

No. 773,782.

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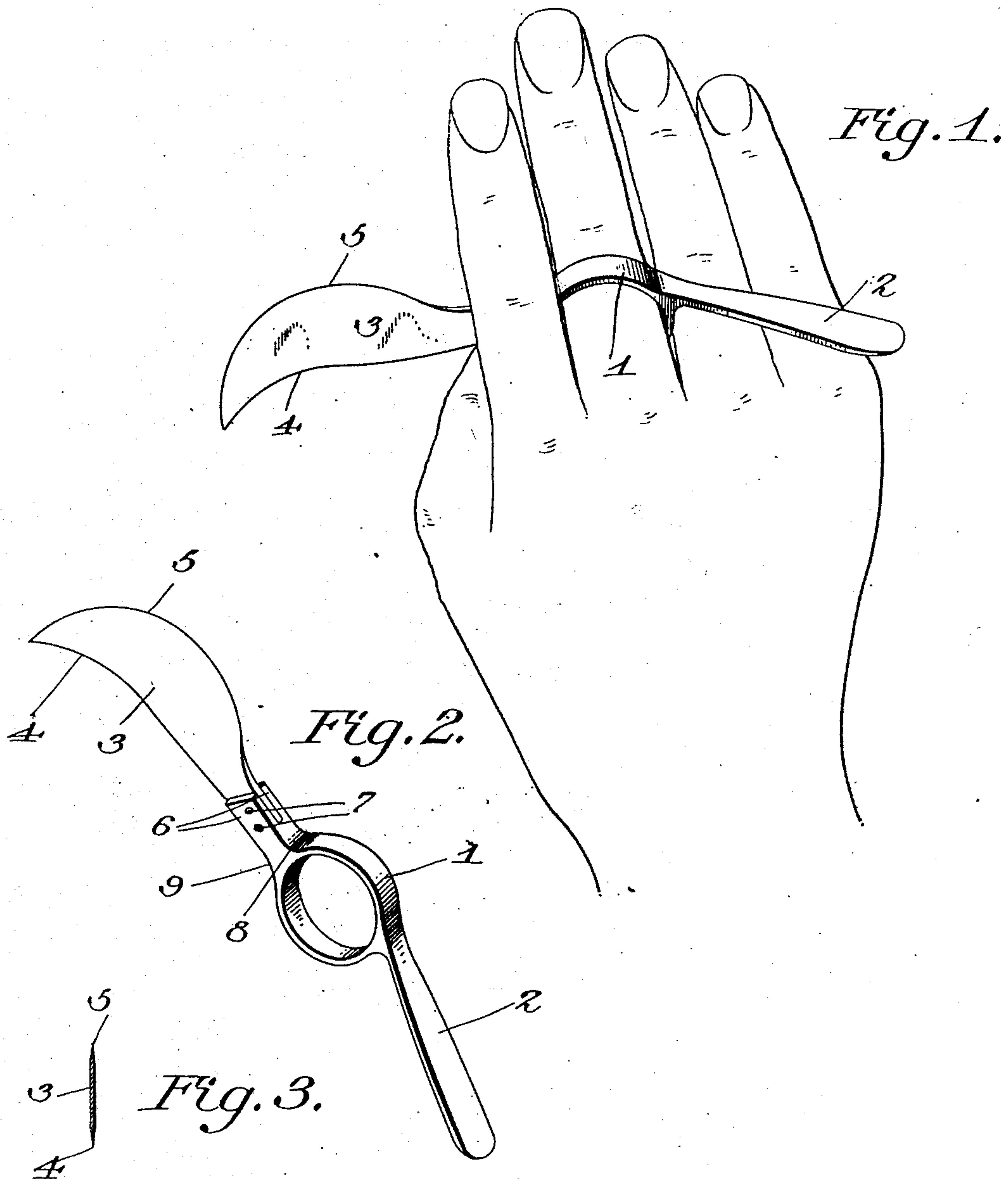
PATENTED NOV. 1, 1904.

S. C. BROWN, JR.

KNIFE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 13, 1904.

NO MODEL.



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Witnesses  
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No. 773,782.

Patented November 1, 1904.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL CLEVINGER BROWN, JR., OF FLORENCE, NEW JERSEY.

## KNIFE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 773,782, dated November 1, 1904.

Application filed May 13, 1904. Serial No. 207,809. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL CLEVINGER BROWN, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Florence, in the county of Burlington and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Knife, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to knives such as are employed for cutting fruit and the like from trees. As generally constructed, these fruit-knives are adapted to be held in the hand only in one particular manner and to be used generally upon but one particular kind of fruit. By reason of these facts the hand of the operator becomes tired and cramped after a day's labor and he is unable to work as rapidly as though his hand were not cramped. Furthermore, the field of usefulness of the knife is circumscribed by the fact that it is adapted conveniently to be employed for but one kind of work.

