

# Just For Openers January-December 2026 1

## James Welch's Getagadget: Too New To Be Cool? By Don Thornton

Austin, Texas is 215 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and more than 1,000 miles from the Atlantic or Pacific. But it is the home base for families of surfboards, flip flops, crab claws, sharks, tikis, palm trees, pirates, woody wagons, sea turtles and Rastafarians. And you can throw in moose heads, alligators, bears, shovels and men's underwear. Why Austin? It is the home of James Douglas Welch, easily considered one of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century kings of novelty branding bottle openers.

From 2001 to 2016 Welch was awarded at least three dozen design patents, 18 for novelty bottle openers, and the others for such things as whale, dolphin and lobster shaped beach balls, cigarette lighters and bottle insulators. Welch can be compared to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century novelty opener royalty of Harry L. Vaughan, John L. Sommer and Thomas Harding (see *The King of Novelty Branding* and *Combo Opener Kings*, JFO News 2025).

Welch launched his company, Getagadget LLC, on April 1, 2000 in Austin, according to a 2012 trademark application for the name. Getagadget was registered as a trademark in 2013 in the category for toys and sporting goods products. From the beginning, Getagadget outsourced the production of its items from China,



Getagadget is strictly wholesale. It warns on its website: "We unfortunately are not able to sell to the general public. For this reason, we require every customer to register for an account before placing their order. Additionally, our 72 pcs minimum means we cannot accept small orders of just a few pieces."

Welch's products are probably too contemporary to draw the attention of today's JFO world but will more than likely fascinate future JFOers, if crown caps are still around. And it will be up to those JFOers to get the full story – two requests, one by snail mail and the other email, for background on Welch and Getagadget were ignored.

On its website, Getagadget advertises itself as "the leader in original design for resort and promotional impulse items. Let our 20+ years of experience help keep you on top of the latest trends in the souvenir and promotional industry .... Our custom art proofing service will ensure your items have the perfect personal touch. We'll namedrop your city/location, logo, event announcement, and more." Despite its wholesale status, its branded products appear without fail on Internet auction and sales sites. The most popular include:

--"Surfboard bottle opener" with a circular shark bite opener. The two pictured 4-inch openers are branded **MON-TAUK, NY** and **VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**. They are marked on the back: **US PAT #D565,371**.



(12) United States Design Patent		(10) Patent No.:	US D565,371 S
Welch		(45) Date of Patent:	** Apr. 1, 2008
(54) SURFBOARD BOTTLE OPENER	D495,937 S * 9/2004 Kelleghan	D8/38	
(75) Inventor: James Douglas Welch, Austin, TX (US)	D560,648 S * 1/2005 Kelleghan	D8/38	* cited by examiner
(75) Assignee: Getagadget, Inc, Austin, TX (US)	Primary Examiner—Caron D. Veynar Assistant Examiner—Garth Radebauer (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—David O. Simmons		
(***) Term: 14 Years	(57) CLAIM		
(21) Appl. No.: 29/289,692	The ornamental design for a surfboard bottle opener, as shown and described.		
(22) Filed: Jul. 27, 2007			
(51) LOC. (S) CL. .... 07/99	DESCRIPTION		
(52) U.S. CL. .... D8/38	FIG. 1 is a top view of a surfboard bottle opener in accordance with the present invention;		
(58) Field of Classification Search .... D8/18, 19, 33, 34, 38, 403; D32/46; 7/151, 7/152, 156; 8/13,07, 3,09, 3,27, 3,31, 3,35, 8/13,47, 3,55, 3,56, 3,57	FIG. 2 is a bottom view of the surfboard bottle opener shown in FIG. 1;		
See application file for complete search history.	FIG. 3 is a left side view of the surfboard bottle opener shown in FIG. 1;		
(56) References Cited	FIG. 4 is a right side view of the surfboard bottle opener shown in FIG. 1;		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	FIG. 5 is a front view of the surfboard bottle opener shown in FIG. 1; and,		
D265,940 S * 8/1982 Olson	D32/46	FIG. 6 is a rear view of the surfboard bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.	
D336,940 S * 5/1992 Wisopal	D8/34	The broken lines depict environmental subject matter only and form no part of the claimed design.	
D334,696 S * 4/1993 Makris	D8/38		
D403,202 S * 1/1999 Walter	D5/211		
D433,899 S * 11/2000 Saffron et al.	D8/38		
D447,675 S * 9/2001 Vaught	D8/38		
D454,037 S * 3/2002 Bissone	D8/38		
D465,979 S * 11/2002 Vaught	D8/38		
D495,570 S * 9/2004 Kelleghan	D8/38		

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets

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## James Welch's Getagadget:

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--"Flip-flop sandal bottle opener" branded: **LAUGHLIN**, for the Nevada resort on the Colorado River. This just over 3-inch opener is marked on the back: **US PAT #D566,499**.

