

# Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

## Combo Tool Opener Bonus

John C. Forster By Don Thornton

The J. C. Forster & Son's "4-in-1" kitchen tool was a jar wrench, can opener, bottle cap opener, and lid lifter.

John C. Forester was awarded Patent No. 970,206 on September 13, 1910 for his "household tool" which was manufactured over the years by the J. C. Forster & Son Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Forster and his son, John L., manufactured dies, sheet metal, tools, stamped novelties and tin ware at their plant at the corner of First and Liberty Avenues.

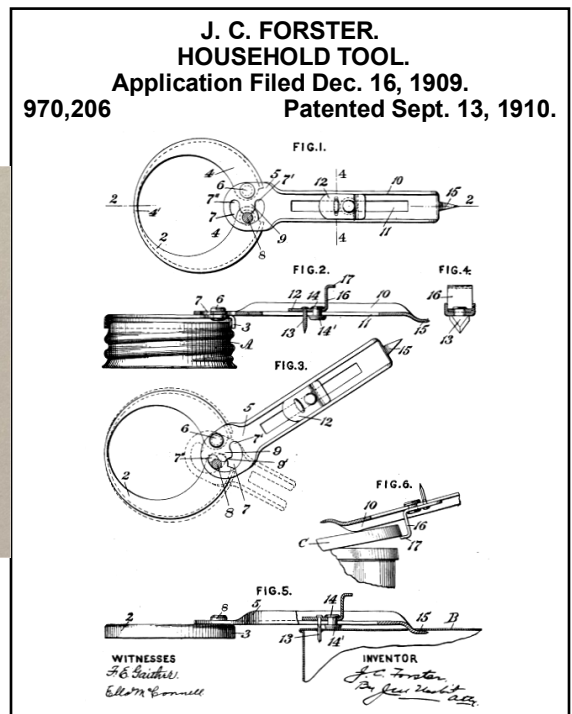
Forester said his tool's ring wrench was designed for "use interchangeably in tightening and loosening the caps" of fruit and other screw-on jars and the can opener could be adjusted to cut open different size cans.

According Forester this is how caps were lifted: The arm of the sliding can cutting blade "is provided with a hook-like extremity for engaging the flange of a glass jar or bottle closure" with the handle "serving as a lever for the cap removing movement."

The 6 1/2-inch device is marked J. C. FORSTER & SON, PITTSBURGH, PA 4-in-1 Pat. 9-13-1910 OTHERS PEND.



In addition to the four tools in the combo device, Forester said in his patent application there was an added bonus: The round jar wrench "may be conveniently used for hanging the tool on a nail or hook when not in service."



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