(No Model.)

J. C. BRITTON.

SELF OPENING CAN.

No. 321,948. Patented July 14, 1885.

Fig. 2

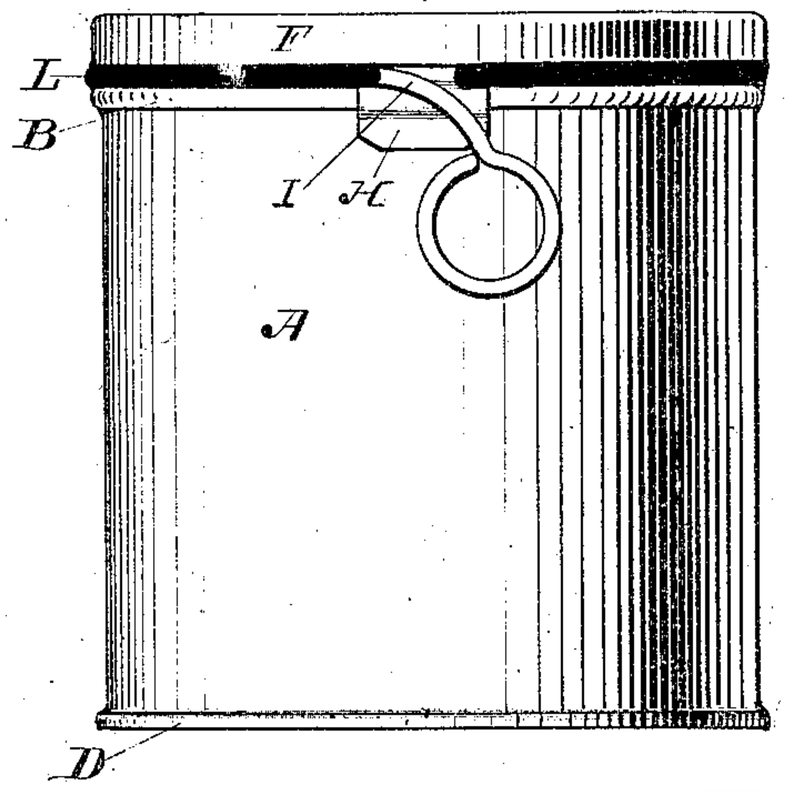


Fig. 4

