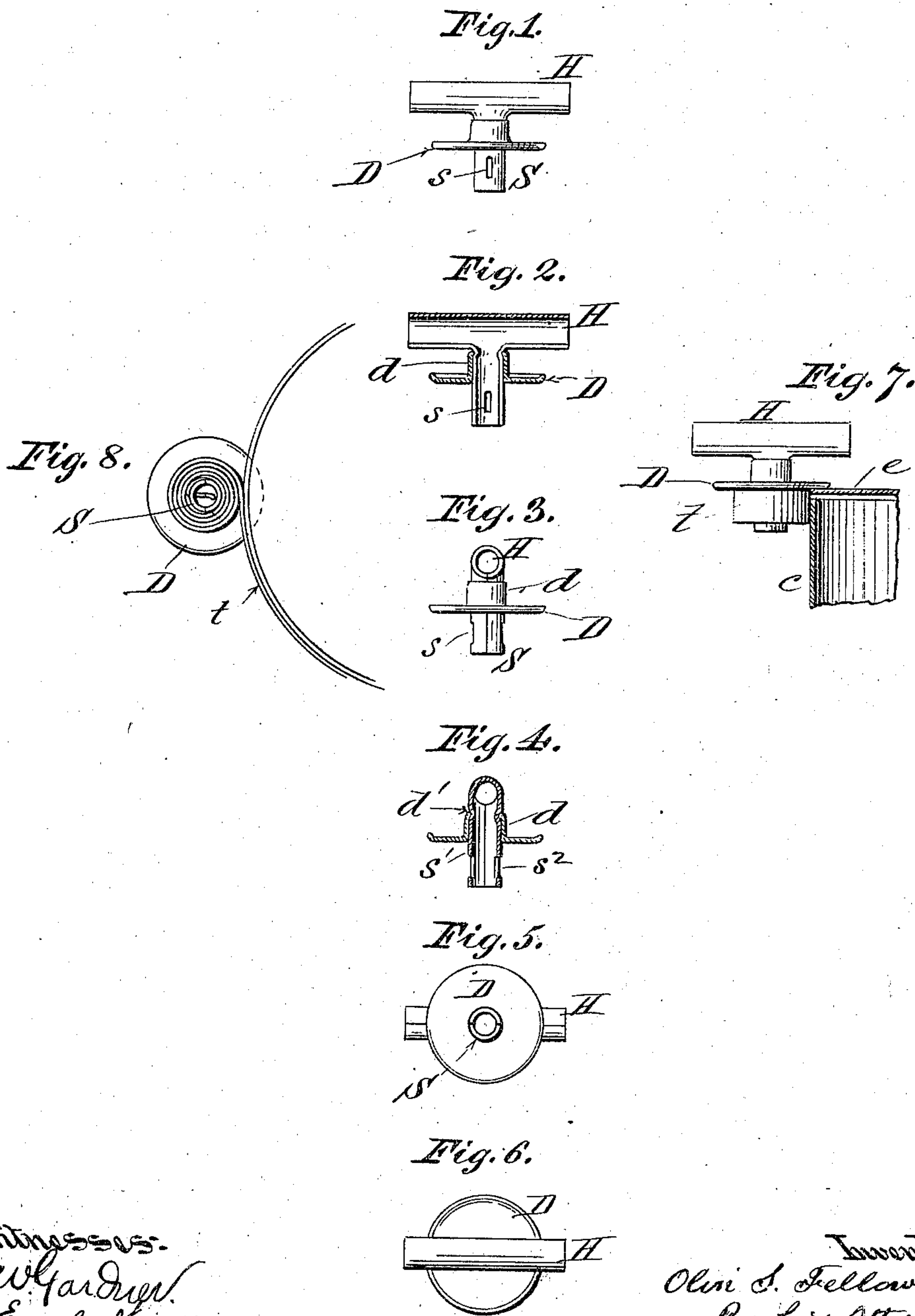


(No Model.)

O. S. FELLOWS.
KEY FOR OPENING SHEET METAL CANS.

No. 555,940.

Patented Mar. 10, 1896.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIN S. FELLOWS, OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK.

KEY FOR OPENING SHEET-METAL CANS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 555,940, dated March 10, 1896.

Application filed March 21, 1895. Serial No. 542,617. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIN S. FELLOWS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Middletown, in the county of Orange and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Keys for Opening Sheet-Metal Cans, of which the following is a specification sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which the invention appertains to make and use the same.

