

C. W. BERGER.

Oyster-Knife.

No. 162,606.

Patented April 27, 1875.

Fig. 1.

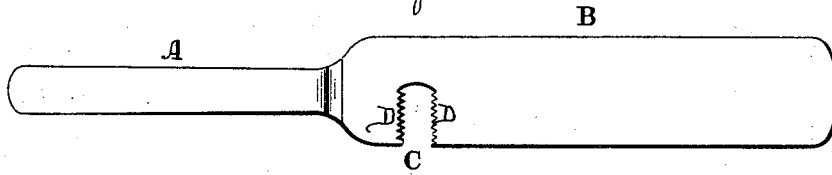


Fig. 2.

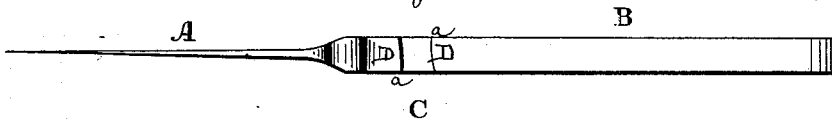
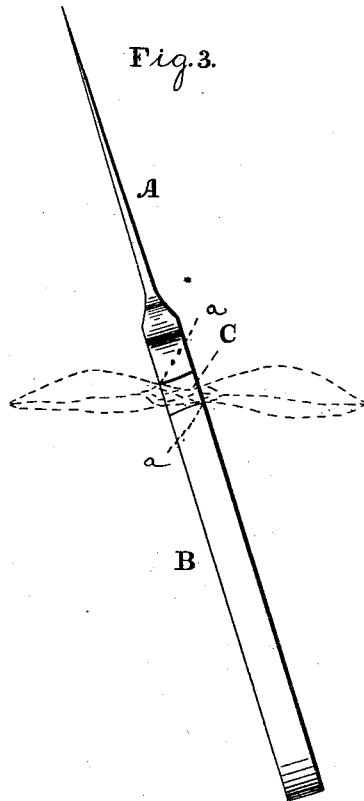


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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Inventor

Charles W. Berger.

by John A. Diederheim.

Att'y.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. BERGER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO  
EDWARD BRUNNER AND ABRAHAM B. CLARKE, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN OYSTER-KNIVES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **162,606**, dated April 27, 1875; application filed  
October 9, 1874.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. BERGER, of the city and county of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Oyster-Knives; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand, make, and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the device embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an end view thereof. Fig. 3 is a similar view of the knife in an operative position.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

It is well known that knives have been constructed to open oysters without the necessity of knocking or striking the same, or reversing the knife. My invention consists in serrated jaws formed in the handle of the knife, whereby the shell will be readily and quickly broken.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the blade of an oyster-knife, and B the handle thereof. In the handle B there is formed a notch or groove, C, which extends, preferably, transversely, and may exist at any point of the length of the handle, but, for purpose of greatest convenience, is arranged near the blade A. The groove C forms two jaws, D, whose faces are serrated.

The operation is as follows: The operator, grasping the handle B, as usual, presents it to the oyster held in the other hand, so that the mouth or forward edge of the shell is in the notch C. A turn of the knife laterally is now made (see Fig. 3) and the oyster, firmly held, will have its mouth or edge broken thereby, so that the blade A can be inserted in the notch C, after which the oyster may be opened, as usual.

It will be seen that the operator is not compelled to change the position of the knife, as in the old process of opening an oyster, wherein the knife is first held by the blade and the handle acts as a hammer, after which the knife is reversed to present the blade to the partially-opened shell. It will also be seen that, by my invention, the work can be performed most readily and quickly and without danger of cutting the hand of the operator.

The faces of the jaws may extend in somewhat of an inclined direction to form sharp cutting-edges *a* for insuring the breaking of the shell.

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

The oyster-knife having serrated jaws D in its handle, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES W. BERGER.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,  
A. P. GRANT.