

Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

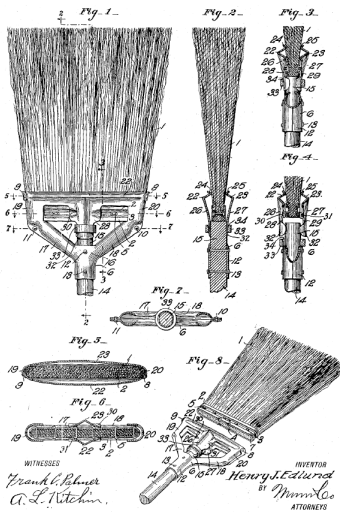
Sweep, Open, Beat, Unscrew, Sharpen

Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

Henry J. Edlund launched his very successful career by patenting a new design for a broom and followed it with can openers big and small, an eggbeater, a jar opener, a bottle opener and a knife sharpener.

Edlund was 17 when he immigrated from Sweden to the United States, ending up in Burlington, Vermont in 1913. He worked his way up to superintendent at a Burlingame manufacturing concern leaving six years later to launch the Edlund Broom Company. His two-piece, household broom, based on two 1916 patents, proved highly suc-

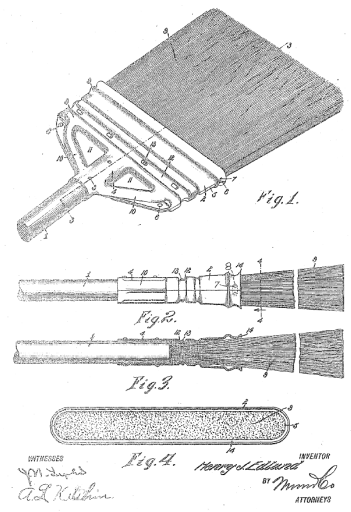
Oct. 3, 1916. H. J. Edlund 1,200,326
BROOM AND SOCKET THEREFORE
Filed Dec. 4, 1915



successful, catching the attention of the Fuller Brush Company, which purchased the business in 1923.

Shortly thereafter, Edlund formed The Edlund Company, manufacturing industrial can openers (restaurants/institutions) based on two of his patents, one of which he applied for in 1922, and the other an improvement on the first. Both were granted in 1925 (left and right).

Dec. 12, 1916.	H. J. Edlund	1,208,523
	BROOM	
	Filed May 5, 1915	

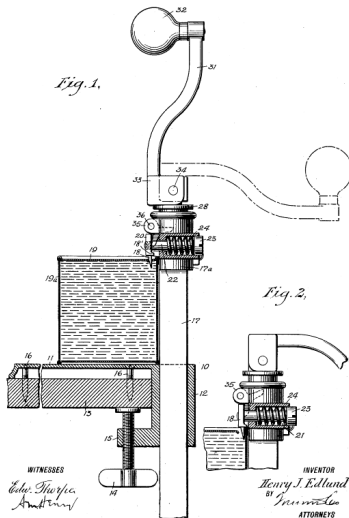


EDLUND

Edlund trademarks will help date items. The first trademark (left) was first used in 1925. The second trademark (right) was first used in 1963.

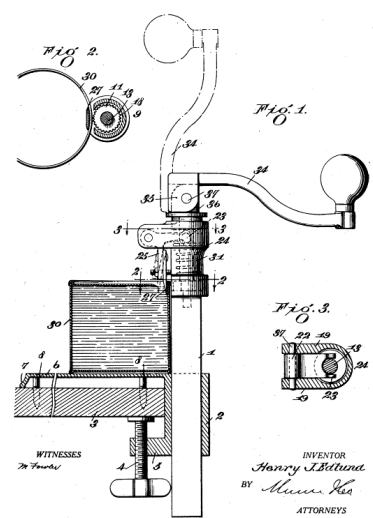
Edlund

April 21, 1925. H. J. Edlund 1,534,932
CAN OPENING DEVICE
Filed Dec. 19, 1922



Edlund was granted Patent No. 1,718,125 on June 18, 1929 for another can opener, this one designed for the family kitchen and branded Edlund Junior Can Opener. The first models of this beauty included a hook on the end of the rotary cutter to remove bottle caps. In later models it disappeared. One early example at about 6 1/2-inches is marked: NO. 5 EDLUND JUNIOR EDLUND CO. BURLINGTON, VT PAT. APR. 21—MAY 12 -25 JUNE 18-29 OTHER PATS PENDING. An example of a lat-

