

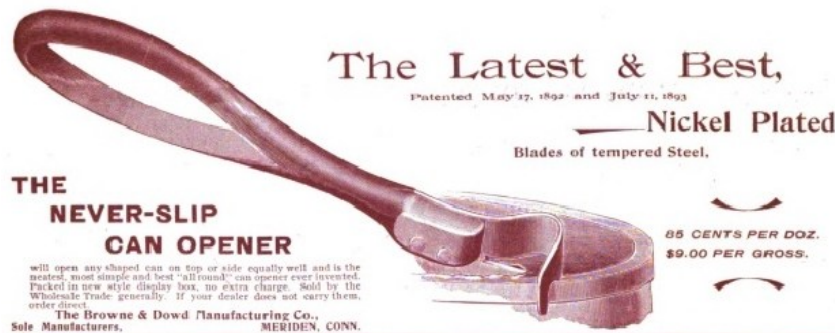
Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

William G. Browne's **Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton**

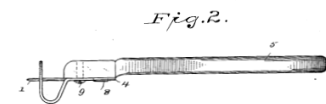
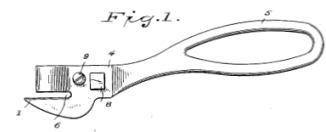
William G. Browne was the man behind the Never-Slip, the King, the Clipper, the None-Such and possibly the Queen. He was a very creative inventor, being granted at least 19 patents from 1882 to 1905, ranging from can openers to eggbeaters to tack claws. You can also throw in an ice pick, a padlock, a mop, a stocking clasp and an egg carrier. He favored can openers, being awarded seven patents for different ones from 1892 to 1900.

Unfortunately, over the years there has been confusion over Browne's products that can be traced to his being associated with two different manufacturing companies. He was a co-founder of the Browne & Dowd Manufacturing Company incorporated in 1892 in Meriden, Connecticut. However, he moved his family a scant 100 miles away to Kingston, New York where he founded the W.G. Browne Manufacturing Company in 1898. The company and its "The Brown Line From Kingston" was incorporated in 1902.

The first opener up was the Never-Slip. Browne, then a resident of Meriden, teamed up with John L. Benton, also of Meriden, for Patent 475,222 in 1892 for a can opener "which will cut out the top of a can without running toward the center..." The patent drawing shows both a cast-iron and wooden handle. The 5 1/2-inch opener is marked on the cast-iron loop handle on one side **NEVER-SLIP** and **PAT. MAY 17-92** on the other. An advertisement in an 1893 issue of *House Furnishing Review* said the Never-Slip "will open any shaped can on top or side equally well." The wholesale price: 85 cents per dozen, \$9 per gross.



May 17, 1892. W. G. Browne & J. L. Benton 475,222
CAN OPENER
Filed Jan. 11, 1892



WITNESSES
H. A. Lamb
Walter R. Davis

INVENTORS
William G. Browne and
John L. Benton
By J. M. Mott, atty.

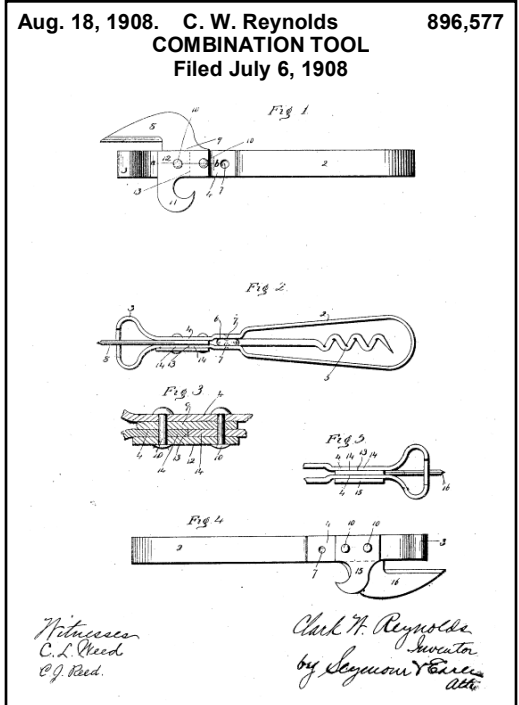
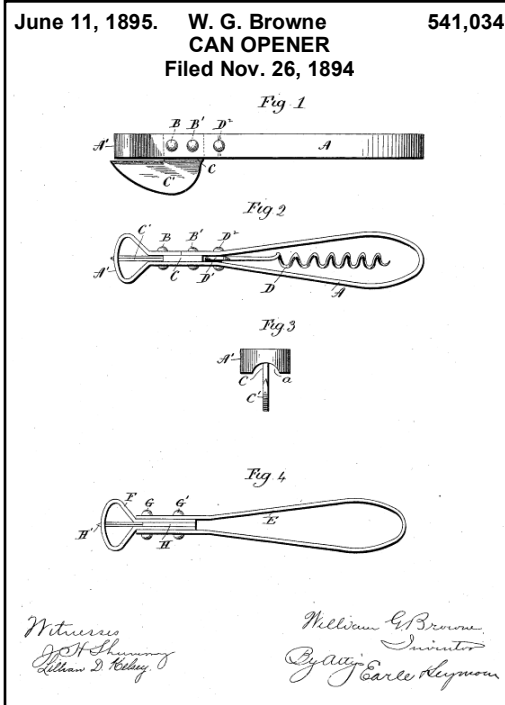


