

No. 695,672.

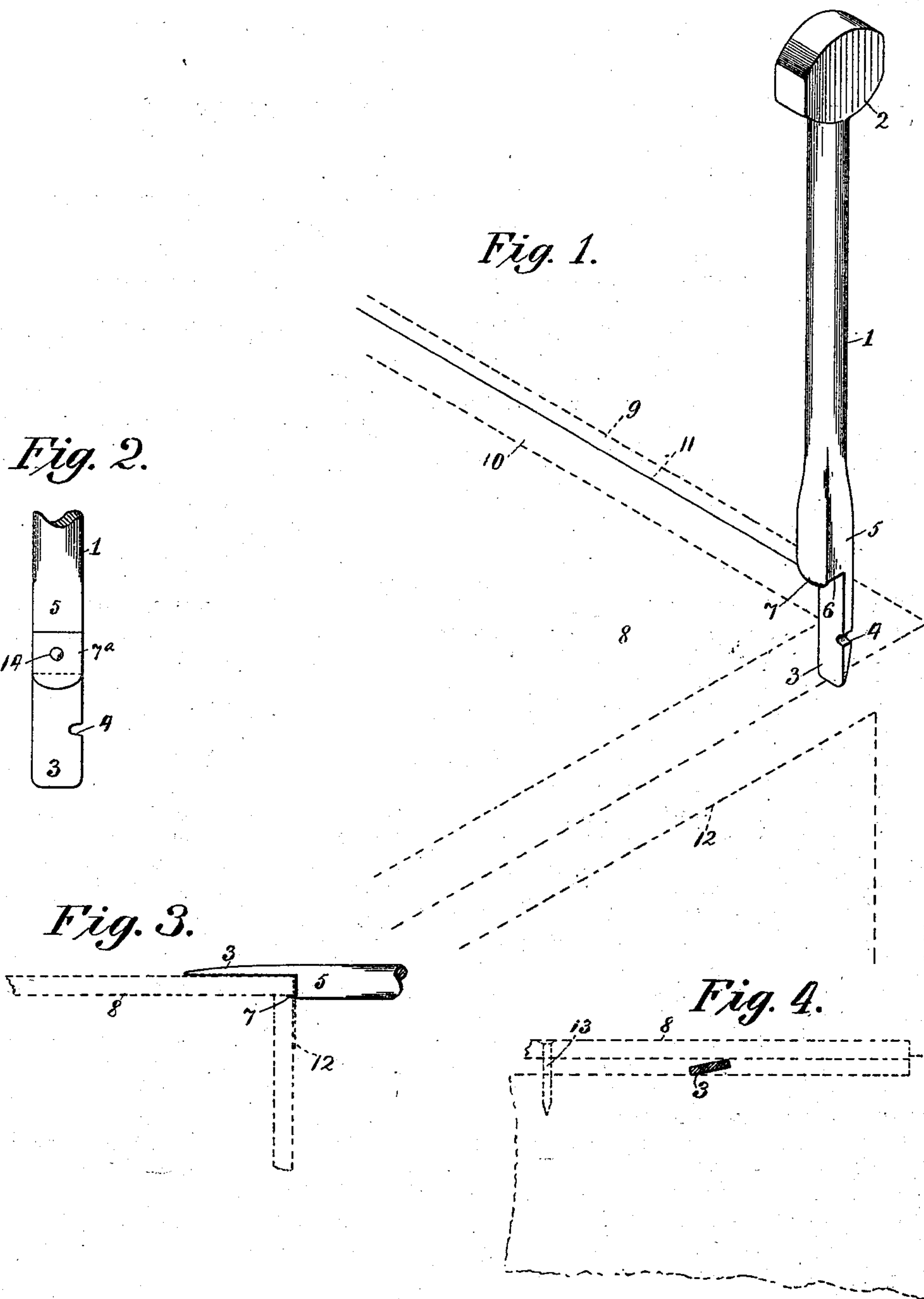
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F. R. DIAZ.

