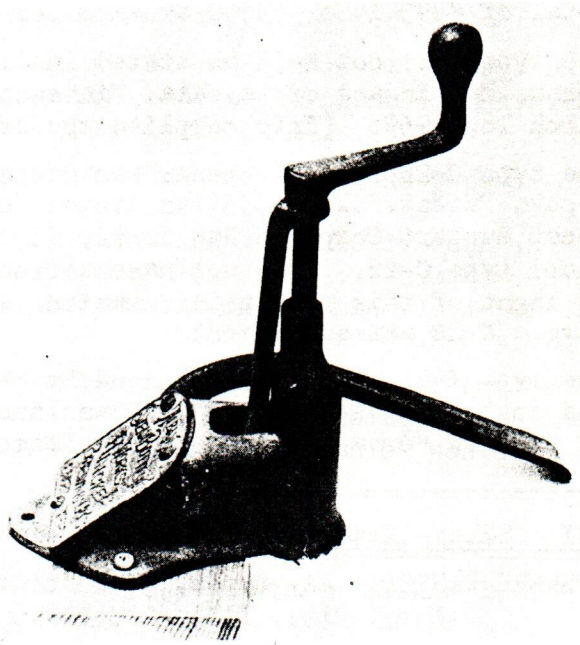
Just For Openers

63 OCTOBER LANE, TRUMBULL, CT 06611

When I first laid eyes on this bar mounted corkscrew at the ECBA convention in July, I knew I had to have it for my collection. Scott Parzanese, a collector of Penn. breweriana had acquired the corkscrew in a trade with John Germann of Penn. Scott saw my display of A and B "not for sale" types and went wild over some Penn. openers in it. After strenuous and lengthy deliberations and arm twisting, the deal was consumated. I now own the corkscrew and gave up: A-5 #11, A-25 #2, B-37 #1, B-12 #1, B-1 #5, and 2 c types for it!

Type P-30



The corkscrew mounts on the edge of a bar with three screws. The bottle is held under the overhang and the screw is turned into the cork by rotating the top handle. The lever is then raised and the cork is extracted. It was invented by Edwin Walker of Erie, Pa. and Patent No. 452,625 was granted May, 19, 1891.

If you have any openers with patent numbers other than the following, please let me know the number and the type of opener on which it appears:

69,111	91,635	118,848	143,327	254,404	501,975
447,185	452,625	579,200	587,900	637,048	644,043
647,775	657,421	814,834	1,150,083	1,164,793	1,202,100
1,288,419	1,324,256	1,351,646	1,365,487	1,473,048	1,490,149
1,617,148	1,676,648	1,913,816	1,996,550	2,002,173	2,080,090
2,155,947	2,179,158	2,218,437	2,333,088	2,238,178	2,243,511
2,420,402	2,517,442	2,779,098	2,018083		

What opener patent numbers were issued on the following dates?:

2/ 6/94	6/ 1/97	2/19/01	1/27/03	11/28/05	10/12/09	
9/11/11	3/12/12	11/26/12	8/18/14	2/15/16	12/ 9/19	11/7/33

Send news for Jan. 1980 by Dec. 7 to Don Bull, 63 October Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611

This is the last "Just for Openers" issue for 1980. Renewal forms for 1981 are enclosed and I would appreciate if you would get this in the mail early. 1980 was quite a year for openers - We've come up with a lot of new types, additions to the catalog, and we are beginning to come up with some good historical information. Our subscription list is now about 175 and, although we've added and lost a few, I think we're down to the real serious collectors now. We had a great convention in St. Louis in April and we're looking forward to an even greater convention there in 1981. Ed Kaye introduced us to the "Breweriana Openers Collectors Club" and sent out a nicely designed "National Associate Member" card to a large number of collectors. There have been bits of publicity about openers of late in the media and I note that the Antique Trader Monthly Price Guide has now added a "Bottle Opener" category due to the increasing interest in this subject!

I'm doing something a little different with this newsletter in hopes of clearing up some confusion about type variations. I hope you all find it useful and enlightening. In the January issue we will have quite a few"discoveries" including a branding iron (?!), a big brass Miller's, two different Pabst "Tapsters," and a lot more. If you have any new types, please send them for photographing before December 1, 1980.

