

W. H. Mason,
Piano Coupler,
Nº 58,950. *Patented Oct. 16, 1866.*

Fig. 1.

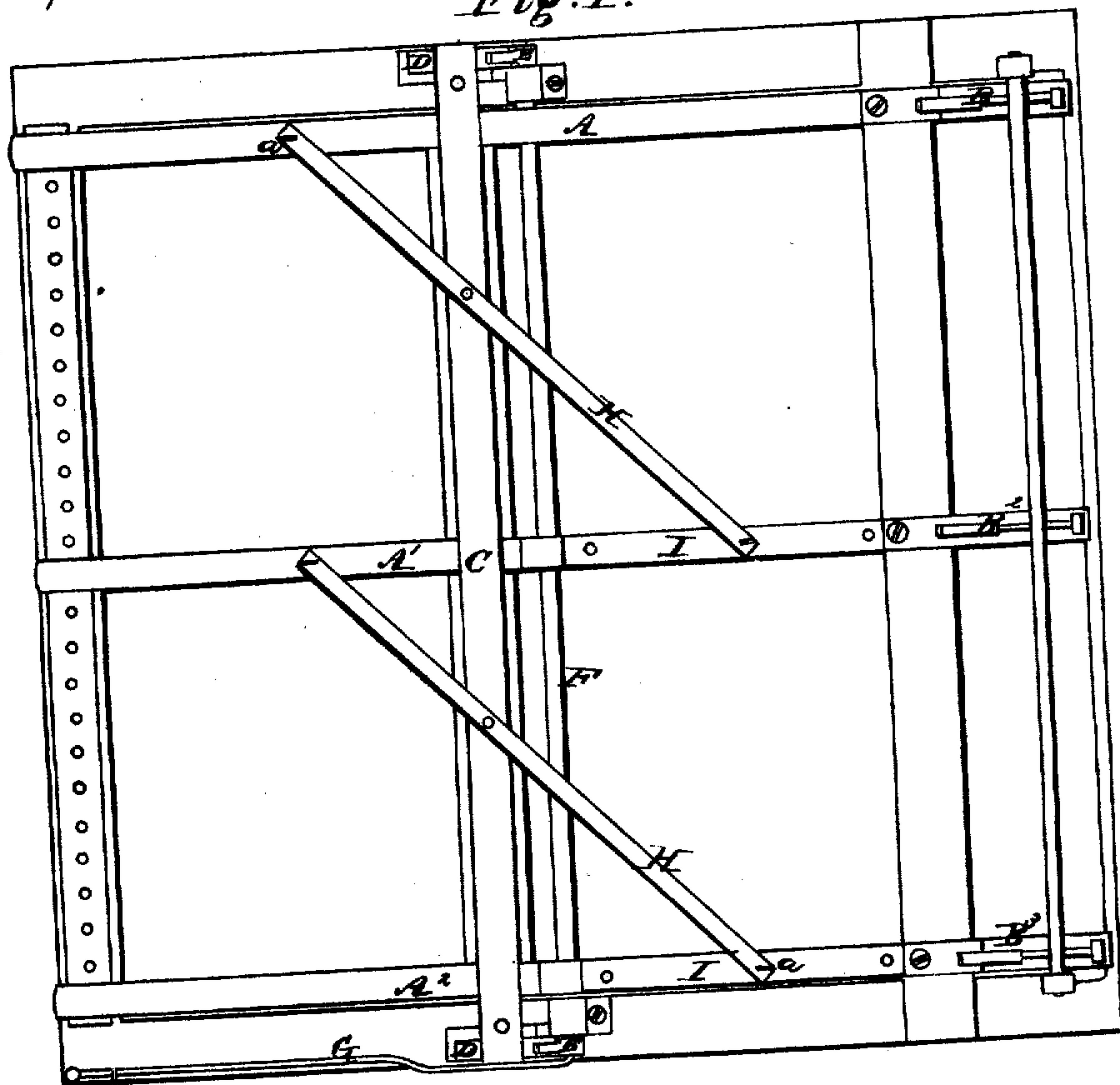
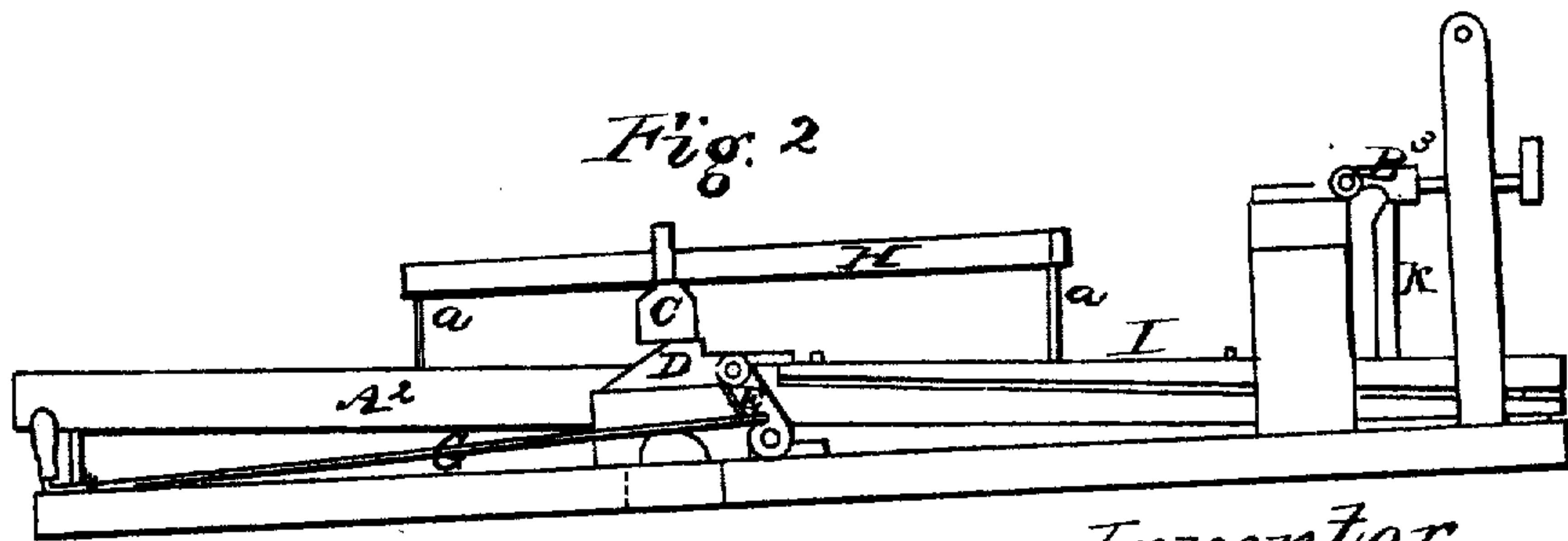