Just For Openers January-December 2025 2

William G. Browne's

Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

Browne's next opener patent, No. 541,034 in 1895, was for "an improvement in can openers, the object being to produce at a low cost for manufacture, a simple, strong, durable convenient and effective article, composed of few pieces, attractive in appearance." The patent drawing shows a metal can opener with and without a corkscrew. Browne's introduction of the corkscrew is noted in the patent application, which said the opener handle "forms a convenient housing for a cork-screw, in case it is desired to combine such an article with the device." And the King was born and proved very popular for years.



There is "Never Slip" and "King" Can Opener
Only One

Buy the Genuine, with Cast Steel, Oil Tempered Blades



THE BROWNE & DOWD MFG. CO., Meriden, Conn.

Write for Prices



Sole Manufacturers

Completing the King, a bottle opener hook was added. It was based on Patent No. 896,555 dated August 18, 1908, by Clark W. Reynolds of Meriden, assignor to Browne & Dowd. Reynolds said in his patent application that one of the main objects of his invention was "to provide for uncapping bottles or, in other words, for removing the shallow corrugated sheet-metal caps now so largely employed for capping beer bottles" with "an uncapping hook." On some early models the hook is marked: **PAT. AUG. 18, 08.**

Several versions of the 5 1/4-inch King evolved over the years with different markings. Most are marked: **KING PAT.** **May 17-92** (Browne's first patent) **& JUNE 11-95.** Others are marked with the two patent dates and **BROWNE & DOWD MFG. CO. MERIDEN CT. USA.** Browne also manufactured a novelty version of the King. Coming in at just 3-inches, it is marked: **THE BROWNE LINE FROM KINGSTON.**



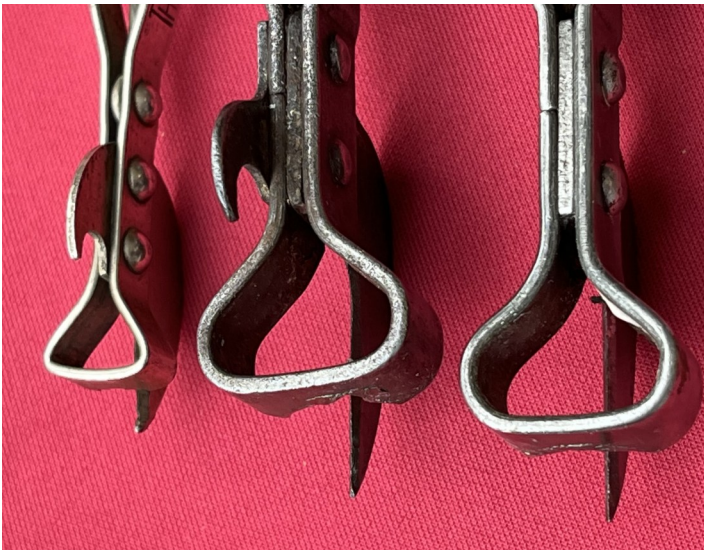
KING Can Opener in an original box. Note wrong patent date is on the box May 17, 1882 (should be 1892).

