

No. 882,151.

PATENTED MAR. 17, 1908.

A. KOEPPEN.
KITCHEN UTENSIL.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 15, 1907.

Fig. 1.

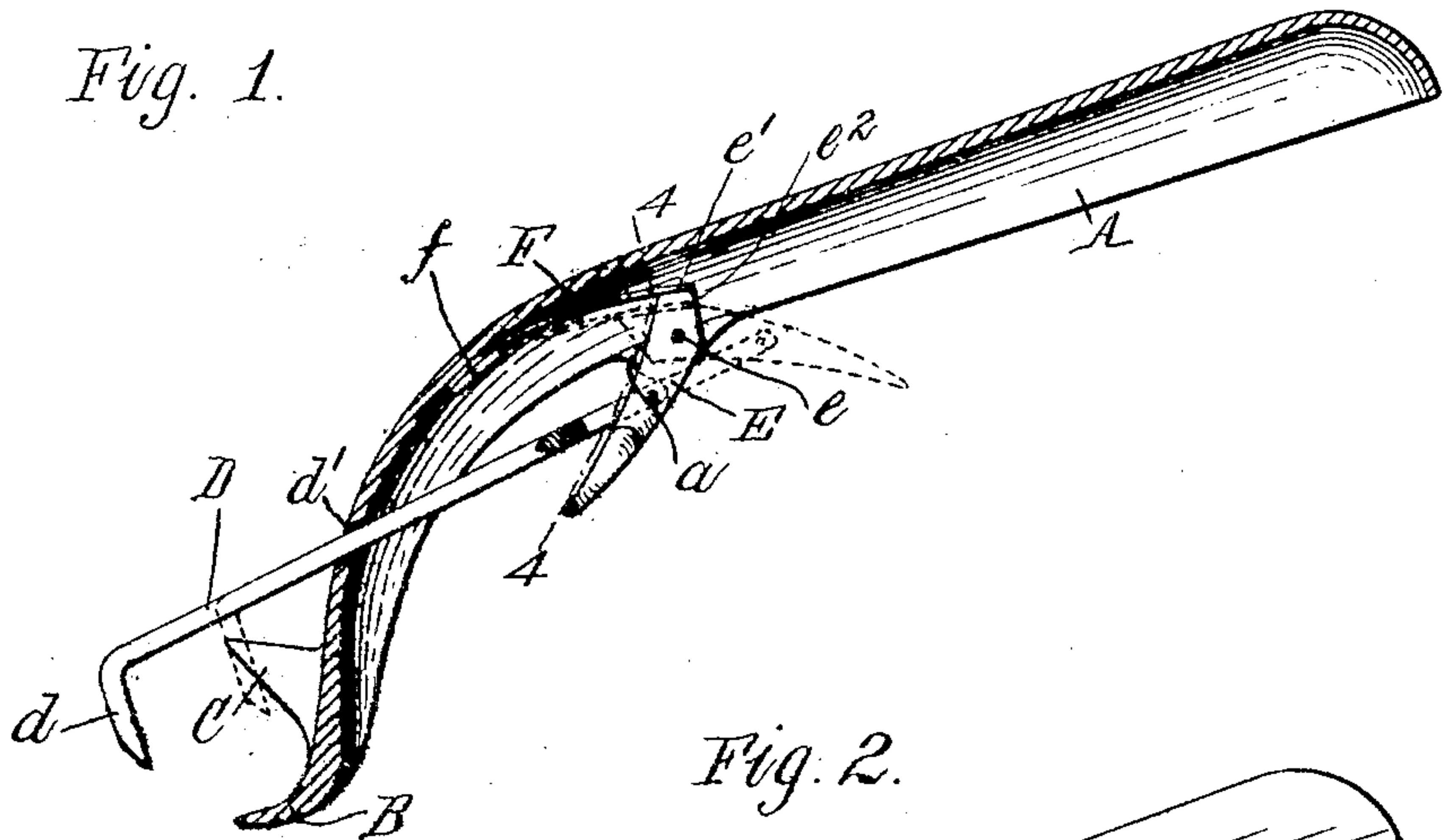


Fig. 2.

