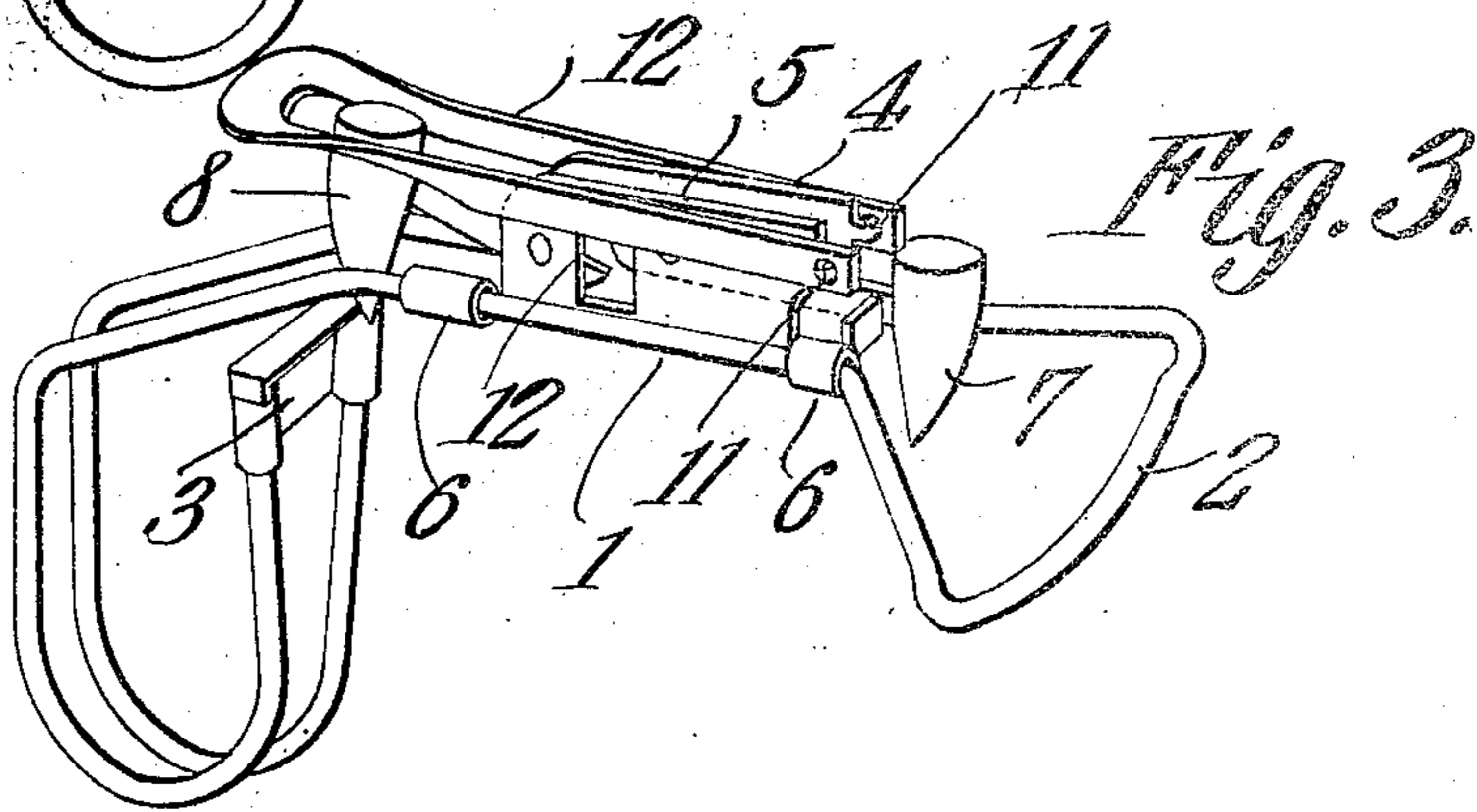
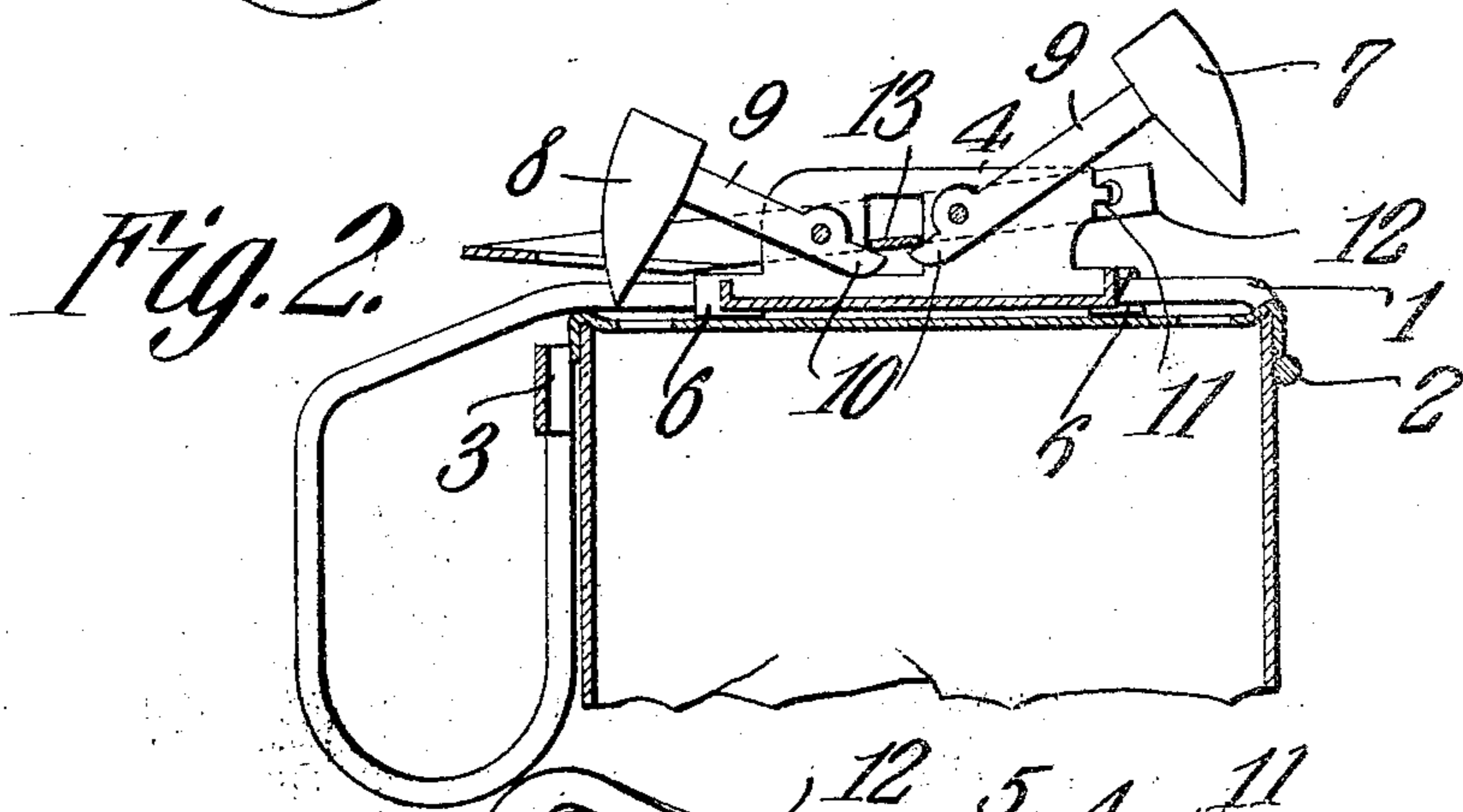