Gary Deachman found a type C-15 marked "Neufang." Anyone know anything about this one? Jim Osborn has a type A-9 marked "Cham-Pay." What is Cham-Pay?"

In Joe Cardone's 3rd opener mail auction 113 out of 127 lots were sold for a total of #393.14 or $3.48 average per opener.

The type S-1 (not M-55 as stated in issue #7) Burger Bottle was patented by Werner Martinmass of Wayzata, Minnesota. Patent #2,992,574 was granted on March 18, 1959. (Info supplied by Jerry Schele).

The type C-22 Ruppert opener was designed by Ferdinand Neumer of New York City. Design Patent No. 91,635 was issued on Feb. 27, 1934 and assigned to the Jacob Ruppert Corp. of New York. In the book there is a Molson opener listed under type C-22. I do not have a record of who submitted this listing and, in light of this patent information, I question its existence. Does anyone have a C-22 marked Molson?

The type I-4 opener was designed by Michael J. LaForte of Park Ridge, Illinois and design patent No. 143,327 was issued Dec. 25, 1945. The ribs were the crux of his new "ornamental" design. Patent was assigned to Vaughan Novelty Mfg. Co.

BUY - SELL - TRADE (10¢ per word - deadline for Jan,, 1981 is Dec. 1, 1980.)

OPENERS WANTED: Any types, good or mint only. Larry Biehl, 448 Crandon, Calumet City, Illinois 60409.

DON REED: Now accepting trading lists for openers anytime. Large or small. 3437 Raymond St., Laureldale, PA 19605.

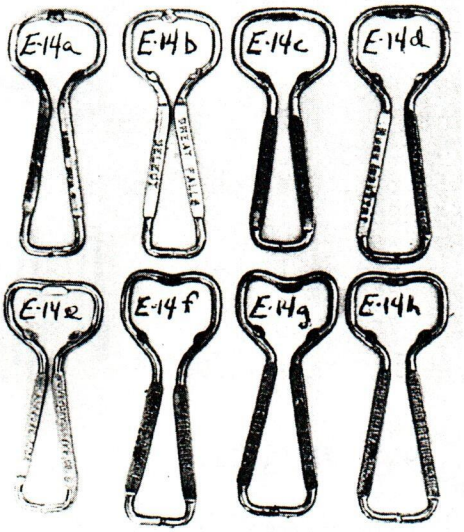
OPENERS WANTED: Types A,B,C,D,M, and N. Must be mint or excellent. (Rust removal, wire brushing, or buffing will not be considered mint condition. Quote price in first letter. Gene Appel, 38915 Deer Run Road, Palmdale, CA 93550.

TYPES WANTED: A-13, 14, 19, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38. B-8, 10, 11, 15, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40. C-3, 23, 26, 27, 30, 32. D-7, 8, 10, 11. E-23. F-9, 11, 16, 17, 19. G-10. H-9. K-4, 6. M-7, 8, 20, 21, 22, 26, 41, 44, 45, 57. N-1, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 35. O-1, 6, 7, 8. P-2, 11, 17, 24, 25, 27, 28. R-5. Don Bull

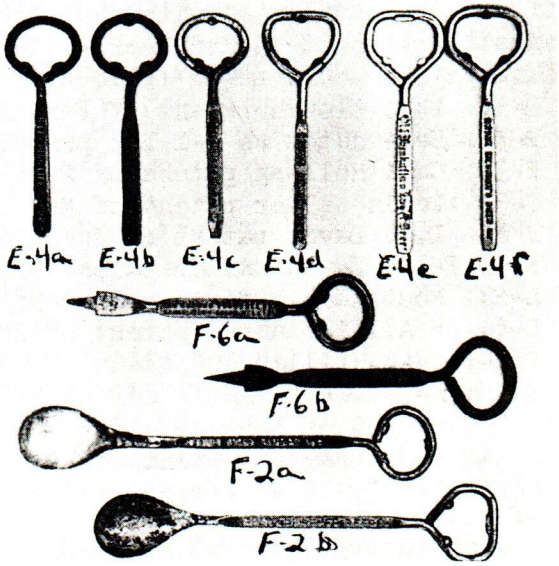
Don't forget to renew your subscription. Plan now to go to the St. Louis convention - you'll be glad you did!