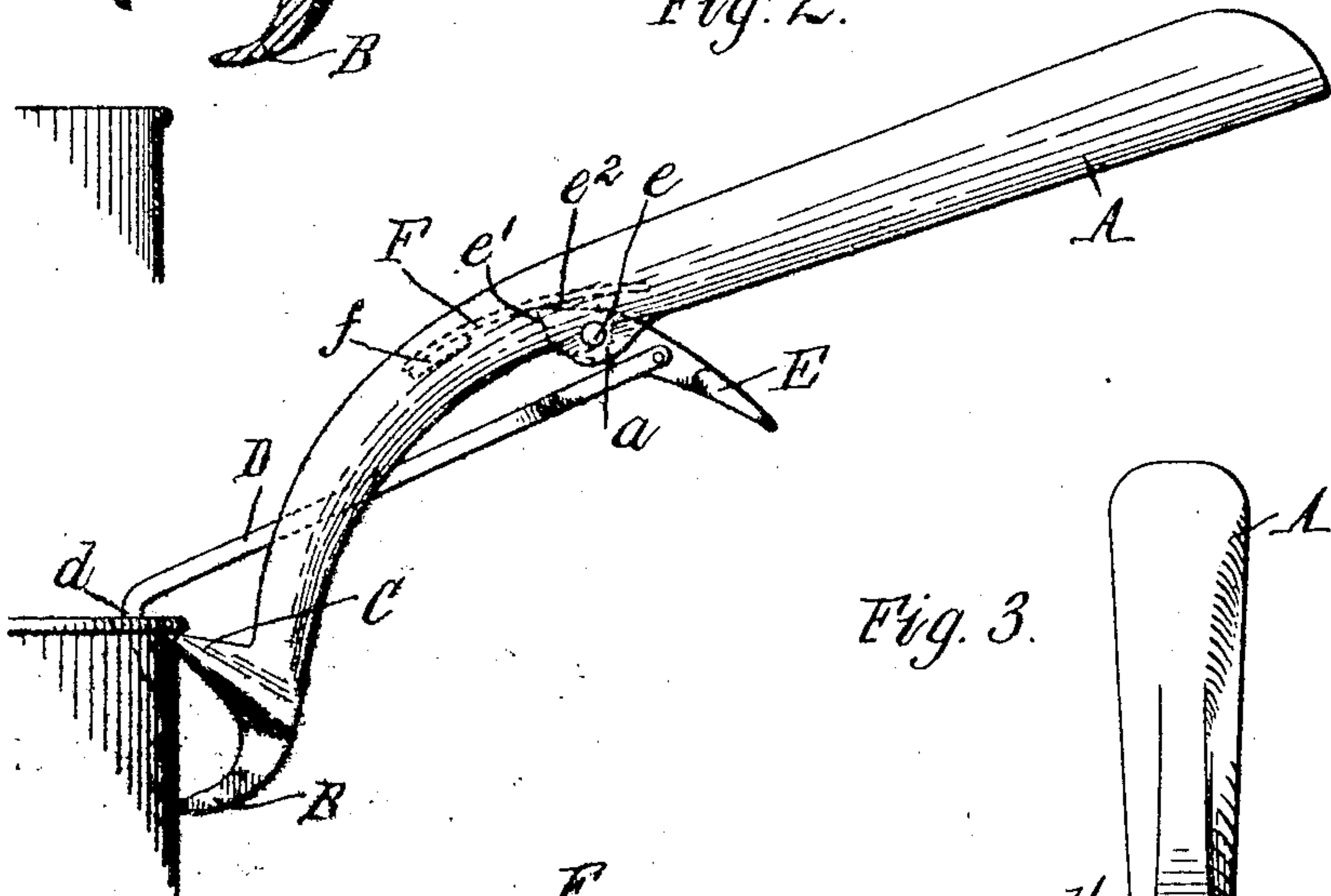


Fig. 3.

