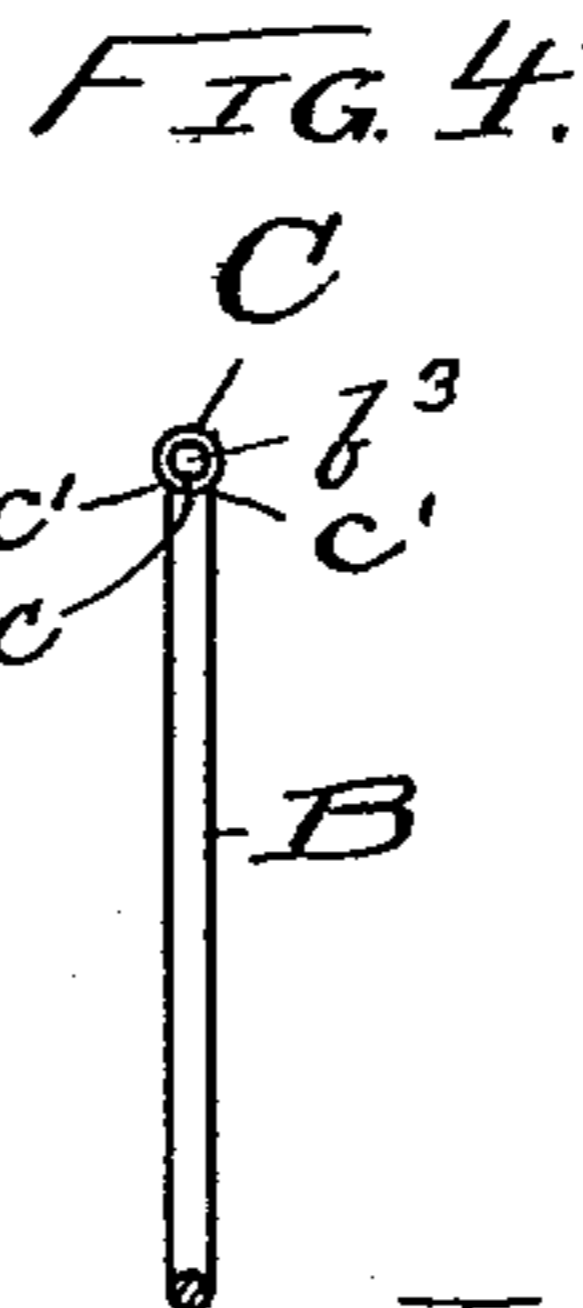
