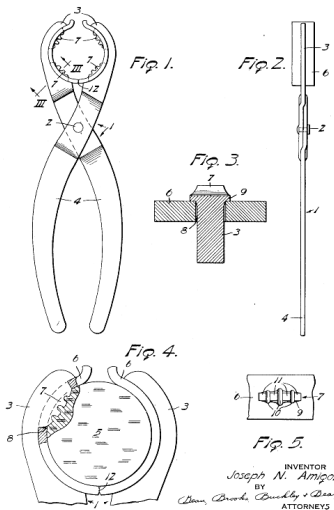


# Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

## Joseph N. Amigone's Combo Rabbit Act By Don Thornton

Joseph N. Amigone applied for a patent for a “gripper-type cork extractor” on June 15, 1948, and it was granted Jan. 24, 1950, Patent No. 2,495,308, launching a combination tool with combos proliferating like rabbits.

Jan. 24, 1950 J. N. Amigone 2,495,308  
GRIPPER-TYPE CORK EXTRACTOR  
Filed June 15, 1948



In his patent application, Amigone, of Buffalo, New York, said his invention was a “plier type of extracting tool” that was “especially adapted for opening champagne bottles.”

It became a combo tool even before the patent was granted. Although they were not part of the patent, a hook style crown cap opener and a stubby screwdriver were added to the handle ends when this model was first manufactured and sold “pat. pend.” The 7-inch tool is marked on one handle: AMI CHAMPAGNE CORK EXTRACTOR 3404 MAIN ST. BUFFALO, 14, N.Y. PAT. PEND. The other handle is branded: CAYUGA VALLEY CHAMPAGNE EBER BROS. DISTRIBUTORS.

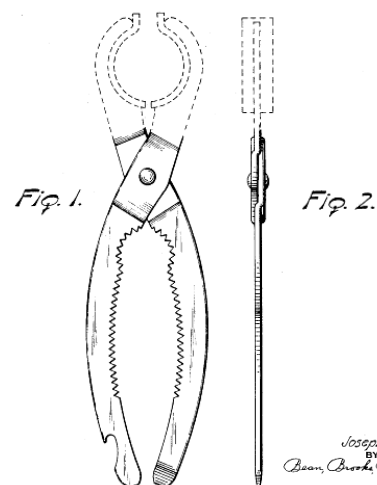


The American Legion Magazine of October, 1948, featured this headline: **FOR CHAMPAGNE CONNOISSEURS AND CATSUP USERS** with the following story: “For thirty years, we are told, Joseph N. Amigone was troubled by the problem of removing corks from champagne bottles. After this long period of frustration he invented the Ami Champagne Cork Extractor. It is a pincers-like device with a series of forged serrations inside the gripping jaws, and the jaws are circular to insure proper fit around the cork head ... Made by the Ami Company, 3401 Main Street Buffalo, N.Y., it sells for \$1.95.”

That was the beginning of the combo rabbit act with three more patents transforming the cork extractor into the AMI OPEN-ALL combination tool with “19 Uses In The Home.”

The patents and trademark tell the story. The first was for the “gripper” champagne bottle opener. Amigone’s second patent was for a “combination tool” granted July 3, 1951, Design Patent No. 163785. The plier-like top remained the same, but the bowed handles were serrated to hold onto and open jars.

July 3, 1951 J. N. Amigone Des. 163,785  
COMBINATION TOOL  
Filed Oct. 23, 1948



INVENTOR  
Joseph N. Amigone  
BY  
Bean, Brooks, Quinby & Bean  
ATTORNEYS

# Just For Openers January-December 2025 2

## Joseph N. Amigone's Combo Rabbit Act By Don Thornton

Trademark Ser. No. 636,266 was given to Amigone, doing business under the name Ami Company, Buffalo, N.Y. on October 7, 1952. Amigone got a bit ahead of himself when he stated in the trademark, "For combination hand tool usable as a can opener, bottle opener, screwdriver, hammer, pliers and for other purposes."

**AMI OPEN-ALL AND WORLD FAMOUS Champagne Cork Extractor**

Correct For Cocktails And Dining  
SMART AND HANDY FOR A HOST OF USES

**H**ere's a most useful accessory to good living! Does dozens of jobs easier . . . better . . . in your kitchen . . . at your bar . . . all around the house or out of doors!