My present invention relates to the class of strip-winding keys for opening sheet-metal cans set forth in my Patent No. 543,004, dated July 23, 1895, in which the shank and handle are formed by bending over a blank of sheet metal.

The object of my invention is twofold: first, to effect the locking of the halves of the sheet-metal shank together by means of a sleeve slipped over them, and, second, to utilize this sleeve as a support for an annular flange or shoulder around the shank of the key. The functions of the sleeve and its annular flange are several. The sleeve secures and reinforces the shank of the key, while the annular flange, being made of a width at least sufficient to cover and include the strip when wound upon the shank, may be used as a guide to the key to prevent variations in inclination or the movement of the shank longitudinally, as well as to insure the winding of the strip evenly and tautly upon the shank. To accomplish this the annular flange of the sleeve is simply made to rest against the end or edge of the can, the strain of winding up the strip facilitating this action and tending to maintain rectangular contact with the angle or edge of the can.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved strip-winding key; Fig. 2, a central section longitudinally through the handle; Fig. 3, an elevation at right angles to Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a section at right angles to Fig. 2; Fig. 5, a bottom view; Fig. 6, a top view; Fig. 7, a view illustrating the use of the key; Fig. 8, a view taken from the under side of the key and also illustrating its use.

The key consists, essentially, of a head, a cross-bar or handle *H*, shank *S*, formed with the slot *s*, for the reception of the end of a stripping-tongue, and lateral disk or shoulder

D, projecting radially at substantially right angles to the longitudinal axis of the shank.

The lateral projection of the disk *D* is sufficient to cover and include the strip *t* when wound upon the shank, and preferably to also leave a margin beyond the strip when nearly wound up for contact with the end plate or edge *e* of the can *c*.

As applied to my form of hollow sheet-metal key set forth in my prior patent above referred to, and herein shown in its simpler form, the shoulder *D* consists of a disk formed with the central sleeve *d*, which fits over and around the shank *S*, thereby binding its two halves *s'* *s''* firmly together. To secure it in position upon the shank and lock the parts together permanently and rigidly the edge of the sleeve *d* may be pinched in against the shank, as shown at *d'*, or otherwise secured against displacement.

The disk *D* and sleeve *d* may be conveniently struck up out of the waste metal resulting from the stamping out of the opening in the end plate through which the can is filled, and as the sheet-metal key may itself be formed from waste or scrap metal, as set forth in my aforesaid patent, it will be seen that my present invention will add little or nothing to the cost of the key, while enabling me to use it effectively in its simplest form, since the sleeve *d* obviates the necessity for overlapping or otherwise securing the limbs of the blank together when folded.

It is obvious that the configuration of the lateral shoulder is of secondary importance, and the annular or disk form may be departed from without deviating from the spirit and intent of my invention.

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

1. A key for opening sheet-metal cans consisting of a piece of sheet metal having a middle portion formed with extensions of less width which are embossed so that when the blank is doubled upon itself the middle portion forms a transverse head and the extensions form a hollow shank which is slotted to receive the stripping-tongue of a can, and a sleeve around the halves of the said shank to bind them together substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

2. A key for opening sheet-metal cans con-

sisting of a piece of sheet metal having a middle portion formed with extensions of less width which are embossed so that when the blank is doubled upon itself the middle portion forms a transverse head and the extensions form a hollow shank which is slotted to receive the stripping-tongue of a can, and a sleeve around the halves of the shank to bind them together formed with an annular flange for the purpose and substantially in the manner described.

3. A key for opening sheet-metal cans consisting of a piece of sheet metal having a middle portion formed with extensions of less width which are embossed so that when the blank is doubled upon itself the middle portion forms a transverse head and the extensions form a hollow shank which is slotted to receive the stripping-tongue of a can, and a sleeve around the halves of the shank to bind them together formed with an annular flange of greater width than the combined thicknesses of the convolutions of the stripping

portion of the can to be wound around said shank for the purpose and substantially in the manner described.

4. A key for opening sheet-metal cans consisting of a piece of sheet metal having a middle portion formed with extensions of less width which are embossed so that when the blank is doubled upon itself the middle portion forms a transverse head and the extensions form a hollow shank which is slotted to receive the stripping-tongue of a can, and a sleeve around the halves of the said shank to bind them together, said sleeve being formed with an annular flange, and being secured to the shank by pinching it against the shank so as to bend the metal and prevent longitudinal movement thereon, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

OLIN S. FELLOWS.

Witnesses:

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