Wire type E & F opener variations

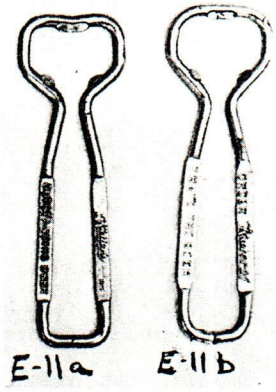
When I first conceived the idea of classifying and cataloging openers in BEER ADVERTISING OPENERS, I made photocopies of all openers in my own collection and sent these to the collectors I knew and asked them to supply list of openers in their collections. If they owned significantly different types, I was informed about them. One of the problems in this effort was that many of the openers were listed under a type which came closest to the photocopies. A prime case in point is the type E-14 - at least eight similar variations were grouped under this type. I do not advocate new type assignments for each of the E & F variations, rather I am presenting here some of the variations for each type as a buy, sell, and trade aid for those who have justifiably been having problems with the types.



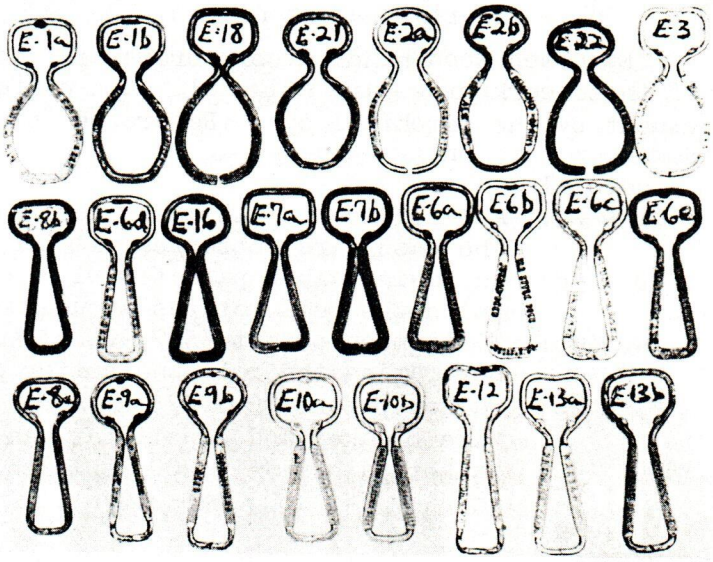
E-14 variations. Note that all have three frets and the top fret varies in width. All have a rounded wire at top and bottom; flat area only where advertising appears.



E-4s have 2 or 3 frets, vary in length, tip and lifter shape. Fs w/ lifter shape variations.

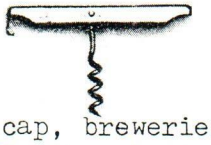


E-11 with dipped and rounded tops.



Other than the obvious characteristics which distinguish these openers from E-14 are: E-1,6,7,16,23 have flattened wire around the handle. The lifter on E-10 is almost a square shape. The E-9 has a more rounded head and is of earlier vintage. The E-12 (3 3/4") is longer. E-13 has only two frets - none at top.

CORKSCREWS



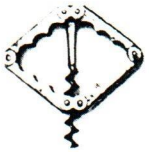
by Joe Balaban

Prior to the invention of the crimped bottle cap, breweries used corks which were secured by wire or string to the bottle thereby protecting the precious brew inside. The practice of wiring or tying the cork was the rule, rather than the exception. For half a century the corkscrew was the opener for beer as well as medicines, various commercial waters, inks, photographic liquids, whiskey, and wine. The bottle cap did not become commercially usable until the late 1890s.