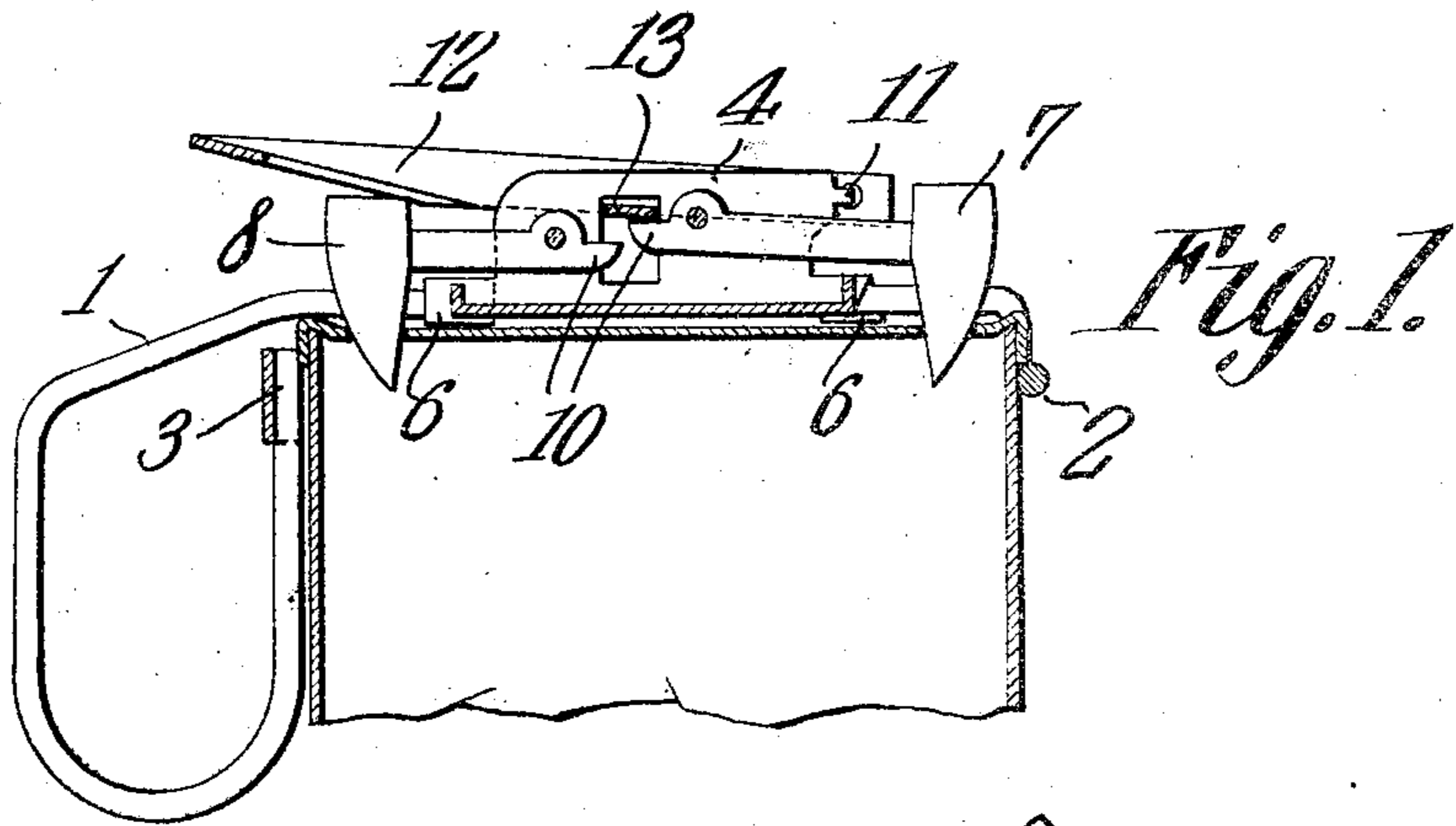