Fig. 2



Witnesses

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WM. H. MASON, OF BOSTON, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND H. K. W. PALMER,
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IMPROVEMENT IN PIANO-FORTES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 58,950, dated October 16, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. MASON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have made a new and useful invention having reference to Piano-Fortes; and do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification, and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 denotes a top view, and Fig. 2 a side view, of my invention as applied to three of the octave-keys of a piano-forte.

The principal object of my invention is to so connect with any key the next octave-key that the striking of the former shall not only cause its own hammer to be thrown up, but at the same time shall cause the elevation of the hammer of the octave-key.

In carrying out my invention I have also provided it with a means of throwing the octave-connections either into or out of action, as circumstances may require, in order to enable the piano to be played either with single notes or the same and the octaves thereof.

In the drawings, A A¹ A² are the three octave-keys, of which B B² B³ are the hammers.

A fulcrum-bar, C, extends across the keys, and is arranged above them, as represented, and rests on two movable cams or wedges, D D, each of which is jointed to one of two arms, E E, extending upward from a horizontal shaft, F. A slide-rod, G, jointed to one of the said arms, and arranged as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, enables the wedges or cams to be moved longitudinally, either forward or backward, for the purpose of either raising or lowering the fulcrum-bar C.

On this fulcrum-bar there rests a series of levers, H H. One of these levers is, at one end, connected with one key, A, by a flexible

strap, a, and such lever is at its other end also similarly connected to the next octave-key, A¹, or to a tongue, I, similarly hinged or applied to the lever, so as to be capable of being raised independently of the lever, and of putting the hammer thereof in action, the jack K of the said hammer B being extended upward from the tongue.

The next lever H is connected in like manner with the two keys A¹ A², or with the first of such keys, and with a tongue, I, applied to the other key, A², and supporting the jack thereof. Each of such levers is pivoted on the fulcrum-bar.

The purpose of the tongue I is to enable its hammer to be thrown up by the lever H connected to such tongue without at the same time operating the key to which such tongue is directly applied.

By lowering the fulcrum-bar C by pushing forward its sustaining-wedges the levers H H will be brought so near the key-levers that the latter, when struck, will impart no motion to such levers H H, and consequently, under this state of things, there will be no sounding of the octave simultaneously with the striking of a key.

I claim—

1. The combination of the lever H and its flexible connections a a with the two octave-keys of a piano-forte.

2. The combination and arrangement of the tongue I with the lever H, its flexible connections a a, and the two octave-keys of a piano-forte.

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Witnesses:

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