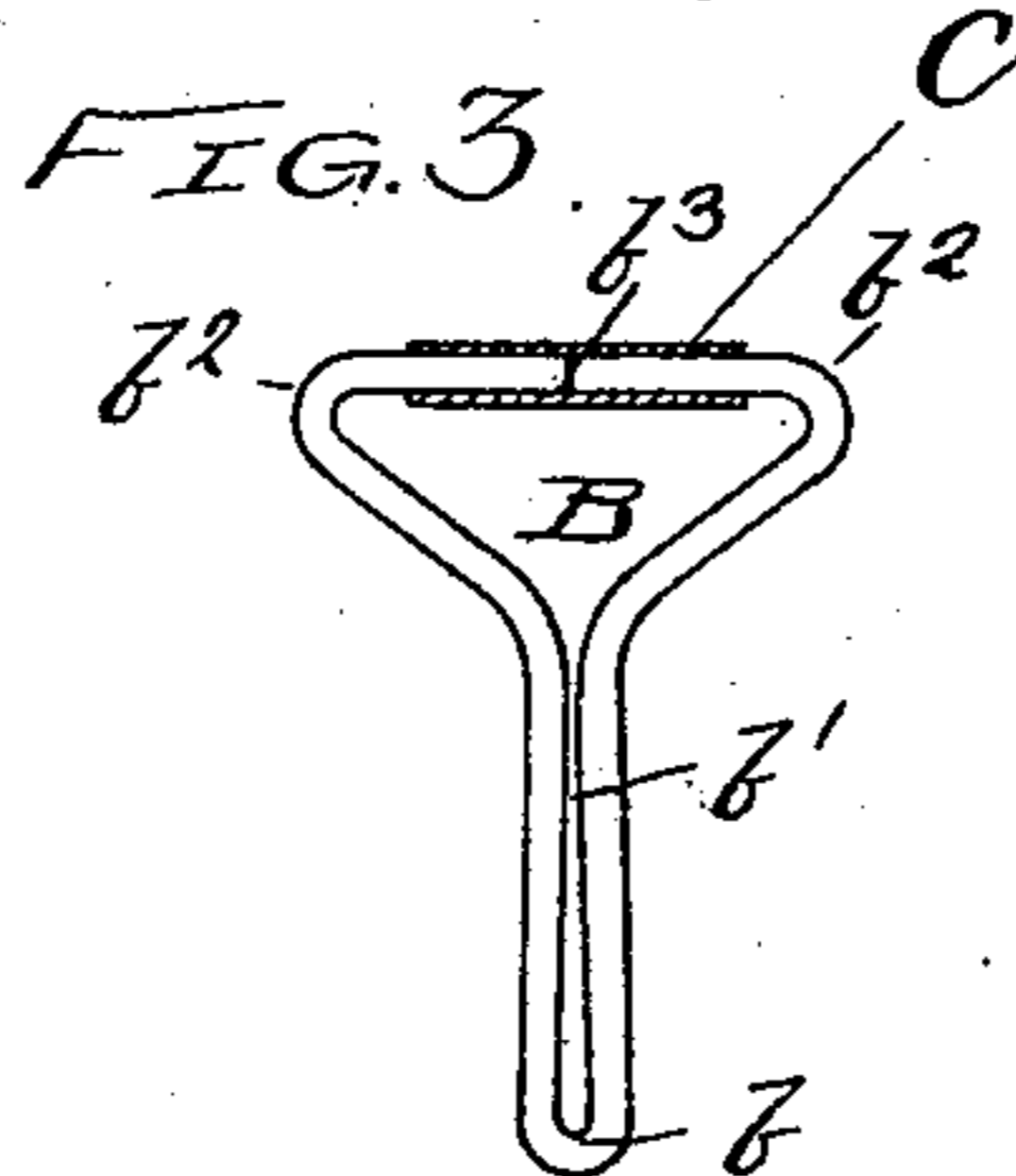
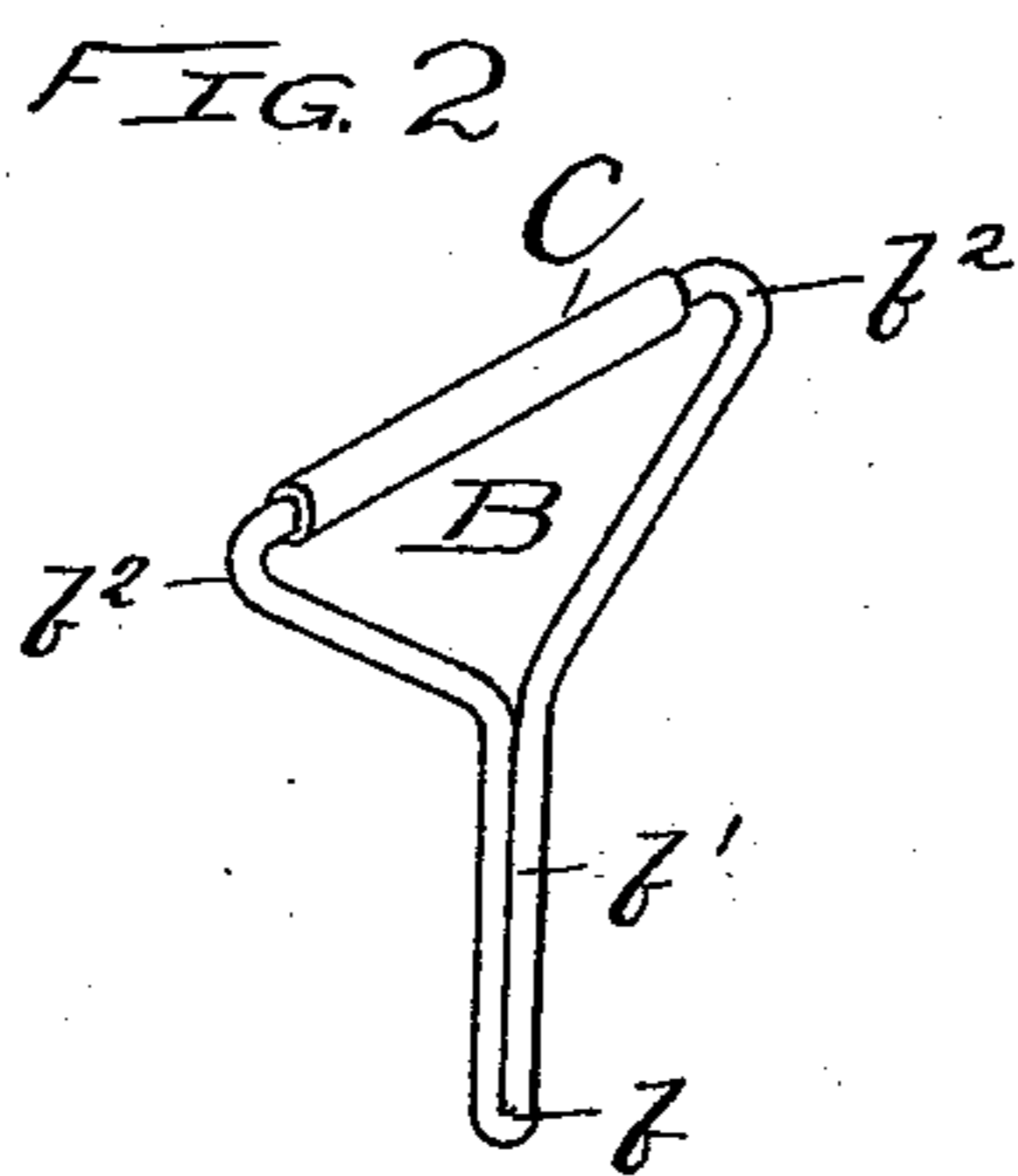
