

C. Meyer,
Piano Attachment,

Nº 6282.

Patented Apr. 10, 1849.

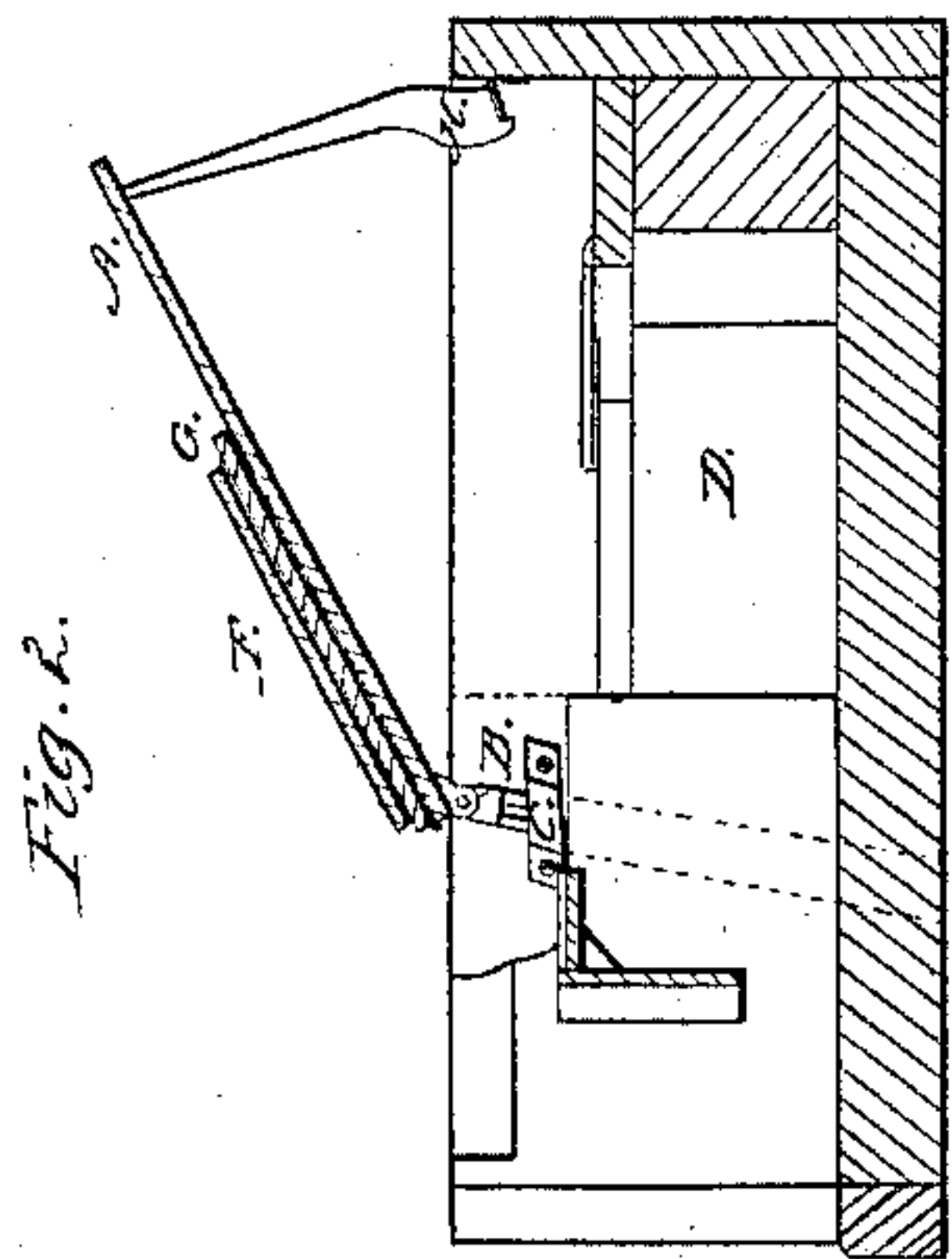


Fig. 1.

