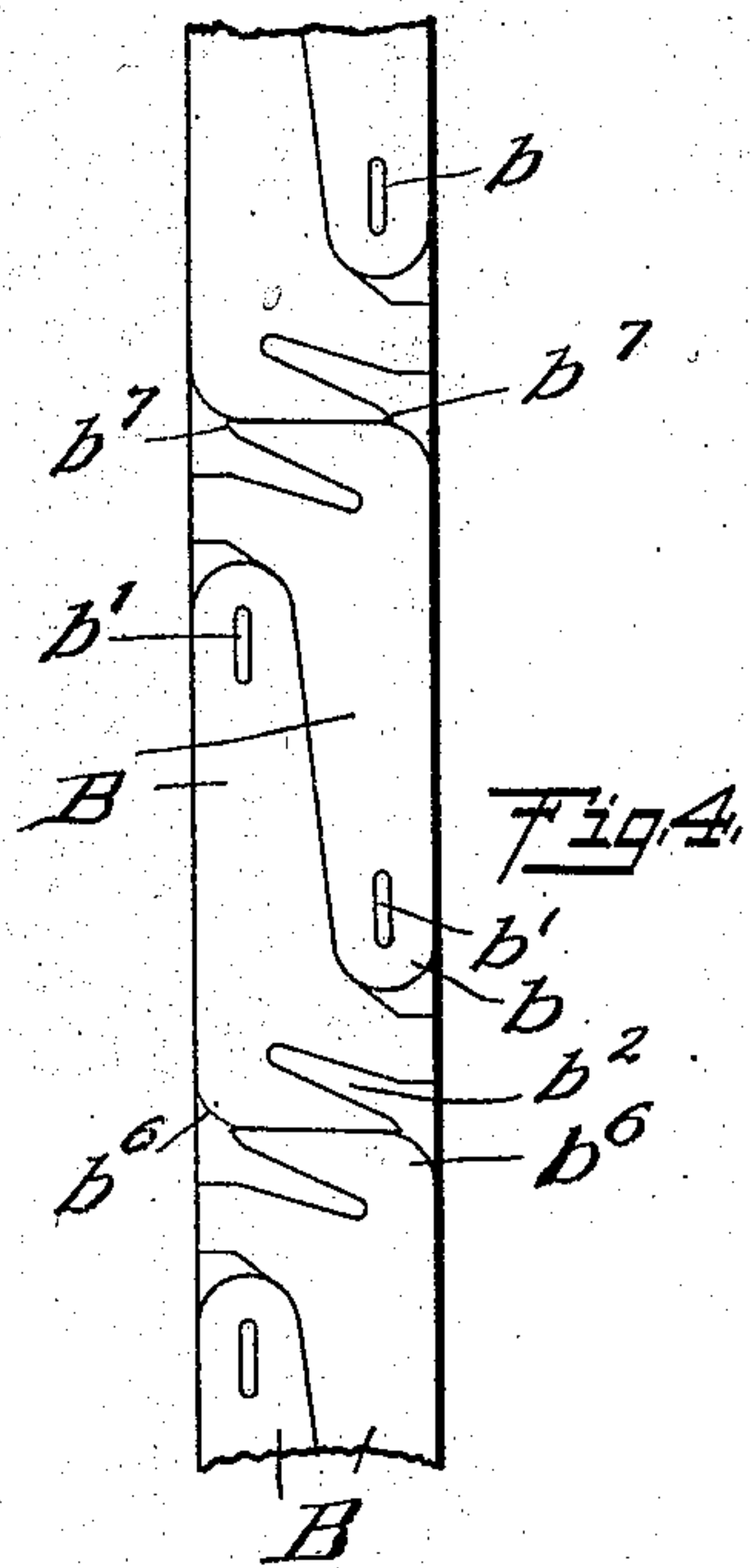
