

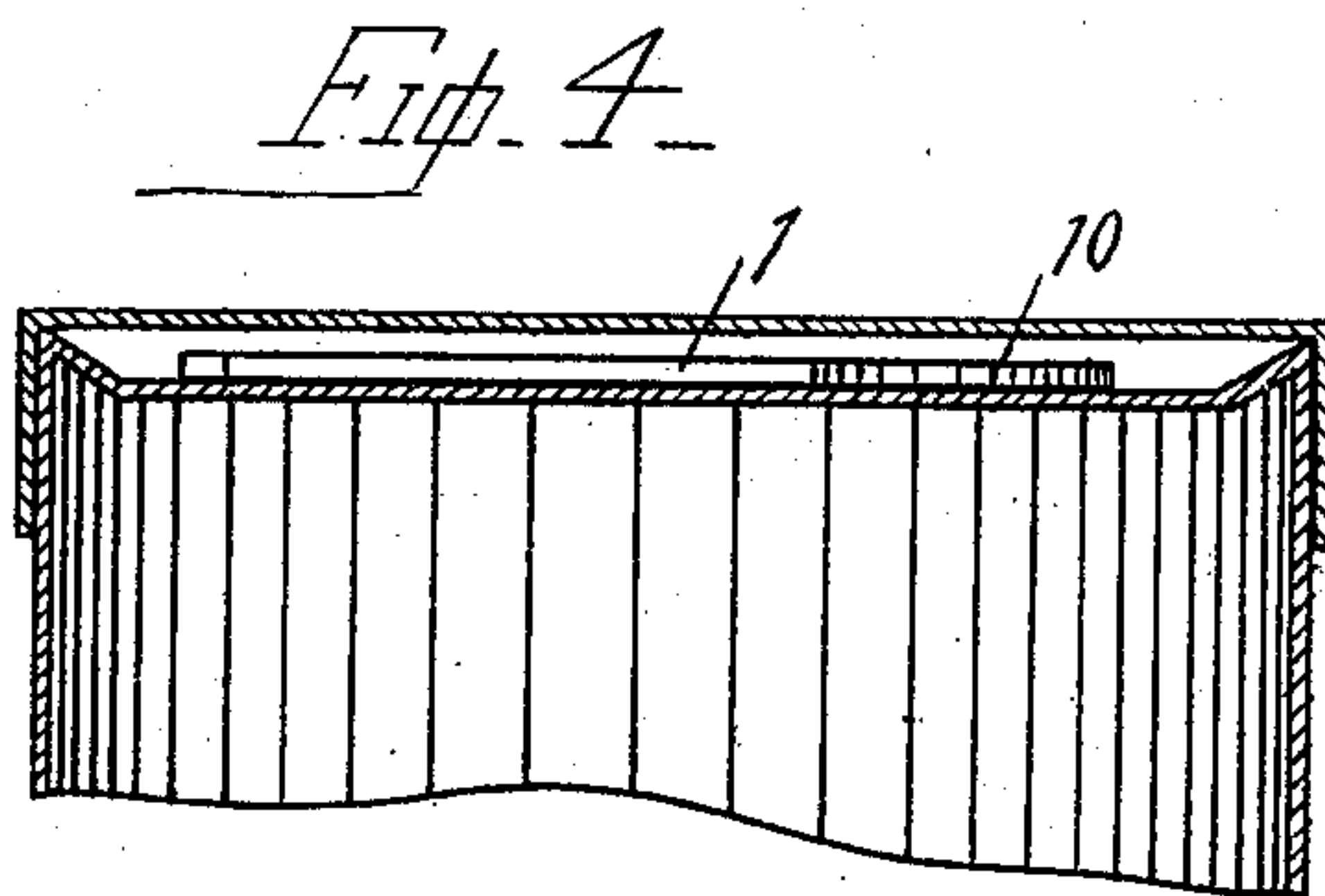
