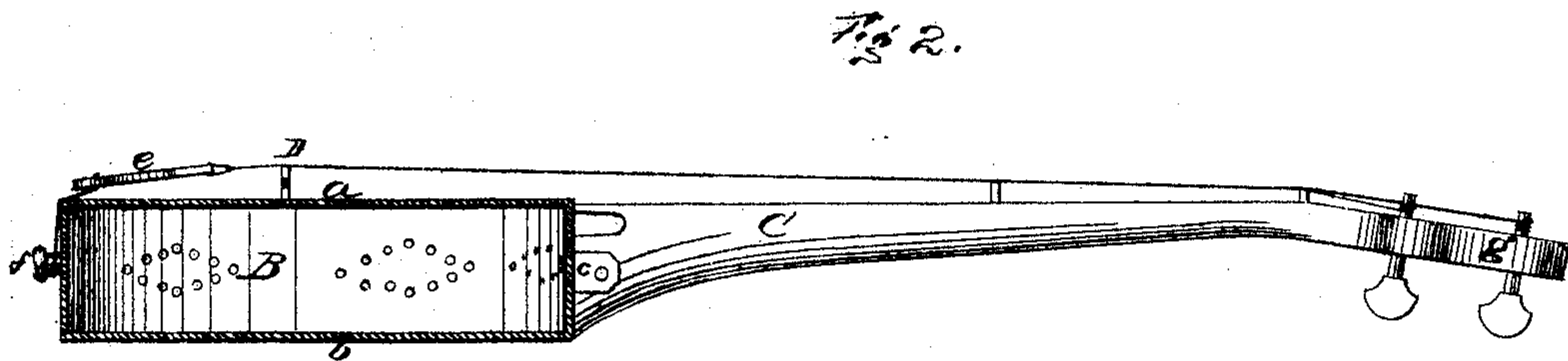
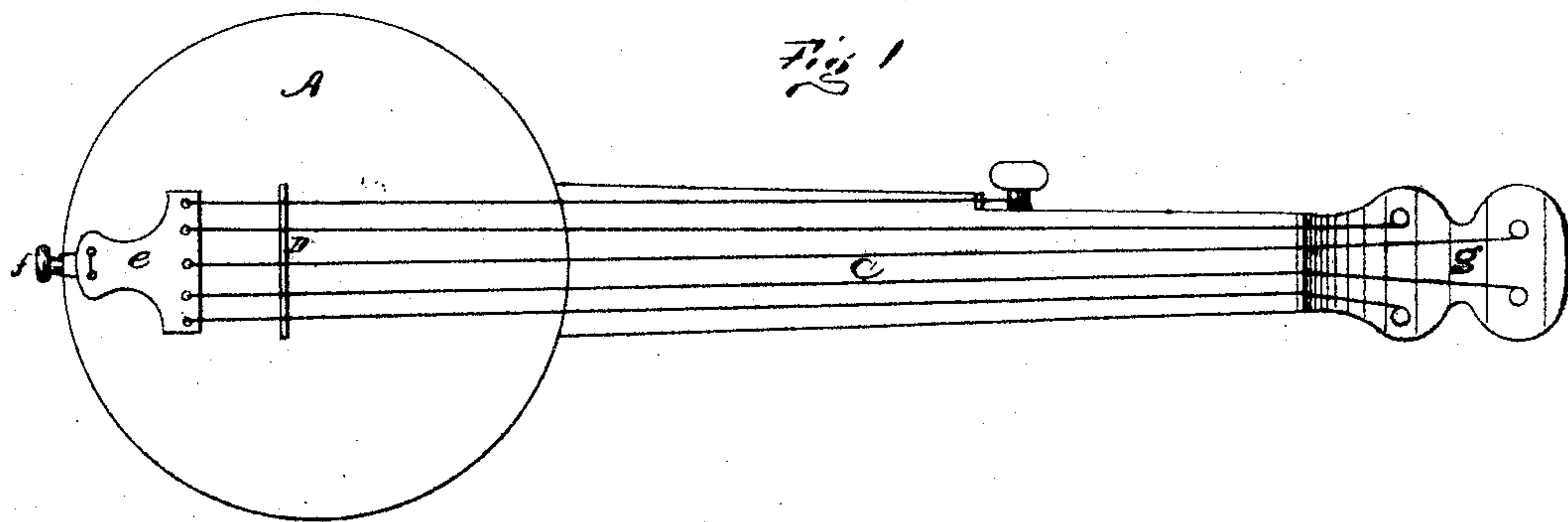


J. S. STILES.

Banjos.

No. 141,182.

Patented July 22, 1873.



Witnesses:

H. C. Wattenberg

M. Lovell

Inventor:

John S. Stiles

per J. M. Hampton
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN S. STILES, OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT.

IMPROVEMENT IN BANJOS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **141,182**, dated July 22, 1873; application filed March 14, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. STILES, of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful improvement in Banjos; and that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon making a part of this specification.

This invention is in the nature of an improvement in banjos; and the invention consists in making the body of the banjo of thin sheet metal.

It has been found that the sonorousness is greatly increased by constructing the body of a banjo of thin sheet metal, which not only gives a clear metallic sound when the strings are vibrated over it, but, as will be seen, it is far more durable, and very much cheaper than the wooden body, with a sheep-skin head, of a banjo.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 represents a front elevation of my banjo, and Fig. 2 a side elevation, with the body thereof in section.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

A represents the body of a banjo, which may be circular, or of any form desired, and which is constructed of any desirable sheet metal. This body is constructed by cutting out of any desired thin metal the face and back *a b*, and fitting them, by solder or otherwise, to the edge or rim B, which is also formed of a strip of sheet metal bent to the desired diameter. To

the body thus constructed the neck C is secured by two lugs, *c*, which are soldered or otherwise secured to the edge of the body, and then riveted to the neck. This neck may be either of wood or metal. To the face of the body A is suitably secured, by solder or otherwise, the bridge D, and the tail-piece *e* is secured to a button, *f*, inserted into the edge B. The strings, which may be either of gut or metal, are secured to the tail-piece and to the pegs in the head *g*, the same as in banjos ordinarily constructed.

The banjo being thus made is well adapted for a musical instrument or a toy, when it will be found to produce clear musical notes, be much cheaper in construction, and more durable in use, since all liability of fracture of the body is avoided, and no occasion for replacing the face or head of the body with sheep-skin necessary, as in banjos ordinarily constructed, and all necessity for stretchers is done away with.

The edge or rim B may be perforated with a series of openings, through which the sound can escape.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a banjo provided with a body composed of face, back, and rim of sheet metal, as herein specified.

JOHN S. STILES.

Witnesses:

J. E. GRAVES,
F. E. BATCHELDER.