And it's a deluxe, sturdy implement, skillfully made of a special alloy, handsomely finished in chromium, silver or gold. It feels fine in the hand . . . Looks fine even among costliest table cutlery. A shade under eight inches long, Ami weighs only a few ounces.

**EASES OUT CHAMPAGNE CORKS**  
Even the most stubborn champagne cork is eased out slowly, gently, with a few effortless turns. The day of the shooting cork and champagne shower has gone forever!

**WINE AND LIQUOR**  
Loosens top, severs seal . . . with a turn.

**SOFT DRINKS, BEER**  
Flips off Crown Caps

**BEER—OTHER CANS**  
Quickly punctured

**LIMES, LEMONS**  
Squeezed handily

**EVEN ICE TONGS**

**KINGPIN IN THE HOME**

**FIRM JAWS FOR SCREW TOPS**

**HANDY PRIER FOR VACUUM TOPS**

**USE FOR CORN TONGS or hot pot tops, too**

**CRACK NUTS or lobster claws**

**STURDY HOOK FOR ANCHOR TOPS**

**FOR THE ODD JOBS AT HOME OR OUTDOORS**

**IT'S A PAIR OF PLIERS**  
For the odd job . . . the emergency job, just grab Ami off the kitchen hook or from the bar.

**A WRENCH**

**A HAMMER**

**A SCREW DRIVER**

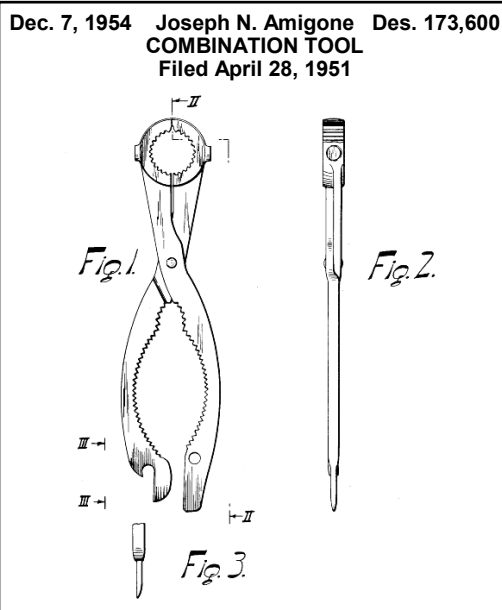
**AN ICE CRACKER**

**A GREAT PRIZE A PRIZED GIFT**  
As a gift, as a prize, Ami is appreciated by everybody. And the fact that it can be furnished with engraved names, signatures and initials, or embossed emblems of most fraternal orders, societies, colleges and military services, makes it appropriate for numerous occasions.

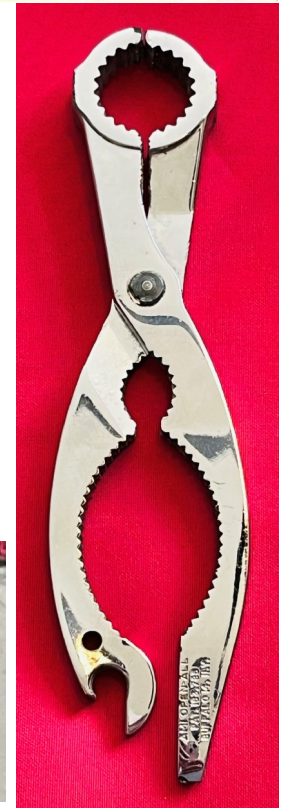
Pat. Nos. 163,785 and 2,495,308  
Mfd. by AMI COMPANY • Buffalo 14, N. Y.

Litho in U. S. A.

The can opener and hammer were not added until his next patent. That was on December 7, 1954 when Design Patent No. 173,600 was granted. In addition, in this patent the bottle opener was given a sharp, piercing top to enable it to cut open cans, and fat bumps were added to each side of the plier top to be used as hammers.



Newspaper advertisements for the "Ami Open-All" from 1952 to 1965 listed the price at \$4.95. A 1952 ad boasted: AMI OPEN-ALL Has 19 Uses In The Home." It then listed the uses, starting with "it's a fish scaler." Another ad crowed: "Unexcelled for bar, kitchen, dining, traveling, boating, fishing ..."



