

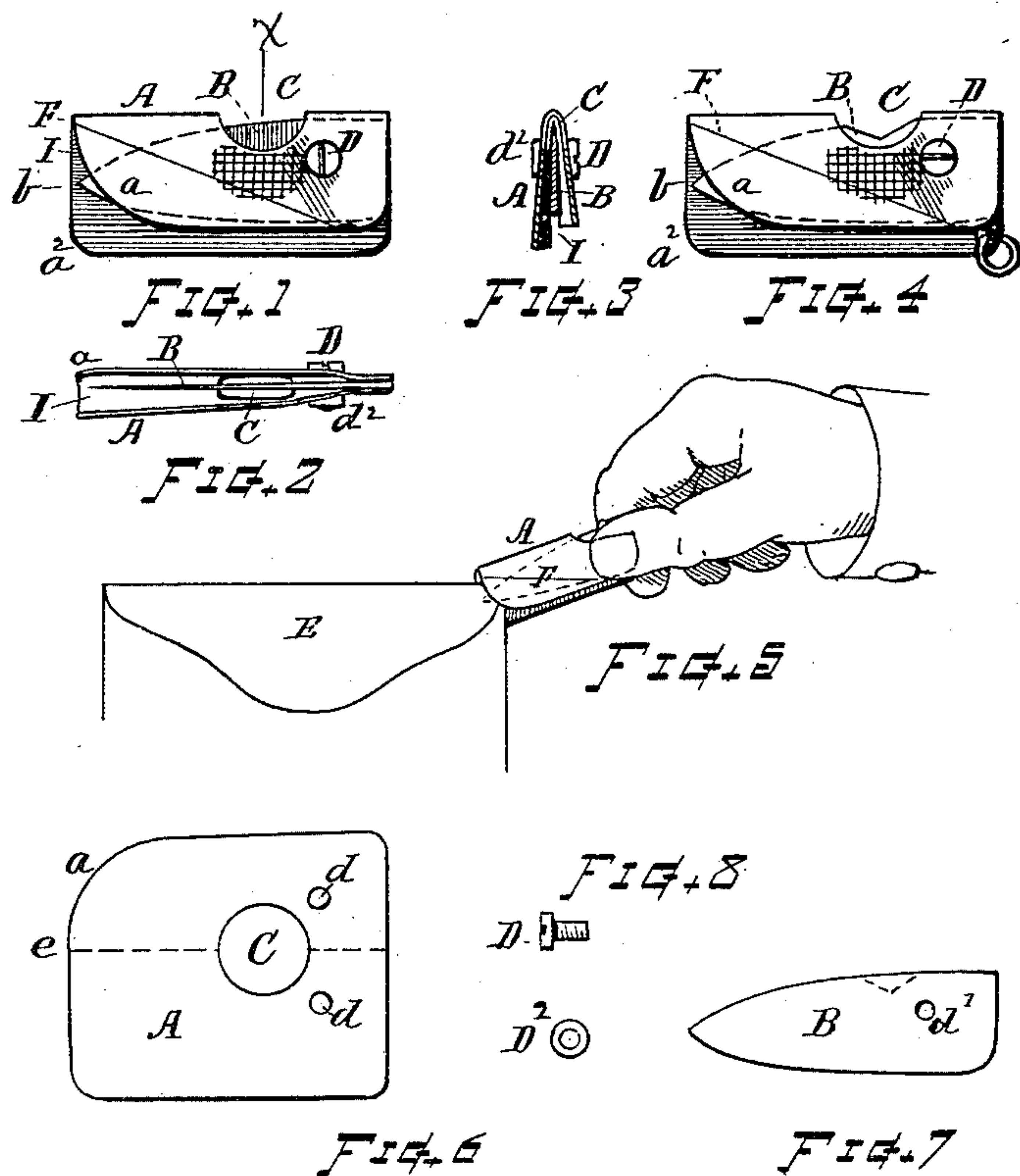
(No Model.)

G. C. HOLDEN.

ENVELOPE OPENER AND PAPER CUTTER.

No. 318,475.

Patented May 26, 1885.



