

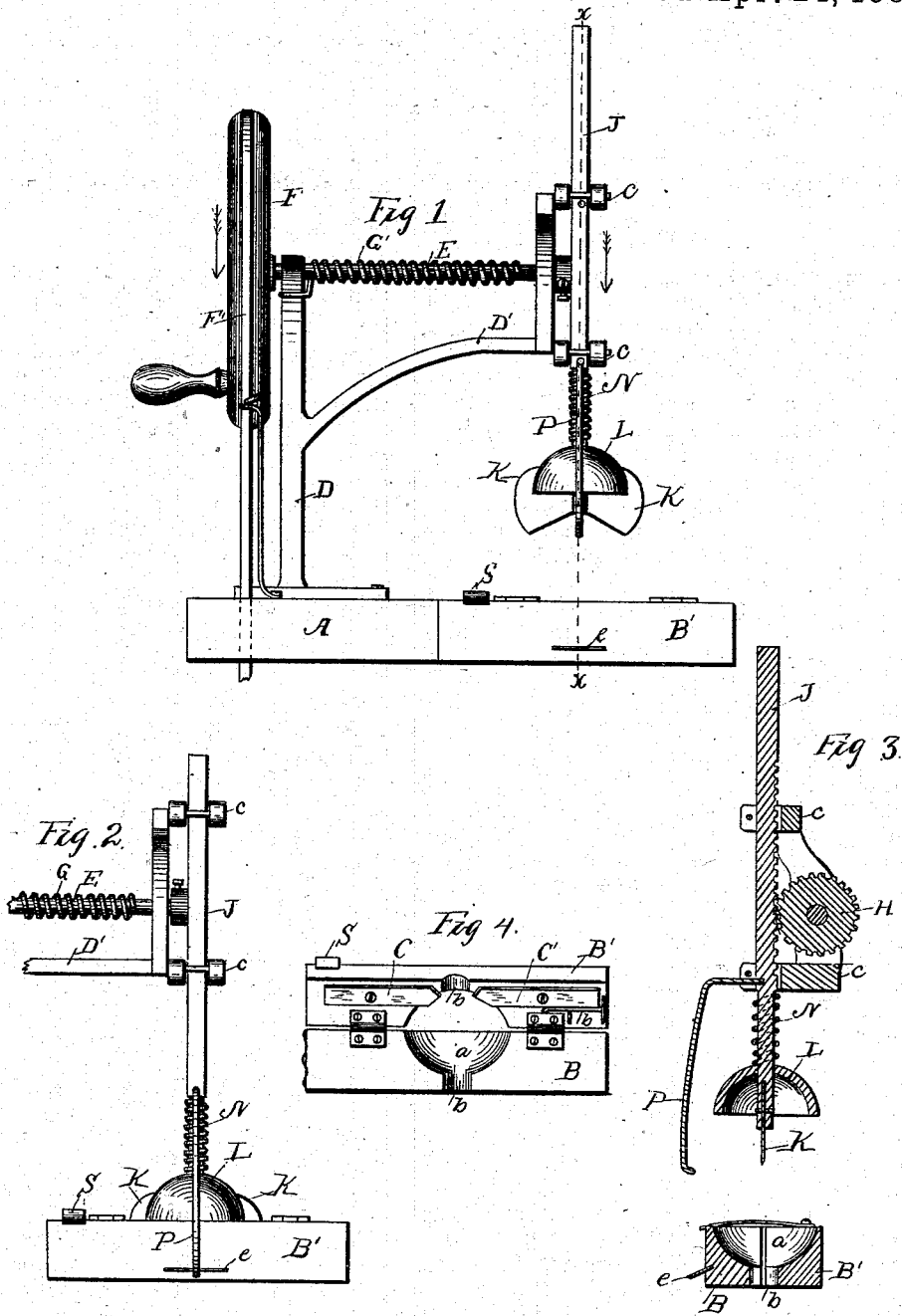
(Model.)

C. A. CURRAN.

FRUIT PITTER.

No. 276,365.

Patented Apr. 24, 1883.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. CURRAN, OF ALBANY, OREGON.

FRUIT-PITTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 276,365, dated April 24, 1883.

Application filed January 2, 1883. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. CURRAN, of Albany, in the county of Linn and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Pitting Machines; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the machine, showing the plunger and knife up. Fig. 2 is a detail showing the plunger down. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section taken in the plane indicated by dotted line *xx* on Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a view showing the pit-knives, which are attached to the hinged section of the bed.

