, the longer part being pivoted to a clasp or wire encircling the neck of the bottle, passing over the stopper, and terminating at the side thereof, and the shorter part being pivoted to said longer part, and extending downward and engaging with a lever which is fulcrumed to the neck clasp or wire, and serves to force the bail upon the stopper, so as to securely fasten the same.

The bail and locking-lever when disengaged from each other will rest on opposite sides of the bottle and afford a handle device, for permitting the bottle to be firmly grasped while pouring out the contents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation, representing the position of the devices when locked. Fig. 2 is a similar view, showing the position of the parts when disengaged. Fig. 3 represents the position of the parts and the hand of the manipulator when pouring out the contents of the bottle.

The letter A denotes a band or clasp, which encircles the neck of the bottle immediately below the customary shoulder thereon. The ends of the wire forming this clasp are bent to form lugs or short projections *a*, which receive the small wire a^2, that serves to hold the clasp closed and retain it on the bottle. On one side of the clasp is formed a stirrup, *c*, for the attachment of a bail or yoke, formed of two parts, B D, of unequal lengths. The part B of the bail is made in the form of a loop, and the lower end thereof is bent to form eyes, which receive the aforesaid stirrup portion *c* of the neck-band.

The part B is bent or curved so as to extend from the neck-clasp to a point directly at the side of the stopper or beyond the center thereof, as is shown in Fig. 1, and to said terminal point of the part B the shorter part, D, is connected by a hinge or pivot joint, the former being thus brought to bear upon the stopper itself. The part D is made of wire also, in the form of a loop, and has the ends of its side arms twisted into eyes *b*, which receive the transverse wire of the part B, so as to form the above-mentioned hinge-joint.

E designates a swinging locking-lever, which has an eye at its inner end, receiving the stirrup-shaped portion *g* of the neck-clasp, so as to connect said lever with the neck-clasp. The lever has a hook, *e*, adjacent to its pivot-point, which hook receives the lower portion of the shorter part D of the bail. When said lever is in a vertical position, said bail can be slipped over the same and made to engage with the hook, when, by turning the lever down against the bottle, the bail is forced down upon the stopper and the latter firmly secured.

We are aware of the existence of a device for locking bottle-stoppers consisting of an arc-shaped or curved bail, which is permanently connected with the stopper and carries a fulcrumed lever, which engages with a stirrup of a clasp encircling the neck of the bottle, the bail being connected with said clasp by means of a pivoted link.

In the construction above specified, and which we desire to disclaim, the pivot-point of the bail and the link is located near the top of the bottle-neck, and the bail itself passes through the stopper, and extends down on the opposite side of the bottle-neck, where the fulcrumed lever is located.

In a fastening device of the construction disclaimed by us the strain or pressure transmit-

ted to the bail and link by the locking-lever causes the hinge-joint of said bail and link to exert an injurious pressure upon the neck of the bottle, and for this reason the latter is liable to become fractured.

In contradistinction to the above, a fastening-bail made in two parts, hinged together at a point which will come on one side of the center of the stopper, as shown in Fig. 1, will enable the longer part of the bail to act in the nature of a lever and sink into the stopper, the pull upon the shorter part of the bail, when the locking-lever is depressed, being of such a character that said bail will not exert an injurious pressure upon the neck of the bottle.

Having set forth the advantages our fastening device possesses over a device of an analogous construction when in active operation, or when performing its legitimate function, we have furthermore to state that when the component parts of the fastening device are in the position shown in Fig. 3—that is, removed from the stopper and hanging down against the bottle-neck—they serve as a convenient handle device for readily and securely grasping the bottle, and preventing the same from slipping out of the hand. It will readily be perceived that this use of the fastening device as a handle device is due to the special conformation of the parts. Thus it may be stated that the longer part of the bail will, by virtue of its angular shape, stand out from the bottle to such an extent as will enable the shorter part of the bail to project inwardly and rest against the body of the bottle. Said short part being slightly curved, it will readily fit between the thumb and forefinger of the hand, and the outer end of said forefinger, or the middle finger, if desired, will rest against the locking-lever on the opposite side of the bottle.

It will readily be observed that a curved bail carrying a stopper and locking-lever, as in the instance heretofore mentioned, will project from the bottle to such an extent as to render the manipulation thereof while emptying the same rather inconvenient.

The fastening devices, in the instance referred to, being permitted to hang loosely, will also be liable to swing back and forth and strike the bottle, and, furthermore, when the bottle is inverted too much, the bail and lever will swing across the mouth of the bottle and come in the path of the liquid being discharged therefrom.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new—

The stopper-fastener herein described, consisting of the swinging bail made in two parts, B D, the longer part, B, being hinged to the neck-wire A, and bent so as to extend over the stopper, and the two parts being joined by a hinge-joint, *b*, above the stopper, and the neck-wire A, carrying the pivoted locking-lever E, having a hook, *e*, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN SCHINZEL.
PETER HENRICHS.

Witnesses:
M. VIERNDT,
JACOB SCHOOK,
JOHN WACKER.