One object of the present invention is to improve the shape and construction of fruit-knives by adapting them to be held in various ways in the hand and to be reversed readily for performing different kinds of work and for preventing the hand from becoming cramped or tired.

Further objects of the invention are to simplify and improve the construction of fruit-knives.

With these objects in view the invention resides in a fruit-knife formed with a central ring to receive one of the fingers of either the right or left hand, a crescent-shaped cutting-blade extending at a tangent from one side of the finger-receiving ring, and a straight handle extending at a tangent from the opposite side of the ring.

The invention also resides in the particular arrangement of parts and in the precise details of construction hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the manner of holding the knife in the hand. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the knife. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the blade.

The improved fruit-knife comprises a central ring 1, adapted to receive either the middle

or index finger of the hand to perform various kinds of work and also to prevent the hand of the operator from becoming tired or cramped. Extending off from one side of the ring 1, at a tangent thereto, is a straight handle 2, adapted either to fit along the back of the third and fourth fingers or else into the palm of the hand when the knife is reversed, as will be described hereinafter. An approximately crescent-shaped blade 3 extends off from the ring 1 at a tangent thereto on the side opposite to the handle 2. The blade 3 is sharpened preferably along the inner or concave portion 4 of the crescent, although it will be apparent that the convex portion 5 of the blade may be sharpened also, if desired, to perform certain kinds of work.

It will be observed that the handle 2 is straight and flat and that the line of its breadth or flatness is at a right angle to the line of breadth of the blade 3. This construction of handle is adapted to lie closely and easily against the back of the third and fourth fingers of the hand, as will be described hereinafter.

In manufacturing the improved fruit-knife the ring 1 and the handle 2 preferably are cast in one piece, a pair of integral jaws 6 being formed upon the opposite side of the ring to receive between them the steel blade 3, which is held securely in position by the rivets 7. This method of constructing the improved knife is simple and inexpensive. Furthermore, the knife thus produced is neat and compact in appearance and light, strong, durable, and effective in use.

The manner of holding the improved knife is varied according to the different kinds of work which it is desired to perform. In cutting certain kinds of vegetables or fruit—such, for instance, as egg-plant or grapes—it is preferable to insert the middle finger through the ring 1, so that the handle 2 will extend across the back of the third and fourth fingers, and the index-finger will rest in the notch marked 8, the thumb bearing against the portion marked 9. It will be observed that the jaws 6 6, with the tang of the blade held therebetween by means of the rivets 7, form a broad flat bearing-surface for the



thumb on one side and the index finger on the other.

When the improved knife is to be used for other purposes than severing fruit—such, for example, as cutting the bands or wisps which bind together sheaves of wheat—it is reversed in the hand and the index-finger is passed through the ring 1, the thumb bearing against the notch marked 8 and the handle of the knife extending across the inside of the third and fourth fingers.

From the foregoing explanation it will be apparent that the improved knife is adapted to perform various kinds of work and that it can be held in different positions within the hand, whereby it is prevented from cramping the hand during a long day's labor, as the ring can be removed from the middle finger and placed over the forefinger even while the knife is being employed to cut egg-plants or grapes.

In its novel arrangement of parts and in its precise details of construction the knife presents an improvement over prior devices of a similar character.

It will be observed that the improved knife of this invention is formed with four distinct finger-receiving portions or surfaces—that is to say, the handle forms a bearing for two of the fingers, the ring forms a bearing for another, one side of the broad portion adjacent to the tang of the blade forms a bearing for the index-finger, and the opposite side thereof forms a bearing for the thumb. When the middle finger extends through the ring, the handle of the knife may be drawn

closely against the back of the third and fourth fingers, and the broad portion adjacent to the tang may be braced tightly against the thumb, whereby the knife is held securely in the proper position.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is—

1. A device of the class described including a ring having finger-supporting members extending in opposite directions therefrom, and a blade extending from one of said members and having its cutting edge disposed in the plane of the ring.

2. A device of the class described including a ring having finger-supporting members extending tangentially in opposite directions therefrom, one of said members carrying a blade the cutting edge of which is farther extended tangentially and is disposed in the plane of the ring.

3. In a device of the class described, a ring, a handle extending at a tangent from one side of said ring, a pair of jaws spaced apart and extending at a tangent from the opposite side of the ring, and a blade secured between said jaws, disposed with its cutting edge in the plane of the ring, and extending in a direction opposite to the handle.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL CLEVINGER BROWN, JR.

Witnesses:

WM. M. R. BROWN,  
CHARLES H. PATTERSON.