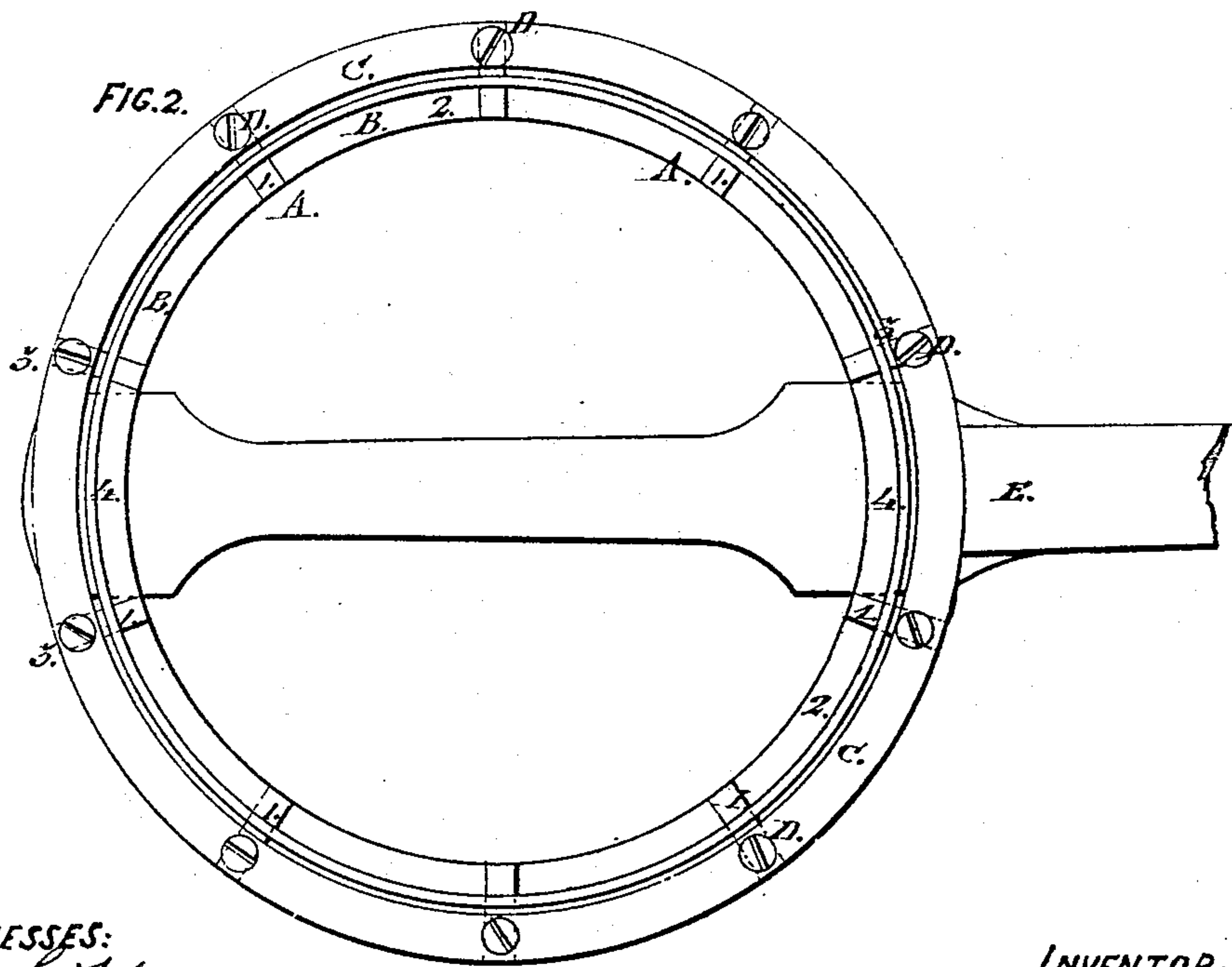
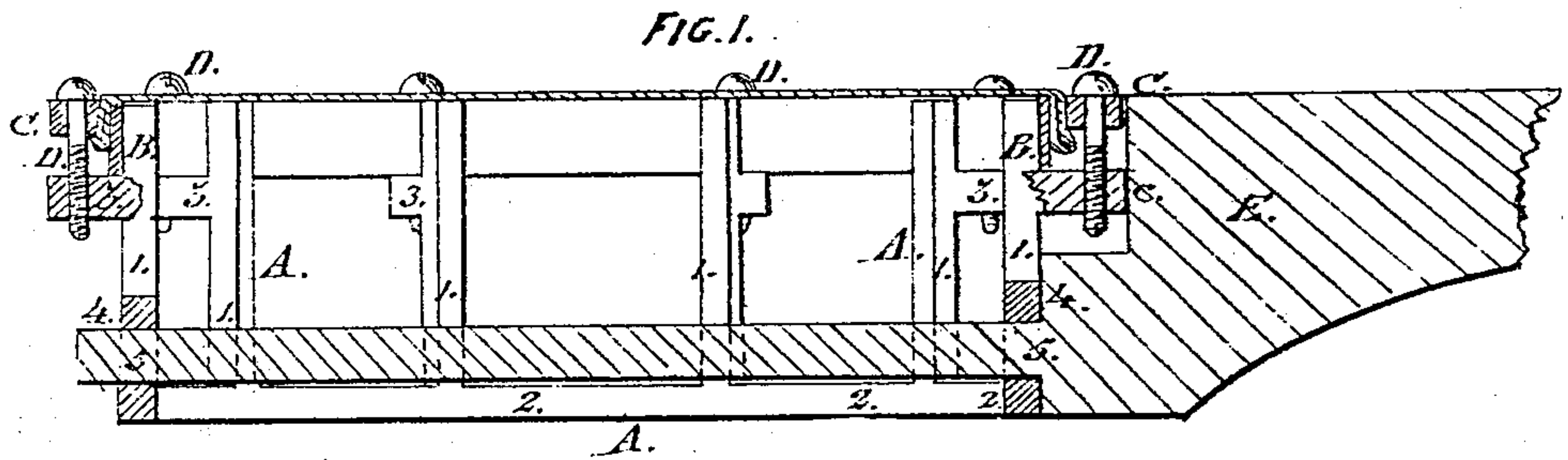


