

H. PRAEGER.  
Music-Desk for Piano-Fortes.

No. 226,676.

Patented April 20, 1880.

Fig. 1.

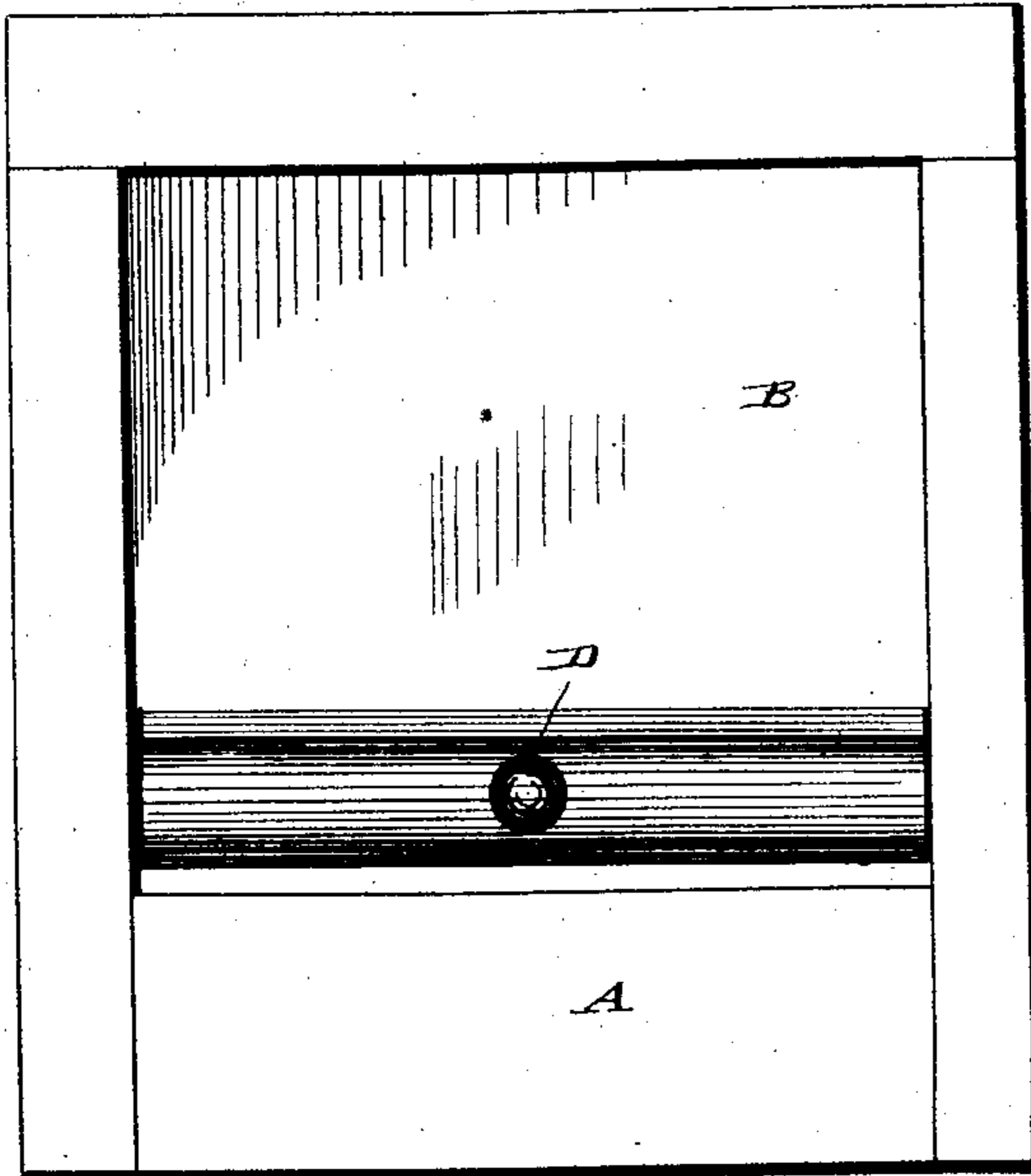