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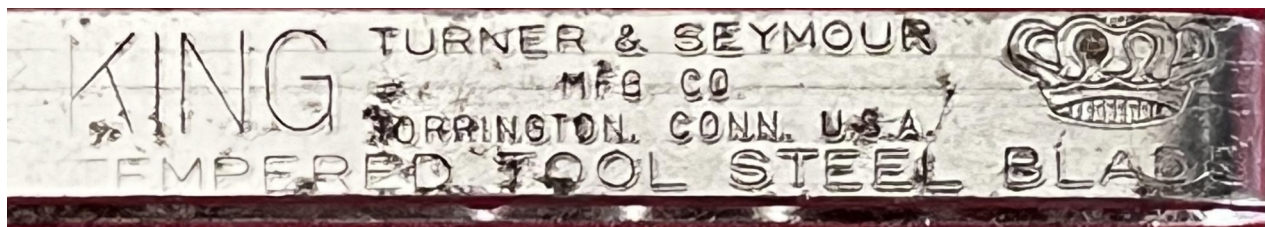
William G. Browne's

Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

Patented May 17, 1882,



Turner & Seymour Manufacturing Company, the then-giant Connecticut housewares manufacturer, purchased Browne & Dowd in 1928 and moved its machinery and goods to Torrington. T&S continued to produce the King but the patent dates on the opener were replaced with **TURNER & SEYMOUR MFG. CO. TORRINGTON, CONN. U.S.A.**



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William G. Browne's Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

And there is another chapter to and a conundrum concerning the King story. The trade magazines the *Metal Worker* in its February 2, 1895 issue and the *Iron Age* in its January 24, 1895 issue announced the introduction of the King, and also said there was a Queen. The full text of the item under the headline:

New Can Openers

The Browne & Dowd Mfg. Company, Meriden Conn., have just brought out a new can opener, which will be put on the market under the name Queen, and a new combination can opener and corkscrew which will be known as the King. They are represented in illustrations given herewith. These tools are described as struck from a single piece of steel, to which a blade of cast steel, tempered, is securely riveted, and in the combination tool the corkscrew is tempered steel wire and is made with special reference to lightness and convenience. These tools, it is claimed, will work in any direction, and are put out as examples of neatness and lightness combined with necessary strength and low cost. The corkscrew, as will be noticed, when not in use may be shut into the handle, and when in that position does not in the least interfere with the use of the can opener. The King is finished in nickel plate and the Queen japanned. The conundrum: There is no evidence the Queen was manufactured – but the search continues.

Browne's next opener was a cast-iron loop handle can cutter based on his Design Patent No. 29,231 dated August 16, 1898. "This design consists in a can-opener having its handle formed with a concave-faced inner and convex-faced outer rear portion..." Browne said. By the time it made it to market, a corkscrew was added. The 5-inch long combo device is marked on the cutting blade, which is riveted to the loop handle, **PAT. AUG. 16 1898.**



THE METAL WORKER.

February 2, 1895

of the scale is at once strong, light and attractive. The outside dimensions are: Height, 10 inches; depth, 7 1/2 inches, and dial, 7 inches. It is numbered 1001, and each scale is packed

special reference to lightness and convenience. These tools, it is claimed, will work in any direction, and are put out as examples of neatness and lightness combined with necessary strength

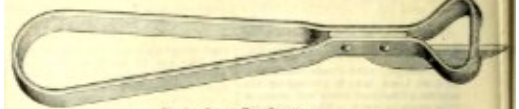


Fig. 1—Queen Can Opener.

separately in a dovetailed wood box with slide cover.

New Can Openers.

The Browne & Dowd Mfg. Company, Meriden, Conn., have just brought out a new can opener, which will be put on the market under the name Queen, and a new combination can opener and corkscrew.

and low cost. The corkscrew, as will be noticed, when not in use may be shut into the handle, and when in that position does not in the least interfere with the use of the can opener. The King is finished in nickel plate and the Queen japanned.

Representative Charles of Illinois introduced into the House last week a bill

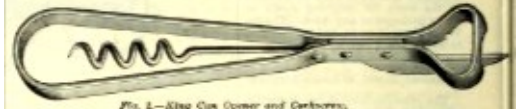


Fig. 2—King Can Opener and Corkscrew.