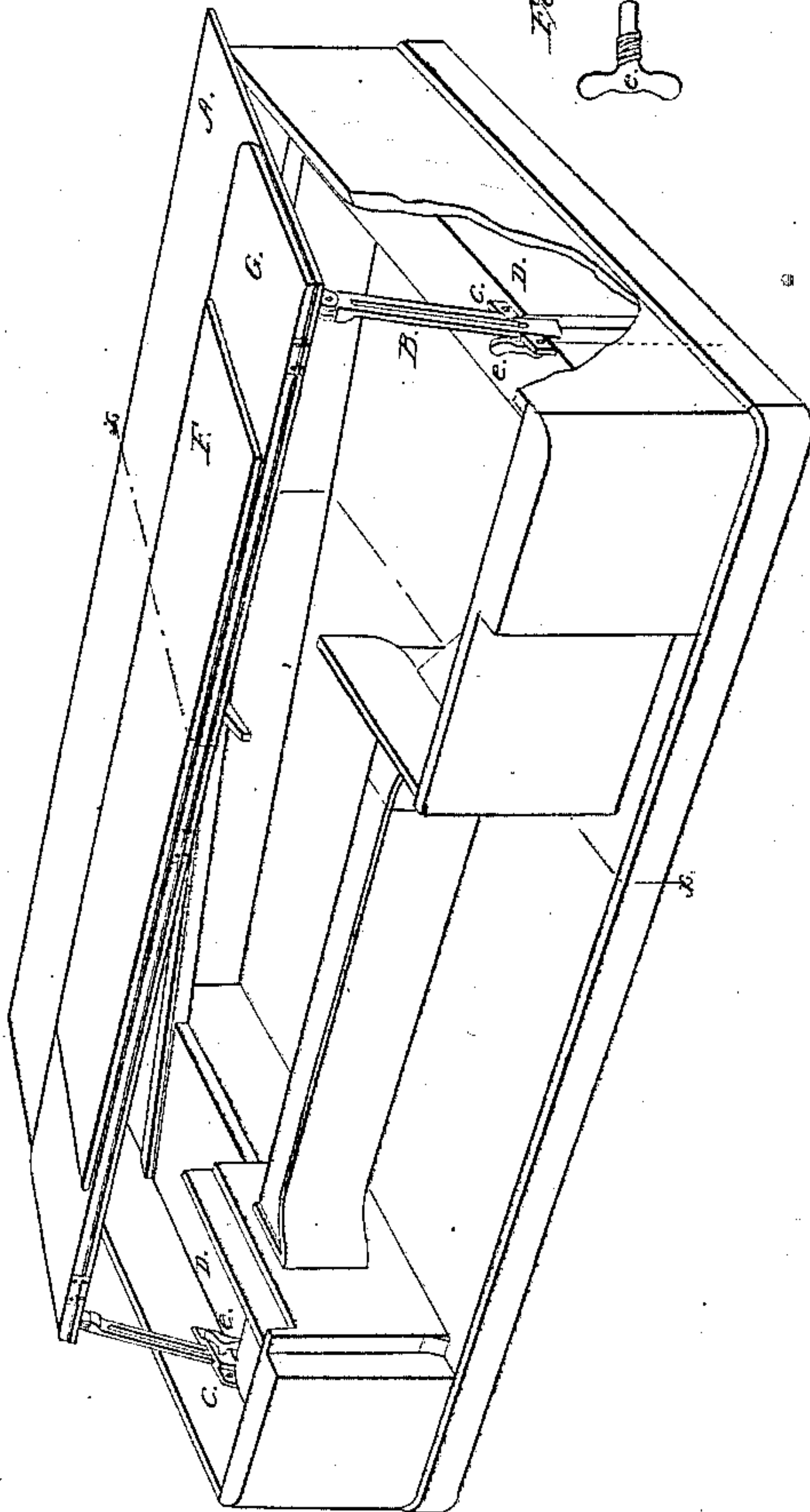
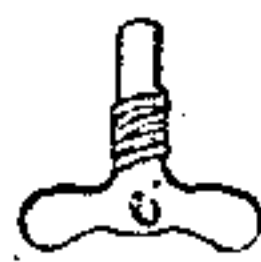


Fig. 3.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CONRAD MEYER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

ELEVATING THE TOPS OF PIANOFORTES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 6,282, dated April 10, 1849.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CONRAD MEYER, of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful improvement in the piano by which the main portion of the top of the instrument can be raised at its front or rear edge to let out the sound, (and when so constructed is denominated by me "the reversed-top piano;") and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification.

Figure 1, is a perspective view of a piano, having my improvement, and Fig. 2, is a vertical transverse section in the line $x-x$, of Fig. 1.

Similar letters indicate like parts in all the figures.