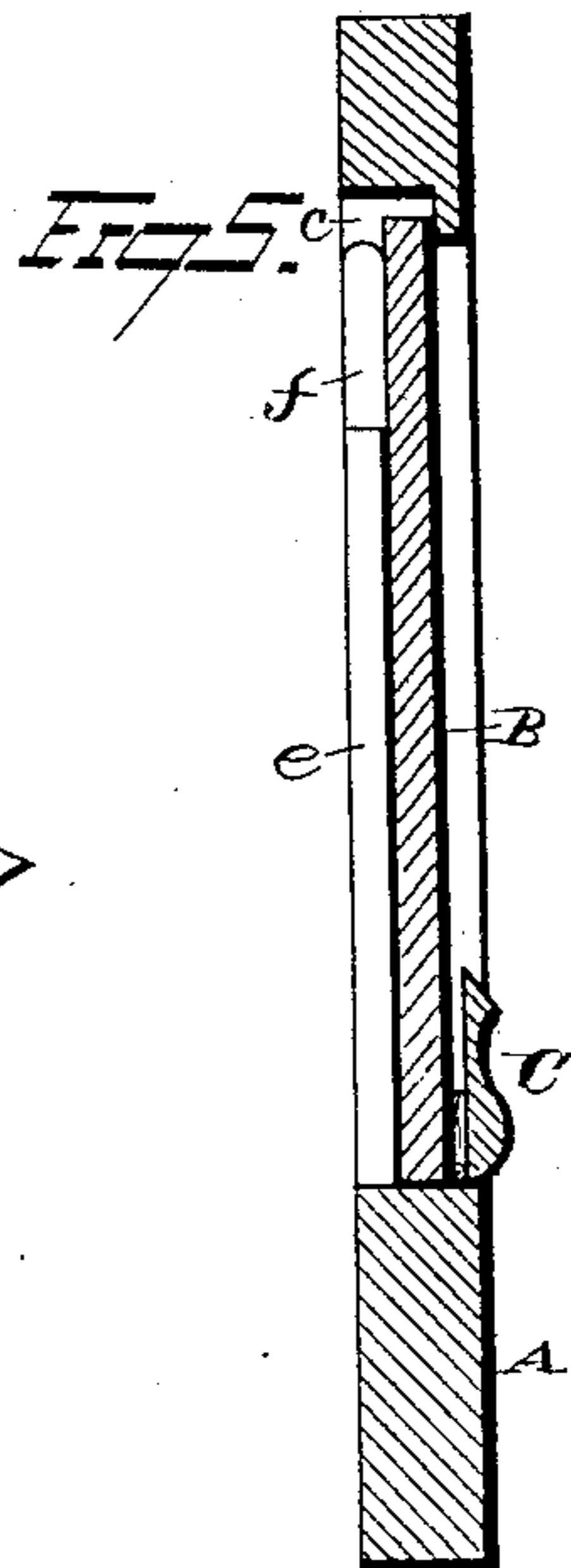
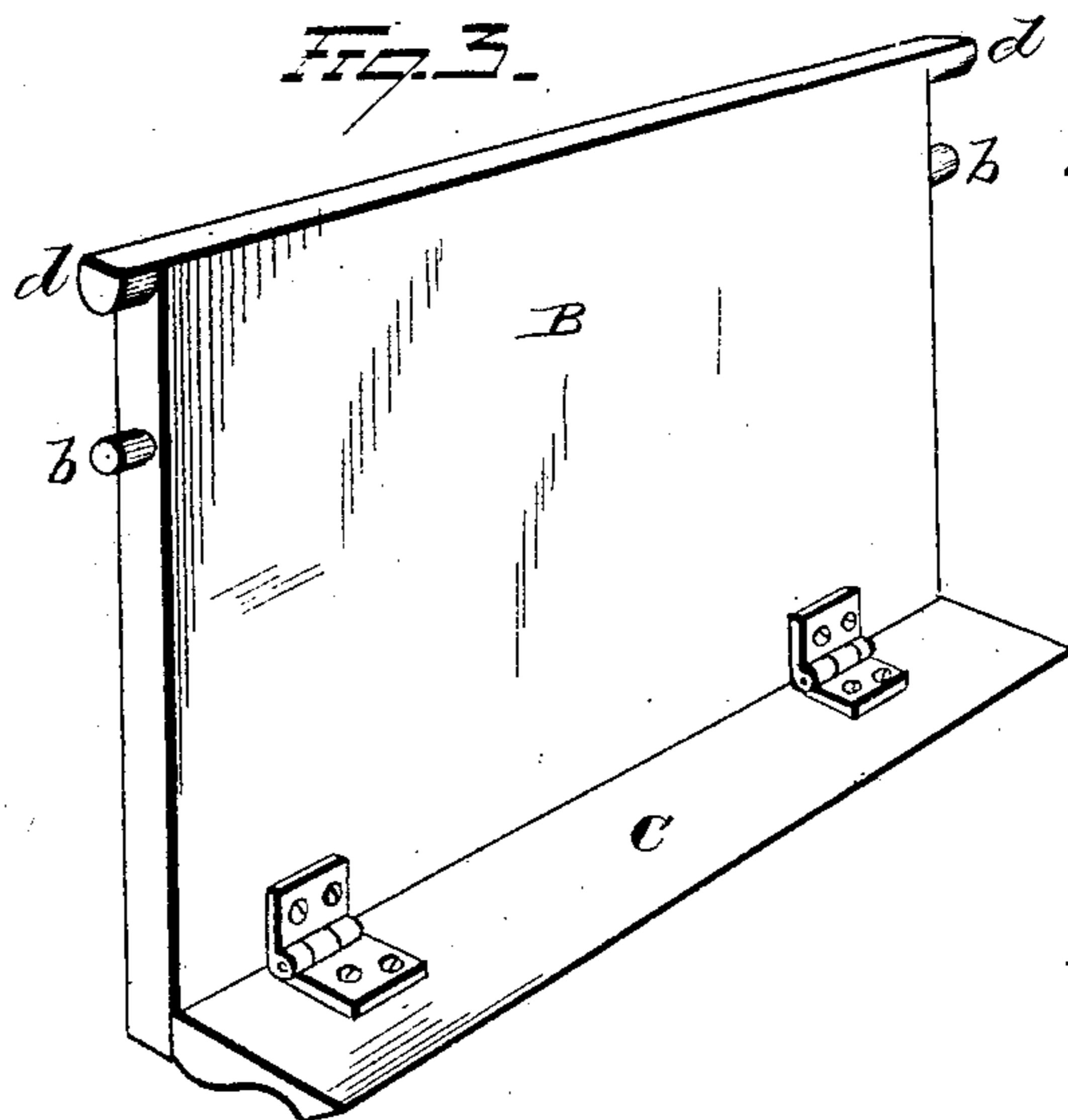
