C. OLSON.

FLY-TRAP.

No. 181,197. Patented Aug. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.

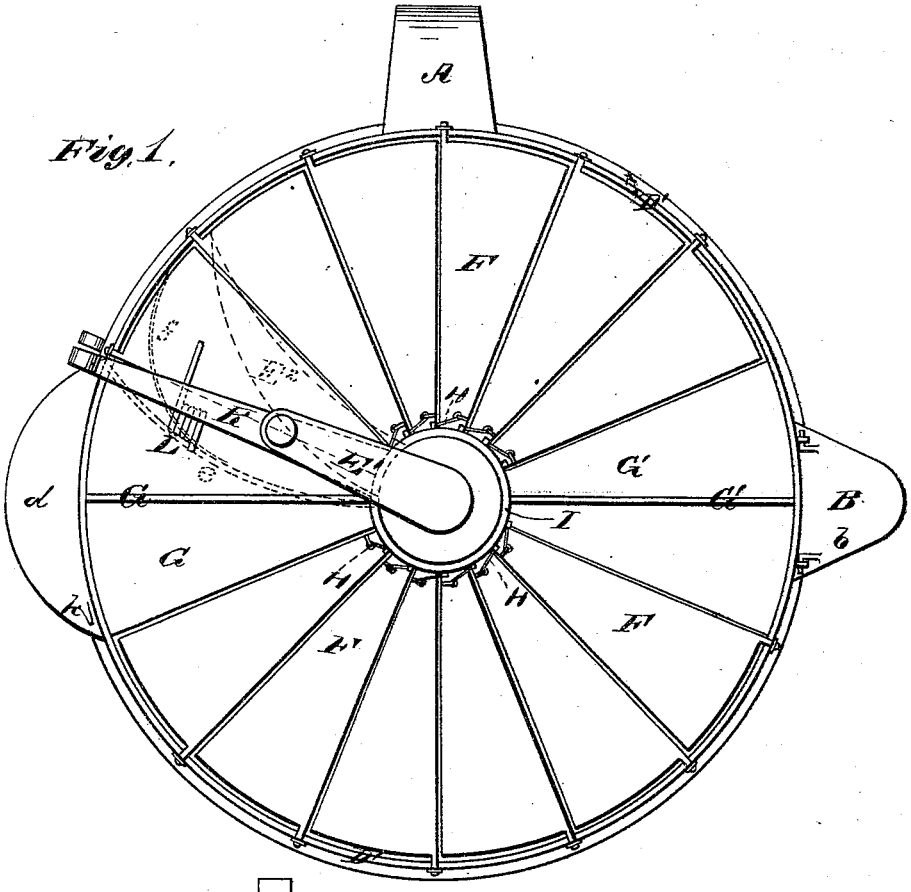
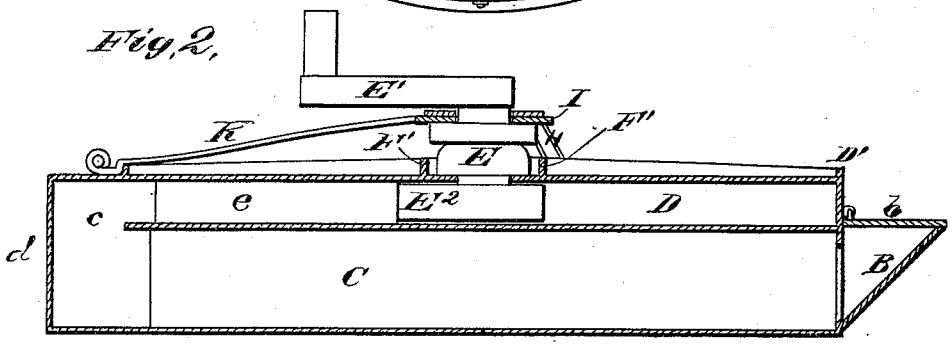


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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CHARLES OLSON, OF RED WING, MINNESOTA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FLY-TRAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,197**, dated August 15, 1876; application filed May 27, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES OLSON, of Red Wing, in the county of Goodhue and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fly-Traps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a plan view of my fly-trap, and Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical sectional view thereof.

My invention relates to traps for catching flies; and it consists in a series of connected flaring wings, which are adapted to be opened to admit flies, and to be closed after the flies are in the trap; and it also consists in devices which are adapted to sweep the flies out of the chamber where they enter, and to discharge them into the compartment containing the water, as hereinafter particularly described.

In the accompanying drawings, A designates the handle of the fly-trap, and B an entrance or spout, which has a cover. Entrance B communicates with the upper compartment D by means of an opening, *c*, on the inside of extension *d* of compartment C, which extension *d* rises as high as the top of upper compartment D, and is outside thereof. The opening *c* is closed by hinged plate or door *e*, that is provided with a rod or handle, *f*. E is a vertical shaft, which is oscillated by a crank, E^1, and provided with a horizontal sweep, E^2. This sweep E^2 is made to pass over the bottom of the upper compartment D, carrying with it the flies which have settled thereon, and sweeping them into the opening *c*, and thence into the water-chamber C below. When the plate or door *e* is open it forms a guide which assists in removing the flies. F F are pivoted flaring radial wings, journaled to annular flange D′ and fixed central ring F′. Plates F F ordinarily lie flat, and cover the top of the upper compartment, except so much as is covered by fixed plates G G′, which connect the side of the fly-trap to fixed central ring F′. The free edges of wings F F are connected by links H H to a ring, I, which is loose on shaft E, and is provided with an arm or lever, K. On fixed plate G is a stop, *k*, which is adapted to engage with the arm or lever K, when said arm is turned to the required point for opening the valves. On said plate G is also fixed a helical pressure-spring, L, which operates against the top of the first one of the hinged plates or valves F F, and tends to keep all of said plates flat, or to replace them in that condition.

The operation is as follows: Cover *b* is raised, and lower compartment C is supplied with water. Then lever K is turned until the hinged plates or valves F F all stand open, and said lever is made fast on one side of the stop *k*. The bottom of the upper compartment D is then supplied with molasses, sugar, or any other substance suitable for attracting flies. The trap is then ready for action. When a number of flies have entered the trap the lever-arm K is disengaged from stop *k*, and spring L will then close all the hinged valves or plates F F. I now turn crank E^1, which carries around the horizontal arm E^2, and thereby sweeps the flies through opening *c* into the lower compartment C, where they are drowned.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of hinged plates or valves F F, links H H, ring I, lever-arm K, stop *k*, and spring L, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a fly-trap, the combination of a top, adapted to be held open and automatically closed, with devices for sweeping out the flies, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES OLSON.

Witnesses:
CHAS. H. ALLYN,
L. HIGHAM.