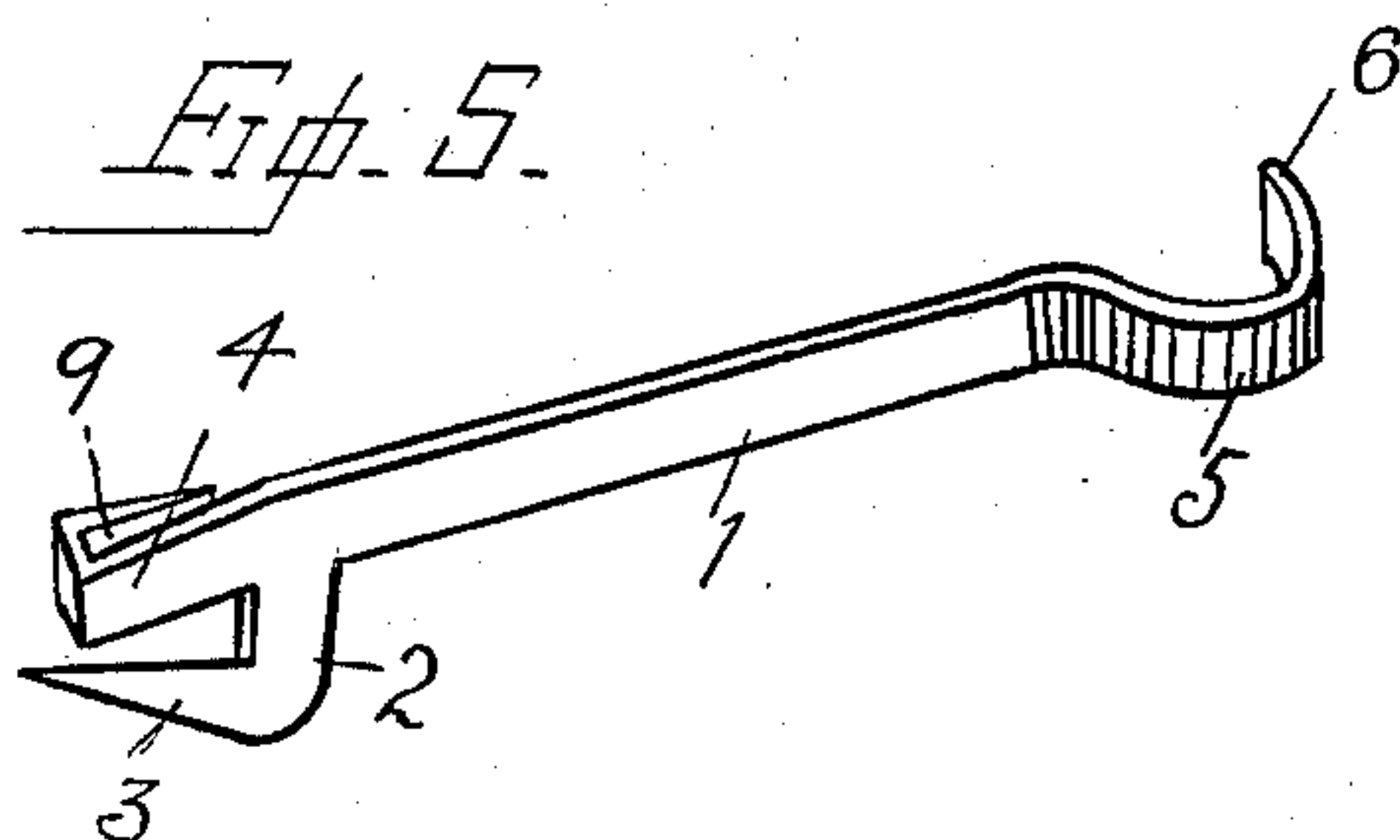
