

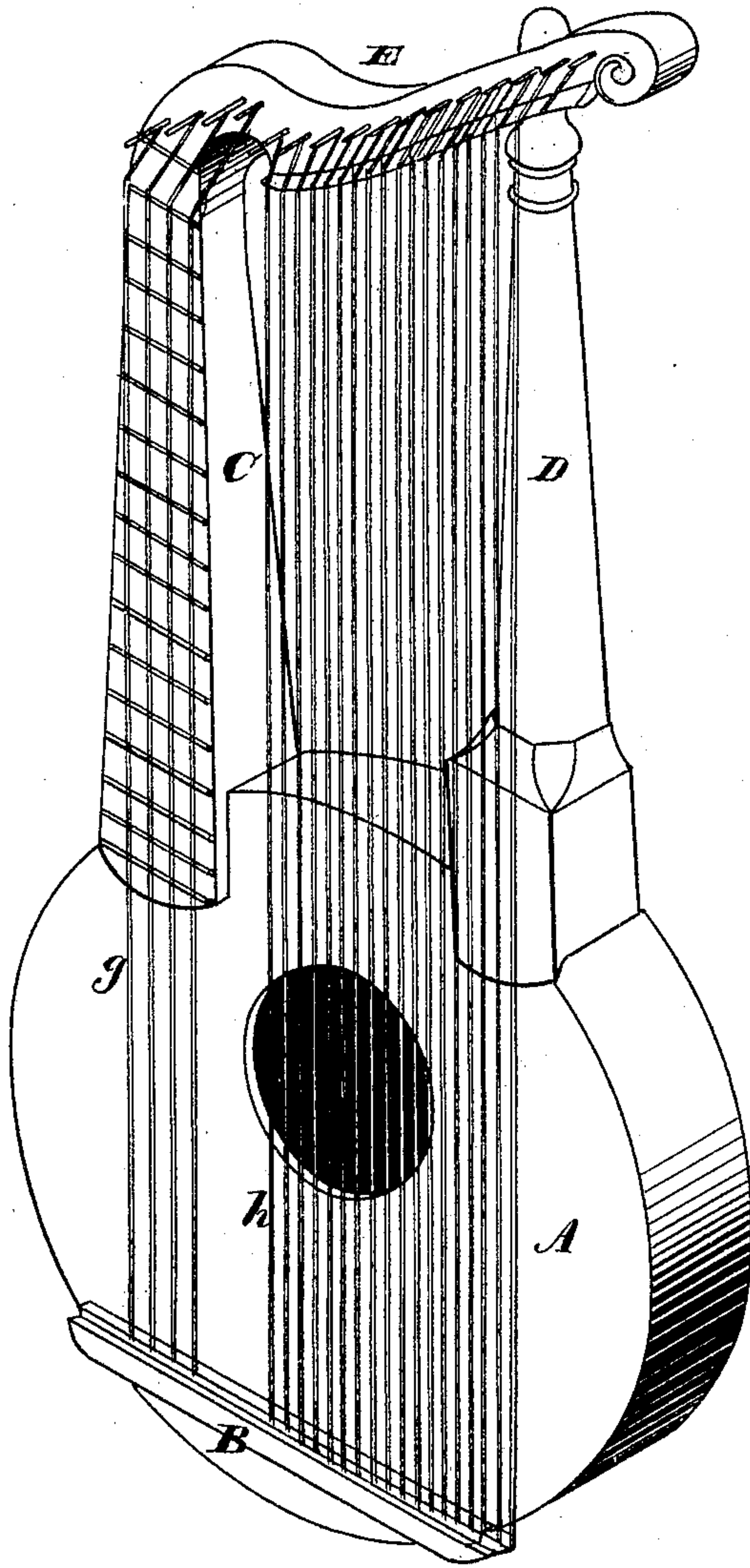
F. LANGMAAK.

ZITHERNS.

No. 173,478.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

Geo. H. Strong
Jm. L. Bonn

Inventor

Friedrich Langmaak
by Dewey & Co
his Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIEDRICH LANGMAAK, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN ZITHERNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,478**, dated February 15, 1876; application filed December 14, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRIEDRICH LANGMAAK, of San Francisco city and county, State of California, have invented an Improved Zithern; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvement without further invention or experiment.

The object of my invention is to provide an improvement in that class of stringed instruments known as zitherns.

My improvement, which I call a vocal zithern, instead of having a large sound-board with strings stretched across it, and so constructed that it must lie upon a flat surface, is made with a smaller sound-board, and is provided with two posts or standards to support the head or wrest-bar which receives the tuning-pins. One of these posts forms the handle, and is provided with frets. The strings upon which the piece is to be played extend over this post, while the accompaniment-strings are sufficiently separated to allow the fingers to grasp the neck and manipulate the strings above it without interfering with the others.

Referring to the accompanying drawing for a more complete explanation of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view.

A is the body or sound-box of my improved zithern, and this may be made circular or in any suitable shape, and has a bridge, B, secured to the lower or rear end to hold the ends of the strings. From each side of this body A project two standards, C and D, which are

firmly secured to the body. The wrest-bar E, which holds the tuning-pins, is made in any ornamental shape, and extends from the top of one standard to the top of the other, as shown. The standards may be made hollow to increase the volume of the tone. One of the standards C is provided with frets, and forms a finger-board; and a certain number of the strings *g* are stretched above this finger-board. The accompaniment-strings *h*, which are properly tuned, and have no finger-board, are stretched from the bridge to the tuning-pins upon the wrest-bar or head E, and are so far separated from the handle C that the hand of the operator can grasp the handle and manipulate the strings without interfering with the strings *h*. By this construction I am enabled to increase the efficiency of the instrument, which can now be held in the hands instead of having a special table for it to lie upon, and is better adapted to be used as an accompaniment to the voice.

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

A musical instrument consisting of the body A and the two standards C D, with the bridge B and uniting-head E, and having the groups of strings *g* and *h*, when constructed and arranged to operate substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

FRIEDRICH LANGMAAK. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

GEO. H. STRONG,
JNO. L. BOONE.