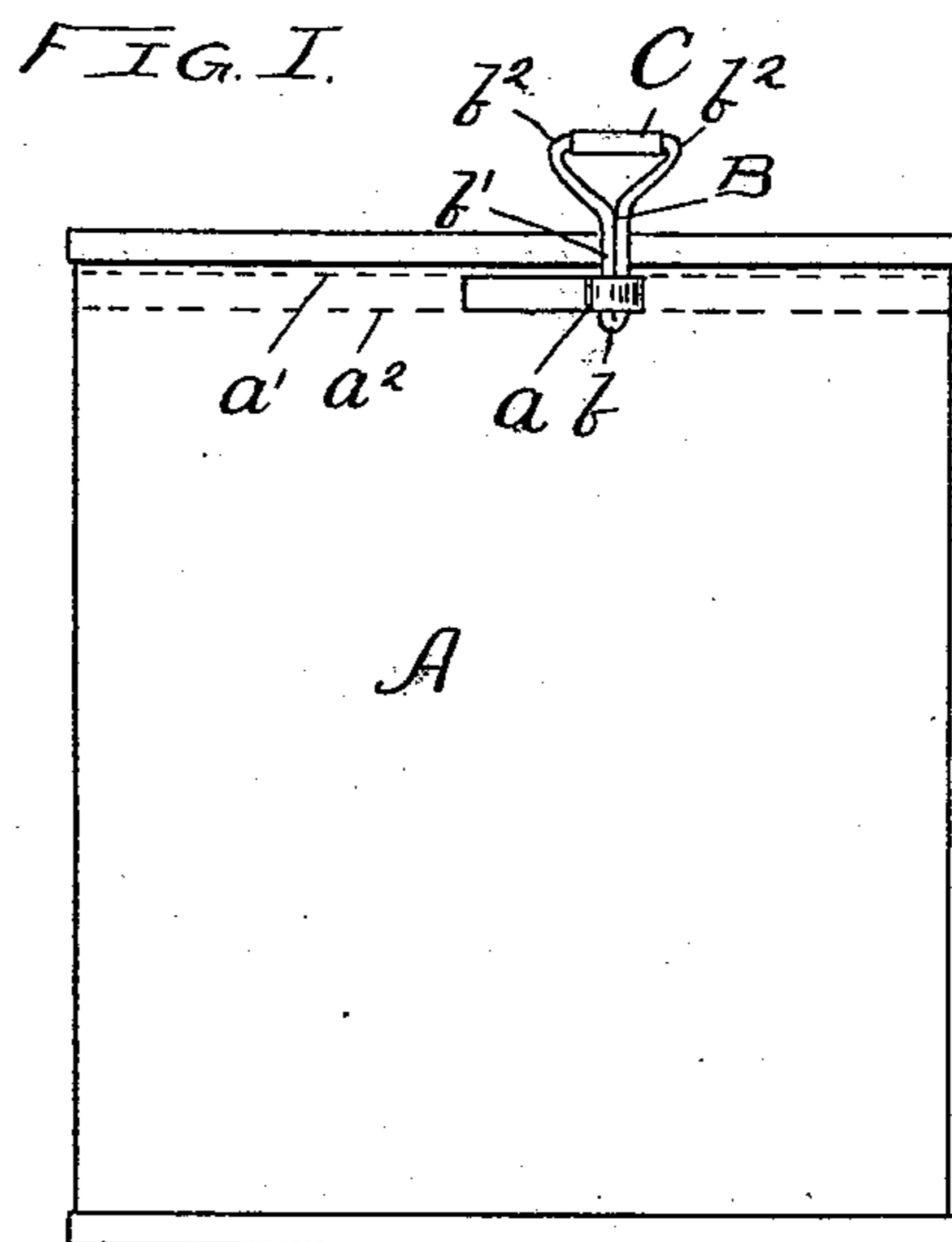


