

Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

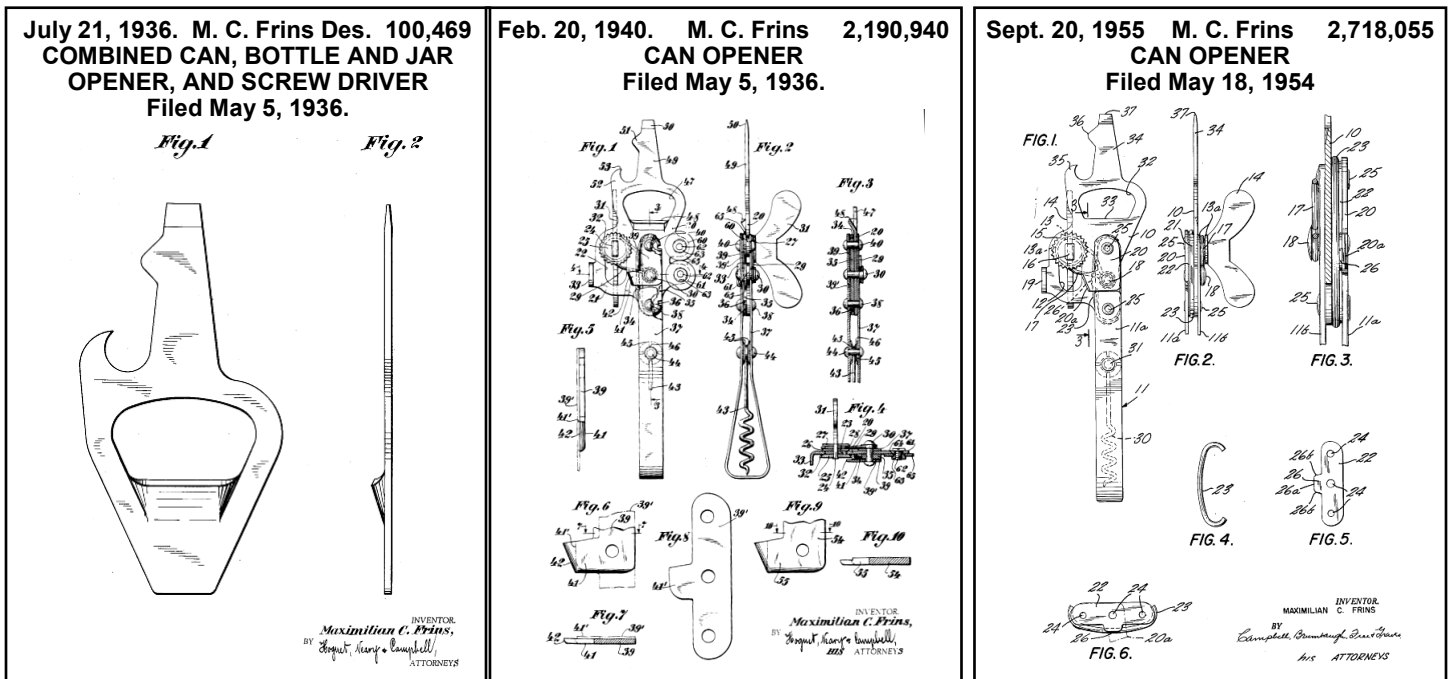
Maximilian C. Frins' Quintuplet

"Opens Everything In The Kitchen" By Don Thornton

What do the American-made, heavy-duty, workhorse Mack Trucks have in common with a kitchen tool featuring a can opener, jar opener, bottle opener, corkscrew and screwdriver? The answer: Patents awarded to inventor Maximilian C. Frins of Plainfield, New Jersey.

Frins was granted at least seven patents for essential components for motorized vehicles from 1921 to 1923, all of which he assigned to the International Motor Company of New York, part of what became the Mack Manufacturing Company. At the time, Frins was chief draftsman at International. The patents included a four-speed and other transmissions, two universal joints, air brakes and brake rigging.

Frins switched inventing gears in 1936 when he was granted Design Patent No. 100,469 for a "combination can, bottle and jar opener and screw driver." One month later on May 5, 1936, he applied for a combination crank can opener with corkscrew. The patent was not granted until four years later in 1940. He ended his foray into the kitchen with a final patent for improvements on his combo tool awarded September 20, 1955.



Based on grocery and department store newspaper advertisements, production by the Cahil Manufacturing Company of what was branded the "Quintuplet" began in 1937. One ad described the bottle cap remover as "most efficient on market."

The slightly under 8-inch long metal, loop handle with fold out corkscrew is marked: THE QUINTUPLET KITCHEN UTILITY PAT. No.D-100,469 OTHERS PEND. In later models the metal handles are replaced with Bakelite handles and the corkscrew eliminated. This later device is longer at 8 3/4-inches and is marked: U.S. PAT. NO. 2190940 D-100469.

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"QUINTUPLET"

5-in-1

KITCHEN UTILITY

Opens Everything in the Kitchen

Despite the success of his opener, Frins kept his day job. According to newspaper accounts, he was honored in 1955 for 46 years of service to Mack Manufacturing Corporation, Plainfield, New Jersey.



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1. CAN OPENER. Safe . . . easy-to-use . . . quick. Lifts lid automatically.



2. JAR OPENER. Opens covers even when close to jar.



3. PRYER FOR PRESSED-IN COVERS. Works on any type can.



4. BOTTLE-CAP REMOVER. Most efficient on market.



5. CORK SCREW. Affords good grip. Never loose. Fits back into handle.

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LATONIA CLUB GINGER ALE

or ROCKY RIVER BEVERAGES

2 24-oz. bottles **15^c**
(contents only)

(only 3c bottle deposit)

and get the

"QUINTUPLET"

5-in-1

KITCHEN UTILITY

Opens Everything in the Kitchen

A certified 49c value for

25^c

●
**Unconditionally
Guaranteed
for
One Year**
●

It opens everything in your kitchen . . . includes the best rotary can opener you ever saw. It cuts automatically . . . no holes to punch or handles to squeeze . . . leaves absolutely no dangerous sharp or jagged edges, and does not wear out.