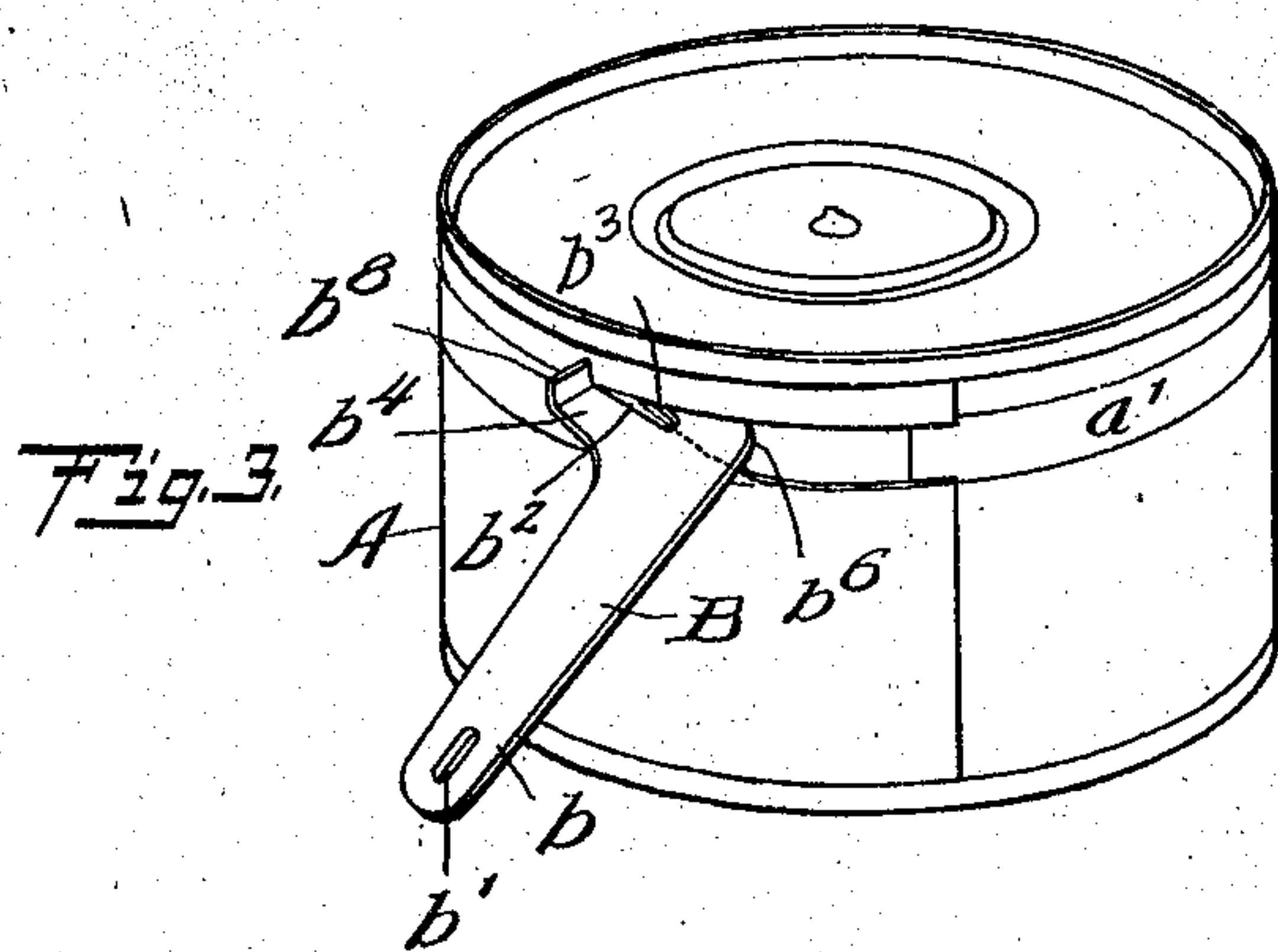
