

(No Model.)

G. D. MUNSING.
CAN OPENER.

No. 541,566.

Patented June 25, 1895.

Fig. 2.

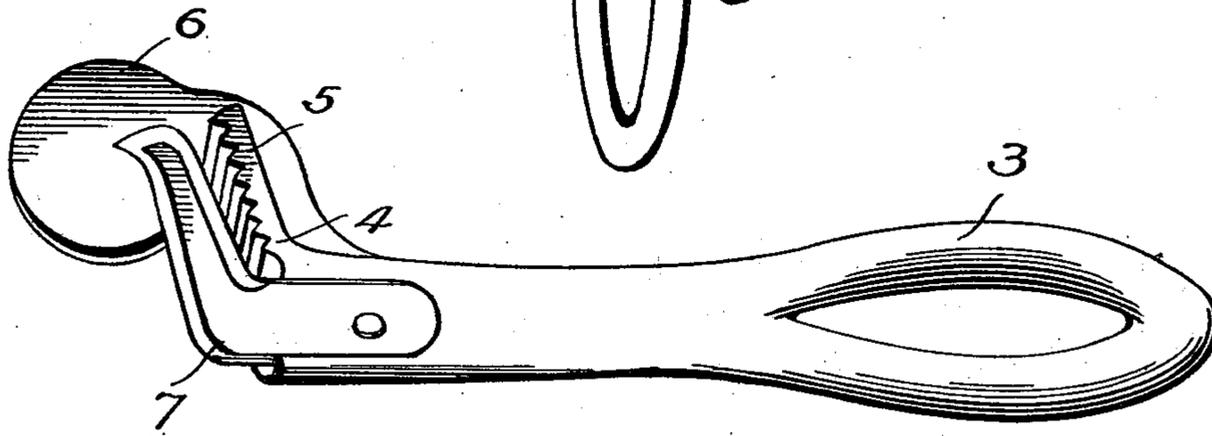
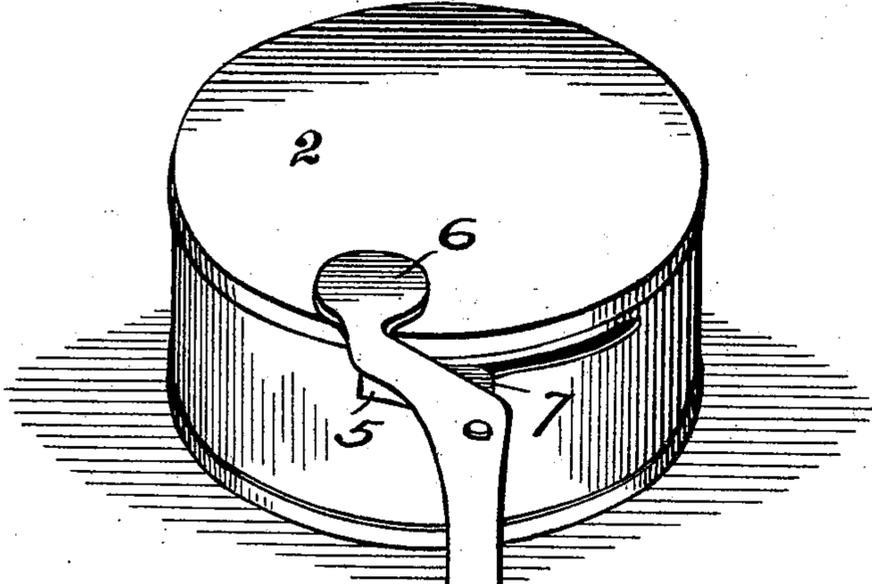


Fig. 1.

Witnesses:

C. E. Van Dorn
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Inventor:

George D. Munsing.
By [Signature] his Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE D. MUNSING, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO HENRY A. MUNSING, OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS.

CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,566, dated June 25, 1895.

Application filed August 16, 1894. Serial No. 520,540. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE D. MUNSING, of the city of Minneapolis, county of Hennepin, State of Minnesota, have invented a certain
5 new and Improved Can-Opener, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to can openers, and the object I have in view is to provide a neat and inexpensive device by which the top of a can
10 made of tin or other thin sheet metal may be easily and quickly removed without any danger of cutting the contents of the can during the operation.