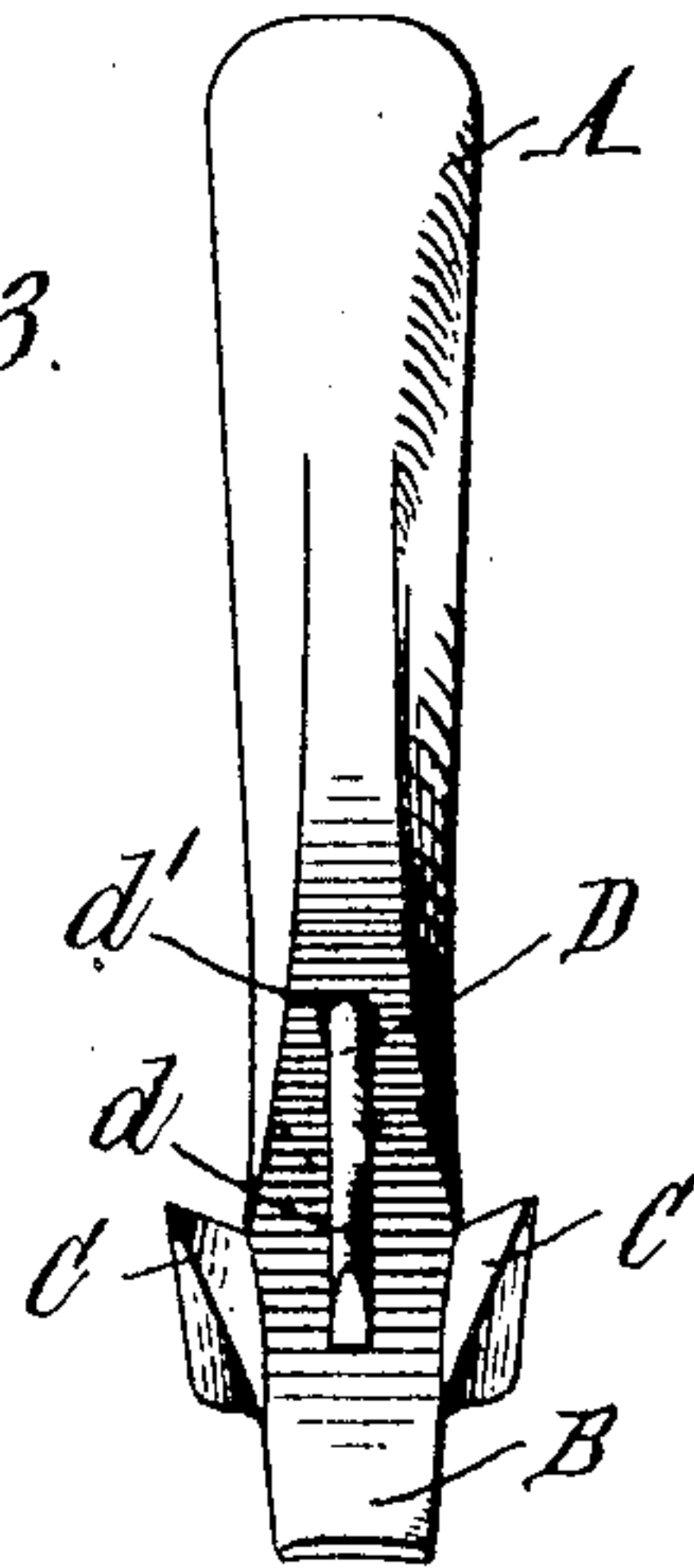
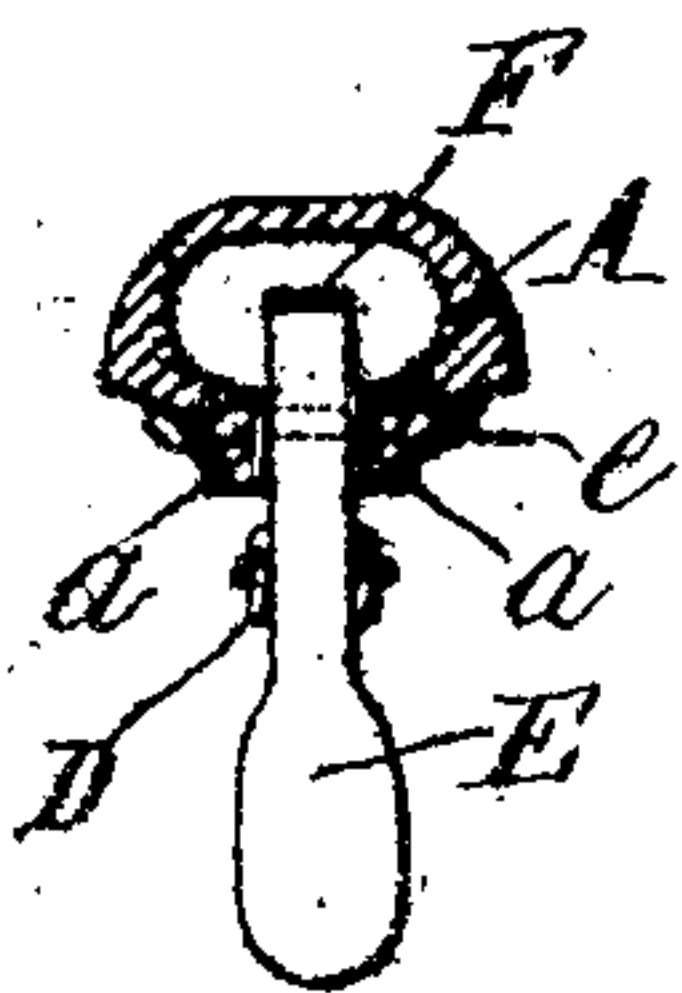