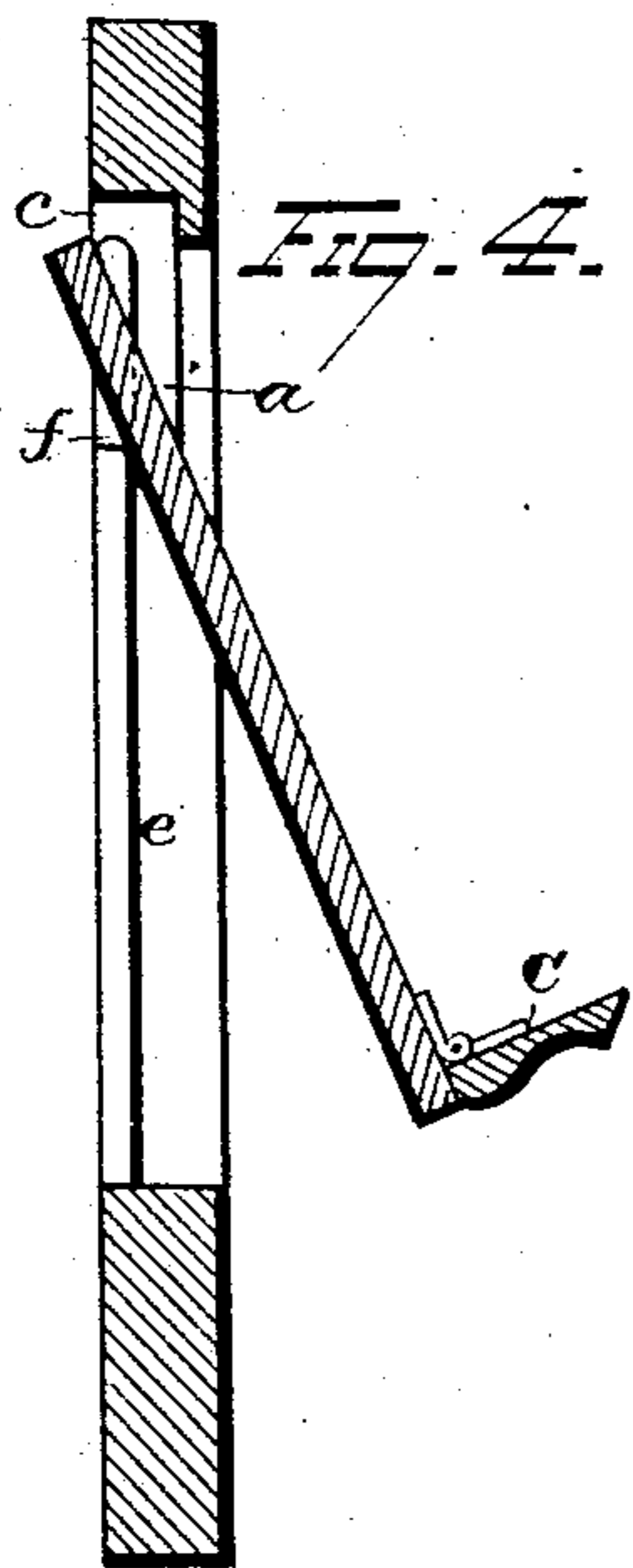
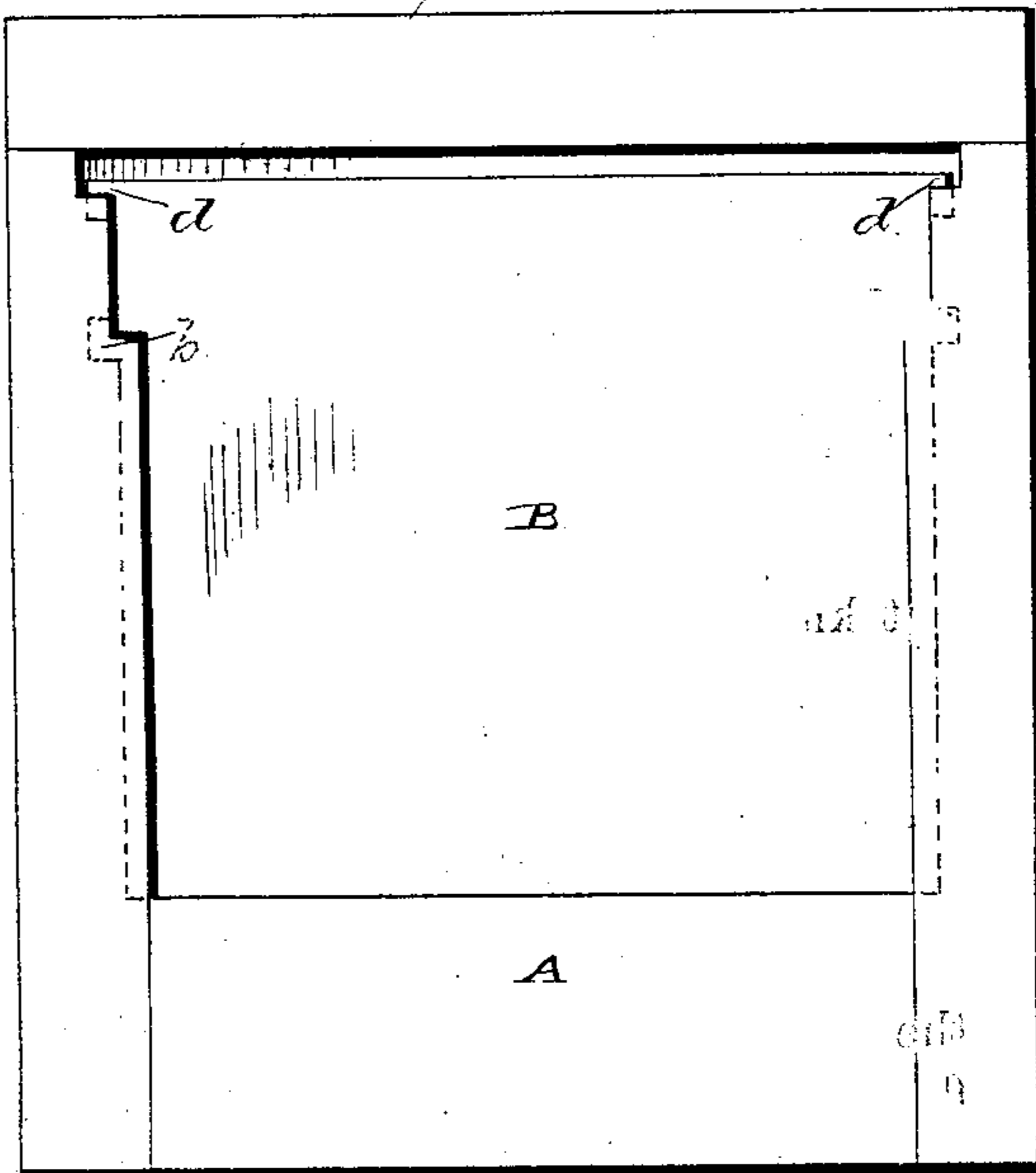