*J. Field,*

*Banjo.*

*No. 89923.*

*Patented May 11. 1869.*



WITNESSES:

*George S. Hanford*  
*R. Becken*

INVENTOR:

*John Field*

# United States Patent Office.

JOHN FIELD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 89,923, dated May 11, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BANJOS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN FIELD, of the city, county, and State of New York, have made certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Banjos; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a central longitudinal section of the drum-portion of the banjo, constructed with my improvements.

Figure 2 is a top view of the same with the skin removed.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in both figures.

Heretofore the sides of the drums of banjos have been constructed of several parts, separately made, and then attached together, so as to provide for the requisite circular edge, over which the skin is drawn, for attaching the handle, or stick, for having shoulders, or projections, in which the screws take hold to tighten the stretcher-ring upon the skin, and for obtaining proper sound and strength of the drum.

The nature of my invention consists in so forming and constructing the side of the drum, that with the production of one circular frame, which may be cast, or otherwise formed, by a simple operation, and a circular band placed on it, all the requisite provisions of the side of the drum are at once obtained, without the production of a number of parts, which have to be attached together, and with a simpler operation, in less time, with less labor and expense, than with the construction heretofore known.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and details.

In the drawings—

A represents a circular frame, which consists of a series of vertical bars 1 1 1, of equal height, and of an even number, distributed in a circle, their lower parts connected and forming a solid ring, 2.

Near the upper end, and at equal distances from the top, each bar is formed with a projection outward, 3, so that by placing a ring, B, of corresponding diameter and height, over the ends of the bars 1 1 1, to rest

upon the said projections 3 3, a circular edge on the upper end of the frame A is obtained, which serves to support the skin of the banjo.

Between two of the opposite bars 1 1, on two opposite sides of the frame A, a cross-piece, 4, is formed, connecting the said bars a short distance above the ring-portion 2, so that a right-angular opening, 5, is obtained on two opposite sides, through which the handle, or stick of the banjo passes, and serves to secure the same.

After the production of this frame A, which may be cast, or otherwise formed in a simple operation at once, and the ring B placed upon it, the side of the drum is ready produced.

C, in the drawing, represents the stretcher-ring or band;

D D, the tightening-screws for pressing down the stretcher-ring, or band; and

F, the handle, or stick of the banjo, on which the strings are wound up.

In order to complete the drum of the banjo, the projections 3 3 are drilled and tapped to fit the tightening-screws D D, and the stretcher-band is provided with corresponding holes, so that by placing the skin over the edge of the ring B, and placing the stretcher-band over the skin, passing the screws D D through the stretcher-band, and drawing them in their respective perforations of the projections 3 3, the skin is stretched over the top of the frame A, and by placing the handle, or stick in the opening 5, the drum is completed, and provided with all the requisites for strength and good sound, and produced in less time, with a simple operation, with less labor, and less expense, than those heretofore known or used.

Having fully described my improvement,

What I claim therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Constructing the drum of banjos with a frame, A, formed with the projections 3 3, and cross-pieces 4 4, and ring B, substantially as and for the purpose herein shown.

JOHN FIELD.

Witnesses:

GEORGE S. HANFORD,  
R. BOEHLEN.