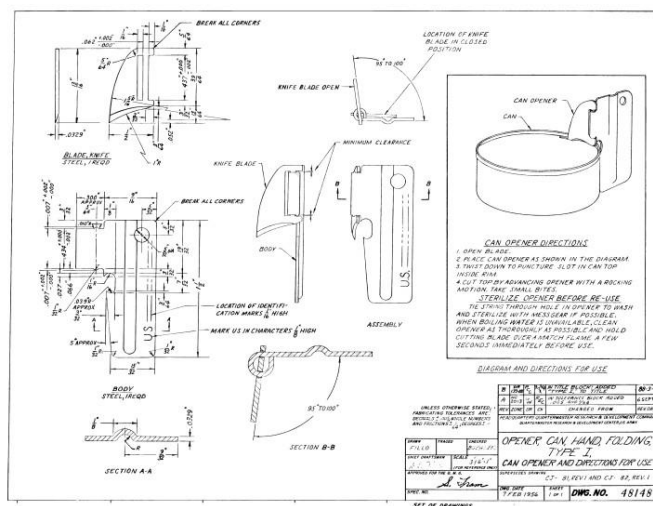




Information from the U. S. Army website: The P-38 is a small can opener that was first designed in the summer of 1942 by Maj. Thomas Dennehy at the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago for use in the Armed Forces to open C rations. The P-38 was also a first-rate screwdriver, boot cleaner, letter opener, carburetor repair tool and anything else you needed it to be. It was developed in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago. And never in its 55-year-old history has it ever been known to break, rust, need sharpening or polishing; which is why many soldiers past and present, have come to regard the P-38 C-Ration can opener as one of the greatest Army Inventions ever. The "P" stands for puncture and the "-38" is said to stand for how many times it took to go around the C-ration can. The hole in the top of the P-38 was used to put it on a chain or string so that it could be dipped into boiling water to clean it after use.

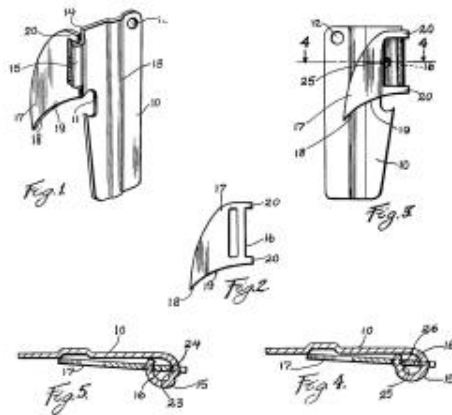


The military specification for the P-38.

Dec. 24, 1946.

S. BLOOMFIELD  
CAN OPENER  
Filed July 3, 1944

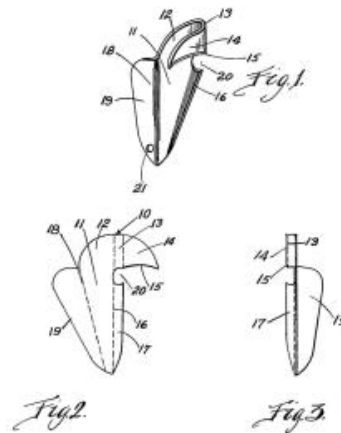
2,412,946



May 8, 1945.

S. BLOOMFIELD  
CAN OPENER  
Filed Oct. 14, 1944

2,375,274

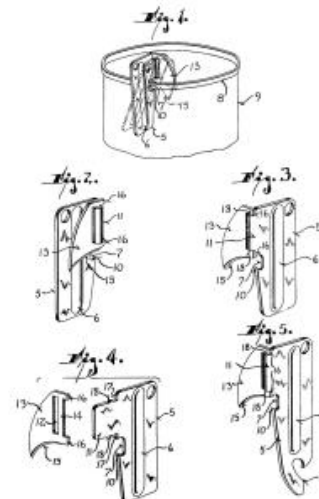


Samuel Bloomfield of Chicago applied for two "can opener" patents. U. S. Patent No. 2,412,946 issued December 24, 1946 was applied for on July 3, 1944 (above left). This one is like the P-38 and as he says it is designed to be carried in a garment. Bloomfield applied for another patent on October 14, 1944 and this one was granted sooner (U. S. Patent No. 2,375,274 of May 8, 1945). In this case he proposed the manufacture of this style can opener in one piece of sheet metal.

Dec. 31, 1946.

J. W. SPEAKER  
POCKET TYPE CAN OPENER  
Filed March 16, 1945

2,413,528



John W. Speaker applied for his P-38 style patent on March 16, 1945. The patent (No. 2,413,528) entitled "Pocket Type Can Opener" was issued December 31, 1946. He also noted, "It will also be apparent that the device may be provided with the conventional type of bottle cap remover" (No. 19 in Figure 5).