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY PRAEGER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO WILLIAM KNABE & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

## MUSIC-DESK FOR PIANO-FORTES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 226,676, dated April 20, 1880.

Application filed February 24, 1880.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be known that I, HENRY PRAEGER, of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Musical Instruments; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates more especially to that class of upright pianos which have music-desks adapted when in use to be supported in forward vertical inclination, and when not in use to be folded in upright position within corresponding recesses formed in the front casings of the pianos above the key-boards.

The object of the invention is to provide improved means for adjusting the music-desk in open or closed position, and for maintaining it in forward inclination when in use.

The improvement consists, first, in the combination, with a casing provided with a recess, of a desk journaled in the latter and having its upper portion provided with lateral projections adapted to enter openings in the rear side of the casing when the desk is closed; second, in the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess whose side grooves have rear openings in their upper portions, of a desk journaled in said grooves and having its upper portion provided with lateral projections adapted to pass through said openings when the desk is adjusted in open or closed position; third, in the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess having side grooves, of a desk journaled in the latter, the walls of the casing which provide horizontal bearing for the rear side of the desk when closed being cut away at their upper portion to permit the lateral projections of the desk to pass through rear openings in the casing when the desk is opened; fourth, in the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess whose side grooves have rear openings, of a desk journaled in the grooves and having lateral projections above its jour-

nals, which pass through the rear openings, said lateral projections being adapted to have horizontal bearing respectively against the inner or outer sides of the rear grooved walls, and thereby maintain the desk in open or closed position, as desired.