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
A. P. Diamond
E. A. Volk.

Inventor:
Albert Koepfen
By Wilhelm, Parker & Hard,
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT KOEPPEN, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

KITCHEN UTENSIL.

No. 882,151.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT KOEPPEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Kitchen Utensils, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates more particularly to combined stove-lid or griddle and utensil lifters.

The object of the invention is to provide a combined lifter of this character of simple and inexpensive construction, similar in general appearance to the well known stove-lid or griddle lifter, and which can be used for lifting cooking utensils of various shapes and sizes, the device being so constructed that the utensil can be firmly grasped and held between the clamping jaws of the lifter and moved or lifted whether or not such utensil is provided with the usual edge bead or flange.

A further object of the invention is to so construct the lifter that the movable clamping rod, when not in use, will remain in its retracted position, close to the body of the lifter, so as not to interfere with the use of the device for lifting lids or griddles, and when extended to be applied to a utensil, will tend to remain in such extended position so that the lifter can be readily engaged with the side of the utensil preparatory to lifting the same.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a combined stove-lid and utensil lifter embodying the invention, showing by solid lines the clamping rod extended ready to be applied to the side of a utensil, and by broken lines the retracted position of the clamping rod. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the lifter in lifting position, on the side of a utensil. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the lifter. Fig. 4 is a cross section of the same, in line 4—4, Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several figures.

A represents the handle or body of the combined stove-lid and utensil lifter, provided with a downwardly curved portion at the end of which is a projection or foot B adapted to engage with the usual lugs on the stove-lids or griddles for lifting the same. The foot B corresponds in size and shape to the foot of the ordinary stovelid lifters. Stationary lugs or jaws C C project upwardly and forwardly from the curved portion of the

handle A, at opposite sides thereof and a short distance above the foot B. The jaws are preferably of the triangular shape shown and diverge or flare apart upwardly somewhat, as shown in Fig. 3.