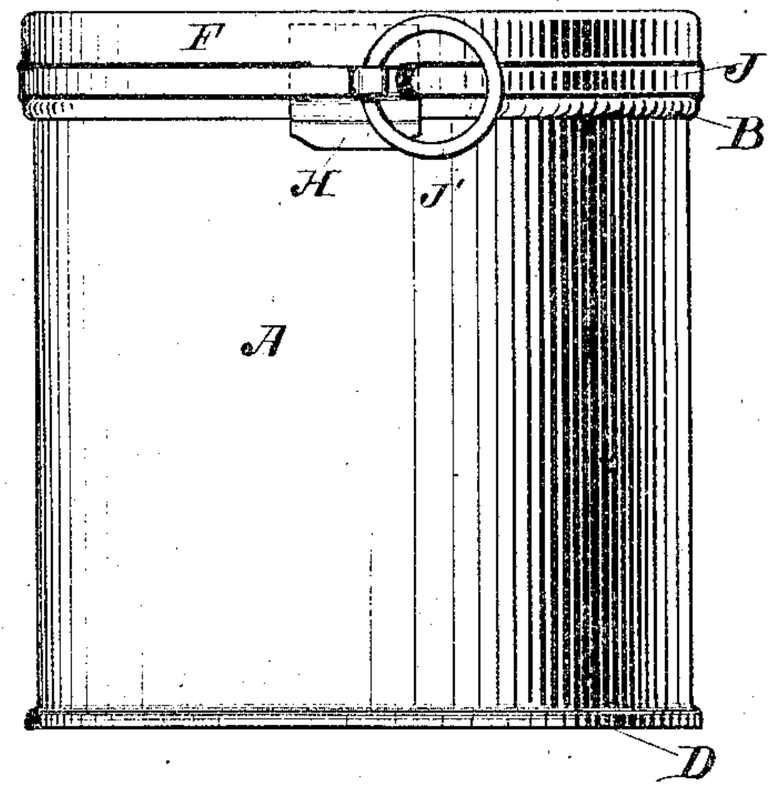


Fig. 1

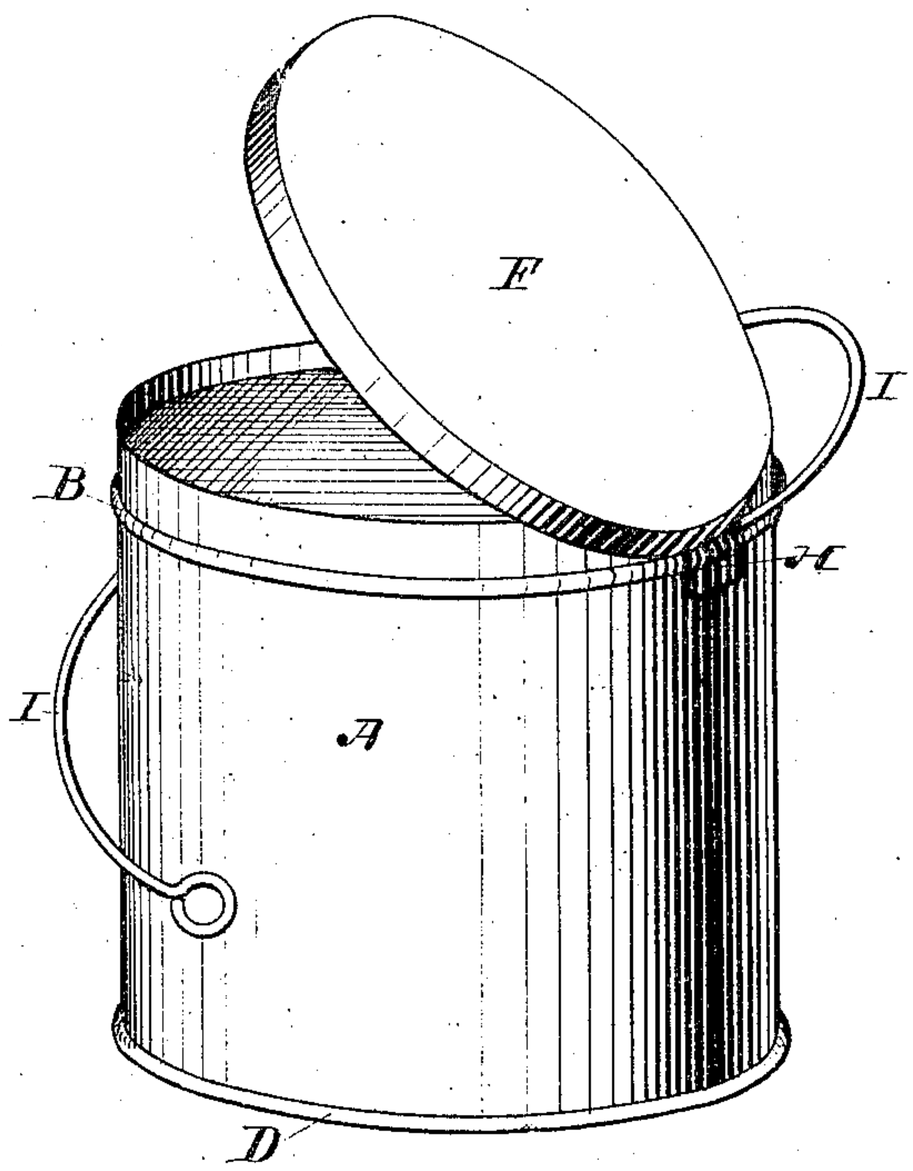


Fig. 3

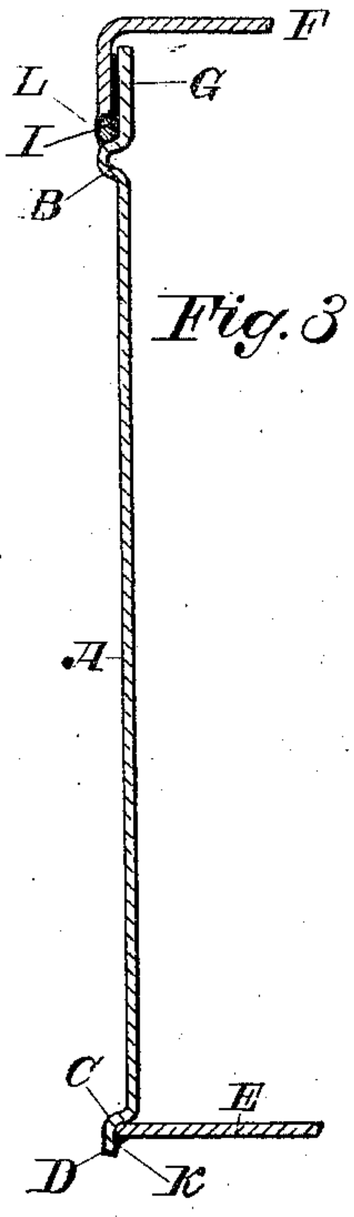
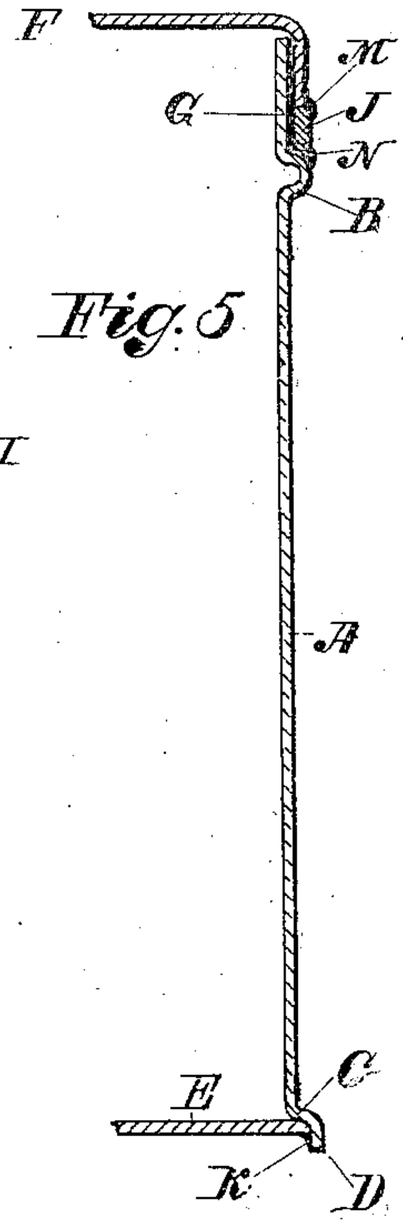