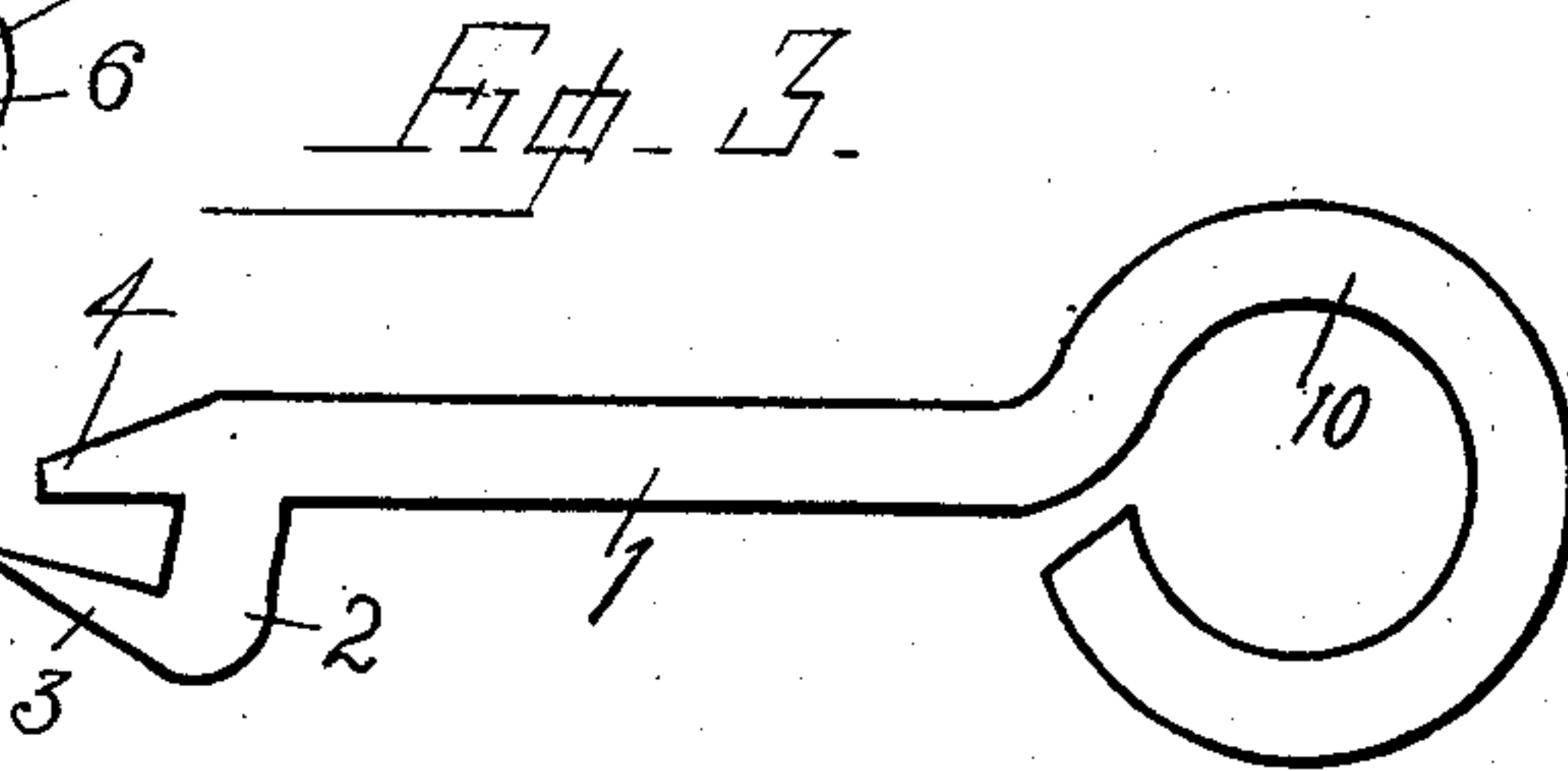
