

(No Model.)

G. C. HOLT.  
LETTER OPENER.

No. 337,680.

Patented Mar. 9, 1886.

Fig. 1.

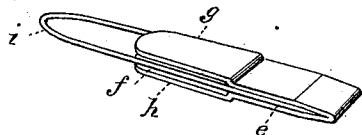


Fig. 2.

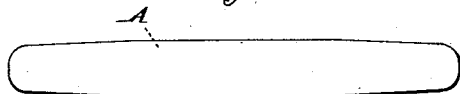


Fig. 3.

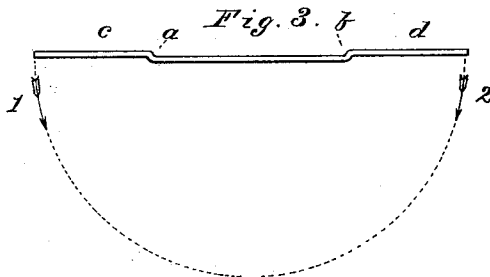


Fig. 4.

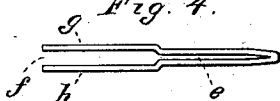
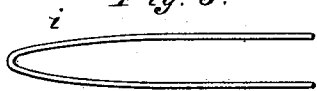


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

*Villette Anderson.*  
*Philip Massi.*

INVENTOR

*Geo. C. Holt*  
by *Anderson & Smith*  
*his* ATTORNEYS

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. HOLT, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

## LETTER-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 337,680, dated March 9, 1886.

Application filed September 21, 1885. Serial No. 177,756. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. HOLT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Paper-Cutters and Letter-Openers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of this invention, and is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a top view of the blank of sheet metal. Fig. 3 is a side view and shows the elongated depression made in the blank. Fig. 4 is a side view of the same bent into proper shape. Fig. 5 shows the cutter-guide.

This invention relates to combined paper-cutters and letter-openers; and it consists in the construction and novel combination of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

The objects of the invention are to cut paper along the line where it has been previously creased; and, also, to open sealed envelopes along one side or end, so that the opened envelope may be preserved, if desired.

Referring by letter to the accompanying drawings, A designates a strip of sheet metal which in the blank is straight and flat and has rounded ends. The first step in forming the device from this strip of sheet metal is to make an elongated depression therein extending from point *a* to point *b*. This leaves two straight or plain portions, *c d*, at the ends.

The blank thus formed is then bent at its middle upon itself. The bend is made in the direction of the arrows 1 and 2, and when completed the blank has been transformed to the shape shown in Fig. 4. At this time a small space, *e*, appears for a distance of about one-half the length of the device, and a larger space, *f*, appears for the remaining portion between the blades *g h* of the cutter. The cutter-guide *i* is composed of a piece of wire bent in the form of an ordinary hair-pin, the two arms of which are soldered or otherwise secured within the smaller space *e*, just within the edge lines of the plate. This cutter-guide projects some little distance beyond the ends of the cutter-blades, and serves as a guide both while the device is in use in cutting paper and in opening letters.

To use the device as a paper-cutter, first crease the paper where it is designed to be cut, and hold the paper in the left hand and the cutter in the right hand, with the blade at a slant or angle to the crease, and push the cutter gently along the crease.

To open a letter, place the blade under the flap of the letter and push the device through.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The combination, with the blades *g h*, composed of a single piece of material, of the wire cutter-guide secured between them and projecting beyond them, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE C. HOLT.

Witnesses:

LORENZO LAMB,  
CHARLES E. SHELTON.