

A. D. B. WOLFF.
Transposing Key-Boards.

No. 142,974.

Patented September 16, 1873.

FIG. 1.

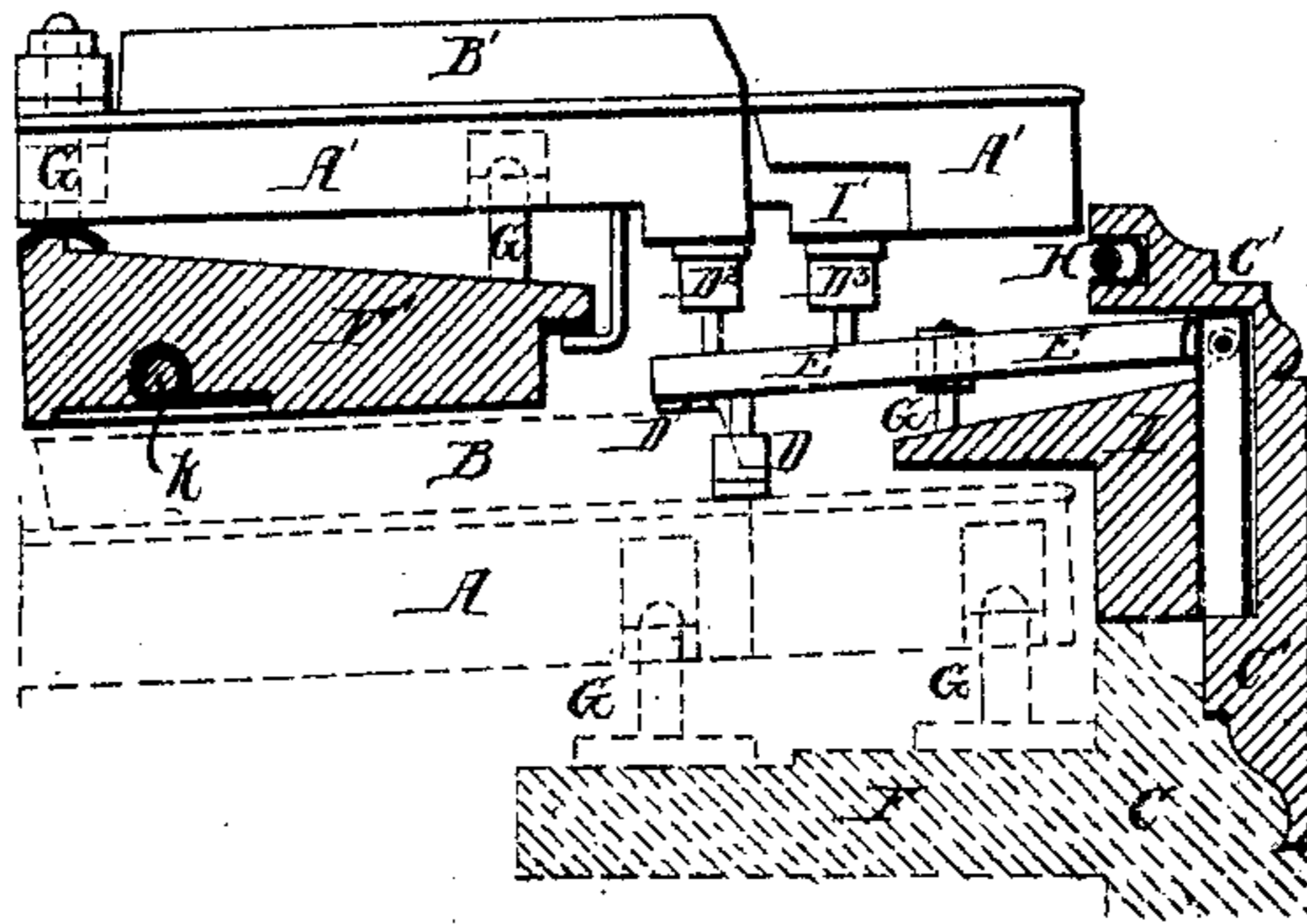
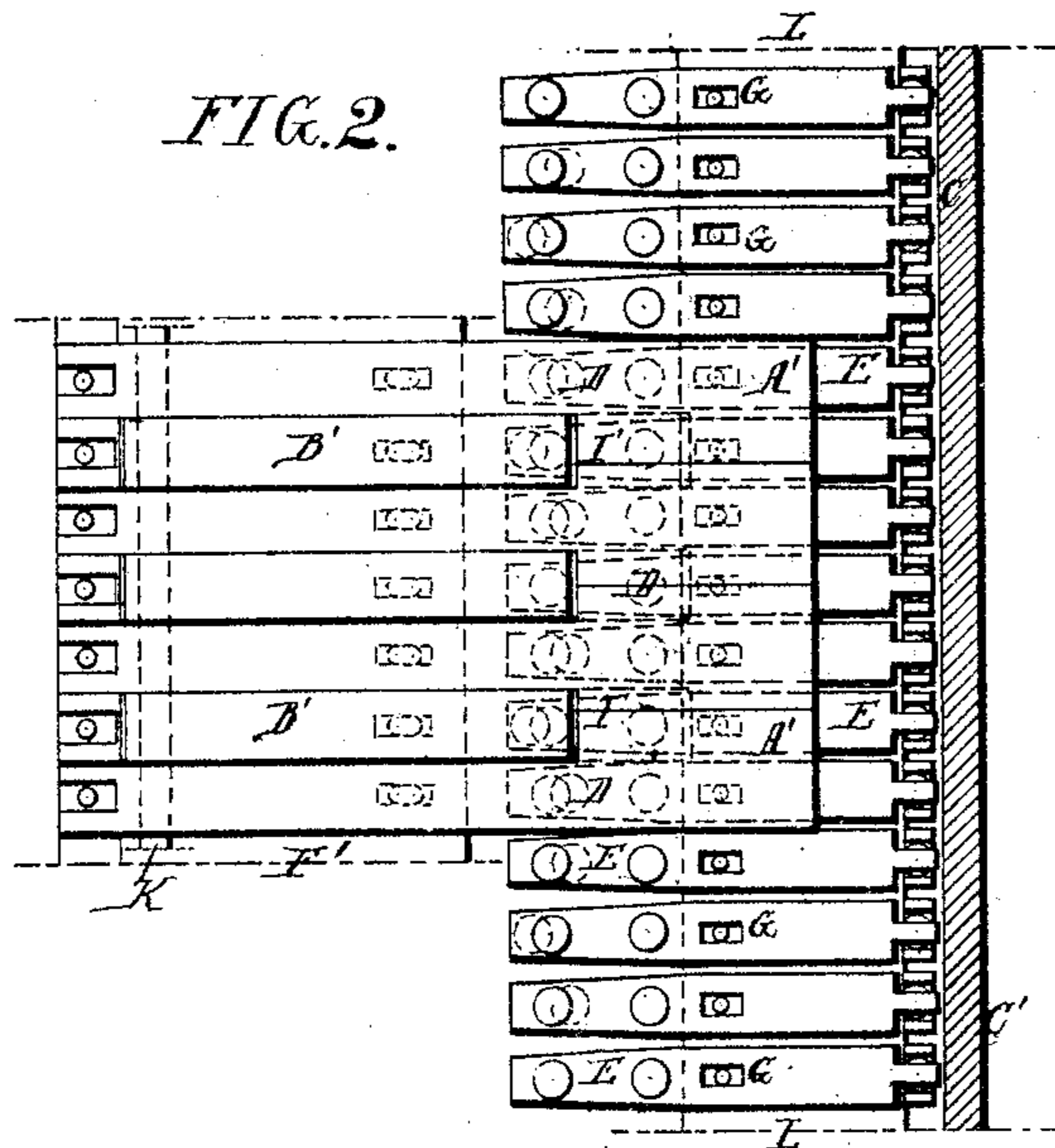