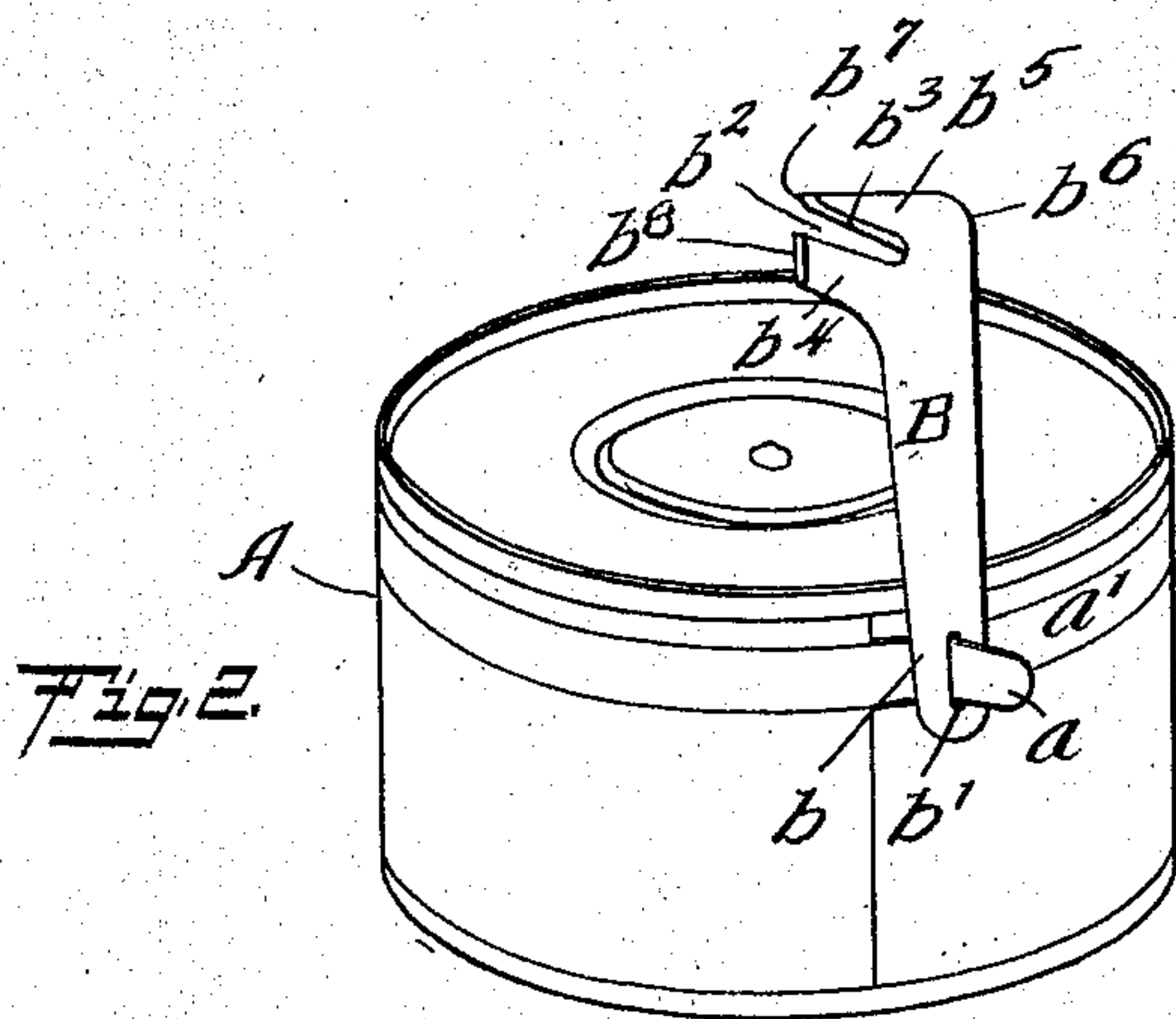