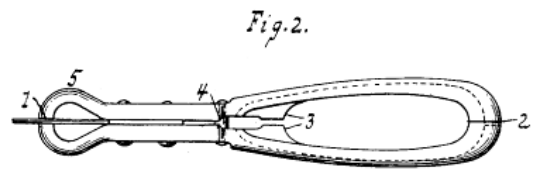
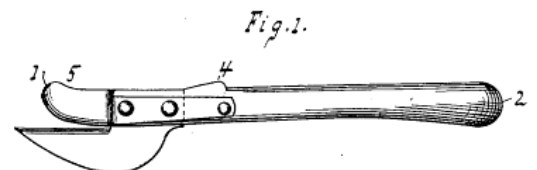
screw, which will be known as the King. They are represented in the illustrations given herewith. These tools

to incorporate the National Central Railway Company, a corporation to be empowered to lay out and equip a rail-

Aug. 16, 1898.

W. G. Browne
CAN OPENER
Filed July 9, 1898

DES. 29,231



WITNESSES:

William Miller
Chas. E. Benge.

INVENTOR

William G. Browne

BY

Hauff & Hauff
ATTORNEYS

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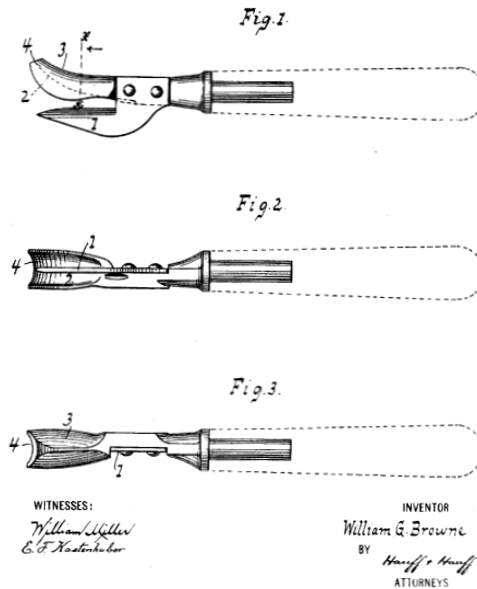
William G. Browne's

Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

It was followed by the Clipper, based on Browne's Design Patent No. 32,875, dated June 26, 1900, and utility Patent No. 654,089, dated July 17, 1900. The application for the utility patent said the opener could "give a long or sweeping and clean cut and is capable of being used either right or left handed and to cut either the top or side of a can." The 6-inch opener with wood handle is marked on the cutting blade: **CLIPPER PAT. 6-26 7-17 1900.**

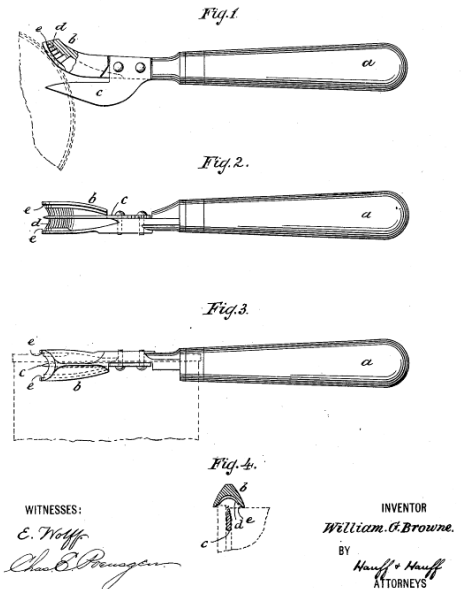
June 26, 1900. W. G. Browne
CAN OPENER
Filed May 9, 1900

DES. 32,875



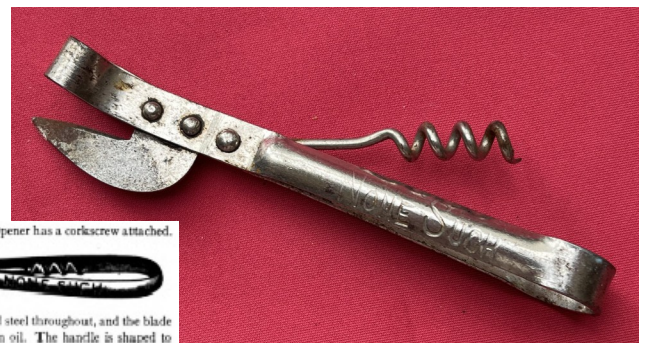
July 17, 1900. W. G. Browne
CAN OPENER
Filed Dec. 7, 1899

654,089

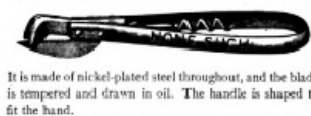


W. G. Browne Manufacturing also produced a popular can opener not patented by Browne but by a director of the company, Graham C. Parish of Kingston. Parish was awarded two can opener patents which he assigned to W. G. Browne.

