

Getting a grip on a not-always-easy task

EYE ON DESIGN

is an occasional feature in which Karen Klages spotlights new products that are standouts either for their design successes or failures.

Karen Brix-Hansen was an octogenarian in Denmark who couldn't wait for her son to come over every week—and not just for the company. There were jars to be opened.

She had arthritis. And not only did she have trouble with twist-off lids, she could not use the slew of jar openers on the market. They work by easing the twist-off motion but still require some hand strength.

Her son, Helge Brix-Hansen, happened to be a mechanical engineer with an idea—why not attack the problem from a different angle? Instead of easing the twist, why not find a way to break the vacuum seal that makes those lids so darn tight?

The idea became JarPop, a handy little kitchen implement that gets our vote for superior design, function and value. You simply place JarPop on the rim of a stubborn lid, lift up on its handle (the leverage you get from the length of the handle makes it easy to lift) and listen for a small “pop,” which signals the vacuum has been broken. The lid now is a quick spin to freedom.

Find JarPop (now in translucent, candylike colors) for \$4 at Bed Bath & Beyond, Linens 'n Things, The Container Store, Lechters and most Ace Hardware locations; Kmart will carry it in April.

Karen Klages