This invention relates to certain novel improvements on fruit-pitting machines; and the nature of my invention consists in a vertically-reciprocating plunger bearing a dividing-knife, a cup-shaped fruit-holder formed of two hinged sections, and a tripping-hook for tilting one of said sections to discharge the pits; also, in combining with said cup-shaped holder two knives, which will cut the skin of the fruit, so that the pits will pass out without bruising the fruit; also, in novel means for actuating the plunger and the dividing-knife, all of which will be fully understood from the following description, when taken in connection with the annexed drawings.

A designates the base of the machine, which is constructed with a narrow extension, B. This extension has hinged to it a section, B', and the two are bored out so as to form a hemispherical cup or fruit-holder, *a*, through the bottom of which is a hole, *b*, for allowing the discharge of the pits. It will be seen that one half of the cup *a* is formed in the extension B and the other half in the section B'; also, that this latter section is hinged at its upper edge to the extension B. If desired, the cup *a* may be lined with a vitreous substance, or any other substance which will not corrode.

C C' designate two knives, which are secured by pivots to the inner face of the section B', and which are so arranged that they will cut through the skin of the fruit and allow the pit to be discharged without bruising the fruit.

The knife C' is acted on by a spring, *b*, which allows it to yield during the act of discharging the pits.

D designates a standard having an overhanging arm, D'. This standard and its arm afford bearings for a horizontal oscillating shaft, E, bearing on one end a balance-wheel, F, which may be provided with a crank-handle for turning it by hand; but I prefer to turn this wheel by means of a treadle. This is effected as follows: The wheel F has a grooved periphery, in which is applied a treadle-rope, F', which is secured at one point to the rim of this wheel. On the shaft E is coiled a spiral spring, G, one end of which is secured to this shaft and the other end is secured to the standard D. When the treadle is depressed the wheel and its shaft will be turned in one direction, and when the foot is released from the treadle the spring G will turn the wheel and its shaft in the opposite direction. A spur-wheel, H, is keyed on the shaft E, which engages with a vertically-movable rack-bar, J, that works in guides *cc* on the arm D. To the lower end of the bar J is rigidly secured a double-beveled knife, K, for dividing the fruit, and over this a cup-shaped plunger, L, is loosely applied, which is partly split vertically and held down on the back of the knife M by means of a coiled spring, N.

P designates a spring tripping-hook, which is secured to the rack-bar J, and which is designed for tilting the section B' at every upward stroke of the said bar and its plunger by engaging with a lip, *e*, on the said section. When the section B' is released from the hook P a spring, S, will return this section to a position for receiving the fruit.

When fruit is put into the cup *a* and the wheel and shaft are turned in the direction indicated by the arrow on the drawings, the knife M and its plunger L will descend together until the plunger covers and holds the fruit in the cup. The plunger will then cease to descend, but the knife will continue its descent and divide the fruit into halves. At the same time the stone or pit will be forced from it, and the hook P will engage with the lip on the hinged section B'. When the treadle is released the plunger and knife will be raised

by the recoil of the spring G. At the same time the hook P will tilt the section B' and allow the pit to drop from the machine.

5 Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a pitting-machine, the combination, with a plunger and knife, of the extension of the base A, and the hinged section B', having a 10 fruit-holding cup, *a*, and the knives C C', substantially in the manner described.

2. In a pitting-machine, the combination of the spring tilting-hook on the plunger-bar with the lip on the hinged section B' and the spring 15 which acts to hold down this section, substantially as described.

3. In a fruit-pitting machine, the cupped sectional base B B', in combination with the double-beveled knife and the spring-actuated 20 yielding plunger, constructed and adapted to operate substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

4. The combination of the base A with its cupped portions B B', the standard with its spring-actuated shaft, the spur-wheel on this 25 shaft, the rack-bar, the spring-actuated plunger, and the dividing-knife, all constructed and adapted to operate substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

5. In a fruit-pitting machine, the combina- 30 tion of a slitted spring-actuated plunger, the double-beveled knife, and the vertically-movable rod, to which said plunger and knife are applied, all constructed and adapted to operate 35 substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES A. CURRAN.

Witnesses:

J. K. WEATHERFORD,

D. R. N. BLACKBURN.