May 12, 1925.	H. J. Edlund	1,537,110
	CAN OPENER	
	Filed May 24, 1924	



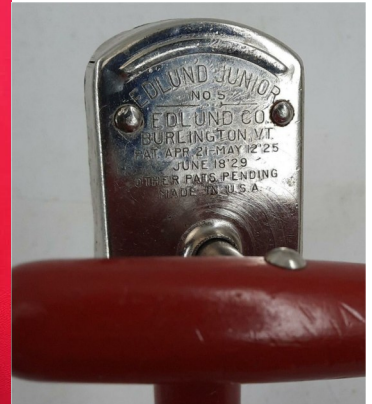
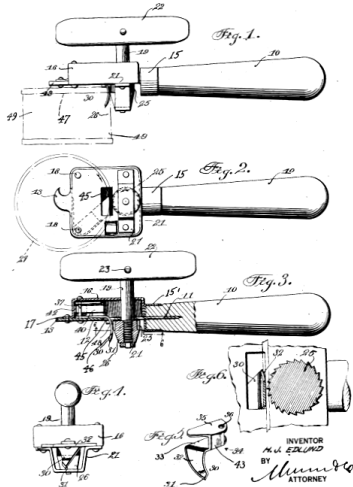
Just For Openers January-December 2025 2

Sweep, Open, Beat, Unscrew, Sharpen

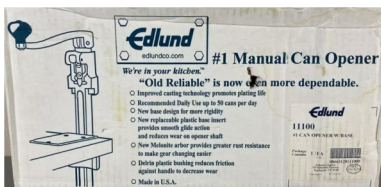
Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

er model is marked on the top: EDLUND (with slanted E). The bottom is marked: EDLUND CO. INC. BURLINGTON, VT. U.S.A. NO. 5 JUNIOR PAT. PENDING. It is 6 3/4-inches in length. A 1927 newspaper advertisement said in part: "Opens any can – round, square or oval."

June 18, 1929. H. J. Edlund
CAN OPENER
Filed Jan. 10, 1928 1,718,125



In 1931 Edlund branched out, offering the kitchen world an eggbeater, not an ordinary beater of the day but one with "an improved form of drive-wheel and gear construction." In his patent papers, Edlund also said his beater had "blades that may be easily cleaned and maintained in a sanitary condition" and "a handle which is easy to grip and permit the beater to be held rigidly without great effort on the part of the operator." Ranging in size from 11 1/2-inches to 12 1/2-inches, this smooth running beauty had wood or Bakelite handles. It is marked on the main gear wheel: EDLUND COMPANY PATENT NO. 1789224 – OTHER PAT. PEND. MADE IN U.S.A. BURLINGTON, VT.



CUTS THE TOP OF CAN OUT

NOT OFF

Made by the Edlund Co. of Vermont, makers of the well-known Edlund openers in use in hotels, restaurants and institutions throughout the United States.

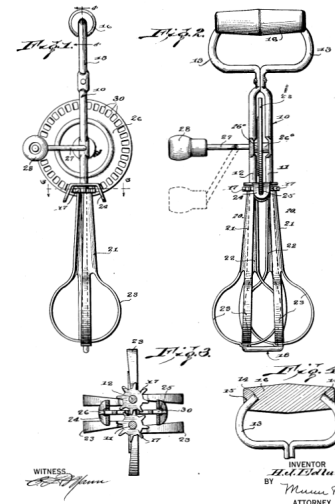
69¢

APPROVED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Opens any can—round, square or oval. Let us show you how quickly it works—note the smooth, safe edge it leaves.



Jan. 13, 1931. H. J. Edlund
EGG BEATER
Filed Nov 18, 1929 1,789,224



Just For Openers January-December 2025 3

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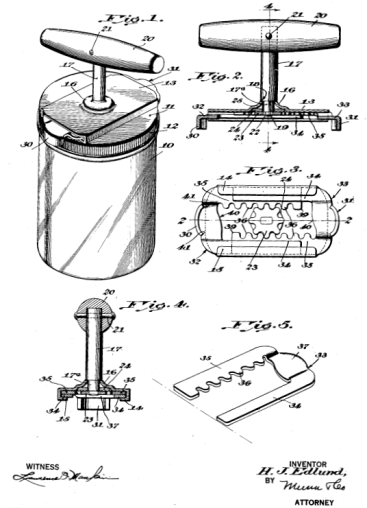
Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

In 1933 Edlund created one of the most popular, if not the most popular, screw jar openers of the 20th Century. He was granted Patent No. 1,894,556 on Jan. 17, 1933 for a “device for removing screw tops” that even today is probably in more kitchen tool drawers than can be imagined.