Patent No. 776,540, dated Dec. 6, 1904 resulted in the None-Such. He also was awarded Patent No. 796,145 on Aug. 21, 1905 for an improvement of the 1904 patent. The metal opener is 6-inches long and marked on the handle: **NONE-SUCH.** At the turn of the 20th Century the word nonesuch was very popular, meaning something regarded as perfect or excellent. An item in a 1906 edition of *House Furnishing Review*, noted the None-Such, saying it was part of "The Browne Line From Kingston" and that it was made of "nickel-plated steel throughout."



The None-Such Can Opener has a corkscrew attached.

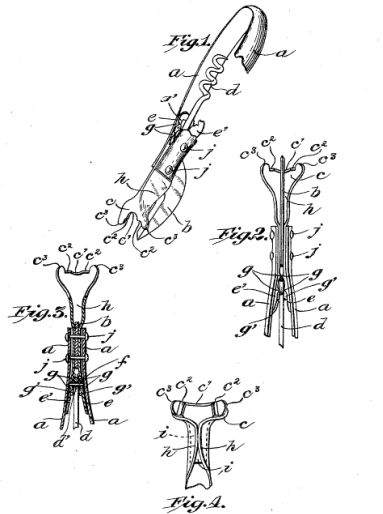


It is made of nickel-plated steel throughout, and the blade is tempered and drawn in oil. The handle is shaped to fit the hand.

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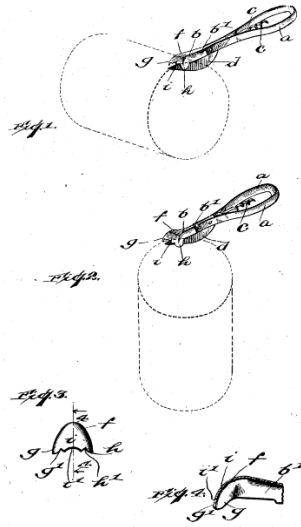
William G. Browne's Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

Dec. 6, 1904. G. C. Parish
CAN OPENER
Filed Mar. 24, 1904 776,540



Inventor
G. C. Parish
By his Attorney
N. L. Frothingham

Aug. 1, 1905. G. C. Parish
CAN OPENER
Filed Nov. 12, 1904 796,145



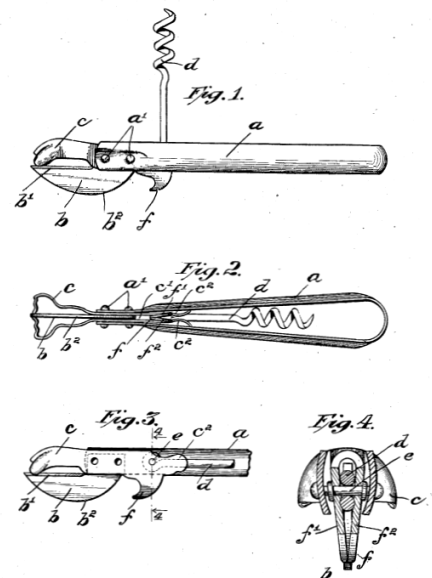
WITNESSES
R. L. Frothingham
J. H. Thompson
INVENTOR
G. C. Parish
BY N. L. Frothingham
his ATTORNEY

Browne, 1852-1917, sold the Kingston company to fellow inventor Benjamin F. Bird in 1905, with Bird assuming the title of president and general manager. Bird was granted a patent for a "combination tool" -- can opener bottle cap opener and corkscrew -- No. 854,979, dated May 28, 1907 -- which he manufactured and sold as "The Best" and followed with a different version No. 913,191, dated February 23, 1909. Bird also continued "The Browne Line From Kingston" and is believed to be the manufacturer of a combo can opener/corkscrew with a novel hook cutout of the can cutter

for opening crown bottle caps. The just over 5-inches long tool is marked **BROWNE KINGSTON LINE MADE IN U.S.A.** Bird also continued advertising in *House Furnishing Review* with ads in 1908, 1910, and 1913.



