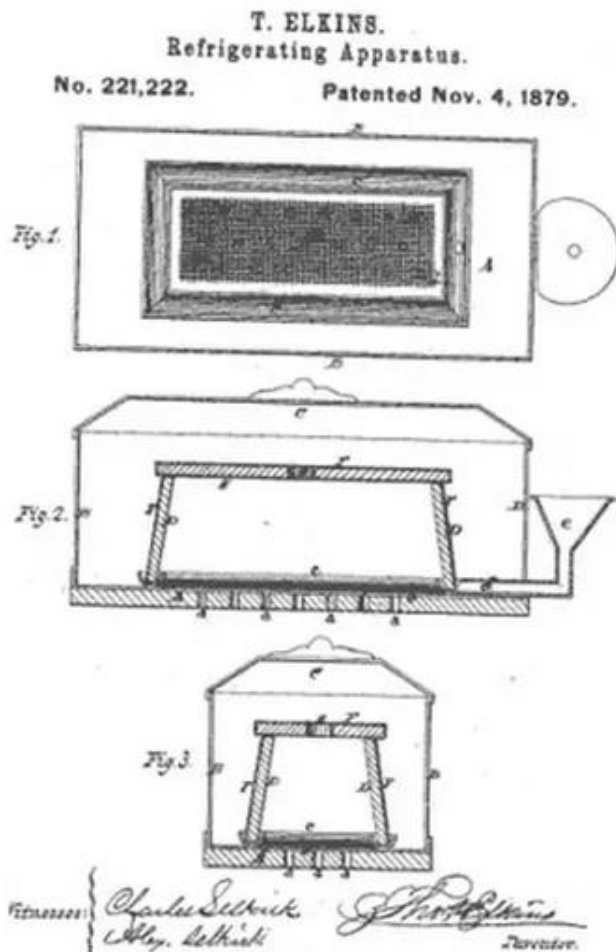


Thomas Elkins

That fridge in the kitchen wasn't the refrigerator that we see today. In 1879, [Thomas Elkins](#) patented a device that used metal cooling coils enclosed in a container.

These coils cool the temperature far below room temperature, enabling stored items to be chilled and preserved for longer.



Thomas Elkins was an avid inventor and designed many improvements for everyday items. Living in Albany New York he designed a new refrigeration device, specifically the cabinetry for the device which was non-mechanical.

At the turn of the century, the common way of keeping food cold was by placing items in a large container and surrounding them with large blocks of ice. Unfortunately, the ice generally melted very quickly and the food soon perished.

A patent was also issued to Thomas Elkins on February 22, 1870 for a "Dining, Ironing Table and Quilting Frame Combined"

In 1872, a U.S. patent was issued to Thomas Elkins for a new article of chamber furniture which he designated a "Chamber Commode"