“An object of the invention,” Edlund said, “is the provision of a device having movable jaws which will automatically adjust themselves to screw tops of various diameters whether the tops had been applied to jars or bottles and will automatically grip the top by the rotation of a handle and cause the same to be released.” And it reliably works just as Edlund said in his patent papers.

Capable of opening containers with tops from 1-inch to 4-inches in diameter, an early model with green wood handle is marked: TOP-OFF JAR & BOTTLE SCREW TOP OPENER EDLUND CO; BURLINGTON, VT. PATENTS PEND. Later models are marked: EDLUND (with slated E) and the patent number. A 1925 newspaper advertisement listed the price at 25 cents.

Jan. 17, 1933. H. J. Edlund 1,894,556
DEVICE FOR REMOVING SCREW TOPS
Filed March 18, 1932



THEY'RE OFF



Edlund Top-Off



Jar tops are off in a jiffy with an Edlund top remover! Mayonnaise jars, ketchup bottles and olive bottles, mason jars — they all find this new Top-Off too much for them!

25c

—Street Floor—



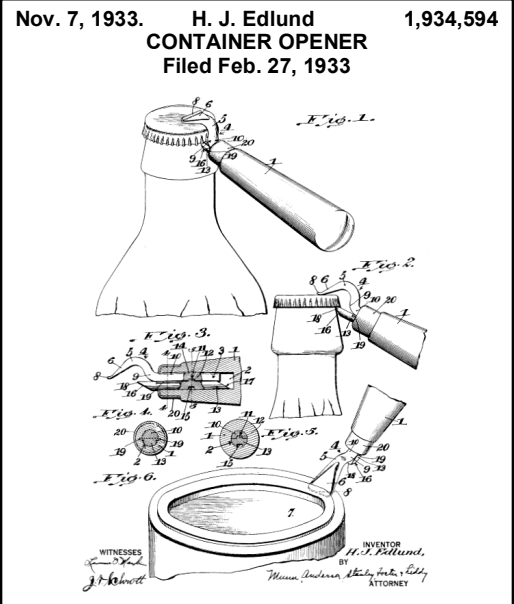
Just For Openers January-December 2025 4

Sweep, Open, Beat, Unscrew, Sharpen

Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

Edlund was awarded Patent No. 1,934,594 on November 7, 1933 for a "container opener" designed to remove "metal caps from bottles, friction type covers from glasses, press-tops from cans, etc." It quickly became a favorite among breweries for branding.

In his patent papers he took the opportunity to criticize the competition, saying: "As is commonly known, there are several kinds of openers on the market, each virtually being confined to use in removing a single type of closure. None of these kinds is entirely satisfactory, it being a common occurrences that the opener will not only slip from the opening position but will also damage the closure to such an extent that its re-use is prevented ..." But his opener, he said "is adapted to open bottle caps of all kinds safely and without slipping. It will also remove friction type covers from glass jars, and is well adapted to prying up and off press-in type tops from cans." The 4 1/2-inch opener with wood handle is marked on the inside of the top bar: EDLUND CO. PAT. NOV 7-33 MADE IN U.S.A. A 1934 advertisement listed the price at 15 cents.



This popular opener was followed over the next few years by several different bottle and can punch tools. An all-metal combination opener was branded TU-WAY OPENER OPENS BOTTLES PUNCHES CANS. It measures 5-inches long and is marked on the inside of the curved handle: EDLUND COMPANY BURLINGTON, VT. MADE IN U.S.A. PATENT 1,996,550. There is a larger ver-



* "EDLUND" Bottle Opener

Quickly removes bottle caps, anchor or paint can tops. Steel parts are nicked. Green enamelled wood handle. **15c** Each



* "EDLUND" Egg Beater

Double Dovetail style with centre drive wheel with positive mesh gears. Blades of tinned steel—other bright parts nickel plated. Handles in green, blue, yellow, red or black. Ea. **75c**

