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Add A Worm and Call It A Day

Frank White Can Openers By Don Thornton

It was patented as a 2-in-1 knife. By the time it got to the market place, it was the 4-in-1 knife.

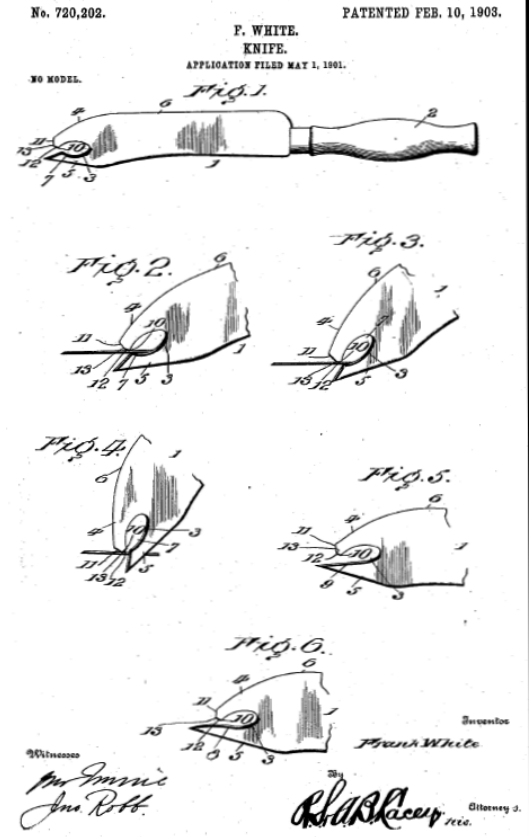
Frank White, of New York City, was granted Patent No. 720,202 on February 3, 1903 for a knife to “facilitate the dismemberment of the frame of fowl and the separation of joints and tendons of meat.”

The knife, “having its outer end notched or indented to form prongs,” also could be used “for opening packages – such as canned meats, fish and other goods.” Basically, White’s invention had “a knife-blade with means for severing a tendon or prying apart joints,” and a pronged end “for opening a package such as a can.”

By the time it was manufactured, it had acquired two more features – bottle opener and corkscrew. A curved slot was taken out of the top of the blade for the bottle opener and a wire corkscrew was inserted into the end of the wooden handle.

A year later White pulled the same add-a-worm trick to his Sure-Cut can opener (more on that later).

The 13 ¼-inch knife is marked **FOUR-IN-ONE WARRANTED CAN & BOTTLE OPENER PAT. FEB. 10, 1903** on the blade. The end prongs are marked **CAN OPENER** and the slot top marked **CAP LIFTER**.



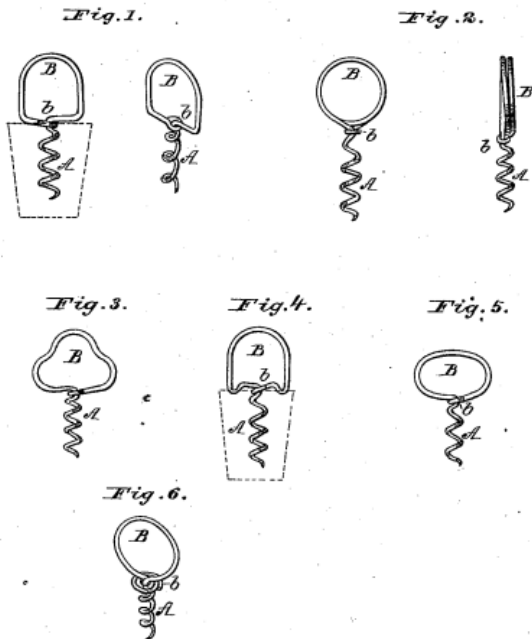
The wire corkscrew, which can be unscrewed from the handle, is just under 3-inches in length. It was based on Patent No. 161,755 granted April 6, 1875 to legendary corkscrew inventor William R. Clough of Newark.

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W. R. CLOUGH.
Wire Cork-Screw.
No. 161,755. Patented April 6, 1875.



Attest:
J. S. Gould
A. H. Norris

Inventor:
W. R. Clough
By James L. Norris
Atty.