The earliest brewery advertising on corkscrews will be of the P-1 and P-5 type. These were followed closely by the P-3 and P-2. Then a bevy of wooden handled creations became the primary opener; the latter models show cap lifters in conjunction with the wire breaker and corkscrew. A partial historical outline of the corkscrews generated through use of patent numbers for listed types would be as follows:

Type P-1: W.R. Clough patent of Feb. 1, 1876, #172,868.
P-5: Same dates as P-1 but probably later vintage. M-26 is a copy.
P-3: Carl Hollweg patent of Feb. 24, 1891, #447,185.
P-30: Edwin Walker patent of May 19, 1891, #452,625. (See page one).
P-2: D.W. Davis patent of July 14, 1891, #455,826.
P-8, P-9: Edwin Walker patent of July 25, 1893, #501,975
L-2: Most made before the patent was issued - see next: L-6.
L-6: W.A. Williamson patent of June 1, 1897, #583,561.
P-24: W.A. Williamson patent of Aug. 10, 1897, #587,900
? : A bottle slightly different from L-2 and L-6 - R.W. Jorres patent of Feb. 20, 1900, #644,043.

P-10: Edwin Walker patent of April 17, 1900, #647,775.
M-25 (L-2?): R.W. Jorres patent of Sept. 4, 1900, #657,421.
P-23: C.G. Taylor patent of Dec. 25, 1906, #?
Decapitator (?): W.R. Clough patent of March 1, 1910, #950,509.
Combination E-type opener with corkscrew (?): Edwin Walker patent of Aug. 17, 1915, #1,150,083.



B-13: H.L. Vaughan patent of Dec. 5, 1916, #1,207,100. (Folded metal).
B-13: Harding patent of Aug. 14, 1928, #1,630,291. (Solid metal - not folded)
H-4: Hiering patent of Dec. 11, 1928, #1,695,098. (made by Mergott Co.)
H-4: Hiering patent of Feb. 12, 1929, #1,701,950.

Eighteen wood handled corkscrews are shown on the following page. No two of these corkscrews are alike although differences may be slight and only caught by the watchfull eye. Reference is to form rather than advertising. Some comments on the manufacturers of these and patent info:

Photo #1

#1 & #2: A Williams A. Williamson design patent #D29,798 of Dec. 13, 1898. The cast wire cutter/cap lifter above the bell is the patented part.
#3 & #6: An Edwin Walker patent #501,975 of July 25, 1893. The brass sleeve which the bell rotates around was the patented part.
#4 & #5: Williamson patent #587,900 of Aug. 10, 1897. The small washer separating the bell and cotter pin was the patented part.
#7 & #8; Walker patent #647,775 of April 17, 1900. The cast bell incorporating wire breaker and cap lifter was the patented part.
#9 : Walker patent #579,200 of March 23, 1897. A design patent was issued on July 14, 1896 (#D25,776). The cast wire breaker was the patent.

Photo #2

#1 is the Walker patent #579,200 referred to above with a cap lifter/wire breaker inserted into one end of the wooden handle.
#2 is the Walker patent #501,975 (above) with wire breaker/cap lifter.
#3 is the Williamson patent #587,900 (above) with wire breaker in handle.

Photo #3

#1 is a relatively rare wooden handled corkscrew produced by the Erie Specialty Manufacturing Co. (1888-1891). This corkscrew is an excellent

example of what was to become known as the "Self-puller" (1893), a patent by Edwin Walker of Erie, Pennsylvania.

#2, #3, and #4 were made by Williamson Co. of Newark, N.J.

#5 Corkscrews with wooden handles and twisted steel wire were made from 1876 through the 1920s. This particular example has a cap lifter attached to the end of the handle. This device was patented in the U.S. as a "Decapitator" on March 1, 1890, patent #950,509.

#6 Made by the Williamson Co. of Newark, N.J. after 1897.