May 28, 1907. B. F. Bird
COMBINATION TOOL
Filed Mar. 28, 1907 854,979



Attest:
Comptroller
P. F. Manning
B. F. Bird - Inventor:
by Frothingham Westcott
his Attys.

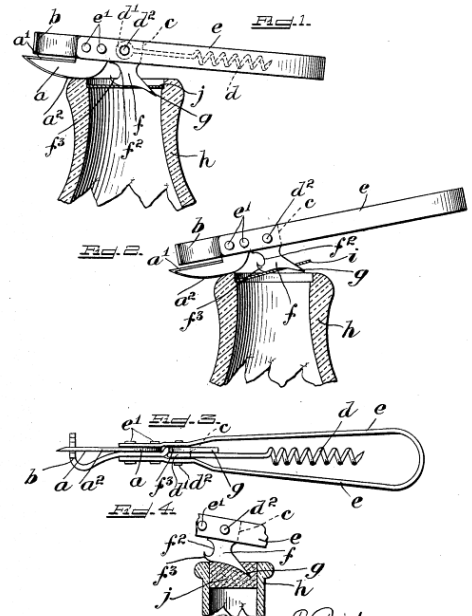
Just For Openers January-December 2025 7

William G. Browne's Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton



Feb. 23, 1909. B. F. Bird 913,191

COMBINATION TOOL
Filed April 2, 1908



Attest:
E. A. Allen
Benjamin F. Bird
by *Posthumus Westworth*
his Atty.

Every Tool A Round In The Ladder of "Success"

There is a Reason Why

This is the "BEST" Can Opener

Because

It has a handle shaped to the hand.
It has oil tempered blades and fulcrum.
It has more tools, and all useful.
It is nickel plated instead of tinned.
It is hand buffed and finely finished.

One of the largest manufacturers of Ice Cream Presses says: We have tried every known beater and there are NONE that will do the work as quickly or as well as THE "CYCLONE".

The "CYCLONE" DID IT IN FIFTEEN SECONDS
Beats Eggs in 15 Seconds, Whips Cream in 5 Minutes, Makes Mayonnaise Dressing in 5 Minutes.

"Mr. Dealer": Use The Ladder. Sell The Goods That Make Satisfied Customers, and You Will Succeed.

WRITE FOR CATALOG AND PRICES

THE W. G. BROWNE MFG. CO.
KINGSTON, N. Y.

"QUALITY" The Foundation of The Ladder. "FINISH" Its Supports

Bird's 1909 can opener patent is a very rare piece to find.

ALL AROUND

Good household necessities. Perfect in finish and material. "The Browne Line from Kingston." Will you send for our booklet and let us tell you about it. The "Cyclone" Egg Beater, Cream Whipper and Mayonnaise Mixer is a wonder. Let us send you a sample.

THE W. G. BROWNE MFG. CO., Kingston, N. Y.

"CYCLONE" Egg Beater and Mayonnaise Mixer

BEATS EGGS IN 15 SECONDS and other things in proportion. Forceful not the fluid instead of cutting around it, as other beaters do. Sure foot grip. Heavily made. Great for the household and widely used in large hotels and restaurants.

BIRD COMBINATION HAMMER and TACK CLAW

All steel. A tool of great utility, strength and durability.

and for which there is a constant demand everywhere. They are well and durably made. Send for catalogue and prices on our entire line of QUICK SELLING HOUSEHOLD SPECIALTIES—"The Browne Line from Kingston," the line without a rival in quality. Ice Picks, Tape Measures, etc. Goods packed any way desired. Send for sample order.