J. M. EARLY.  
 DEVICE FOR TAPPING CANS.  
 APPLICATION FILED FEB. 14, 1908.

917,268.

Patented Apr. 6, 1909.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES MADISON EARLY, OF GOLDFIELD, NEVADA.

## DEVICE FOR TAPPING CANS.

No. 917,268.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 6, 1909.

Application filed February 14, 1908. Serial No. 415,843.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES MADISON EARLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Goldfield, in the county of Esmeralda and State of Nevada, have invented a new and useful Device for Tapping Cans, of which the following is a specification.

This device relates to can tappers, and is intended for use with cans containing liquids, and such other substances that can be taken from the can without removing the top covering.

It is particularly adapted for use with cans containing cream, condensed milk, syrup, and the like. The cans containing these products are generally sealed, and since but a portion of their contents is used at a time, it has been found that the best results are obtained by perforating the head. This method keeps the contents cleaner and in a better condition than if the entire head were removed. However, the perforating method, while reducing the danger of outside matter entering the can, does not by any means eliminate it.

The present invention is designed to overcome this defect by providing a device to be fastened on top of the can which will perform the double function of perforating the can with vent and flow openings, and to automatically close these openings when the can is not in use, thereby positively preventing the entrance of dust, flies, ants, or the like.

With these and other objects in view, as will more fully hereinafter appear, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportions, size and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a sectional view of the device applied to a milk can, showing the method of closing the apertures in the head. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same showing the position of the parts when the can is in use or the contents about to be removed. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device.

