

Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

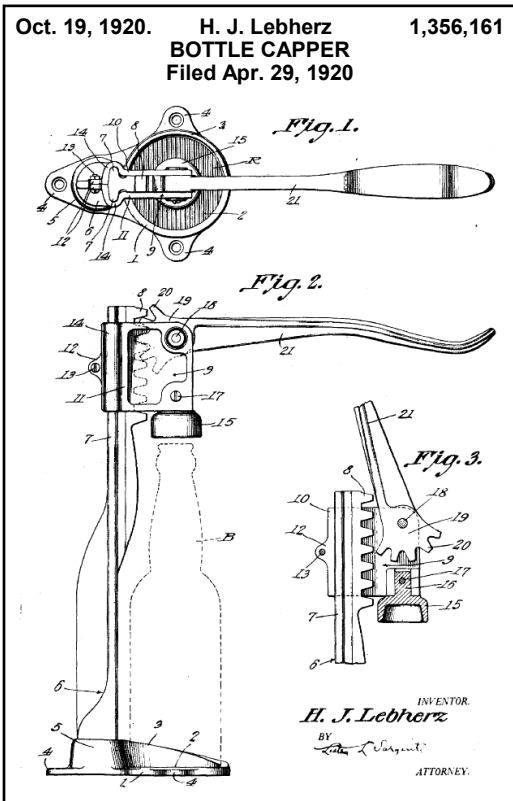
Homebrew Foments Success

For Leberz Brothers' Capper By Don Thornton

In March of 1920 brothers Harry, William and Robert Leberz organized the Everedy Bottle Capping Company in Frederick, Maryland. Two months later the first mechanical Everedy Bottle Capper was produced for home use.

Designed and patented by Harry J. Leberz, a mechanical engineer, the capper was an immediate success, retailing for \$1.50 or less. Sixteen years later, Harry had another hit, a patented kitchen combination tool that could pop open the bottle caps, but more on that later.

Everedy offered three different capper models. Probably the most popular was the 15-inch device with 11-inch arm, marked on the base: THE EVEREDY CO. FREDERICK, MD. CLIMAX PATENTED MADE IN U.S.A.



138 GOOD HARDWARE April, 1922

What are you doing to meet the insistent demand for tools for capping bottles?

Bottle Cappers sell these days, lots of people are putting all kinds of stuff into bottles; root beer, grape juice, fruit juices, ketchup and so on and a fish line tied over the top of a cork isn't a very efficient seal; so folks are looking around for something better and here it is.



keep them in sight, they'll sell, and you will find it a worth-while proposition. If your jobber hasn't them, or is not disposed to get them for you, send us your order direct; we'll see to it that you do get them, and in a hurry. Get in on this, now, be the first in your town to handle them, beat the others to it, get the fat of the business while the getting is good.

The Everedy Bottle Capper Co.
Frederick, Maryland, U.S.A.

Say you saw it in GOOD HARDWARE

THE TRADE MARK EVEREDY MARK BOTTLE CAPPER No. 1 For Home Use

This simple little device is always ready to cap bottles of any size—No adjustments being necessary. Unexcelled for sealing bottles of catsup, fruit juices, root beer or any other home-made beverages with well known and world famous "crown" cap.

By simply raising the handle to the vertical position, disengaging the teeth, the head is free to move up or down to suit the height of almost any bottle; then by throwing the handle forward, reengaging the teeth, it is ready to cap at the new position all bottles within a variation in length of one inch, without change.

SEGER & COMPANY
45 S. Market St. HARDWARE Frederick, Md.

Everedy newspaper advertisements beginning in late 1920 said: "Unexcelled for sealing bottles of catsup, fruit juices, root beer or other home-made beverages..." Ads in hardware and other trade magazines followed, urging retailers to offer the capper, predicting it would be a big seller because of its strong bottle sealing powers. For example, an ad in *Good Hardware*

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magazine told retailers: "Bottle cappers sell these days, lots of people are putting all kinds of stuff into bottles; root beer, grape juice, fruit juices, ketchup and so on ..."

The theme of all the ads was the same – perfect for preserving fruit juice, ketchup, root beer, ginger ale. Homebrew was never mentioned – but it was the driving force for rocketing sales. All this with the backdrop of Prohibition, which had gone into force in the U.S. January 12, 1920 and did not end until December 5, 1933.

The News of Frederick reported that by mid-1923 there were "half a million Everedy bottle cappers in use." And sales continued to grow briskly through the 1920s, only slowing down near the end of Prohibition in 1933. The success of the capper provided Everedy the revenue to ever expand its product line. When the brothers incorporated in 1923 with \$100,000 in capital, the firm, its name shortened to Everedy Company, was already offering houseware items which it continued to do successfully for nearly four decades.

EVEREDY CAPPER
\$1.25

EVEREDY CAPPER
No. 1018
Price \$1.25

No. 222

When you've spent the time to make a batch of Hire's Root Beer or Ginger Ale, or any home-made condiment which is to be bottled, you want to know that your time is not going to be wasted; that the bottles are capped to stay.

HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG 121

A Small Stock Brings Big Profits

The Everedy line of household necessities is a quick (and a big) money-maker for progressive hardware dealers.

Month in and month out, you can turn over your stock of Everedy products often enough to net you a handsome profit.

Consistent advertising, backed up by honest worth, accounts for the rapid-fire selling qualities of the Everedy line. You just can't go wrong on them!

Put in a small stock of these house-helps and watch how fast they move. They'll speed up your sales! Your jobber should be able to supply you; but, if not, write us direct. Strong dealer helps with every shipment.

The Everedy Bottle Capper

Caps any size bottle. Made of steel and unbreakable, malleable, and polished. New "grip" handles prevent slipping, prevent bottle sticking, and prevent injury. Price \$1.25. Order in original package, see on a box.

