

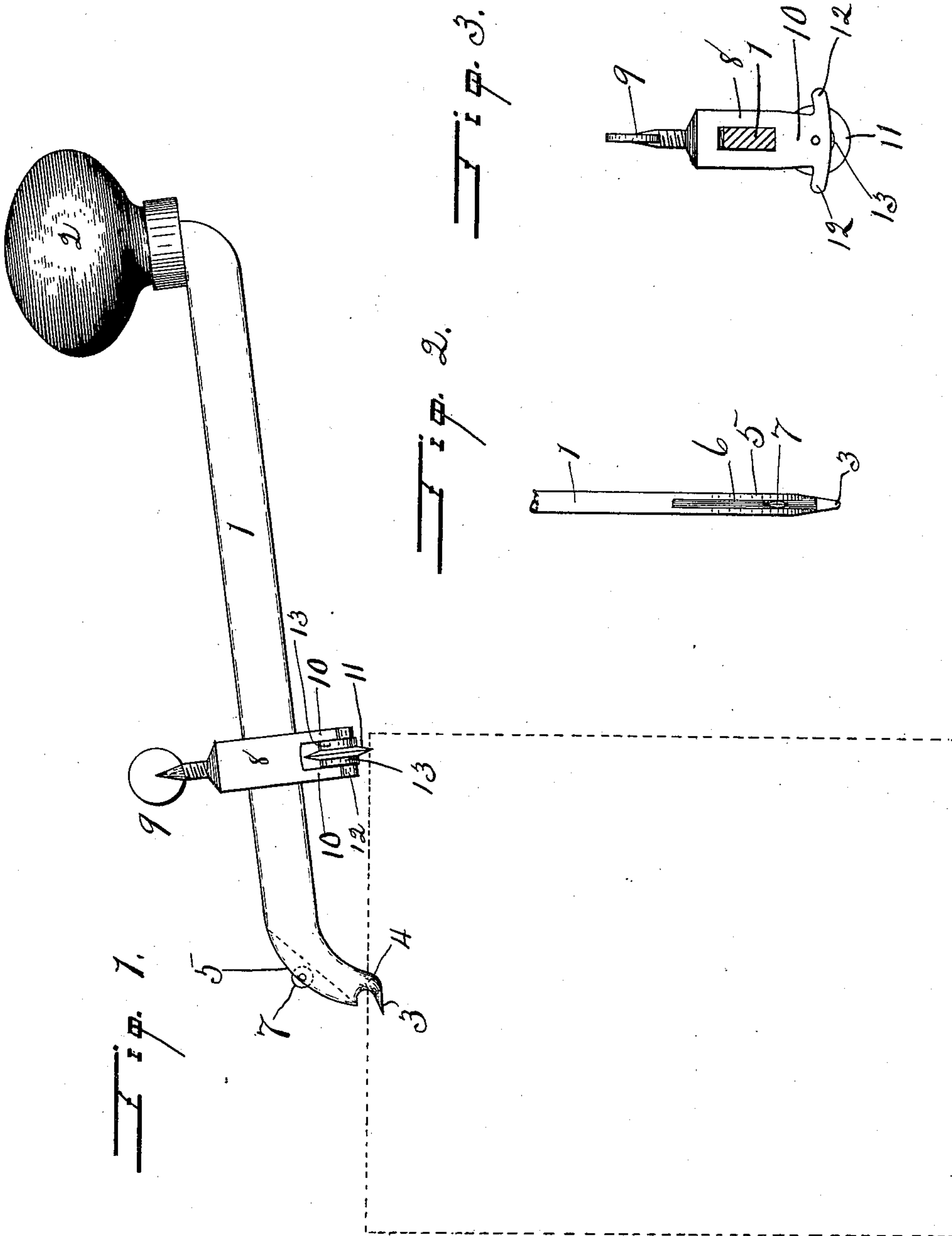
No. 618,426.

Patented Jan. 31, 1899.

E. D. MIDDLEKAUFF.  
CAN OPENER.

(Application filed Feb. 10, 1898.)

[No Model.]



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLSWORTH D. MIDDLEKAUFF, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR  
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## CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 618,426, dated January 31, 1899.

Application filed February 10, 1898. Serial No. 669,874. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELLSWORTH D. MIDDLEKAUFF, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco, in the State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of can-openers which are universal in their adjustment, easily and expeditiously operated so as to open different-sized cans, and which may be cheaply constructed; and it consists in the peculiar construction, novel combination, and adaptation of parts hereinafter set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claim hereunto annexed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved can-opener as applied to a can, shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a top view of the curved end, showing the position of the glass-cutter. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the gyrating lever, showing a side elevation of the rolling cutter.

Similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

I employ a lever 1, which has a handle 2, rigidly attached at right angles thereto, on the top side of one end of the same. The reverse end of the said lever 1 is curved downwardly and has a point or brad 3 rigidly attached thereto and extending in a line parallel with the lever 1. The point 3 is connected to the end of the lever 1 by a neck 4, of circular form in cross-section, for the purpose as will be shown. The convex side 5 of the lever 1 has a slot 6 cut longitudinally therein, and a rotating glass-cutter 7 is pivotally journaled in the same. A cutter-frame 8 has an opening laterally therein corresponding in size and shape to the lever 1, and such frame 8 is inserted on such lever and may be

rigidly attached at any point on the same by means of a thumb-screw 9, which is inserted in the top thereof. The lower end of the said frame 8 is bifurcated, such bifurcations 10 having a cutting-wheel 11 pivotally journaled between the same. The bifurcations 10 have forwardly and rearwardly extending lugs 12 on the bottom thereof for the purpose of engaging with the top of the can being operated upon, thereby rendering a steady movement when in operation and preventing the cutting-wheel from sinking too deeply in the can. The cutting-wheel 11 has a hub 13, which is adapted to rest on the sides of the incision made when the periphery of said wheel 11 has penetrated the tin.

The mode of operating my improved can-opener is as follows: The handle 2 is grasped by one hand and the point 3 is guided by the other hand and thrust through the center of one end of the can. The handle 2 is then lowered until it assumes the position shown in Fig. 1, whereupon the frame 8 is moved along the lever 1 until the wheel 11 occupies a position near the edge of the can, where it is desired to sever the top. The thumb-screw 9 is then impinged upon the lever 1, and the handle and lever are given a gyratory movement which, by means of the wheel 11, cuts a circular hole in the top of the can. The circular neck 4 allows the free circular motion of the lever 1. The lever 1 may be inverted and the glass-cutter 7 used in the ordinary manner.

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

The herein-described compound tool comprising the lever 1 formed in one piece and having the downwardly-curved portion at one end, with the convex outer edge 5 and a longitudinal slot therein, and terminating in a brad 3 arranged parallel to the main portion of the lever and provided with a neck 4 of circular form in cross-section disposed at approximate right angles to said main portion of the lever, the glass-cutting wheel arranged in the slot in the convex edge 5 of the lever,



the cutter-frame adjustably mounted on the lever and having the bifurcation in its lower end and also having the lugs 12 arranged at opposite sides of the bifurcation and extending in front and rear so as to serve as shoes, a set-screw for adjustably fixing the cutter-frame on the lever, a rotary cutter arranged in the bifurcation of said frame, and a handle 2 connected to the lever at one end and

disposed above the same, substantially as is specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ELLSWORTH D. MIDDLEKAUFF.

Witnesses:

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