

C. M. WILLIAMS.  
Can-Opener.

No. 198,959.

Patented Jan. 8 1878

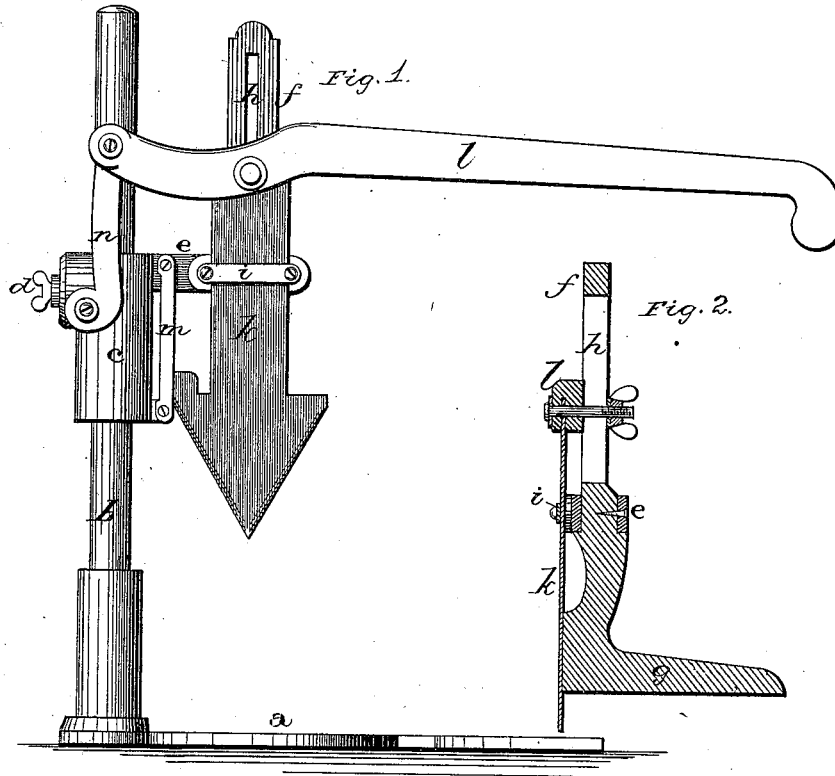
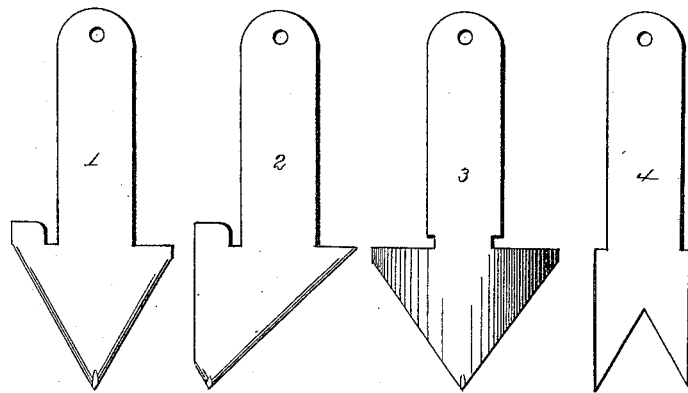


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES.

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INVENTOR.

*C. M. Williams*  
per  
*J. A. Lamm*  
att'y.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES M. WILLIAMS, OF BETHEL, KENTUCKY.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CAN-OPENERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,959**, dated January 8, 1878; application filed December 4, 1877.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHAS. M. WILLIAMS, of Bethel, in the county of Bath and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-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 pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in can-openers; and it consists in the novel combination and arrangement of a standard, a sliding collar moving thereon, a lever carrying the knife for opening the can, and a foot for holding down the can, all of which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

The accompanying drawings represent my invention.

*a* represents the base, from one end of which rises the round standard *b*, which has a shoulder formed near its lower end. Fitting upon this standard is the slide *c*, to which the operating mechanism of the opener is attached, and which is provided with a thumb-screw, *d*, by means of which the slide may be retained in any desired position on the standard. From the upper end of the slide *c* extends the horizontal arm *e*, through the outer end of which a mortise is cut, and secured in this mortise is the square upright standard *f*, which rises above the arm *e*, and has a slot, *h*, cut in it, extending nearly its entire height, to receive a bolt for securing it to the operating-lever. This standard *f* terminates in its lower end in a pressure-foot, *g*, the use of which will be more fully described hereinafter. On one side of this horizontal arm *e* are formed two projecting studs, across which extends a thin metal strip, *i*, between which strip and the studs the knife *k* passes. The upper end of the knife is secured in a slot in the under side of the lever *l* by means of a bolt, which passes through the lever, the knife, and the slot *h* in the standard *f*, the bolt being held by means of a thumb-screw on the outer end. The lower

end of the knife is guided by the slide *m* into a groove, in which one side of the knife extends. The lever *l* is secured to the slide *c* by means of the connecting-rod *n*, as shown.

The operation of my invention is as follows: Having placed the machine in a suitable position, the lever *l* is raised to its full height, and the thumb-screw in the slot *h* is tightened, so as to keep the lever from descending. The screw *d* of the slide *c* is then loosened, so as to let the slide move freely up or down on the standard *b*, and the can to be opened is placed firmly on the base *a*. The slide *c* is then lowered until the pressure-foot *g* rests firmly on the top of the can. The nut is then tightened on the standard by means of the thumb-screw *d*, the screw which holds the knife is sufficiently loosened, and the lever is brought down with a firm stroke, forcing the knife deep into the can. One such stroke is usually sufficient to make an incision large enough to enable the can to be opened without any further trouble; but where several strokes are required, the slide *c* is adjusted so that the pressure-foot *g* rests at some little distance above the can, thus enabling the can to be turned around by the fingers after each stroke.

In order to adapt my invention to the opening of all kinds of cans, of whatever form, I have provided for it different kinds of knives, which I will proceed to describe in detail.

No. 1 represents a lance-point knife, which has two cutting-edges converging to a point, forming an angle of about sixty-four degrees.

No. 2 is a straight-bevel knife, whose cutting-edge is on an angle of about forty-five degrees.

No. 3 is a lance-point gouge-knife, shaped exactly like No. 1, with the exception that its cutting-edges are curved.

No. 4 is a double lance-point knife, having its cutting-edges shaped like the letter W, the projecting portions beyond the points being turned back at right angles to the shank, as shown.

The points of all my knives are shaped like the point of a brad-awl, and the cutting-edges are sharpened to any desired extent.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The base *a*, standard *b*, slide *c*, arm *e*, square standard *f*, pressure-foot *g*, slide *m*, and connecting-rod *n*, in combination with the operating-lever *l* and knife *k*, the whole being con-

structed substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of November, 1877.

CHARLES MONROE WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

L. D. WILLIAMS,

T. C. WILLIAMS.