

U. PRATT.

KEYS FOR PIANOFORTES, ORGANS, &c.

No. 174,001.

Patented Feb. 22, 1876.

Fig. 1.

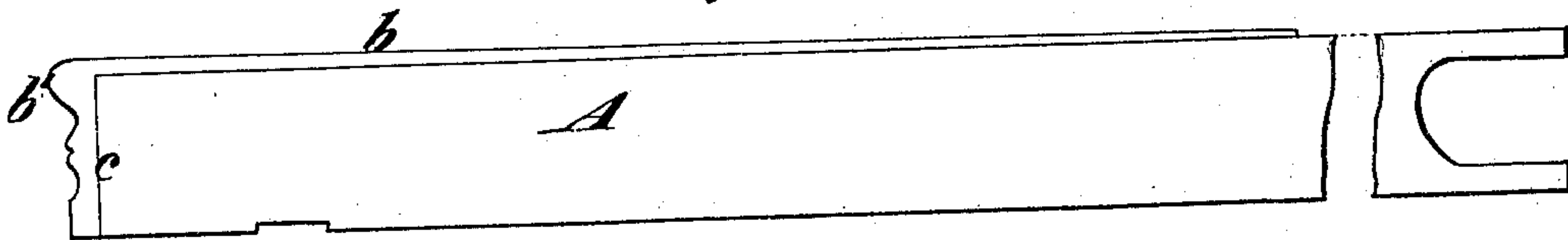


Fig. 2.



Witnesses
John Becker.
Fred. Haynes

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ULYSSES PRATT, OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN KEYS FOR PIANO-FORTES, ORGANS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 174,001, dated February 22, 1876; application filed May 31, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ULYSSES PRATT, of Deep River, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Keys for Piano-Fortes, Organs, and other Key-Board Instruments; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal view of a key constructed in accordance with my improvement, and Fig. 2 a front view of the same.

This invention may be considered as an improvement upon the key for which Letters Patent No. 140,528, dated July 1, 1873, were granted to E. P. Needham. It consists in a key for piano-fortes, organs, melodeons, and other key-board instruments having a molding in front, formed and being part of the same veneer or covering which is used for the top or face of the key, said molding extending beyond and lapping over the front end of the key, whereby a much handsomer appearance is given to the latter.

In the drawing, A represents the white key of a piano-forte or organ, having a veneer or covering, *b*, of any suitable material, applied to its top or face. This veneer or covering is not merely continued and extended over and down the front end *c* of the key, but is con-

structed to form a molding, *b'*, of any suitable configuration, along the front portion of the key, but not so as to project above it, or in anywise interfere with the free passage of the fingers over the key when playing. This molding may extend to the bottom or to any depth down the front end of the key.

Said molding *b'* may be produced by carving or otherwise, according to the material of which the veneer *b* is composed; but an ordinary molding process may be adopted if the veneer be composed of porcelain, ceramic, or other ware, celluloid, or any material which may have its form given it while in a plastic or soft state. I do not restrict myself, however, to any particular material for such veneer or covering, nor yet to any particular mode of producing the molding at its forward end.

I do not broadly claim the extension of the top or face veneer over and down the front end of the key; but

What I do claim is—

A key for piano-fortes, organs, and other key-board instruments having an overlapping molding in front, formed and being part of the same veneer or covering which is applied to the top or face of the key, substantially as specified.

ULYSSES PRATT.

Witnesses:

HENRY T. BROWN,
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