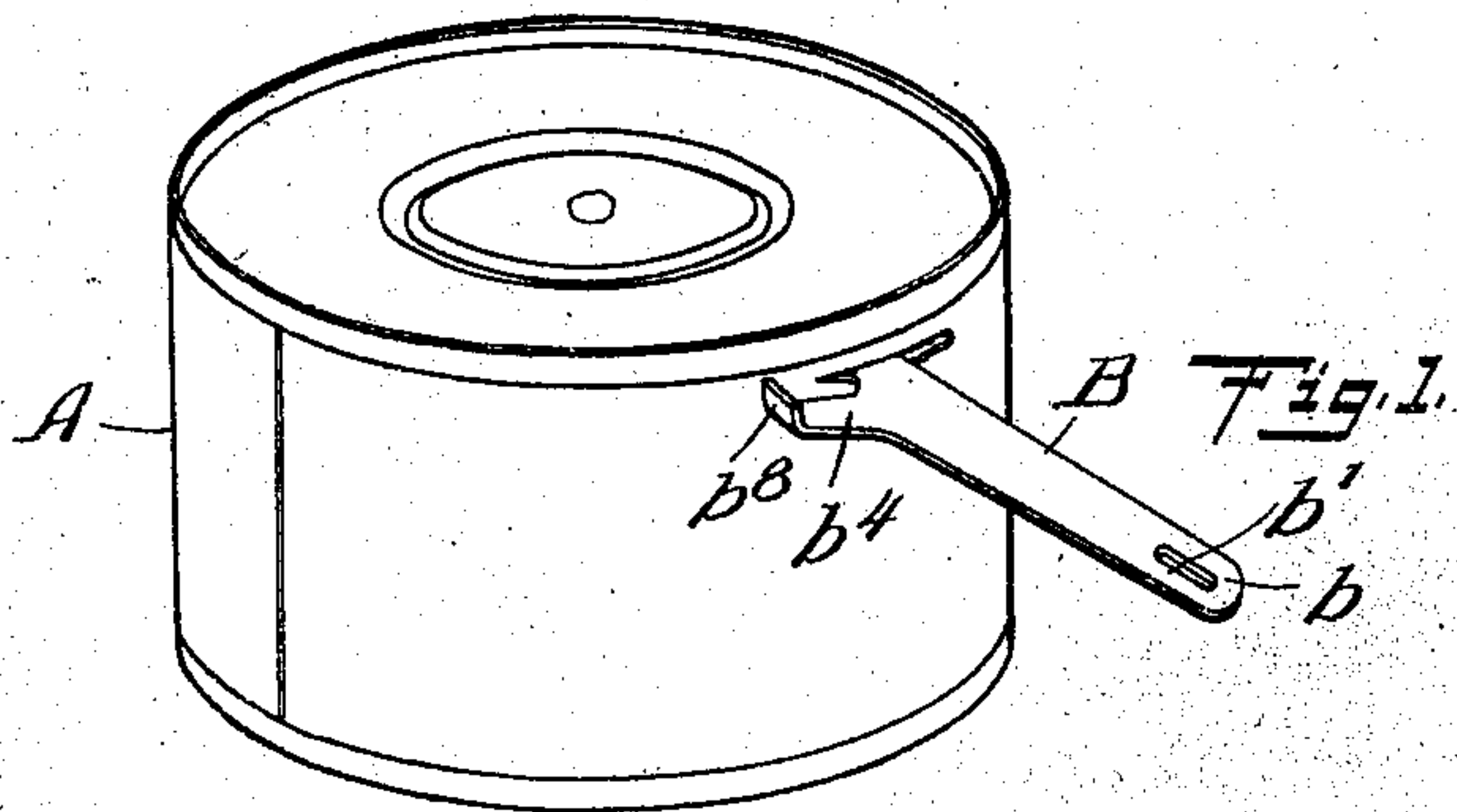