U.S. Patent Apr. 15, 2008 Sheet 1 of 2 US D566,499 S

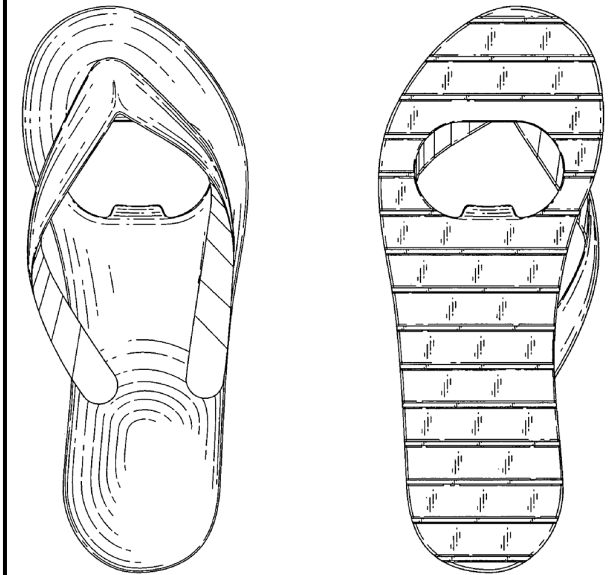


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

U.S. Patent Mar. 1, 2011 Sheet 1 of 3 US D633,350 S

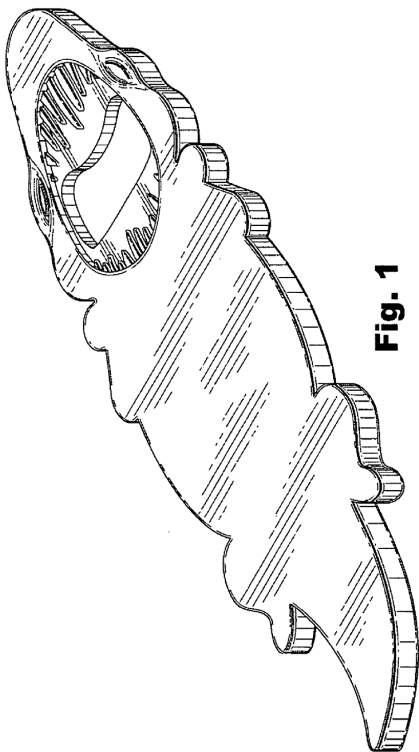


Fig. 1

--"Alligator-shaped bottle opener" branded: **SOUTH BEACH, FL.** This 5 1/4-inch opener is marked on the back: **US PATENT #D633,350**.



## James Welch's Getagadget:

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--"Shark body bottle opener" branded: **SHARKY'S OCEAN SHORES, WA**. It is 5-inches long and marked on the back: **PATENT D611,790 GETAGADGET, INC. 2007**.



U.S. Patent Mar. 16, 2010 Sheet 1 of 2 US D611,790 S

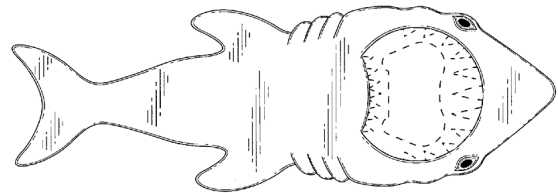


Fig. 1

--"Tiki head shaped bottle opener" branded: **KEY WEST FL**. It is 4 1/2-inches long and not marked on the back.

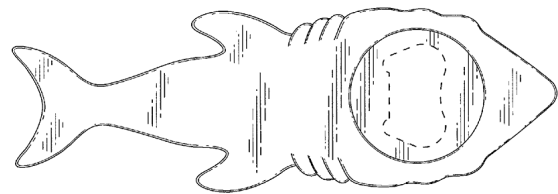


Fig. 2

(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US D633,351 S**  
Welch (45) Date of Patent: **\*\* Mar. 1, 2011**

(54) **TIKI HEAD SHAPED BOTTLE OPENER** D611,790 S \* 3/2010 Welch ..... D8/38

(76) Inventor: **James Douglas Welch, Austin, TX (US)** \* cited by examiner

(\*\*) Term: **14 Years** Primary Examiner—Garth Rademaker  
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—David O. Simmons

(21) Appl. No.: **29/370,838** (57) **CLAIM**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 10, 2010** The ornamental design for a tiki head shaped bottle opener, as shown and described.