# Just For Openers January-December 2025 3

## Joseph N. Amigone's Combo Rabbit Act By Don Thornton

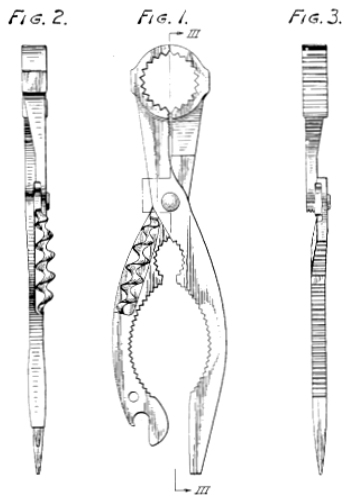
Among other things it's a fish scaler, screw driver, wrench, pliers and hammer. It's a pair of tongs for ice cubes, sugar corn and hot pot lids. It'll crack nuts or lobster claws, squeeze limes and lemons, puncture cans, flip off Crown bottle caps, pry off vacuum tops and loosen screw tops.

AMI loosens wine and liquor tops, severs seals with a turn ... and on really festive occasions eases out champagne corks ... without a shower!

Next came Amigone's piece de resistance. He was granted Design Patent 209,001 on October 24, 1967 that was exactly the same as his last patent but with the addition of a worm.



Oct. 27, 1967 Joseph N. Amigone Des. 209,001  
COMBINATION TOOL  
Filed Dec. 8, 1965



This is how Amigone described it: "The characterizing feature of my design resides in the particularly configured cork-screw receiving recess in one face and edge of one arm in combination with the separation of the arms at the pivot of the corkscrew member..." In a 1971 ad featuring the device with its new corkscrew the price jumped to \$7.95.

**ami**  
**open - all**  
opens any bottle,  
corked or capped

Deluxe, cutting-edge corkscrew swings out and screws into cork quickly, cleanly.

SMART AND HANDY FOR A HOST OF OTHER USES

Here's a most useful accessory to good living! Does dozens of jobs easier ... better ... in your kitchen ... at your bar ... all around the house or out of doors!

And it's a deluxe, sturdy implement, skillfully made of a special alloy, handsomely finished in chromium or gold. It feels fine in the hand ... Looks fine even among costliest table cutlery. A shade under eight inches long, Ami weighs only a few ounces.

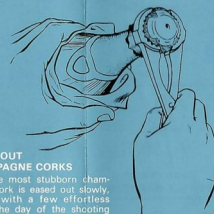
#### A GREAT PRIZE — A PRIZED GIFT

As a gift, as a prize, Ami is appreciated by everybody. And the fact that it can be furnished with engraved names, signatures and initials, or embossed emblems of most fraternal orders, societies, colleges and military services, makes it appropriate for numerous occasions.



#### WORLD FAMOUS BAR AID

Ami, long known to world famous hotel and restaurant bars is now available to smart home bartenders, too, in a new and improved design.



#### EASES OUT CHAMPAGNE CORKS

Even the most stubborn champagne cork is eased out slowly, gently, with a few effortless turns. The day of the shooting cork and champagne shower has gone forever!