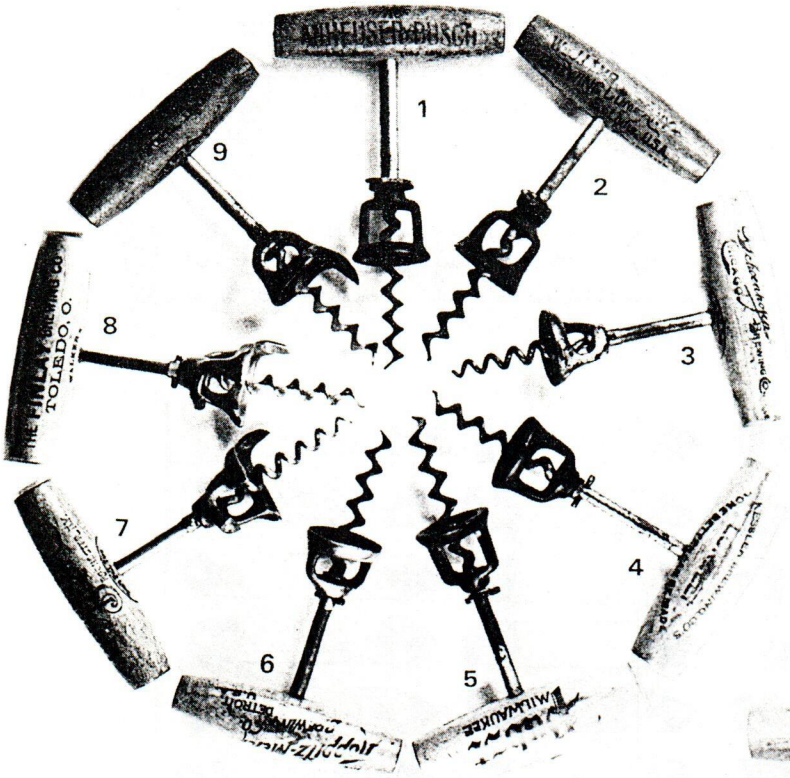


Photo #1

The "Self-Puller" type of corkscrew was appropriately named by Edwin Walker who was a most significant factor in the development of the corkscrew. The key was the method of retaining the bell on the shank and the subsequent features Walker incorporated into the bell. In 1896 he added the wire cutter blade to the bell frame, and in 1900 he added the cap lifter in the bell by removing a portion of the frame. He had designed the self-pulling, wire-breaking, and cap lifting features into a single unit. As a result, production costs were cut and the Walker Bell was a useful and very saleable product at an affordable price for many a beer advertiser!

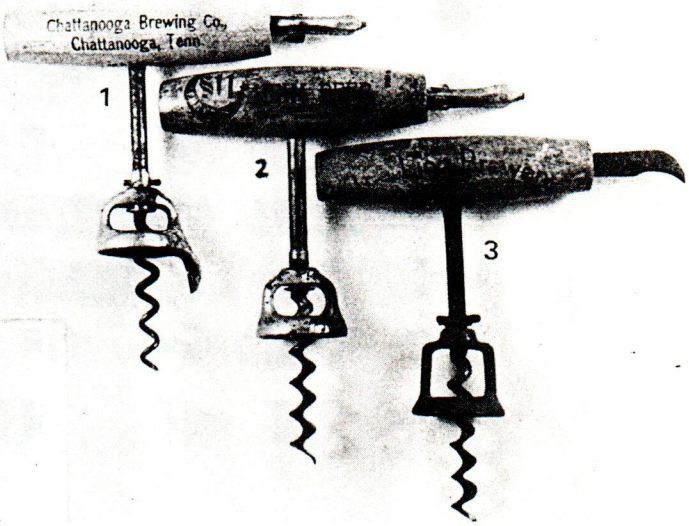
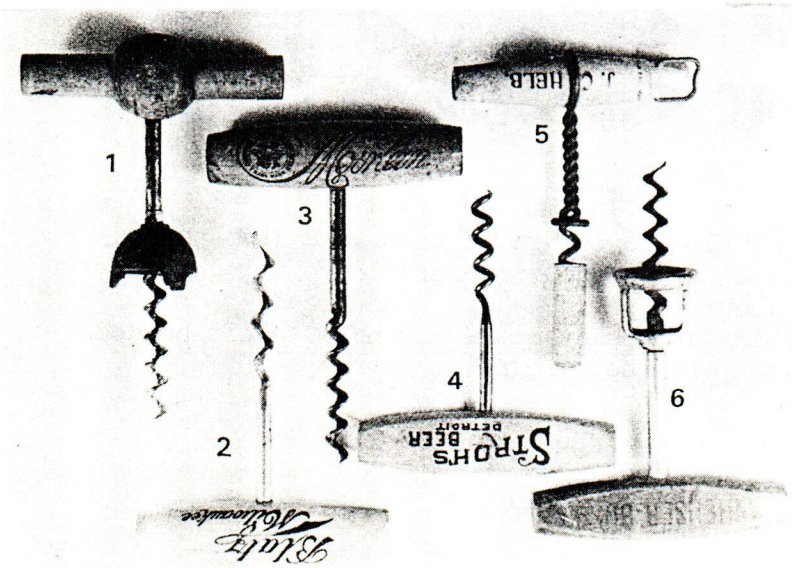