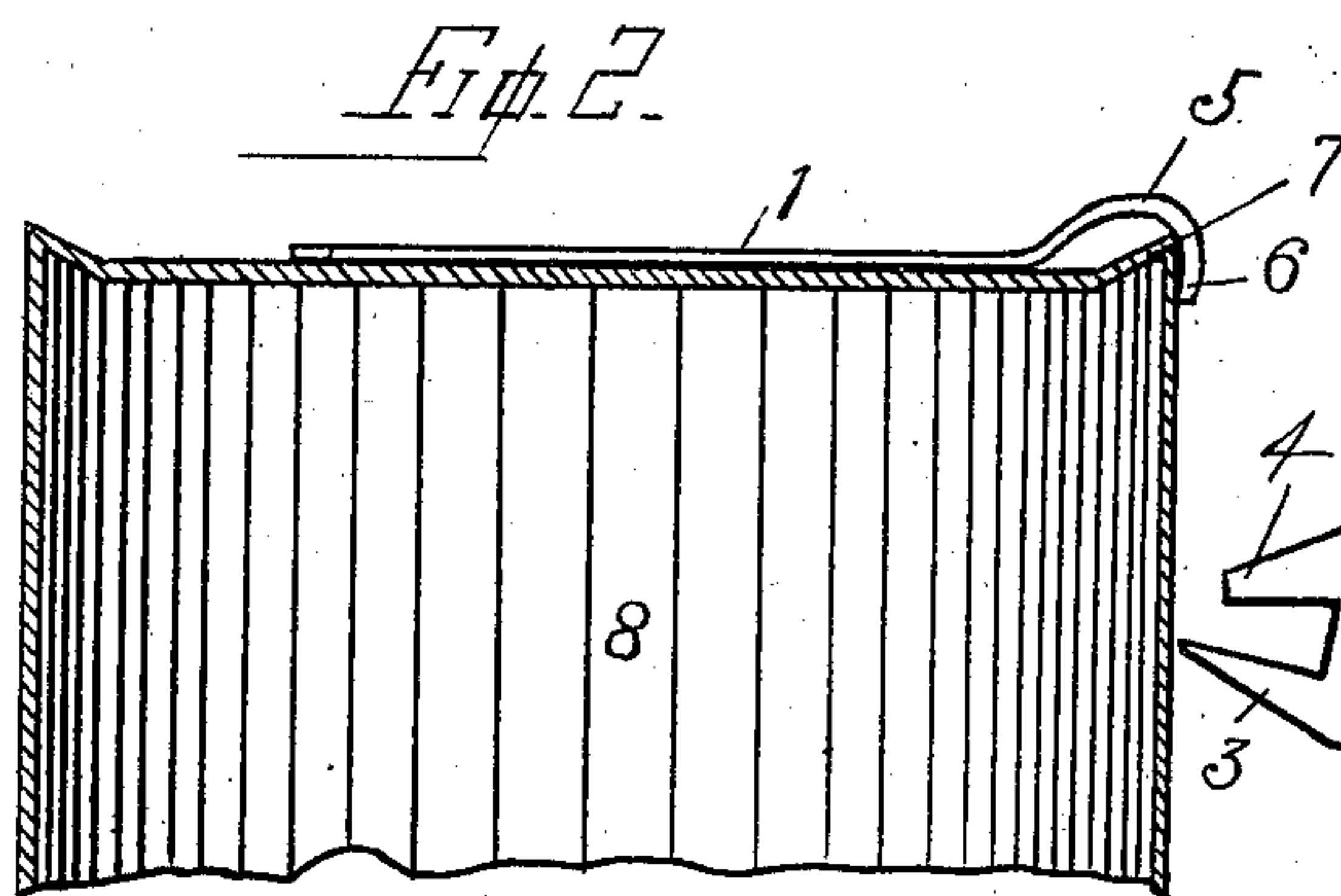