WITNESSES

C. S. Jackson  
J. R. Barton

INVENTOR

George C. Holden  
By Chas. H. Burleigh  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. HOLDEN, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## ENVELOPE-OPENER AND PAPER-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,475, dated May 26, 1885.

Application filed March 5, 1885. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. HOLDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelope-Openers and Paper-Cutters; and I declare the following to be a description of my said invention sufficiently full, clear, and exact to enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my present invention is to provide a simple and convenient instrument for opening envelopes and for cutting the folded edges of papers, books, magazines, &c., in a neat and expeditious manner; also, to afford facilities for the clearance of small chips or bits of paper that may be detached from the edges of the leaves, papers, or envelopes while cutting them within the guard-piece. These objects I attain by an instrument constructed and operating as illustrated and hereinafter described.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of my improved envelope-opener and paper-cutter. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse section at line *x*. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the blade as having a notch at the clearance-opening. Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the manner of using the device. Fig. 6 is a view of the plate from which the guard is formed. Fig. 7 is a view of the blade, and Fig. 8 shows the screw and nut by which the blade is secured within the guard.

My improved envelope opener or cutter is formed of the guard A and a blade, B, arranged therein in the manner shown. The guard is formed of a plate of sheet metal cut to the form indicated in Fig. 6. The front corner is rounded off, as at *a*, and holes *c* and *d* are formed therein at the positions shown. This plate is folded along the dotted line *e*, so as to form a V-shaped guide or pass-way, I, for the paper. The blade B, of the form indicated in Fig. 7, and having a hole, *d'*, is arranged in the V-shaped pass-way between the two sides of the guard, with its cut-

ting-edge upward or toward the fold of the guard, and its point at *b* between the full corner *a*<sup>2</sup> and rounded-off corner *a* at the front end of the guard-plate, and the blade is secured in position by a stud or screw, D, which passes through the holes *d* *d'* and clamps the parts by aid of the nut D<sup>2</sup>, fitted onto the end thereof. The heel end of the blade fits closely against the guard at its upper edge, and the sides of the guard are bent inward to closely embrace the sides of the blade at the position of fastening, so that the blade is retained rigidly in place. It is obvious that the blade might be secured by a riveted stud or be soldered into the guard; but I prefer a screw-fastening, as it permits of the blade being taken out of the guard for sharpening, when required. The sides of the guard may be indented or corrugated, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 4, to avoid liability of the instrument slipping in the fingers. The blades may be made from flat steel wire or of thin sheet-steel. The guard-plate may be of brass and nickel-plated, thus forming a very neat and serviceable article. If desired, a ring may be arranged at one corner, as in Fig. 4, to facilitate attaching it to a chain or cord.

When using the instrument, it is taken between the thumb and finger. (See Fig. 5.) The end of the envelope E or folded sheet is entered in the passway between the sides of the folded guard-plate A, the point *b* of the blade being entered between the folds of the paper, and the instrument is then passed forward along the edge of the envelope or folded leaves, so as to sever the paper in a direct, quick, and neat manner along the fold thereof. A line, F, is engraved diagonally across the face of the guard A, which line, by being brought to correspond in direction with the edge fold of the envelope or leaves, denotes the proper position of the instrument to effect the cutting in the most advantageous manner. The opening C gives space at both sides of the blade for the clearance of any chips or bits of paper that may become detached from the sheets while cutting them, so that they will freely escape from the guard, and cannot become wedged therein and clog the passway. The edge of the blade may be notched at the



opening, if desired, (see Fig. 4,) to facilitate the clearance of any bits of paper that may be folded and sliding upon the edge of the blade.

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

1. An envelope-opener consisting of a longitudinally-disposed blade, B, inclosed and secured within the guard A, the latter formed of a folded plate arranged over the edge of said blade in the manner substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination of the folded sheet-metal guard A, having the opening C in the line of its fold, the longitudinally-disposed blade B, with its edge extending across said

opening, and the holding device, as D, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination of the guard A, having the V-shaped passway I, the top opening, C, and rounded corner at *a*, the pointed blade B, secured therein in position, as shown, and the indicating-line F, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Witness my hand this 27th day of February, A. D. 1885.

GEORGE C. HOLDEN.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. BURLEIGH,  
C. S. JACKSON.