FIG. 2.



Witnesses, Harry Smith
Thomas McIlwain

A. D. B. Wolff
by his Attys.
Hazen and Son

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTE D. B. WOLFF, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRANSPOSING KEY-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **142,974**, dated September 16, 1873; application filed February 27, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTE DÉSIÉ BERNARD WOLFF, of Paris, France, have invented a Transposing Key-Board, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to improvements in transposing key-boards, consisting of a series of keys arranged in relation to each other precisely as those of the key-board of a piano or organ, but capable of being applied to and adjusted laterally over such a key-board, or over the operating levers of a piano or equivalent instrument, so that the "key" in which a piece of music is played will depend upon the lateral position of the supplementary keys, and not, as heretofore, upon the ability of the performer to depart from the order in which the music is written, otherwise called "transposing."

The drawing represents one form of my transposing instrument, for application to an ordinary piano or organ, the key-board of which is represented in dotted lines, A and B being the white and black keys and *c* the front rail of the case. C and L are longitudinal strips, and K a parallel rod of a frame constructed so as to be applied to the key-board; and to the strip C' are hung levers E, which project one over each key, the levers above the black keys bearing directly on the latter, and the others having at the lower sides projections D, which bear upon the white keys, so that the levers are all parallel, the bearing-points being covered by felt pads. Upon the rod K slides a strip, F', carrying a series of keys, A' B', arranged, as respects each other, in precisely the same manner, and having the same movements, as those of the key-board, the white keys A' resting at their front ends on projec-

tions D³ on the levers E, and the black keys B' upon projections D² of said levers.

The strip F' may be moved upon the rod K so as to bring the upper keys directly over the corresponding keys of the lower board, in which case a piece of music played upon the upper keys, which operate, through the levers E, upon the lower ones, will be produced in the same key and with the same effect as if played directly upon the lower key-board.

When, however, it is desired to transpose or play the piece upon a key that is higher or lower than that in which the music is written, the sliding key-board is moved to the right or left the width of one or more keys, according as the new scale is one or more half-tones higher or lower than that from which the piece is to be transposed, when, upon playing the piece, as written, upon the upper key-board, the effect will be, upon depressing each upper key, to produce a sound that is one or more half-tones higher or lower than that produced by a key in the same position upon a permanent board, thus transposing the entire piece without any other effort upon the part of the player than is required to produce the piece in the key in which it is written.

I claim—

The combination, in a transposing key-board, of levers E, having projections D² D³, and keys A' B', adjustable above the levers and resting on said projections, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

AUGUSTE DÉSIÉ BERNARD WOLFF.

Witnesses:

EDMOND THIBAUT, Jr.,
EMILE RICHARD.