W. G. BROWNE MFG. CO., Kingston, N. Y., U. S. A.

THE HANDEST THING IN THE KITCHEN FIVE TOOLS IN ONE

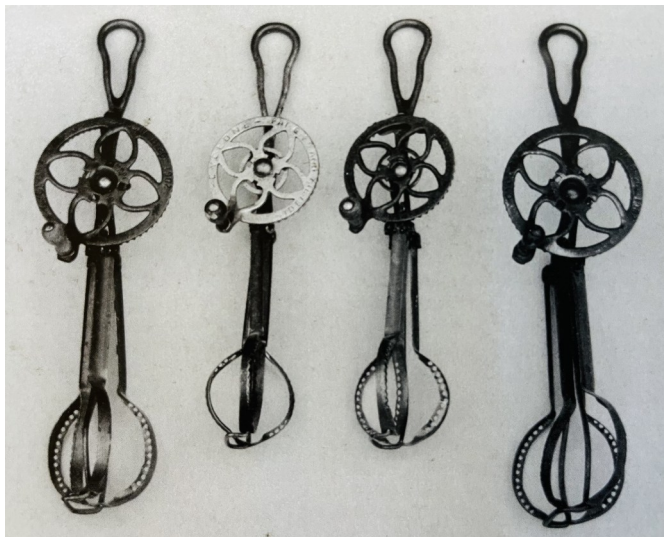
Sell? You Bet They Do. Send us a trial order and see. The Browne Line from Kingston.

Just For Openers January-December 2025 8

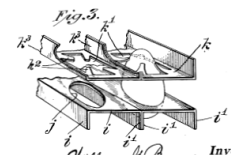
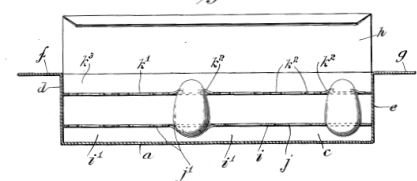
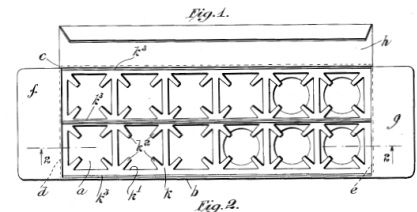
William G. Browne's Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton

Some time after the sale of the company, Browne and his wife, Olive, moved to Denver, Colorado, more than likely to be near their daughter Edna who had moved there after marrying John F. Adams in 1908. The 1910 U.S. Census reported the family was all-together under John F. Adams' roof. It also indicated William was then the owner of a tungsten mine. And six years later possibly the owner of a flock of chickens. In 1916, Browne, listing his residence as Denver, was awarded his last patent, No. 1,174,666, dated march 7, 1916. It was for a "receptacle for shipping eggs." Browne said it was designed for times "when a careful handling of packages cannot be anticipated, as when passing through the mails."

SIDEBAR: Graham C. Parish also played a role, although a small and confusing one, in Browne's patenting and manufacturing of his classic **CYCLONE** eggbeater. The Cyclone, a mainstay of most beater collections, came in two sizes, 11 1/2 inches and 13 1/2 inches. It is easy to recognize with its loop handle, distinctive wheel and perforated dashers. It is marked **CYCLONE** with various patent dates. It was the result of four different patents, three by Browne, and produced by the W. G. Browne Company. The first patent was for a dasher with holes (Patent No. D34,690, June 25, 1901); the second a month later for the full beater (Patent No. 678,456, July 16, 1901 and reissued in 1902); the third for improvements in that beater (Patent No. 733,621, July 14, 1903); and the fourth for more improvements (Patent No. 808,613, December 26, 1905). The 1905 patent was issued to Parish but added to the bottom of the patent papers was a correction from F. I. Allen, Commissioner of Patents, saying it "was erroneously issued to said Parish, whereas said Letters of Patent should have been issued to The W. G. Browne Manufacturing Company of Kingston, N.Y."



Mar. 7, 1916. W. G. Browne 1,174,666
RECEPTACLE FOR SHIPPING EGGS
Filed Apr. 20, 1914



Attest:
Edwin T. Allen
Judge Clerk

Inventor:
William G. Browne
By: Graham C. Parish
Att. Atty.

The Cyclone

**EGG BEATER
CREAM WHIPPER**

A QUICK SELLER
Perfect in Action.

The Plain Point
of Superiority in the Cyclone, lies in the Perforated Flanges. In them the Eggs or Cream are caught, held, and thrown from one Flange to the other, and in passing through the perforations are quickly and thoroughly disrupted.

Here is where you get the true

Steadying foot

WILLIAM G. BROWNE,
Hardware Specialties,

A TRADE BRINGER

Results Gratifying.

The Neat Design, Rigidity, and Ease in Handling, makes the **CYCLONE** a Seller on its own merits.