I secure the top, to the body of the piano by means of two knuckle jointed hinges of the form represented in Fig. 1. The portion of each hinge that is made fast to the under side of each extremity of the front edge of the main portion A, of the top of the instrument, is of sufficient length to give the hinges a strong and secure hold upon the same; the other portion of each of the above named hinges, is composed of a metallic bar B, whose length is nearly or quite equal to the depth of the body of the piano, and which has a slot formed in it, extending nearly its entire length. The long portions (B,) of the hinges pass through metallic guiding supports C, C, secured to the inner sides of the ends of the piano case, and then into grooves formed in the outer sides of the end blocks D, D,—previous to their being placed in the instrument. Set screws e, e ,—of the form represented in Fig. 3,—are inserted into apertures in the guiding supports C,—the blank portions of the shanks of the screws fitting into the slots in the long portions (B,) of the hinges.

The front portion G, of the top of the piano, is hinged to the main portion A, of the same, in the usual manner; and the front portion F, of the casing, is also hinged to front portion G, of the top, in the usual manner.

The long bars B, B,—forming portions of the hinges above described—will retain the top in its proper position when it is resting upon the instrument: the rear edge of the main portion (A) of the top, may be secured

to the instrument by a lock or hasp, of suitable construction, should it be desired: the front edge of A, can be so secured that it cannot be raised, from the instrument when it is closed, by turning the set screws e, e , inward a sufficient distance to cause the threads upon the same to press against the sides of the slots in the hinge bars B, B,—or screw apertures may be formed at the upper extremities of the slots in the hinge bars to receive the threads of the set screws, if preferred. By turning the set screws e, e , so that only the blank portions of their shanks will pass into the slots in the hinge bars B, B, the hinge bars will slide freely up and down in their bearings—when it is desired to elevate the front edge of the main portion (A,) of the top of the piano.

The knuckle joints of the hinges by which the main portion (A,) of the top, is connected to the piano, it will be perceived, allow either its front or rear edge to be raised from the instrument, as circumstances may render expedient. When the back of the instrument stands against the wall of a room, the front edge of the top (A,) of the instrument can be elevated as usual, and retained at any desired height; and when the front of the instrument faces the wall, the rear edge of the top (A,) can be elevated to such a height as to permit a free escape of the sound, without obscuring the performer.

The front edge of the top (A,) of the piano, is retained in an elevated position by means of notches on the rear edges of the hinge bars B, B, taking into notches formed at the rear extremities of the apertures in the metallic supports C, C, as represented in Fig. 1, or by the action of the set screws e, e , or by hinged arms, in the usual manner of retaining a piano top in an elevated position.

The rear edge of the piano top (A,) is retained in an elevated position by means of the hinged arm H, as represented in Fig. 2. Experience has demonstrated that the elevation of the rear edge of the top of a piano, permits as full a volume of sound to flow therefrom into the room, as when the top of the instrument is removed: consequently, the trouble of removing the top from one of my improved pianos, when used in a concert room, will be entirely avoided. To give the tuner access to the strings of my reversed top piano, the top may be removed, by first

withdrawing the set-screws *e, e*, from the supports C, C; or the top may be elevated in a horizontal position, and sustained upon the hinge bars B, B, and the hinged arm H.

5 I shall sometimes construct the bars B, B, of the hinges, by which I connect the top A, to the piano, without slots, and have the set screws *e, e*, act against their sides. And I may sometimes dispense with the set screws.

10 It will readily be perceived that the main portion A, of the top of a piano can be connected thereto by securing the hinges to the rear edge of the top, and combining the hinge bars B, B, with bearings constructed
15 in the same manner as before set forth, when the hinges are secured to the front edge of the top: By this manner of connecting the top to the piano, the same effects can be produced as when the hinges are secured to the
20 front edge of the top.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The connecting the main portion (A,) of

the top of a piano to the body or case of the instrument in such a manner that either its 25 front or rear edge can be elevated at pleasure, to allow a free escape of sound, and enable the performer at the same time to see and be seen: to wit, by means of the metallic hinge bars B, B, combined with the said 30 main portion of the top of the piano, and inserted into guiding metallic supports and steadying grooves or apertures at each extremity of the instrument, substantially in the manner herein set forth, not intending 35 however, to limit myself to the precise mechanical construction and arrangement of parts as herein represented and described, but to vary the same as I may deem expedient while I attain the same end by means 40 substantially the same.

CONRAD MEYER.

Witnesses:

THOMAS D. SMITH,
M. A. MEYER.