(51) **LOC (9) CL.** ..... 07-99

(52) **U.S. CL.** ..... D8/38; D8/18

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... D8/14,  
D8/16-20, 33-43, 88, 89, 105; 7/113, 151-156;  
30/400-410, 416-430, 433, 434, 443, 450;  
81/3.07, 3.09, 3.2, 3.27, 3.29, 3.31, 3.35,  
81/3.37, 3.4, 3.45, 3.48, 3.49, 3.55  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

- D87,212 S \* 6/1932 Halvorsen ..... D8/38
- D453,454 S \* 2/2002 Kellegan ..... D8/38
- D453,455 S \* 2/2002 Kellegan ..... D8/38
- D488,974 S \* 4/2004 Kellegan ..... D8/38
- D504,290 S \* 4/2005 Lockhart ..... D8/38
- D517,419 S \* 3/2006 Kellegan ..... D9/616

**1 Claim, 3 Drawing Sheets**

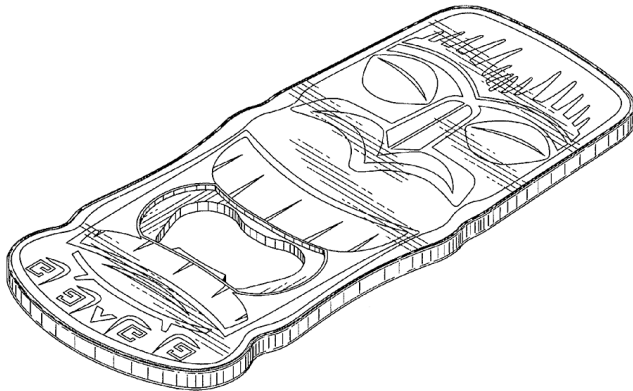
**DESCRIPTION**  
FIG. 1 is a front and side perspective view of a tiki head shaped bottle opener in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear and side perspective view of the tiki head shaped bottle opener shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a top view of the tiki head shaped bottle opener shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a bottom view of the tiki head shaped bottle opener shown in FIG. 1; and,

FIG. 5 is a left side view of the tiki head shaped bottle opener shown in FIG. 1, the right side being a mirror image thereof.



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Welch's other bottle opener patents range from a bear to men's underwear.

Moose D601,394	Crab Claw D601,872	Bottle Insulator D614,001
Bear D658,956	Rastafarian D658,957	Palm Tree D659,498
Men's Underwear D664,821 (Below)	Pirate D675,497	Woody with Surfboard D706,101
Lobster D706,102	Sea Turtle D707,512	Shovel D747,163
Shovel D773,262		



(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) **Patent No.:** **US D664,821 S**  
Welch (45) **Date of Patent:** **\*\* Aug. 7, 2012**

(54) **UNDERWEAR SHAPED BOTTLE CAP REMOVER**

*Primary Examiner* — Garth Rademaker  
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — David O. Simmons

(76) **Inventor:** James Douglas Welch, Austin, TX (US)

(57) **CLAIM**  
The ornamental design for an underwear shaped bottle cap remover, as shown and described.

(\*\*) **Term:** 14 Years

(21) **Appl. No.:** 29/395,246

**DESCRIPTION**

(22) **Filed:** Dec. 23, 2011

FIG. 1 is a front, bottom, right side perspective view of an underwear shaped bottle cap remover in accordance with the present invention;

(51) **LOC (9) Cl.** ..... 07-99

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... D8/38

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... D8/14,  
D8/16-19, 33-43, 88, 89, 105; 7/113, 151-156;  
81/3.07, 3.09, 3.2, 3.27, 3.29, 3.31, 3.35,  
81/3.37, 3.4, 3.45, 3.48, 3.49, 3.55  
See application file for complete search history.

FIG. 2 is a left-side rear top perspective view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1, wherein a portion shown in dotted lines being disclaimed from the design;

FIG. 3 is a front view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a rear view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a left side view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a right side view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is a top view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1; and,

FIG. 8 is a bottom side view of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover of FIG. 1.

The broken lines shown in FIGS. 1-4 illustrate portions of the underwear shaped bottle cap remover which form no part of the claimed design.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D42,062 S	*	12/1911	Roemer et al.	.....	D8/38
D278,024 S	*	3/1985	Hoffman et al.	.....	D8/40
D442,448 S	*	5/2001	Kelleghan	.....	D8/38
D504,290 S	*	4/2005	Lockhart	.....	D8/38
D571,627 S	*	6/2008	Bouchard	.....	D8/38
D622,115 S	*	8/2010	Smith	.....	D8/18
D627,614 S	*	11/2010	Flint	.....	D8/18
D633,351 S	*	3/2011	Welch	.....	D8/38
D642,442 S	*	8/2011	Gregory et al.	.....	D8/38
D644,075 S	*	8/2011	Barnett	.....	D8/18

\* cited by examiner

1 Claim, 4 Drawing Sheets

