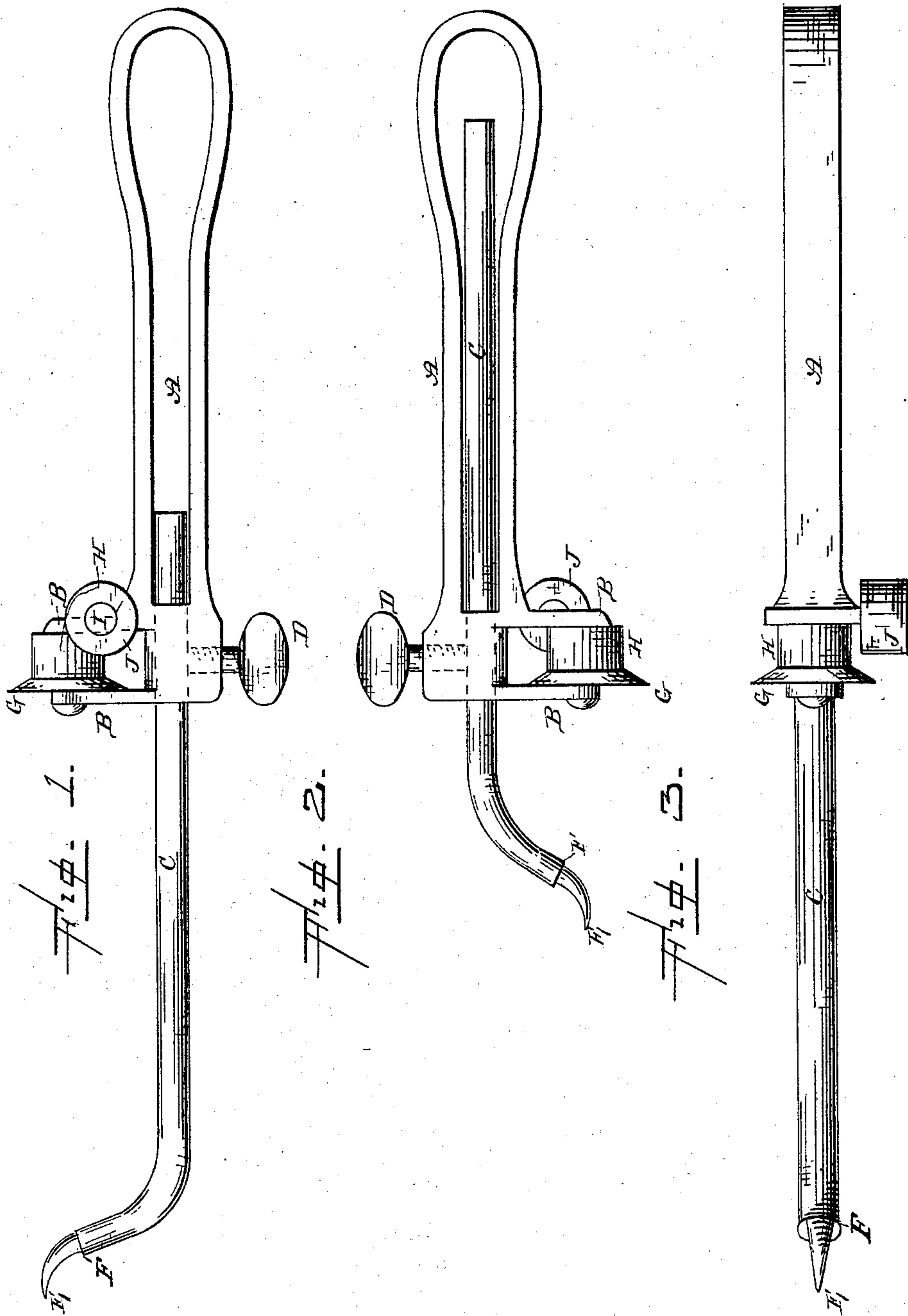


(No Model.)

J. RATH.
CAN OPENER.

No. 280,241.

Patented June 26, 1883.