(No Model.)

E. NORTON.
KEY FOR SELF OPENING CANS.

No. 517,657.

Patented Apr. 3, 1894.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN NORTON, OF MAYWOOD, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, AND OLIVER W. NORTON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

KEY FOR SELF-OPENING CANS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,657, dated April 3, 1894.

Application filed February 6, 1894. Serial No. 499,246. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN NORTON, a citizen of the United States, residing in Maywood, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Keys for Self-Opening Cans, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the construction of keys used for opening cans furnished with tearing strips or detachable strips. Heretofore these keys have usually been made of short pieces of wire, folded at the middle to form the looped or slotted portion through which the tongue of the tearing strip inserted and around which as a mandrel the tearing strip is wound, the two end portions of the wire being suitably shaped and abutted together to form the handle or thumb piece of the key. In this old construction difficulty is frequently experienced owing to the tendency of the two abutting ends of the handle to lap by each other and then the two limbs of the handle to twist around each other in the attempt to coil the tearing strip around the barrel portion of the key where considerable force or strain is required to open the can, and especially in starting the tearing or winding operation. Efforts have been made to overcome this difficulty by increasing the size of the wire of which the key is made; but this adds to the cost of the keys, a very material consideration when it is remembered that they can be used but once and a separate key furnished with each can; and moreover the increasing of the size of the wire of course increases the size or diameter of the band about which the strip is to be wound, and correspondingly diminishes the leverage afforded by the handle or thumb piece.

The object of my improvement is to obviate these objections or difficulties, by an improved construction of a simple nature without adding much, if anything, to the cost of the key while enabling the same to be made of light wire, and at the same time increase the size or diameter of the handle or thumb piece so that a greater pressure may be exerted against the same by the thumb and fingers without pain or discomfort in the act of opening the can.

To this end my invention consists in the novel construction of key herein shown and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a self opening tearing strip and key embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my improved key. Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the handle construction and Fig. 4 is a cross section of the handle.

In the drawings A represents a sheet metal can, a the the tearing strip or detachable strip marked off or bounded by one or more weakened lines a' , and a^2 the tongue of the tearing strip, the same being shown partially wound around the key.

B is the key of a short piece of light wire, folded at its middle b to form the looped or slotted portion b' of the key through which the tongue is inserted and around which the tearing strip is wound.

$b^2 b^2$ are the two handle shaped portions of the wire, the same abutting together at b^3 , that is to say at the middle of the handle.

C is a clamp of sheet metal, which is bent or folded around the two limbs $b^2 b^2$ of the handle thus firmly uniting the two abutting limbs of the handle together so that one cannot slip by the other. The sheet metal clamp of tube C also serves to materially increase the strength of the handle and to enlarge its size or diameter, thus giving a better bearing or hold for the thumb or fingers in turning the key. The joint c between the abutting edges $c' c'$ of the sheet metal clamp or tube C is located in the plane of the key so that the same will not come in contact with the thumb or fingers, and also to increase the strength of the key as a whole.

I claim—

The can opening key herein shown and described, and consisting in the combination with a piece of wire having a looped or slotted portion b' formed by a fold at the middle of the wire, and provided with two handle-shaped abutting end portions $b^2 b^2$, of the sheet metal clamp or tube C surrounding or embracing said abutting handle portions, substantially as specified.

EDWIN NORTON.

Witnesses:

H. M. MUNDAY,
EMMA HACK.