Referring to the drawings, which represent parts sufficient to illustrate the invention, Figure 1 is a view in front elevation, showing the desk closed. Fig. 2 is a view, in rear elevation, of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the desk. Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section through the casing, and representing a side elevation of the desk in open position. Fig. 5 is a view similar to the preceding one, and representing the desk in closed position.

A represents the front casing above the keyboard of an upright piano. It is provided with a recess adapted to receive a music-desk, B. Side grooves, *a*, are formed in the walls of this recess, and serve as bearings for journals *b*, with which the desk is provided. The upper portion of these grooves is formed with rear openings, *c*, through which lateral projections *d* pass when the desk is adjusted in open or closed position. These lateral projections are connected to the upper portion of the desk, and correspond in sectional dimension with the rear openings of the side grooves through which they pass. They may be made in single piece with the desk, as shown in the drawings, or they may be made separate therefrom. In the latter instance they might be formed of a single or of independent pieces of metal or other suitable material. As the desk is opened by drawing its main portion out in forward inclination, that portion thereof which is above the horizontal line passing through both journals is thrown back in a corresponding rearward inclination, and the lateral projections pass outward through the rear openings.

The vertical dimension of the desk-recess in the casing exceeds that of the desk, so that when the latter is closed its lateral projections are below and out of line with the rear openings of the side grooves; hence the desk is secured in vertical position as a panel. To open the desk it is raised in vertical line until it strikes the top of its casing-recess, and its lateral projections are thereby brought in hori-

zontal line with the rear openings of the side grooves. The desk is then tilted so that its main portion projects forwardly and that portion thereof which is above the journals projects rearwardly.

As soon as the lateral projections of the desk have cleared the rear openings the desk is allowed to drop down so as to cause said projections to have horizontal bearing against the rear side of the casing, the vertical dimension of the side grooves being sufficient to permit the journals to have sliding movement therein corresponding to the vertical adjustments of the desk above described. It will thus be seen that the lateral projections of the desk serve a double function: They maintain the desk in proper inclination when in use, and they lock it in vertical position when not in use.

The walls *e* of the casing, which provide horizontal bearing for the rear side of the desk when the latter is closed, are cut away at their upper portions, as shown at *f*, thus permitting that portion of the desk which is above the journals to be thrown back in rearward inclination.

The desk may be provided with a music-rest, *C*, of any suitable form, the same being similar to or different from the one shown in the drawings.

A knob, *D*, or any other desired device, may be employed to open and close the desk.

The description and drawings show my preferred form of carrying out the invention. It is evident, however, that changes in the specific construction thereof may be made, provided the essential elements of invention set forth in the following claims are employed.

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

1. In a musical instrument, the combination, with a casing provided with a recess, of a desk

journaled in the latter and having its upper portion provided with lateral projections adapted to enter openings in the rear side of the casing when the desk is closed, substantially as set forth.

2. In a musical instrument, the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess the side grooves of which have rear openings in their upper portions, of a desk journaled in said grooves and having its upper portion provided with lateral projections adapted to pass through said openings when the disk is adjusted in open or closed position, substantially as set forth.

3. In a musical instrument, the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess having side grooves, of a desk journaled in the latter, the walls of the casing which provide horizontal bearing for the rear side of the desk when closed—being cut away at their upper portions to permit the lateral projections of the desk to pass through rear openings in the casing when the desk is opened, substantially as set forth.

4. In a musical instrument, the combination, with a casing provided with a desk-recess the side grooves of which have rear openings, of a desk journaled in the grooves and having lateral projections above its journals, which pass through the rear openings, said lateral projections being adapted to have horizontal bearing respectively against the inner or outer sides of the rear grooved walls, and thereby maintain the desk in open or closed position, as desired, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of February, 1880.

HENRY PRAEGER.

Witnesses:

R. W. COX,  
GEO. MCCAFFRAY.