#### LIMES, LEMONS

Squeezed handily

#### SOFT DRINKS, BEER

Flips off Crown Caps

#### WINE AND LIQUOR

Loosens top, severs seal ... with a turn

#### EVEN ICE TONGS

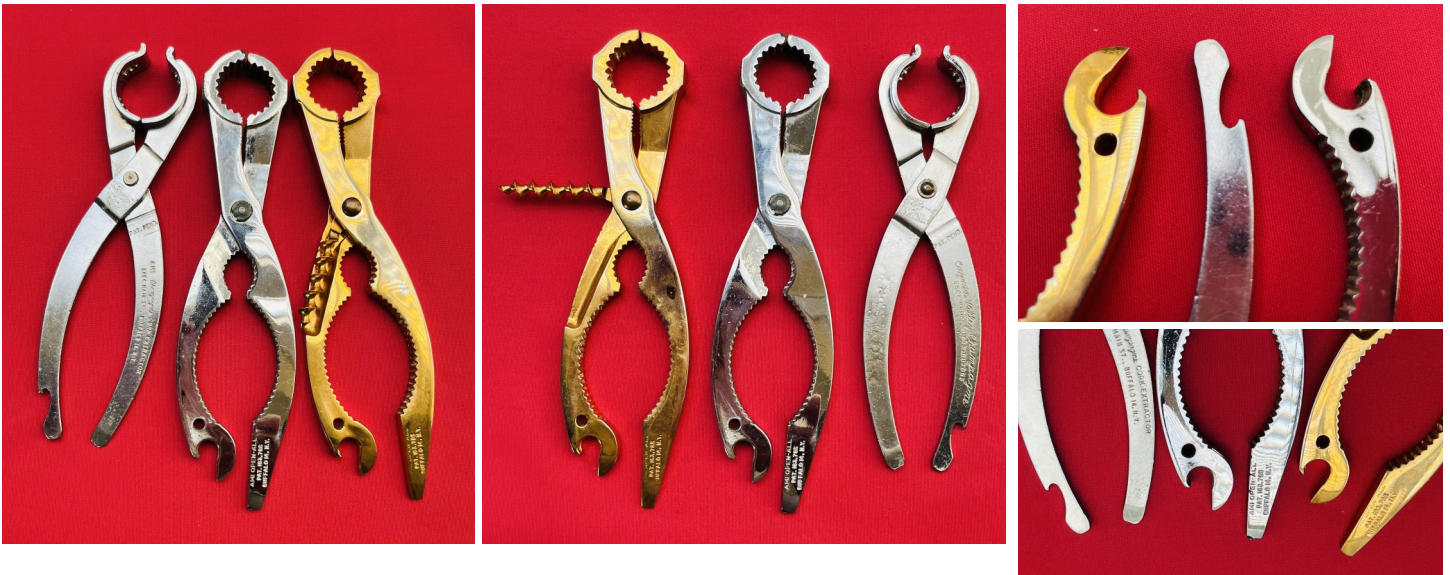
#### KINGPIN IN THE HOME ... OR OUTDOORS



# Just For Openers January-December 2025 4

## Joseph N. Amigone's Combo Rabbit Act By Don Thornton

Amigone died in 1969 at the age of 74. His obituary in the *Buffalo News* traced his career as a coal miner in Ohio in his youth, a Buffalo police officer, a county probation officer, a wine salesman and founder of the Ami Co. In addition, the obit said, "boxing and golf were life avocations for Mr. Amigone. In 1919 he sparred with Jack Dempsey here before Dempsey had gained nation prominence. Mr. Amigone was a past club champion at the Transit Valley Country club and at age 66, he won the Seniors District Golf Championship."



**AMI OPEN-ALL**  
Has 19 Uses In The Home!

**4.95**

light and sturdy, about 8" long, hand-made chrome, 7 1/2 x 1 1/4 x 4 1/4, sturdy base

Among other things it's a fish scaler, screw driver, wrench, pliers and hammer. It's a pair of tongs for ice cubes, sugar corn and hot pot lids. It'll crack nuts or lobster claws, squeeze limes and lemons, puncture cans, flip off Crown bottle caps, pry off vacuum tops and loosen screw tops. AMI loosens wine and liquor tops, severs seals with a turn . . . and on really festive occasions eases out champagne corks . . . without a shower!

**AMI CHROME OPEN ALL**  
Will Open Anything Corked or Capped

Can be used as jaws, tongs, nut-cracker, wrench, pump, screwdriver, hammer, and ice-cracker.

**\$7.95**

**AMI**  
(AH-MEE)

Champagne  
**CORK EXTRACTOR**

One in ten says "ouch". Cork comes out nice and clean. We spill! Well! Thirty years taking corks out of champagne bottles brought about the invention. And it's a dandy. Open wine from any bottle. . . . Champagne corker. . . . \$7.95

**AMI**  
(AH-MEE)

Champagne  
**CORK EXTRACTOR**

A NOVEL, USEFUL ACCEPTABLE GIFT

MANUFACTURED BY AMI CO  
3404 MAIN ST. BROOKLYN 14, N. Y.