Everedy Jelly Bag and Stand

A quick-selling article that retails for 75¢. Extra bags 25¢.

Everedy Filter Bag and Stand

Stand made of aluminum, fast-acting, durable. Price \$1.00. Bags 50¢. 75¢ and \$1.00, according to size.

The "Old Bud" Bottle Capper

is a handy little hand-capper. It retails for 10¢. A big value.

Everedy Fish Slicer

is ideal for the kitchen or the camp kit. Has 12 teeth. Retail for 10¢.

Single orders in prices in Canada and on the Pacific Coast.

TRADE MARK
EVEREDY
MARK

*Approved by Good Housekeeping Institute.

The Everedy Company
2 East Street
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

You will help us improve this Buyer's Service, if you mention HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG when writing to firm listed.

BOTTLE CAPPERS

Everedy Cappers save time, worry, work. Seal bottles air-tight in a jiffy. A household necessity for making home beverages, catsup, relishes and delicious root beer. No more fussing around with wrong size unsanitary corks and sealing wax.

Cappers \$1.50
Caps 30c Per Lb. (About 150)

An Everedy Capper is as essential as a meat grinder. No modern housewife uses old fashioned, unsanitary corks. No, indeed, she gets a capper and caps her catsup bottles and every other bottle that holds her winter stores. They cost only \$1.50.

Popular items included a combination jar and bottle opener, jelly bags, corn poppers, cookie canisters, chrome plated utensils, pots, pans and electric table broilers.

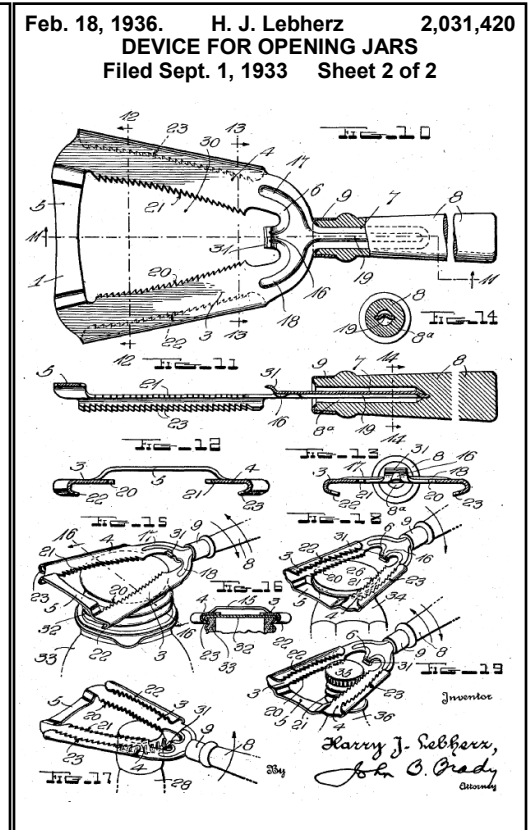
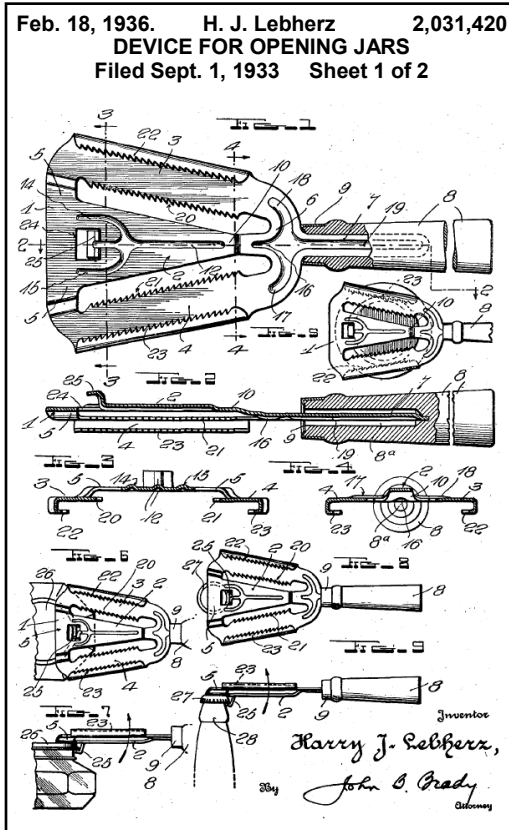
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The capper wasn't Harry's only invention. From 1909 to 1955 he was awarded at least 13 patents, including a re-issue of the original capper and two others for improvements to the original. Another of those patents was for the popular Everedy Cap-Master, a jar opener with a bottle opener hook.

He was granted Patent No. 2,031,420 on February 18, 1936 for his "combination tool adapted for performing a multiplicity of different operations including the opening of screw cap fruit jars ... the removal of crown caps from bottles and the removal of seal caps from food containers."

There are two versions of the just over 8-inches device with wood-handle. One follows the patent drawing and is marked: EVEREDY CAP-MASTER FREDERICK, MD. U.S.A. PAT. NO.



2,031,420. The other, an earlier model, is missing the center brace. It is marked only: EVEREDY CAP-MASTER FREDERICK, MD. U.S.A.

During World War II, the company instituted round-the-clock operations with its working force jumping from the peacetime level of 150 to nearly 500 at the war period peak manufacturing anti-submarine nets, anti-tank mines and bomb and rocket parts, according to one news report.

In December of 1958, the brothers, Harry, then chairman of the board, William, president, and Robert, executive vice president, sold Everedy to Standard Publishing, an Ohio corporation. The company closed its doors in 1977, ending the reign of one of Frederick's largest and most successful employers.

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