- WITNESSES. -
Louis F. Gardiner
J. W. Garner

- Inventor -
Jos. Rath,
per
J. A. Lehmann, atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH RATH, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,241, dated June 26, 1883.

Application filed May 12, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH RATH, of Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful

5 Improvements in Can-Openers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had
10 to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in can-openers; and it consists, first, in the combination of a suitable handle with an extensible rod having a point and shoulder formed
15 upon its outer end; second, in the combination of the handle and extensible rod and two friction-rollers, which are placed at right angles to each other, and a set-screw for holding
20 the rod in position, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The object of my invention is to provide a can-opener which can be used for cutting the tops out of circular cans of any size, and which
25 is also adapted for cutting square holes in cans of an angular shape.

Figures 1 and 2 are side elevations of my invention, taken from opposite sides, one of which shows the rod extended and the other
30 nearly closed. Fig. 3 is an inverted view, showing the rod extended and the parts in position to be used for cutting a square hole.

A represents a suitable handle, which may either be made tubular or as here shown, and
35 which is provided with the two prongs B at its inner end. Through the inner end of this handle is made a suitable opening, through which the extensible rod C is passed, and which rod is held in any desired position by means
40 of the set-screw D, which passes down through the end of the handle and bears against the top of the rod. In order to prevent this rod from turning around in the handle, so as to get the point out of position for use, the top
45 of this rod is preferably flattened, so that the rod cannot be turned around in its bearings unless the set-screw is moved back farther than is necessary. The outer end of the rod is provided with the sharp point E, for the purpose

of penetrating the cover of the can, and just 50 back of this sharp point any suitable distance are formed shoulders F, to prevent the point from passing in too far.

Pivoted in between the prongs which are formed upon the front end of the handle is 55 the concavo-convex cutter G and the friction-roller H. Both of these parts are placed upon the same pivot; but the diameter of the roller is as much less than that of the cutter as it is desired that the edge of the cutter shall pene- 60 trate the cover of the can. This cutter is made convex upon its inner side and concave upon its outer side, so that it will cut through the cover of the can with as little friction and binding as possible. The roller H rests upon 65 the top of the can and prevents the cutter from sinking in too far, and at the same time serves to enable the parts to move around freely and easily.

Projecting horizontally out from one of the 70 projections B upon the inner end of the handle is a stud or projection, I, upon which is placed a second friction-roller, J. This roller J is about the same diameter as the one H, but is placed at right angles thereto, at a suitable distance above it, as shown. This roller J is not brought into operation while a circular opening is being cut in the top of the can, but is used only when a square hole is to be cut. 75 When a square hole is to be cut, the rod C is extended outward far enough to form a second handle, and then the cutter is turned upon this side, as shown in Fig. 3. This friction-roller J then serves to catch against the outer side or edge of the can, so as to serve as a guide 85 while the cutter is drawn straight across. While this square hole is being cut, the handle A is held in one hand and the rod C in the other, and sufficient pressure is exerted downward to cause the cutter to cut through the can. As 90 the friction-roller J serves as a guide to keep the cutter straight, the hole cut in the top of the can will conform to the shape of the can, which may be of any angular shape. A circular hole may be cut in a round can in the same 95 manner; but it is much easier to force the sharp point of the rod C through the center of the top of the can, then adjust the cutter so as to

pass around any desired distance from the edge of the can, and then move the cutter around, when the parts then guide themselves.

Having thus described my invention, I
5 claim—

1. In a can-opener, the combination of the handle with an extensible rod and a set-screw, the end of the rod being made sharp-pointed and provided with shoulders, substantially as
10 shown.

2. The combination, in a can-opener, of the handle, an extensible rod, and a set-screw for holding the rod in position, with a cutter and a friction-roller placed back of the cutter, sub-
15 stantially as described.

3. In a can-opener, the combination of a handle having the projections B, an extensible rod, and a set-screw for holding the rod in position, with the cutter and the two friction-rollers H J, placed at an angle and out of line 20 with each other, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH RATH.

Witnesses:

J. V. LEE,

J. S. GOLD.