Photo #2 —

Photo #3



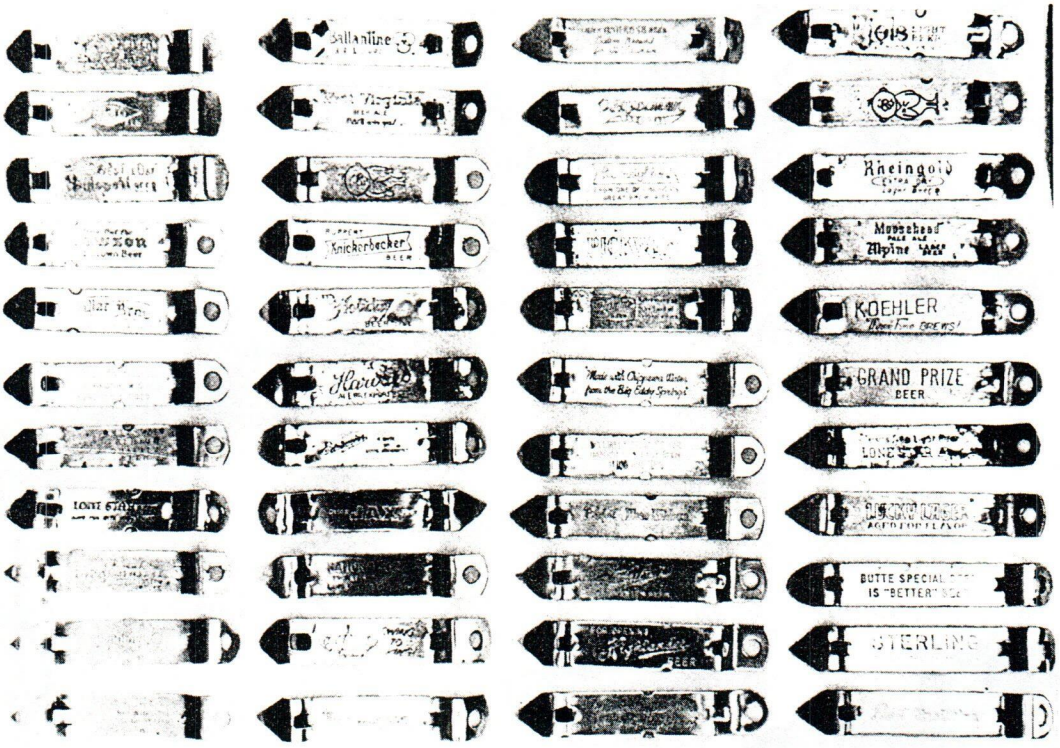
A special thank you to Joe Balaban for this most interesting look at beer advertising corkscrews. Joe collects all types of corkscrews, with or without advertising and would love to hear about your extras. See directory for address.

Do you have a special opener interest you would like to share with JFO readers? Send it in!.....DB

CAN PIERCER / CAP LIFTER VARIATIONS

As I indicated in BEER ADVERTISING OPENERS no attempt was made to include the minor variations in types. Instead a sampling of easily distinguishable varieties was offered. In order to aid those who dig a little deeper into this variety "thing" I have tediously sorted through my collection and have come up with the varieties pictured below for the I-11 and I-12 types. Indeed there are some differences of passing significance and for the edification of those who might want to go a step further into opener collecting. I offer a lengthy and quite possibly incomplete subclassification chart on the following page. The descriptions match the openers pictured through each column viewing from left to right.

