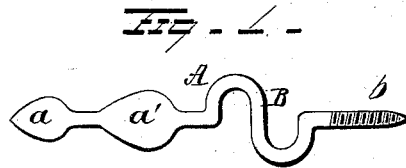


(No Model.)

J. R. STEPHENS.
BUTTON HOLE OPENER.

No. 383,021.

Patented May 15, 1888.



Witnesses.

P. S. Nottingham.
Geo. F. Downing

John R. Stephens. Inventor.

By *his Attorney* *W. A. Seymour.*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN RITTENHOUSE STEPHENS, OF PORTLAND, OREGON.

BUTTON-HOLE OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 383,021, dated May 15, 1888.

Application filed May 14, 1887. Serial No. 238,257. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN RITTENHOUSE STEPHENS, of Portland, in the county of Multnomah and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Button-Hole Openers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in button-hole openers, and is more particularly adapted for opening the button-holes of freshly-laundered collars and cuffs.

When collars and cuffs are returned from the laundry, there is a great difficulty experienced in opening the button-holes of same with the ordinary collar-button, while the separable or hinged button is equally as difficult to manage on account of the stiffness of the button-hole from starching.

The object of my present invention is to obviate this difficulty by providing a device for opening button-holes that will be simple, durable, and effective in use, be cheap, and capable of attachment to a wall or any article of furniture.

A further object is to provide a device that will fit button holes of different sizes, and one that can be carried around in the pocket; and with these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of my device provided with the double head adapted to fit button-holes of different sizes. Fig. 2 is a modification.

A represents a piece of stout wire provided at one end with a head, *a*, preferably conical in shape, and further provided with a second head, *a'*, formed on the body thereof, slightly larger than the former, adapted to fit button-holes of a larger size than those which the head *a* is adapted to fit. These heads *a* and *a'* are rounded on their bases, to prevent the catching in and tearing of the material when forced over the heads. The wire A terminates at its opposite end in screw-threads *b*, which are adapted to engage the wall or any article of

furniture and hold the punch securely against displacement.

The wire A is bent at its middle portion in such a manner that a bearing or handle, B, for the fingers will be formed, thereby allowing the device to be readily applied to a wall or article of furniture.

The punch as thus described is double-acting—that is, when the button-hole of the collar or cuff is forced over the head *a* the flaps of said button-hole are bent in one direction, while the reverse movement, or the operation of forcing or pulling it off, bends the flaps in the other direction. This operation has the effect of quickly and thoroughly breaking up the stiffness produced by the starch and renders the application to a collar-button easy.

In the modification, Fig. 2, I employ a piece of stout wire, A, having the conical-shaped head *a* formed on one end and terminating at its opposite end in a loop, *b*, by means of which the finger can be inserted and the device operated. This latter construction is especially adapted to be carried around in the pocket.

It will be readily seen what advantages this device possesses, inasmuch as it successfully opens button-holes made stiff by starching, and thereby saves great trouble and time in buttoning, which, taken in connection with the cheapness and durability of the device, makes it a staple article.

It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the form and arrangement of the several parts described. For instance, the heads may be elliptical, or any other form of head might be employed and other changes resorted to which would properly fall within the spirit and scope of my invention; hence I do not wish to limit myself strictly to the exact construction herein set forth.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, the button-hole opener having a pointed conical head rounded at its base, and a shank or handle, substantially as shown and described.

2. A device for opening button-holes, consisting, essentially, of a rod having tapering heads of different sizes at one end thereof, and a handle, substantially as set forth.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a device
for opening button - holes, consisting, essen-
tially, of a rod having an oval-shaped head at
one end and screw-threaded at its opposite end,
5 the screw-threaded end and head being in a
plane passing longitudinally through the rod,
the said rod being bent at a point between the
head and screw to form a handle, substantially
as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this to
specification in the presence of two subscribing
witnesses.

JOHN RITTENHOUSE STEPHENS.

Witnesses:

THEODORE WYGANT,
C. A. FREEMAN.