Fig. 5



Witnesses:
Frank H. Pierpont
Morgan W. Beach

Inventor:
James C. Britton
by Albert H. Walker, his Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. BRITTON, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

SELF-OPENING CAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 321,948, dated July 14, 1885.

Application filed April 28, 1885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. BRITTON, of Hartford, Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Self-Opening Cans, of which the following description and claim constitute the specification, and which is illustrated by the accompanying sheet of drawings.

This invention belongs to that class of cans which are adapted to be filled through the bottom, and afterward opened at the top by means of special devices attached to the can, and without the aid of any other tool; and it differs from former cans of the same class in such respects as to enable it to be manufactured with fewer joints of solder than they require, and with consequent increased cheapness of production.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of the can opened. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the can closed. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the left-hand wall and of the adjacent parts of the cover and the bottom of the can of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of a modification of the can of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a cross-section of the right-hand wall of the can of Fig. 4 and of the adjacent parts of its cover and its bottom.

A is the body of the can, made cylindrical in form, and having the bead B, extending entirely around its periphery, and also having the outwardly-flaring shoulder C and its flange D, formed by bending the lower edge of the body A into the shape shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

E is the bottom of the can, made in the form of a disk, just large enough to fit within the flange D, and resting upon the shoulder C.

F is the cover of the can. It may be constructed in any customary mode; but I much prefer to make it of one piece of metal by pressing a plain disk into the desired form with suitable dies.

G is a strip of paper, placed around the upper border of the body of the can, and extending from the neighborhood of its edge to, or nearly to, the bead B.

H is a piece of sheet metal, the upper part of which is soldered to the inside of the flange of the cover F, and the lower part of which is soldered to the outside of the body A, just below the bead B.

I is a narrow strip of strong metal, preferably a half-round wire, placed with its flat side toward the body of the can. The unlooped end of that strip is soldered to one border of the outside of the piece H, and then the strip is soldered down to its place around the can and between the lower edge of the flange of the cover F and the upper side of the bead B, till it reaches the piece H again, and is soldered to its other outside border. From that point of soldering the residue of the strip I, including its looped end, is free, forming a ring to be clasped by the thumb and forefinger of the person opening the can.

J is a wider strip of strong sheet metal, which may be used in place of the strip or wire I. When it is employed, the space between the lower edge of the flange of the cover F and the upper side of the bead B is wider than it is when the strip I is used, and the two lines of solder M and N are employed in place of the single line L, which is enough to solder down the narrow strip I. Whether the strip I or the strip J is used, the function of the paper strip G is to keep the solder from reaching the border of the body of the can at any point above the strip I or the strip J, as the case may be.

This can is designed to be manufactured complete, with the cover fastened on by the can-maker in the manner shown and described, and to be furnished to the can-filler in that condition, but with the bottom E loose and removable. The filler places the can top downward, and, after filling it, he places the bottom E in its position on the shoulder C, and then it is soldered firmly there by the line of solder K.

When the can is to be opened, the opener places its bottom downward, and clasping the looped end of the strip I, or the ring J' attached to the strip J, as the case may be, he pulls the encircling-strip off from around the can, thus rupturing the solder which held it in place, and enabling the cover F to be raised, as shown in Fig. 1, and to be turned upon the piece H as upon a hinge.

The bead B may be dispensed with; but I prefer to employ it as a means of lessening the width of the space to be covered with the line of solder L. That width may be still further

lessened, if desired, by making the lower edge of the flange of the cover F flare slightly outward, and thus cover a part of the outer surface of the strip I. So, also, the piece H may be omitted; but in that case the encircling metal strip must be soldered to the body A and to the lower edge of the flange of the cover F throughout their respective circumferences, the ends of the soldered part of the encircling metal strip lapping each other somewhat, if need be, to hermetically seal the cover to the can.

I claim as my invention—

The combination of the can-body A, the cover F, the paper strip G, and the metal strip I, the latter having its lower edge soldered to the body A and its upper edge soldered to the lower edge of the flange of the cover F, and the strip G being located under the flange of the cover F and also under the metal strip I, all substantially as described.

JAMES C. BRITTON.

Witnesses:
ALBERT H. WALKER,
MORGAN W. BEACH.