In addition to the physical variations of these openers, many of you may also note the presence of manufacturing dates and/or patent dates/numbers - or the absence of these - or the absence of a manufacturer's name. The openers may also be copper, nickel, cadmium, chromate, or brass plated.



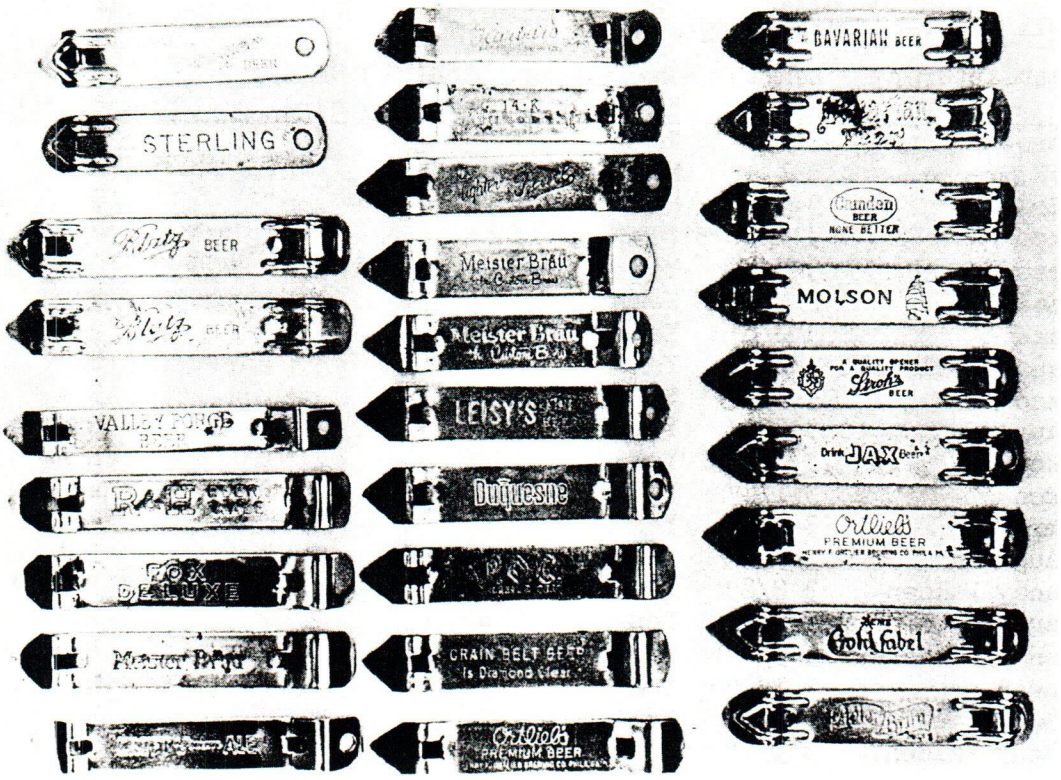
Note particularly the Jax opener (8th in 2nd column) - this is a left-handed opener. If you question this, pick up one of your openers in your right hand naturally as though you were about to pierce a can - now read the advertising on it. If the advertising is upside down, you have a left-handed opener. They do exist in other types and they are not common.