D represents a movable clamping rod provided at its outer or front end with a hook or clamping jaw *d* which is adapted to engage the inner side of a utensil and clamp the same against the stationary jaws C C. This clamping rod D passes loosely through a hole *d'* in the handle A which acts as a guide for the same, and is pivotally connected at its inner end to an operating lever E which in turn is pivoted at the underside of the handle A on a pin or rivet *e* connecting lugs *a a* depending from opposite sides of the handle, or in any other suitable manner. The outer end of the lever has a flat finger portion adapted to be engaged by the fore-finger of the hand grasping the handle of the lifter, for operating the lever. The inner end of the lever preferably extends beyond the pivot and is provided with flat or cam end faces *e'* and *e''*, see Fig. 1, arranged at an angle to each other. A flat spring F is secured to the under-side of the handle A by lugs *f*, or in any other desired manner, and its free end bears against one or the other of these end faces *e'* and *e''* of the lever E. The angle of the two faces to each other is such that when the lever E is in position to hold the clamping rod D in its retracted position, the spring F bears flat against the end face *e''*, as shown in broken lines in Fig. 1, and when the lever is moved to advance the clamping rod to its extended position, the spring in turn bears flat against the other end face *e'*, as shown in solid lines in Fig. 1. By this means the movable clamping rod or jaw is held stationary in either position. The pressure of the spring, however while normally holding the lever in either its forward or rearward position, is not sufficient to interfere with the ready movement thereof in either direction when pressure is applied to the finger portion of the lever arm.

In using the device for lifting pans, dishes, or other utensils, the finger lever is advanced to move the clamping jaw into its forward position, where it is held by the spring F. The lifter is then placed in position over the edge of the utensil to be lifted in such a manner that the movable clamping jaw *d* extends downwardly within the dish while the foot B and the lugs C C rest against the

outer side thereof. The finger lever E is then operated to move the clamping rod D to clamp the side of the dish firmly between the movable jaw d and the stationary jaws C C. The utensil can then be readily lifted, the foot B resting against the side of the same below the stationary jaws and forming a fulcrum point for the handle of the lifter.

If the utensil is provided with a bead or flange, the holder is placed so that the stationary jaws C C will engage the side of the utensil directly beneath this flange, thus obtaining a firm grip and avoiding the danger of the lugs slipping from the side. Such a rim or flange, however, is not necessary for the operation of the device for the reason that, as the stationary jaws C C are spaced apart and the movable jaw bears on the wall of the utensil between the vertical planes of the stationary jaws and above the foot B, a four point engagement of the lifter with the utensil is secured, giving a very firm and reliable grip for lifting the utensil. In such a case, it is necessary to exert a somewhat greater force on the finger lever E in order that the side of the utensil may be gripped firmly, and it is also advisable that the stationary jaws C C should engage the side of the utensil as far below the upper edge thereof as the clamping rod will permit, to prevent the jaws from slipping over the edge of the utensil in case sufficient force should not be at first applied to the clamping finger lever to hold the utensil firmly. By the four point contact of the jaws and foot of the lifter with the utensil a firm grip is obtained without the pinching and bending of the metal, which frequently results when the side of the utensil is clamped between directly opposing arms, and the utensil cannot rock or tilt sidewise between the clamping jaws.

The lifter is of simple and compact con-

struction. The handle with its lid-lifting foot and jaws C C can be cast in one piece and the lever and clamping rod can be made and secured thereto with comparatively little work, so that the lifter can be cheaply and economically manufactured.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a combined lid and utensil lifter, a shank having at its end a lid-engaging foot, spaced opposite lugs projecting upwardly from said shank in the rear of and spaced from said foot whereby a stationary utensil-engaging jaw is provided having three bearing points, and a jaw member movably mounted on said shank and having an engaging part opposed to said stationary jaw at a point between its three bearing points, substantially as set forth.

2. In a lifter of the character described, a shank having a downwardly-extending portion provided at its end with a lid-engaging foot, spaced opposite lugs projecting upwardly from said downwardly-extending portion of said shank in the rear of and spaced from said foot whereby a stationary utensil-engaging jaw is provided having three bearing points, a clamping rod having a sliding bearing on said downwardly-extending portion of said shank and extending beyond the same, a utensil-engaging jaw on the forward end of said rod in advance of and opposed to said stationary jaw at a point between its three bearing points, and means at the rear end of said rod for operating the same, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand, this 12th day of April, 1907.

ALBERT KOEPPEN.

Witnesses:

A. G. DIMOND,
E. C. HARD.