

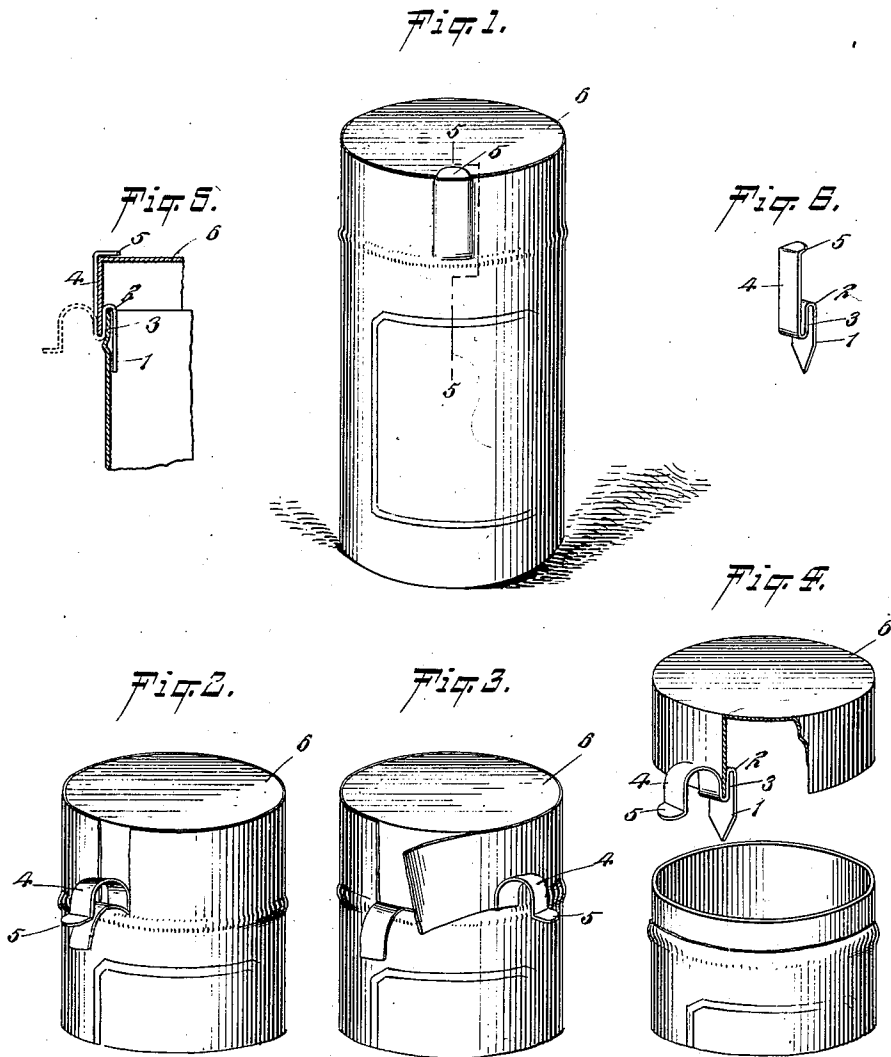
No. 648,807.

Patented May 1, 1900.

W. S. SMITH.  
LABEL CUTTER AND COVER LIFTER.

(Application filed Dec. 21, 1899.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIS SYLVESTER SMITH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
TO DAVID W. LANAGAN, OF SAME PLACE.

## LABEL-CUTTER AND COVER-LIFTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,807, dated May 1, 1900.

Application filed December 21, 1899. Serial No. 741,153. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIS SYLVESTER SMITH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Label-Cutter and Cover-Lifter, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for cutting the labels on boxes and lifting the box-cover. Labels are often placed upon boxes in such a manner as to extend upon both the body portion and cover, and a knife or similar instrument is required to cut the label before the cover can be removed.

It is the object of my invention to provide a simple and comparatively inexpensive device designed to be attached to a label-covered box and by means of which the label may be quickly cut at the junction of the body of the can and the cover-flange, the device also forming a finger-piece for removing the cover.

I will describe a label-cutter and cover-lifter embodying my invention and then point out the novel features in the appended claim.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a label-covered box, showing my invention as applied thereto. Fig. 2 shows the device in position for cutting. Fig. 3 shows the device while cutting. Fig. 4 illustrates the device as a cover-lifter. Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5 5 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the cutter and lifter.

The cutting and lifting device consists of a strip of metal bent to provide a downwardly-extended portion 1 for engaging against the inner side of a can-body, a portion 2 for engaging upon the edge of the can-body, a portion 3, which passes between the outer side of the cover-flange, and a finger portion 4, which, when the material is in the box and the label thereon, extends upward against the

outer side of the cover and underneath the label, as indicated in Fig. 1, the portion 4 having at its upper end a returned portion 5.

In using the device to sever or cut a label at the lower edge of the box-cover flange the portion 4 may be pulled outward by taking hold of the returned portion 5, which normally engages upon the upper side of the cover 6. In pulling the portion 4 outward and downward it may be turned in the form of a hook, as indicated in Fig. 2, and during the operation a strip of metal engaging with the cover will be torn down, as indicated in Fig. 2, and then by moving the device circumferentially or around the box the label may be cut. After cutting the label the cover may be removed in the ordinary manner or it may be lifted up by the device engaging therewith, as indicated in Fig. 4.

The device is substantially a permanent attachment to the box. Therefore it will always be found useful for removing the cover.

While I have shown the device as attached to a round box, it is obvious that it may be attached to an oval or elliptical box or to a rectangular box having rounded corners.

As the device may be made of waste metal, such as waste tin, it is obvious that it will not add any appreciable amount to the cost of the can or package.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination with a box and a cover therefor, of a label-cutter consisting of a strip of metal having a portion for engaging over the top edge of the box, a cutting portion and a finger-piece adapted to engage against the cover-flange and terminating in a returned portion for engaging on the top of the cover, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIS SYLVESTER SMITH,

Witnesses:

PATRICK J. NOLAN,  
JOSEPH F. McLAUGHLIN.