No. 815,477.

PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

L. C. SHARP.  
CAN OPENER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 30, 1905.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LEE C. SHARP, OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA, ASSIGNOR TO AMERICAN CAN COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

## CAN-OPENER.

No. 815,477.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed September 30, 1905. Serial No. 280,744.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LEE C. SHARP, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Omaha, in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Can-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to can-openers and can-opening keys.

10 The object of my invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive instrument which may be given away with each and every can, the same as has heretofore been the practice in respect to the ordinary wire keys commonly  
15 furnished with key-opening or tongued tearing-strip cans and which will serve not only as a key for opening the can by winding the rip-strip thereon, but also as a can-opener in case the rip-strip should break or run out in  
20 the winding operation and which may also serve to open cans having no rip-strips or tongued tearing-strips. In the ordinary tongued tearing-strip cans such as are opened by wire keys heretofore in use it frequently  
25 happens that the rip-strip is only torn for a short distance, when it breaks or runs out, leaving the can only partially opened, and in such cases the ordinary wire keys afford no means for completing the opening of the can.

30 My invention consists in the means I employ and herein shown and described for practically accomplishing this object or result, and more particularly specified in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a combined can-opener and key embodying my invention and showing the same partly inserted through the body of the can for use as a can-opener. Fig. 2 is a  
40 similar view illustrating the operation of the invention as a key for opening the can by winding a tongued tearing-strip around the same. Fig. 3 is a similar view illustrating the operation of my combined can-opener and key in completing the operation of opening the can after the rip-strip has been broken off or run out in the attempt to open the can by means of the rip-strip. Fig. 4 is a diagram view illustrating the operation of  
50 stamping out my combined can-openers and keys from a strip of sheet-steel without material waste, it being one of the necessary conditions for practically accomplishing the result which is the object of my invention that

the combined tool be capable of being very 55 cheaply manufactured, as otherwise it would be impractical to furnish one with each can the same as is done with the ordinary wire keys heretofore in use.

In the drawings, A represents a sheet-metal can, and B is my combined can-opener and key. 60

My combined can-opener and key is stamped out of thin sheet-steel and comprises a shank or handle portion *b*, furnished 65 with a slot *b'* at its end adapted to receive the tongue *a* of the rip-strip *a'* of the can A, so that the rip-strip may be wound around the key and the can thus opened, the same as with the ordinary wire keys heretofore so  
70 generally and universally in use for this purpose. At its opposite end my combination can-opener and key is furnished with a diagonally-extending slot *b<sup>2</sup>*, forming a cutting edge *b<sup>3</sup>*, and two forks *b<sup>4</sup>* *b<sup>5</sup>*, the outer fork *b<sup>5</sup>* 75 having a rounded heel *b<sup>6</sup>* and terminating in a sharp point *b<sup>7</sup>*, adapted to be readily inserted through the sheet metal of the can. The inner fork *b<sup>4</sup>* has an angle flange or guide  
80 *b<sup>8</sup>*, preferably turned at right angles to the plane of the sheet-steel opener B and adapted to bear against the metal of the can in advance of the point thereof engaged by the cutting edge when the device is used as a can-opener or cutting instrument for opening the  
85 can. The inner arm or fork *b<sup>4</sup>* and its flange *b<sup>8</sup>* by its engagement with the can adjacent to the point where the cutting is being done serves as a fulcrum when the implement B is given a rocking movement in the direction of  
90 its plane, and thus causes the cutting edge *b<sup>3</sup>* to be drawn across the sheet metal of the can at the point where it is being cut, and thus causes it to be readily severed.

As will be seen from Fig. 4, my combined 95 sheet-steel can-opener may be readily cut from sheet-steel without material waste, thus enabling the same to be readily and cheaply manufactured and at very slight cost over the cost of the sheet-steel itself by the pound. 100

My combined can-opener and key being thin and flat may be conveniently applied to each can and laid flat against either the top or bottom head of the can and held in place by pasting the label over it, or, if preferred, 105 it may be applied to the can by inserting the tongue of the tearing-strip through the slot *b'* and giving the tongue a fold, the same as



is usually done in the case of wire keys heretofore in use. My improved can-opener and key being also flat in shape, its flat surface may be utilized to advantage, if desired, as a  
5 space for receiving brands, names, trademarks, or other advertising matter stamped thereon.

My improved can-opener and key may thus be used like an ordinary key for opening  
10 cans which are furnished with tearing-strips and also as an ordinary can-opener in opening cans having no tearing-strip or in which the tearing-strip breaks off and fails to open the can in the winding operation.

15 I claim—

1. The sheet-steel combined can-opener and key herein shown and described, and comprising a handle or shank portion *b*, furnished with a tongue-receiving slot *b'* at one  
20 end, and provided at its other end with a diagonal slot forming two forks, the outer of which is furnished with a cutting edge, a sharp point and rounded heel, and the inner of which forks is provided with an angle-  
25 flange to serve as a fulcrum, substantially as specified.

2. A sheet-steel combined can-opener and key provided with a slot at one end to engage a tearing-strip tongue, and furnished at its other end with two forks separated by a diagonal slot, the outer fork having a cutting  
30 edge and the inner fork serving as a fulcrum to engage the can, and cause the cutting edge on the other fork to be drawn across the stock as the device is given a rocking and forward movement, substantially as specified. 35

3. A combination can-opener consisting of one piece of sheet-steel, provided at one end with a slot to engage a tearing-strip tongue, and provided at its other end with a narrow  
40 diagonally-slotted cutting edge terminating in a point adapted to be easily forced through the sheet metal of the can, said opener being fulcrumed and disposed to operate at right angles to the can and by a slight rocking and  
45 forward movement to sever the tin, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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