Just For Openers January-December 2025 5

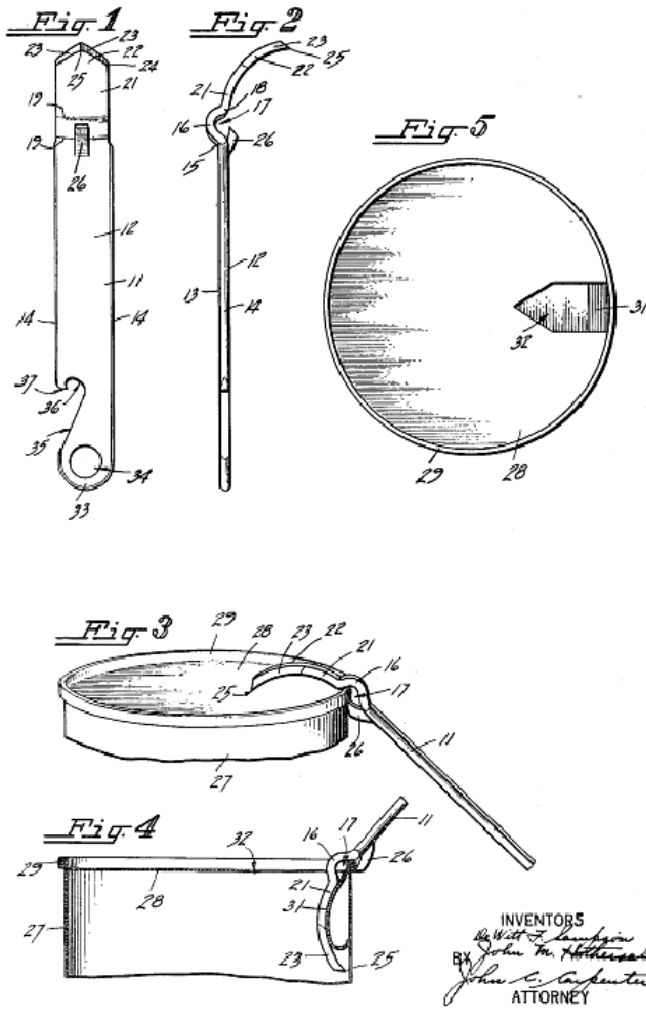
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sion of this model that came with a paper label boasting: “One punch does it! Makes a hole 4 to 5 times the size of standard punch-type can openers!” Just under 7-inches in length, it is marked on the inside handle: KING SIZE TUWAY OPENS BOTTLES – PUNCHES CANS EDLUND COMPANY BURLINGTON, VT. MADE IN U.S.A. PATENT 1,996,550. It also is marked on the inside of the punch EDLUND (with slated E).



April 2, 1935. D. F. Sampson ET AL
CONTAINER OPENER
Filed April 13, 1933 1,996,550



The 1,996,550 patent is for what is considered America's first can punch opener or “church key.” It was originally assigned to the American Can Company, but later became the property of the Vaughan Novelty Company. How Edlund came to use it is not known. (See *BOW TO THE CHURCH KEY*, JFO News 2025).

The TU-WAY top combo also was employed on a 6-inch and larger wood handle opener marked on the punch: EDLUND CO. INC. BURLINGAME, VT. U.S.A.



***Just For Openers* January-December 2025 6**

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Another all metal model comes in at 7-inches and is a can punch and bottle opener. This is not a lever-type opener but a push-down for two holes device probably for canned milk. It is marked EDLUND (with slanted E.)



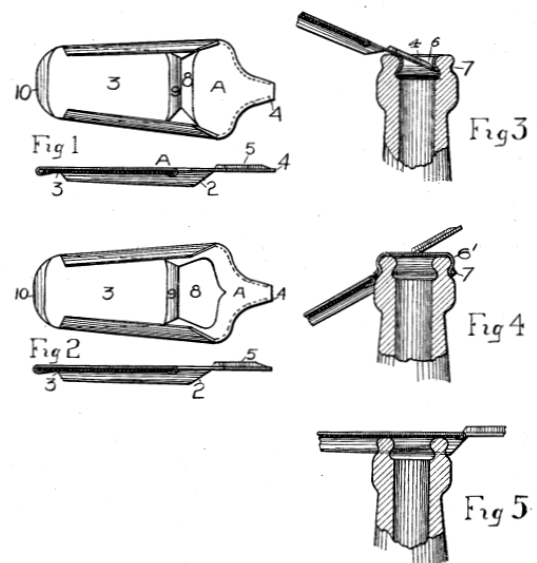
Edlund also offered a 3-inch bottle opener and sealer marked EDLUND (with slanted E.) It is very much like Vaughan's LOCKTITE and believed based on Charles Cady's 1904 patent (See *FROM BERKELEY TO CHICAGO*, JFO News 2025).



Edlund's last kitchen patent was granted February 8, 1935, No. 1,990,117 for a knife sharpener featuring "concavely formed rotatable members." It is marked on one side: EDLUND CO BURLINGTON, VT. PAT. 1990117 SURE SHARP NO. 3. The other side is marked with directions.