A further object of my invention is to re-
15 move the top in such a manner as to leave a smooth even edge around the top of the can, a narrow outwardly projecting flange being formed so that meat and other canned goods of similar consistency may be easily and
20 quickly removed therefrom.

A further object of my invention is to provide a can opener having a guard for the knife so there will be no danger of its cutting
25 the hand of the operator should the instrument slip while in use.

My invention consists generally in a cast metal handle provided with a lip or extension adapted to rest upon the top of the can and form a guide and guard for the knife, a flange
30 or projection having a corrugated face adapted to press upon the side of the can forming a fulcrum, and a curved knife between which and the corrugated flange the wall of the can is inserted and cut, all as hereinafter de-
35 scribed and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective of the can-opener. Fig. 2 is a perspective showing the
40 position of the device when in use, the lip resting upon the top of the can, and the corrugated flange engaging the side thereof.

In the drawings, 2 represents a can of any size and construction.

3 is the handle of the can opener, made preferably of cast metal. At the extreme end of the handle 3 at one side thereof and extending outwardly at nearly right angles there-
45 with is a lug or projection 4 provided with a flange 5 having a vertically corrugated face
50

which presses upon the side of the can and serves as a fulcrum for the handle 3. The lug 4 terminates in a broad flattened lip 6 which extends in a direction nearly parallel
55 with the handle 3 and on substantially the same plane as the lower side of the corrugated flange 5. The lip 6 serves the double purpose of a guide to prevent the knife from
60 cutting down too far into the wall of the can and as a guard to prevent the knife from cutting the operator's hand should the device accidentally slip out of position during the operation of opening the can.

A shallow groove is provided on the under side of the handle 3 at the extreme end thereof,
65 and a curved double-edged knife 7 is provided having one end fitted into said groove and securely riveted to the handle 3. The knife 7 is curved toward the corrugated flange or fulcrum 5, so that there is a small space be-
70 tween the inner edge of the knife and said flange, and the knife blade terminates in a sharp point that is adapted to pierce the side of a can.

The operation of the device is as follows:
75 The wall of the can to be opened is pierced by the sharp point of the knife 7 and the blade thrust into the opening until the corrugated flange 5 engages the side of the can. The knife blade will then be on the inside of
80 the can, and a section of the side wall will be between the corrugated flange 5 and the inner edge of the knife blade 7, and the lip 6 will rest upon the top of the can, as shown in Fig. 2, and will form a guide and guard for
85 the knife or cutter. The corrugated flange pressing upon the side of the can acts as a fulcrum and aids very materially in holding the knife in position. After the device has been placed in position to be operated the handle
90 is moved back and forth and the metal between the inner edge of the knife and the corrugated flange will be cut evenly and quickly without any danger of cutting the hands or spilling the contents of the can. 95
The fulcrum or flange 5 pressing upon the side of the can will cause a narrow outwardly projecting flange to be turned around the edge of the can to facilitate the removal of the
100 goods contained therein.

The device with the exception of the knife is preferably cast in one piece and may be finished in any suitable manner.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A can opener, consisting of a handle provided with a lateral extension, said extension having a face to rest upon the side of the can forming a fulcrum, a knife secured to said handle and curved laterally in the same direction as said lateral extension, a space being provided between the edge of said knife and the face of said extension to receive the metal to be cut, said knife being provided with a sharp point, and said extension terminating in a lip to rest upon the top of the can to act as a guide for the knife and as a shield for the sharp point thereof, substantially as described and for the purpose set forth.

2. A can opener, consisting of a handle provided with a lateral extension, said extension having a corrugated face to rest upon the side of the can, forming a fulcrum, a double edged knife secured to said handle and curved laterally in the same direction as said lateral extension; a space being provided between one of the edges of said knife and the face of said extension to receive the metal to be cut, said knife being provided with a sharp point, and said extension terminating in a lip to rest upon the top of the can to act as a guide for the knife and as a shield for the sharp edge thereof, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of July, A. D. 1894.

GEORGE D. MUNSING.

In presence of—

C. G. HAWLEY,

M. E. GOOLEY.