"Four-In-One" Butcher Knife
PREMIUM NO. 64

Given to Readers of Capper's Weekly

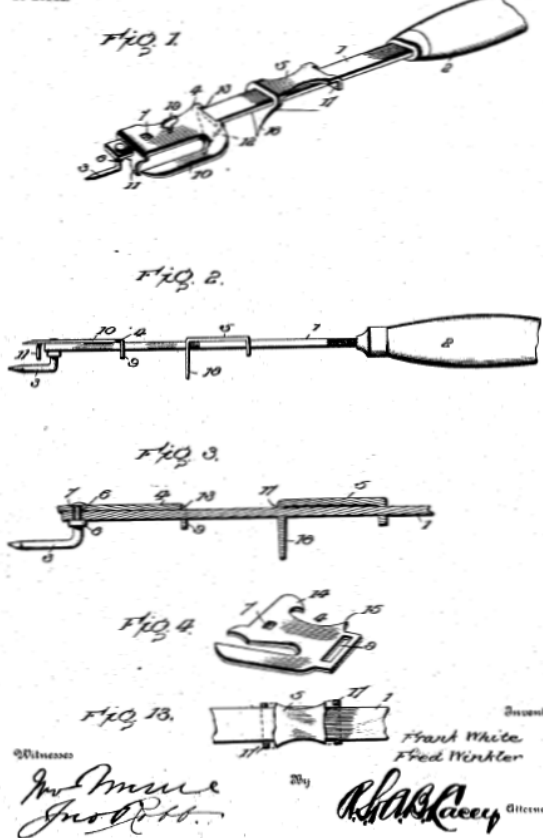
This "Four In One" Butcher Knife is one of the most useful combination tools ever invented. It is a can opener, cork screw, cap lifter and butcher knife all in one and is just the thing for campers, miners, ranchers or tourists and in fact, wherever a knife or opener is required. The finest of materials and the most skilled workmanship are employed in the manufacture of this wonderful combination tool knife. It is over 12 inches long and every knife is fully warranted.

SPECIAL TEN DAY FREE OFFER: We will send one of these "Four In One" Butcher Knives, Premium No. 64, free to all who send us 50 cents to pay for a year's subscription to Capper's Weekly with 10 cents additional to cover mailing expenses, 60 cents in all.

CAPPER'S WEEKLY, Dept. M-64, Topeka, Kansas

No. 765,450. PATENTED JULY 10, 1904.
F. WHITE & F. WINKLER.
CAN OPENER.

NO MODEL. APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1902. 2 SHEETS SHEET 1.



A give-away newspaper advertisement described the knife as "one of the most useful combination

tools ever invented ... just the thing for campers, miners, ranchers or tourists."

White, as the manufacture of the "Four-In-One," offered another premium – merchants could pay to put their advertisement on the handle. For example, the two knives with advertising have branded on their handles: 1) **MILLER BROS. CO. 246 1ST. AVE. NO., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. & 2) OTTUS MCDANIEL GROCERIES AND MEATS 488 EAST MAIN ST. PERU, IND. PHONE 1060.**

One year after the combo-knife patent, White, then a resident of Newark, New Jersey, and Fred Winkler, also of Newark, were granted Patent No. 765,450 in 1904 for a can opener with piercing end and sliding blade holder. "This invention provides in a single implement means for cutting the tops of metal packages, such as commonly employed for receiving food, either in straight lines or a circle," the inventors said.

This patent resulted in the very popular "Sure-Cut" line of openers

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with a variety of shapes of metal and wood handles. Some of the wood ones were drilled at the end to accommodate a Clough corkscrew like the 4-in-1. This 9 3/4-inch opener (11-inches with corkscrew attached) is marked: **"SURE-CUT" CAN OPENER PAT. 7-19-04** on the metal shaft and **CAP LIFTER PATD CAN OPENER TEMPERED** on the head.

A piece in *Iron Age* magazine October 3, 1909 said the opener was manufactured by the Ira F. White & Son Company, 144 Walnut Street, Newark. Frank was believed to be the son. The company was incorporated in 1907 by Frank White, Fred Winkler and Edward Buchler, all of East Orange, New Jersey, according to *Steel and Iron* magazine.



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The Sure Cut Can Opener



The best Can Opener made—bottle opener as well. Basement Day **10c**

The retail price of the Sure Cut, without the corkscrew, was 10 cents.



Two Sure-Cut steel handled Can Openers with a Corkscrew
(Top: No. 95 sliding blade holder Bottom: No. 90 without sliding blade holder)