I-11 and I-12 variations

	Manufacturer	Length	Hanger Hole	Ends: Same plane(SP) Opp. plane(OP)	Piercer[1]: Soft Top(ST) Hard Top(HT)	Lifter[2]: Round(R) Square(S) Angled(A)	Ears[3]
I-11a	Emro	3 1/4"	No	SP	HT	S	No
I-11b	S.S.Greene	3 1/4"	No	SP	HT	S	No
I-11c	Mira	3 3/8"	No	SP	ST	S	No
I-11d	Ekco	3 1/4"	Yes	SP	HT	S A	E-1
I-11e	Emro	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S A	E-1
I-11f	Vaughan	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R A	E-2
I-11g	Ekco	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S A	E-2
I-11h	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S	E-2
I-11i	Ekco	3 1/4"	Yes	OP	HT	S A	E-1
I-11j	Vaughan	3 3/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R	E-2
I-11k	Ekco	3 1/4"	Yes	OP	HT	R A	No
I-11l	Ekco	3 1/4"	Yes	OP	HT	S	No
I-11m	Emro	3 3/8"	Yes	OP	HT	S	No
I-11n	Vaughan	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R A	No
I-11o	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R A	No
I-11p	Vaughan	3 1/4"	Yes	SP	HT	R	No
I-11q	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R	No
I-11r	Vaughan	3 1/4"	Yes	SP	ST	R	No
I-11s	Mira	3 1/4"	Yes	SP	HT	R	No
I-11t	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S A	No
I-11u	Mira	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S	No
I-11v	Emro	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S	No
I-11w	Ekco	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S	No
I-11x	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S	No
I-11y	Ekco	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	ST	S	No
I-11z	Handy Walden	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	ST	S	No
I-11aa	Emro	3 3/8"	Yes	SP	ST	S	No
I-12a	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R A	E-2
I-12b	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	SP	ST	R A	E-2
I-12c	Ekco	3 5/8"	Yes	SP	HT	S A	E-2
I-12d	Ekco	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	S A	E-1
I-12e	Emro	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	S A	E-2
I-12f	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R A	E-2
I-12g	Handy Walden	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R A	E-2
I-12h	Ekco	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	S A	E-3
I-12i	Handy Walden	3 3/4"	Yes	OP	HT	R	No
I-12j	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R A	No
I-12k	G.G. Greene	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R A	No
I-12l	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	R	No
I-12m	Emro	3 5/8"	Yes	OP	HT	S	No
I-12n	Emro	3 3/4"	Yes	OP	HT	S	No
I-12o	Vaughan	3 13/16"	Yes	SP	ST	R	No
I-12p	Vaughan	3 13/16"	Yes	SP	HT	R	No
I-12q	Vaughan	3 5/8"	Yes	SP	HT	R	No

1. The Hard Top piercer has a sharp point. The Soft Top piercer was designed for the soft aluminum tops.
2. The cap lifter end was available angled in such a manner as to allow more finger room between the opener and the bottle for more leverage (see page 105 of BAO). On the cap lifter end the finished product was either cut at a sharp or squared angle(S) or was rounded and smooth (R).
3. The ears were designed to keep the opener from falling into the bottle. These appear at different points along the body of the opener: E-1 = ears at lower or can piercer end, E-2 = ears in middle, E-3 = openers at upper or cap lifter end.

J and I type variations (Described through columns from left to right in photo).



	Manufacturer	Length	Width	Hanger Hole	Soft Top Hard Top	Ends Same Plane Opp. Plane	Lifter Round Square
J-5a	Vaughan	4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	N/A	S
J-5b	Vaughhan	4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	N/A	S
I-18a	Western Newell	4 3/4"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-18b	same as above except ribs only go straight and do not loop around ends						
I-15a	Walden	4 3/4"	1/2"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-15b	Not marked: "3 in 1 opener" (very early combo)						
		4 3/4"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-15c	Vaughan	4 3/4"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-15d	Newell-Plymouth	4 3/4"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-15e	Not marked	4 3/4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-13a	Walden	3 7/8"	3/4"	Yes	HT	OP	R
I-13b	Ekco	3 7/8"	3/4"	Yes	HT	OP	S
I-14a	Emro	4 1/4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	OP	S
I-13c	Ekco	4 1/8"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-13d	Vaughan	4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	R
I-14b	Ekco	4 1/4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-14c	Emro	4 1/4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-14d	Vaughan	4 3/8"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-14e	Emro	4 1/4"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	S
I-14f	Meco	4 3/8"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	S
I-16a	Ekco	3 7/8"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-16b	Handy Walden	4"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	R
I-17a	Handy Walden	4 5/16"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	R
I-17b	Newell	4 5/16"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	R
I-17c	Vaughan	4 5/16"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	R
I-17d	Ekco	4 5/16"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-17e	Meco	4 7/16"	3/4"	Yes	HT	SP	S
I-17f	Vaughan	4 3/8"	3/4"	No	HT	SP	R
I-17g	Vaughan	4 1/4"	3/4"	No	ST	SP	R