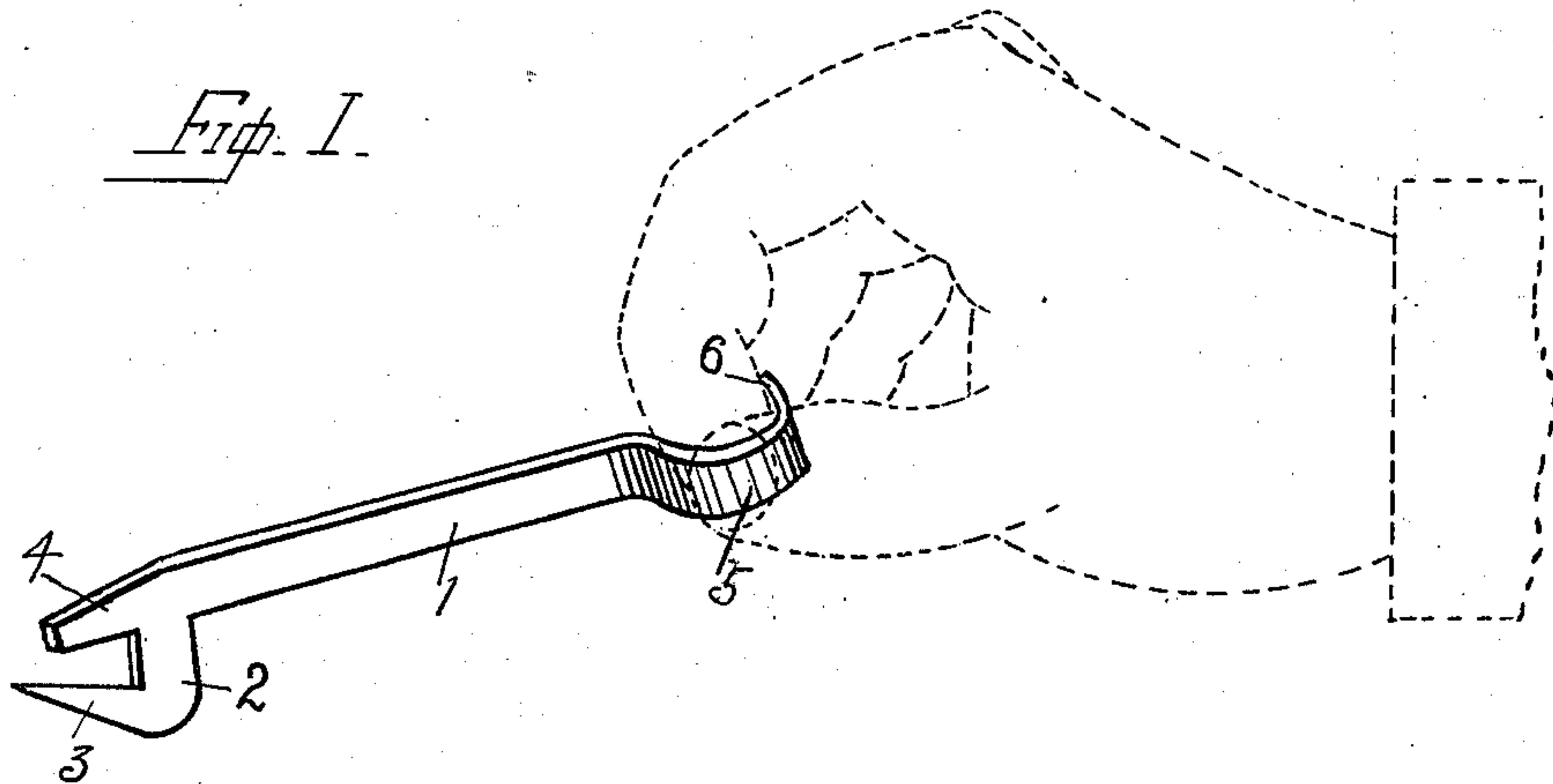
No. 684,825.