IMPLEMENT FOR OPENING CIGAR BOXES.

(Application filed Mar. 12, 1901.)

(No Model.)



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IMPLEMENT FOR OPENING CIGAR-BOXES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 695,672, dated March 18, 1902

Application filed March 12, 1901. Serial No. 50,802. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCISCO R. DIAZ, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Tampa, in the county of Hillsboro and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Implements for Opening Cigar-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a combination-tool for opening cigar-boxes.

When cigars have been packed in a box and the lid has been closed, it is customary to secure the latter by narrow strips of paper pasted along the upper edges of the sides of the box and turned over, down, and pasted along the edges of the lid or cover, and it is also usual, further, to secure the lid by means of a small nail which is driven through the lid at its forward edge and at about the middle of its length and into the upper edge of the front side of the box. It is also customary to paste ornamental or other paper labels on one or more sides of the box and have portions thereof extended over and pasted upon the top surface of the lid. Besides this it is usual to paste the revenue-stamps transversely of the box and the lid in such a manner that they, as well as the paper edgings and labels, must be cut or broken in the operation of opening the lid. Furthermore, it is largely the practice to paste on the inner side of the lid a highly ornamental label and also to attach to the upper edge of the front side of the box an ornamental paper flap, which extends to the rear side of the box and covers the top layer of cigars. Cigar-box knives have heretofore been employed for opening the lids; but as these have been constructed they have proved more or less unsatisfactory—first, because of the absence of any means for determining exactly where the cuts are to be made in the edging papers or binders which bridge and hide the edges of the lid where they abut or join the sides of the box and at which bridging portions the said papers must be cut, and in consequence it is very often necessary to make several attempts or cuts before the joint is found, and in doing so the wood is frequently chipped or broken and the fingers sometimes cut.

The objects of my invention are to overcome the objections to the previously-made tools and to provide a simple and inexpensive im-

plement whereby the box can be neatly and quickly opened and one by which all liability of breaking the cigars or marring or defacing the inside ornamental flaps and labels is wholly avoided.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved implement, showing it in one position of use and a corner portion of the cigar-box being shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of a modification. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view showing the tool in another position of use, the lower end of the tool being shown in cross-section. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing the tool in still another position of use.

In the several views similar parts are designated by similar numerals of reference.

The tool comprises an elongated metallic cylindrical handle 1, having at one end an enlarged and flattened head 2 and at its other end a thin wedge-like finger or chisel 3, in one side edge of which is formed a notch 4. Between the chisel and the handle is a thickened quadrilateral portion 5, forming a jog or shoulder 6. A small knife or cutter-blade 7 projects slightly below the surface of the shoulder 6 on the side of the handle opposite the chisel 3, and the space between the cutter and the chisel or the width of the shoulder is substantially equal to the thickness of the wood of which cigar-boxes are usually made.

The portion 2 of the implement constitutes a hammer-head, the chisel-like part a lid-lifter, the portion 7 a cutter-blade for severing the paper at the joints of the lid and box, and the part 6 an abutment or means for limiting the insertion of the blade 7 and also of the lid-lifter.

In opening a box the edge of the projecting cutter 7 is pressed down between the side edge of the box-lid 8 and the top edge of the side 9 of the box, as at Fig. 1, thus puncturing the paper strip 10, the tool descending until the shoulder 6 contacts with the top edge of the side of the box. Then without changing the vertical position of the tool the latter is drawn along the end of the box and the blade 7 is caused to slit the paper strip 10 for the full length of the joint, as indicated at 11. It will be seen that the shoulder 6 af-