Similar numerals of reference are em-

ployed to indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

The clamping member 1 is formed preferably of a single piece of spring wire immediately bent to form the head 2 and the remainder extending rearwardly from the head forming parallel sides which lie across the top of the can and project beyond, then bent at right angles and curved downwardly and upwardly, forming a U-shaped handle, the ends terminating in a boss 3 which is designed to rest against the head of the can diametrically opposite the head 2. The function of the U-shaped handle is to render the device adjustable to different diameters of cans.

The frame plates 4 and 5 are secured to the clamping member preferably by integral collars 6 formed on the lower ends of the plates. The plates 4 and 5 form a frame in which the perforators are pivotally mounted. The latter are substantially maul shape with conical heads 7 and 8, one end of each head terminating in a sharp point and flat on the opposite end. The handles 9 of the perforators extend in the usual way from the head and adjacent their free ends are provided with openings into which are keyed suitable rods the ends of which are journaled in alining openings formed in the frame plates 4 and 5, the free ends of said handles facing each other and provided with shoulders 10.

Adjacent the upper end of each frame plate and diametrically opposite each other are lugs 11 projecting from the outer face of the frame at right angles. The lugs form the fulcrum for a lever formed of a sheet of metal bifurcated for the greater portion of its length, forming substantially the U-shaped device and having perforations adjacent the ends of the arms, accommodating the lugs formed on the frame plates. The arms of the lever embrace the frame and extend parallel with the sides and beyond the ends thereof for a distance sufficient to permit the perforator 8 to rise between the arms of the lever, as shown in Fig. 2. Disposed intermediate the arms of the lever 12 and secured thereto is a cross bar 13 of a length sufficient to overlies the shoulders 10 formed on the arms 9 of the perforators. The function of this cam is to rock the perforators on their pivots when the lever is forced downward and raise them from the openings in the head of the can to the position shown in Fig. 2. On the release of the

lever the perforators are lowered to the position shown in Fig. 1. When applying the device to a can the boss 3 is first placed against the side of the can and the head 2 forced over on the opposite side, the boss 3 yielding until the head 2 snaps over the opposite side. In this position the can is clamped between the head and boss, the parts occupying the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2, with the exception that the perforators are resting on the outer face of the can. The perforators are then forced through the head usually by hammering. When it is desired to use the contents of the can, the lever 12 is pressed downward, and the perforators raised, and when the required amount of substance has flowed from the can the lever is released and the parts return to their normal position. When the device is applied to a can the handle forms a convenient means by which the can as a whole may be raised and the contents poured after depressing the thumb piece 12 and opening the vent and pouring punctures.

I claim:—

1. A device for forming vent and flow openings in a can embodying a frame, puncture forming members pivotally mounted in said frame, and means for actuating said members to simultaneously open and seal said openings.

2. A can attachment comprising a handled clamping frame arranged to engage the top of the can, puncturing members mounted in said frame and arranged to form vent and flow openings in the can, and a thumb lever carried by the frame and adapted to actuate said members to open and seal said openings.

3. A device for forming vent and flow openings in a can embodying a frame, puncture forming members pivotally mounted in said frame a lever pivotally connected to said frame and provided with a means for actuat-

ing said members to open and seal said openings.

4. A can attachment comprising a clamping frame formed of spring wire one end of said frame being bent to form a handle that is yieldably held against the side of can, puncturing members carried by the frame, and a lever for actuating said members to open and seal the punctures.

5. A can attachment comprising a piece of spring wire centrally bent to form a loop for engagement with one side of a can, and a pair of parallel bars to extend across the top of the can, the wire being thence bent into approximately U-form to form a handle that is yieldably held against the opposite side of the can, puncturing members carried by the frame, and a lever for actuating said puncturing members.

6. In a device for forming vent and flow perforations in a can, a clamping device supporting a frame, a pair of perforating members independently mounted in said frame, a lever having a means thereon for simultaneously tripping the members.

7. In a device for forming vent and flow perforations in a can, an adjustable clamping member adapted to fit over the head of the can supporting a pair of frame plates secured thereto, a pair of independently mounted perforators mounted on pivots in said frame, a bifurcated lever secured to the frame and a cross bar carried by said lever adapted to simultaneously rock the perforating members on their pivots.

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

JAMES MADISON EARLY.

Witnesses:

C. W. BENTON,

J. E. C. WILLIAMS.