Patented Oct. 22, 1901.

S. A. JOHNSON.  
CAN OPENER.

(Application filed May 1, 1901.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL A. JOHNSON, OF WINONA, MINNESOTA.

## CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 684,825, dated October 22, 1901.

Application filed May 1, 1901. Serial No. 58,304. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL A. JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Winona, in the county of Winona and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Openers; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to devices for opening cans or other sealed metallic receptacles, and has for its object to provide a device of this character that can be manufactured cheap enough to permit the packer to place one on each can of goods.

A further object is to provide an efficient can-opener of a suitable size and conformation to be securely packed with a can in such a manner as to offer no obstacle in handling or shipping.

A further object is to provide an opener adapted to be packed with a can, which is constructed to open any variety of can without any previous preparation of the can.

My invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the drawings, in which like figures of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my opener held between the forefinger and thumb of the operator ready for use. Fig. 2 shows the opener in position on a can for packing. Fig. 3 shows a modification. Fig. 4 shows the said modification packed in a can which is provided with an extra top or cover. Fig. 5 shows my cutter with a turned-over fulcrum end.

In the drawings the number 1 represents the main portion or shank of my opener, which consists of a straight bar or strip of metal having one end curved to form a finger-hold and a can-opener formed on its opposite end. The cutter is formed by a depending arm 2, adjacent the forward end of the said strip 1, and a forwardly and upwardly inclined cutter 3, integral therewith and projecting beyond the end 4 of the shank for the purpose of permitting the point of the cutter to be in-

serted in a can. The cutter-arm 3 is suitably beveled to form a cutting edge and is inclined upwardly toward the fulcrum 4 for the purpose of securing a better hold on the material to be cut. The rear end of the shank portion 1 is bent laterally first to one side and then back, thus forming approximately a semicircle or finger-hold 5, with its end 6, extending slightly beyond the shank 1, of a suitable size to receive the forefinger of the operator. A further object of this curved portion 5 is to assist in retaining the opener in its place when packed on the can, in which position the shank portion lies flat on the top of the can, with the curved finger-hold projecting over and embracing the usual raised rim 7 of the can 8, thus preventing the opener from moving endwise, while a strip of paper is pasted over the opener resting on the can.

In the modification shown in Figs. 3 and 4 the end of the shank 1 instead of being curved laterally is curved in the form of a circle 10 in the same plane as the shank portion and of a diameter sufficient to enable the finger of the operator to be inserted therein. The cutter is thus made flat throughout its length, which is for the purpose of enabling it to be packed in cans which are provided with a separate or extra cover, such as paint-cans, as shown in Fig. 4, or it can be laid flat on the top of ordinary cans and a strip of paper pasted over it to retain it in position.

It will be readily seen that as the device is stamped or cut from a single piece of metal and that as it is small and simple in construction it can be very cheaply manufactured, as scrap metal can be utilized for the purpose.

In operation the device is first removed from the can. The point of the cutter is then inserted in the can by means of pressure of the thumb or otherwise exerted upon the end 6. The curved portion or finger-hold is then grasped by the fingers of the operator and the upper end depressed until the shank is substantially parallel with the top of the can, when the cutter-blade is pushed into the can as far as possible. The upper end is then raised, and the cutter using the projecting end of the shank as a fulcrum will sever the top for a distance nearly equal to the length

of the cutter-blade, when the handle is again depressed and raised and the operation continued until the can is opened.

5 In order to form an increased bearing-surface for the fulcrum, I have shown in Fig. 5 the extension or fulcrum 4 as elongated and bent back upon itself in the form of a loop 9.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

10 A can-opener consisting of a flat metallic strip having a straight-edged upwardly-inclined cutter-blade depending from and adjacent to one end thereof and projecting be-

yond said end, the said end being an extended portion of the strip bent back upon 15 itself, and an approximately semicircular finger-hold formed on the other end of the said strip with the end thereof flat and carried slightly beyond the line of the said strip, substantially as and for the purpose described. 20

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

SAMUEL A. JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

GEORGE T. SIMPSON,  
CLARA SCHLOSSTEIN.