fords a support for the downward pressure exerted upon the tool in order to hold the knife down to its work and that as the knife preferably projects below the shoulder a trifle less than the thickness of the lid it can only penetrate far enough to cut the paper, thus avoiding all liability of injuring the ornamental flap which covers the cigars or the cigars themselves. The operation of cutting is then repeated at the other end of the box, and then the tool is placed in a horizontal position, as at Fig. 3, and the blade 7 pressed through the paper strip 12, which is pasted over the front top corner of the box, the blade penetrating between the lid and the top edge of the front side of the box. The tool is then drawn along the front edge of the lid, thereby slitting the strip 12 and completing the cutting operations. Then the point of the projecting chisel 3 is introduced between the lid and the top edge of the front side of the box, and by working the tool the lid is pried up slightly, as indicated as Fig. 4, thus drawing the usual lid-fastening nail or brad 13 slightly upward. Then the lid may be hammered down by the head 2 of the tool until said lid is in its original position, thus leaving the head of the brad standing a little above the lid. Then the shank of the brad may be caught in the notch 4 of the chisel and the brad drawn out, whereupon the lid may be lifted. When the box has become empty or at any other desired time, the tool may be used again as a hammer for driving in the brad 13, so as to resecure the lid.

In the modification shown at Fig. 2 the cutter 7^a is in the form of a thin plate, which is secured upon the thick portion 5 of the tool by one or more rivets 14.

In the operations of cutting the paper at the joints the flat chisel-like portion 3 serves as a guide for the insertion of the cutter. The distance across between the edge of the cutter and inner face of the chisel being equal to the thickness of the wood of which the box is composed or substantially equal it will be seen that when the portion 3 is laid flat against either the end or the lid of the box the cutting edge of the knife is caused to coincide with the joint to be slit, and hence the proper line is located at once, thus effecting a saving in time and avoiding several of the objections hereinbefore alluded to. Moreover, the part 3 if kept pressed against the sides operates as a flange to maintain the cutter in true working position during the cutting movement of the tool. Thus it will be seen that by means of an inexpensively-manufactured and conveniently-used tool the box may be expeditiously and neatly opened without possibility of injuring its contents or mutilating the ornamental flap which covers the cigars or marring the wood of the box and without danger of cutting the fingers.

The entire tool is preferably made of a single piece of steel, as shown at Figs. 1 and 3;

but this is not essential, and various other changes may be made without departing from the gist of my improvements as defined in the following claims.

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

1. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, a paper-cutting blade, a flange opposite thereto serving as a guide to cause the blade to coincide with the joint to be slit, and means for limiting the insertion of the paper-cutting blade.

2. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, a paper-cutting blade, a lateral shoulder above the cutting edge of the blade, and a flange parallel with the paper-cutting blade.

3. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, means for prying open the lid, extending beyond the handle on one side, and a projecting cutting-blade on the opposite side of said handle parallel with said means for prying open the lid but of less length than the same.

4. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising the handle 1, the chisel 3 extending longitudinally thereof, the paper-cutting blade 7 parallel with said chisel, and the shoulder 6 intermediate the chisel and the paper-cutting blade.

5. A tool for opening cigar-boxes, comprising a handle having at one end both means for slitting the paper and means for prying the box-lid open, both said means extending longitudinally of the handle and arranged on opposite sides thereof, and the slitting means being arranged back of the means for prying open the lid.

6. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, a chisel for raising the lid, a separate paper-cutting blade, and means for preventing the cutting edge of the latter from entering the interior of the box.

7. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, a chisel for raising the lid, and a separate paper-cutting blade of less length than the thickness of the wood of the box.

8. A tool for opening cigar-boxes comprising a handle, a paper-cutting blade of less length than the thickness of the wood of the box, and means for mechanically determining the covered joints where the cuts are to be made in the edging papers or binders.

9. A tool for opening cigar-boxes, comprising a handle having at one end a quadrilateral portion 5, from one side of which projects a cutter 7 and from the opposite side of which projects a chisel 3.

Signed at Tampa, in the county of Hillsboro and State of Florida, this 5th day of March, A. D. 1901.

FRANCISCO R. DIAZ.

Witnesses:

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