So far we've learned the P-38 was designed by Maj. Thomas Dennehy at the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago in 1942 and a couple of guys got patents shortly after that. But WAIT! Here's some news from *Popular Mechanics* reviewing things for the "Time and Money-Saving Tools for Woman's Workshop in home" including the "Can Opener Especially Designed for Campers and Boy Scouts that Can Be Folded Flat and Carried on a Key Ring." It is from an April, 1924 issue!

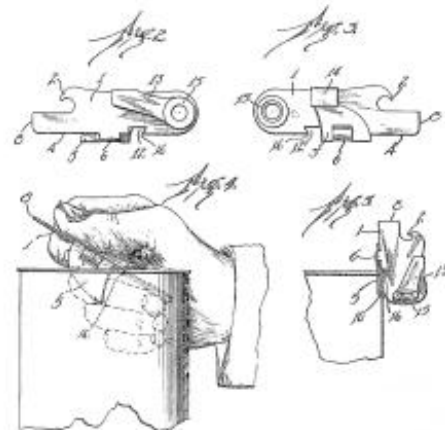
## for Woman's Workshop in Home



Sept. 2, 1924.

K. F. SCHONIGER  
FOLDING CAN OPENER  
Filed Aug. 31, 1933

1,507,093

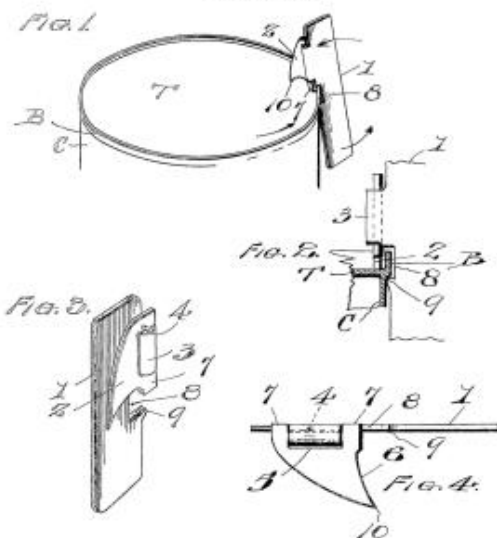


And here we see that Knud Frederik Schoiniger of Chicago had already applied for a patent on his "Folding Can Opener" on August 31, 1933.

May 8, 1928.

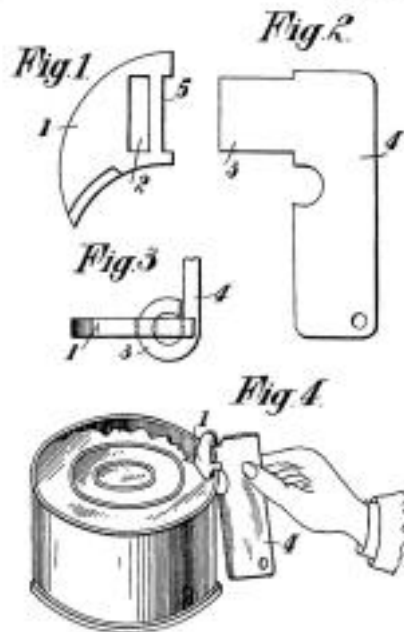
D. M. STRENGBERG  
CAN OPENER  
Filed Dec. 13, 1927

1,669,311

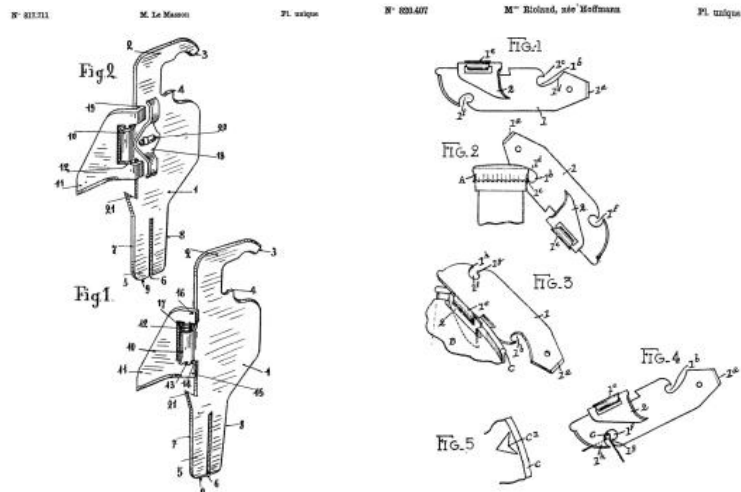


Schoiniger's patent was followed by Dewey M. Strengberg's application of December 13, 1927 adding a brace to guide the opener along the edge of the can.

E. M. DARQUÉ.  
TIN BOX OPENER.  
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 27, 1913.  
1,082,800. Patented Dec. 30, 1913.



