

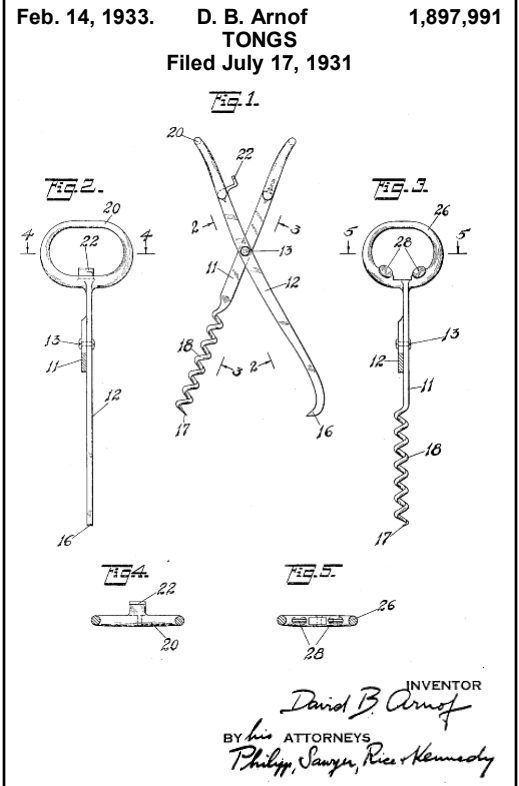
# Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

## David B. Arnof's Combination

Tongs, Bottle Opener & Worm By Don Thornton

Its papers describe the invention as “tongs,” and they have to be the smallest ice tongs ever patented. Throw in a corkscrew and bottle opener, and it’s a very quirky device. David B. Arnof of New York City was awarded Patent No. 1,897,991 on February 14 1933 for “a combination tool including a pair of tongs of relatively small size, for example, for handling small ice cubes, such as those formed in the ice trays of the so-called automatic refrigerators.”

Arnof said in his patent application his bantam device was comprised of a pair of tongs, “one being a corkscrew, having a sharp tip, the other member having a cooperating gripping tip toward which said corkscrew sharp tip is directed.” The corkscrew and curved tip were designed to come together to pick up ice cubes while the round, open handles could act as a jar or bottle cap remover. The just under 5-inch device is marked on an inner arm: **PAT. PEND DARNOFF NYC.**



It was Arnof's only patent. The device is a poorly designed and very awkward to use, but considered quite collectible.