Retails at 25 c. s.

Send for catalogue.

82 Prince Street,
KINGSTON, N. Y.

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William G. Browne's Can Openers & Worms By Don Thornton



W. G. BROWNE MFG. CO., SPECIALTIES.

HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG 452

"The Browne Line from Kingston."

No. 1—The Best Can Opener
A combination can and bottle opener, cap remover and cork puller. Blade of crinkle steel with oil-tempered blade. Also a good and hand butter.

No. 4—The Browne Can Opener
An all-steel, oil-tempered can opener, cap remover and cork puller. Has crinkle steel blade tempered in oil.

No. 5—None Such Can Opener
Another popular pattern. Has oil-tempered blade, spring to cut close to can. Threaded cork screw. Perfectly shaped handle.

No. 8—"Keen O" Can Opener
For removing lid from push-down, friction-top tin cans. Also bottle cap lifter. Cork screw and regular can opener.

No. 9—The Kiss Cut Can Opener
Has curved blades. Removes entire top of can; leaves no jagged edges. Rubberized handle, crinkle steel blade.

No. 13—Perfection Can Opener
A rotary can and bottle opener. Opens round or square cans, lifts bottle caps, etc. Crinkle steel blades; rubberized handles, nickel ferrule.

No. 156—Parer and Corer
Oil-tempered crinkle steel blade, nickel-plated; black mounted handle.

No. 19 and No. 21—Glass Cutters
Three inch, tempered steel head and base steel cutter. Iron and rubberized handle respectively.

No. 27—Browne's Favorite Ice Pick
Large hardwood cherry-stained handle; 6-in. tempered tool steel blade. Very durable. Made in two styles.

No. 34—Metal Cap Ice Pick
Finest quality steel blade, needle-pointed. Broomed hick maple handle, steel with heavy nickel-plated iron cap.

No. 36—Auntie Kitchen Knives
High grade crinkle steel blade, finely tempered and ground. Diamond handle. Warranted. Made in two styles.

No. 37—Elite Kitchen Knives
Blade is made of finest crinkle steel, precisely tempered and ground. Walnut handle. High polished walnut handle. Two styles.

The BROWNE LINE is sold by
C. B. Padgett & Co., 21-73 W. Broadway, New York.
Lange Ward & Co., 268 4th Ave., N. Y. C.
104 Pearl St., Boston, Mass.
Carpenter Co., St. Louis, Mo.
Gordon, Martin & Co., St. Louis, Mo.
Ash, Warden, Ward & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.
United Hardware, Ltd., Montreal, Canada.
H. M. George & Co., St. N. Randolph, N. Chicago, Ill.
Or Write Your Nearest Jobber.

Send for Catalog and Price Sheet of many other household necessities.

THE W. G. BROWNE MFG. CO.
Kingston New York

You will help us improve this Browne's Service, if you mention HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG when writing to firms listed.

HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG 455

Hardware and Household Specialties

Can Openers, Tack Pullers, Potato Mashers, Ice Picks and Plumbers Scrapers

A full line of fast-selling household necessities made of the highest quality material. Our products have been recognized as the standard throughout the World for Thirty Years. We are the sole Manufacturers of the NEVER SLIP and KING CAN OPENERS.

No. 75 ICE PICK, Needle Point
No. 48 POTATO MASHER and BEATER
No. 34 1/2 DIAMOND CAN OPENER
No. 74 ICE PICK AND POINT
No. 37 SPREADER CAN OPENER
No. 36 IMPROVED PALMER CAN and BOTTLE OPENER
No. 38 PALMER CAN OPENER
No. 34 XXX CAN OPENER
No. 676 ICE PICK, Needle Point
No. 38 ALL METAL TACK PULLER
No. 39 IMPROVED YANKEE TACK PULLER
No. 38 TRIANGLE PLUMBERS' SCRAPER
No. 37 OVAL PLUMBERS' SCRAPER

IMPROVED NEVER SLIP CAN OPENER
KING CAN OPENER
IMPROVED KING CAN OPENER
IMPROVED YANKEE TACK PULLER

Write us for catalog and prices of complete line.

The Browne & Dowd Mfg. Co., Meriden, Conn.

You will help us improve this Browne's Service, if you mention HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG when writing to firms listed.



Harder to find King Can Opener with
only the 1892 Patent Date.