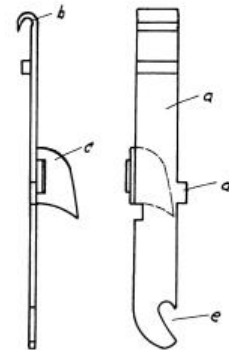
Now we go back even further with the P-38 style can opener. Etienne Marcel Darqué, a citizen of the French Republic, patented his “Tin-Box Opener” in 1913!



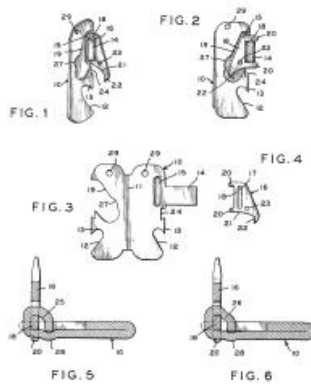
Here are three additional French patents incorporating the P-38 style can opener. M. Marcel le Masson’s patent was issued in 1937, Mme Rioland also in 1937, and M. Marcel-Charles-Camille Martinaud in 1945.

Peter Franken's 1949 German patent application included a P-38 style can opener.

Eigentum  
des Deutschen Patentamts  
Zu der Patentschrift 802 610  
Kl. 64b Gr. 2801

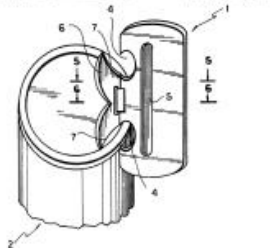


Feb. 7, 1956 J. KENINGTON ET AL. 2,733,505  
Can and bottle opener  
Filed June 2, 1955

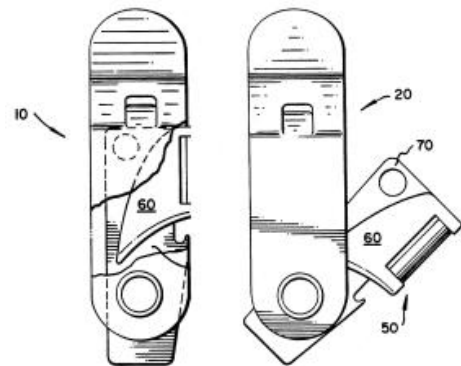


United States Patent [10] 4,300,288  
Blyakharov et al. [11] Nov. 27, 1980

[54] CAN OPENER [75] Inventor: Ayzik Blyakharov, 31-43 23 St., Astoria, N.Y. 11503; Joseph S. Blyakharov, 15-51 83 St., Hicksville, N.Y. 11743  
[21] Appl. No.: 297,288  
[22] Filed: Dec. 15, 1980  
[51] Int. Cl. B26D 1/00  
[52] U.S. Cl. 261/209, 261/210  
[56] References Cited:  
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  
1,821,000 12/1931 Geyer 261/209  
1,844,036 12/1932 Worthington 261/209  
1,877,001 12/1932 Schioniger 261/209  
1,895,111 12/1932 Strengberg 261/209  
2,412,048 12/1948 Bloomfield 261/209  
2,412,050 12/1948 Bloomfield 261/209



U.S. Patent Mar. 2, 1993 5,189,750



Some ideas never die. These three U. S. Patents all include the P-38 style opener. John and Cloyd Kenington applied for their patent on June 2, 1953. Ayzik Blyakharov's 1980 application referred to the earlier patents of Darqué, Schioniger, Strengberg, Bloomfield, and Kenington. Sean Brennan combined the can opener with a bottle opener in 1991.

A P-38 for comparison to a key shape bottle opener with P-38 and corkscrew.





Combination can opener, corkscrew, stopper remover, and cap lifter. One is marked CREDO and the other is marked ENDERS; The rectangular hole is for removing rectangular top stoppers from bottles.

Russian combination tool marked with price – 50 kopeks.



The Sila Open-All opens "Beer-Milk-Oil-Fruit Juice Cans, Caps of Jars, Screw-in Bottle Stoppers, Crown Corks, Fruit-Vegetable-Meat Cans, Sardine Cans with tongue, Fish and Seafood Cans, Vacuum sealed Cans for Coffee etc., and Bottles with Cork Stoppers."







Three combination tools. Left two: One marked LAYFA INOX 18/8, other has logo only; includes sardine can opener. Right: Marked PICNIC, includes screw driver,

Four combination tools.

Top left: Marked "Prodimex, Made in Poland, Urz. Pat. No. 12165, 13917, P.R.L., Turysta."

Top right and bottom left: Marked "Pokol Tarnow." TURYSTA MADE IN POLAND.

Bottom right: Marked "Universal."



Marked Mikro Sezam, Do Kapsli.

A group of corkscrews with a variety of tools including bottle openers, sardine can openers, can piercers, and a small folding tin can opener derived from the P-38 can opener.