758,235 C. Cady Patented Apr. 26, 1904.
CAPPED BOTTLE OPENER AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE
Filed Jan. 6, 1904



WITNESSES:
Edmund Cady
George H. Strong

INVENTOR
Charles Cady
Geo. H. Strong
ATTORNEY

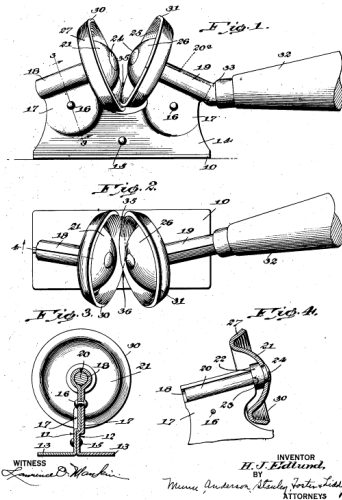
Just For Openers January-December 2025 7

Sweep, Open, Beat, Unscrew, Sharpen

Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

Feb. 5, 1935. H. J. Edlund
KNIFE SHARPENER
Filed Jan. 26, 1934

1,990,117



Henry J. Edlund died July 25, 1937 at the age of 63. In addition to a front page obituary, the Burlington Daily News ran an editorial describing him as "a sterling citizen of the city and state." The tribute concluded with:

"He was deeply interested in civic affairs whether pertaining to Burlington or to Vermont. But more than all else he remains an example of every young man and young woman as proving that for those who will make the best of their ability, or genius, if they should be so fortunate as to possess it, American and these United States is still a land of opportunity."

The Edlund Company became part of the Italian Ali Group in 2012 but remains headquartered today in Burlington.

THEY'RE OFF



Edlund Top-Off



Somebody still cares
about the little things

We care.
Pick up an Edlund can opener. Twiddle with it. Spin the handle and see how smoothly it works.
Now lift the opener onto a can, turn the knob and see how easily the Edlund punctures, cuts and removes the lid.
Yes—somebody still cares about the little things you sell.
Even a \$1.49 can opener.
How can we guarantee a little can opener for five long years? We cheat, that's how. We know from past experience that our openers will actually go on traveling in little circles

and opening all kinds of cans for ten, fifteen, twenty years! We know of one that just passed its 27th birthday. To celebrate, it opened a can of soup.
Another thing we know: there's a big and growing market for a good can-opener like this.
Have you checked your stock of Edlunds lately? (Edlunds are carried by better distributors everywhere.)



The only time an Edlund stops working is when someone loses it

Want more facts? Circle 134, p. 251

Want more facts? Circle 135, p. 251 &



For years Edlund Can Openers have been standard equipment in a large majority of the hospitals, hotels, restaurants and institutions throughout the United States. Used the world over. This complete endorsement of the Edlund principle of can-opening by these discriminating users is your best guarantee of satisfaction with the Junior model, one of the popular

EDLUND MODERN KITCHEN TOOLS
CAN OPENERS, EGG BEATERS
JAR OPENERS, KNIFE SHARPENERS, BOTTLE OPENERS



Just For Openers January-December 2025 8

Sweep, Open, Beat, Unscrew, Sharpen

Henry Johannes Edlund By Don Thornton

660 • PRODUCT SECTION

JULY, 1947 • HARDWARE RETAILER

THINK OF *Edlund* FOR BETTER KITCHEN TOOLS

Yes, think of Edlund for *better* kitchen tools. Precision manufacture, high efficiency and long life are built-in qualities of this famous line.

Consistently nationally advertised too, to increase consumer demand for resultant fast turnover and increased profits for you. Ask your Jobber.

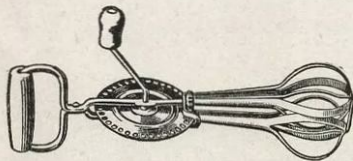
EDLUND JUNIOR

CAN OPENERS

The fastest seller in the popular price field. Easy to operate. Cuts lids out of round, square, oval and dented cans. Leaves smooth, safe edge. Five-year refund guarantee. Twelve individual openers in handy counter display.

EGG BEATERS

Made to stand hard use. Easy-to-clean designs. Replacement guarantee. Regular and heavy-duty models.



"TOP OFF"

JAR OPENERS

Equipped with automatic adjusting clamp. Quickly and easily unscrews tight-fitting covers and jar tops of all sizes with a slight twist of the wrist.

BOTTLE OPENERS

For bottle caps, anchor type and press-on jar covers, etc. Mounted on sales cards.

EDLUND COMPANY, Burlington, Vt.

