

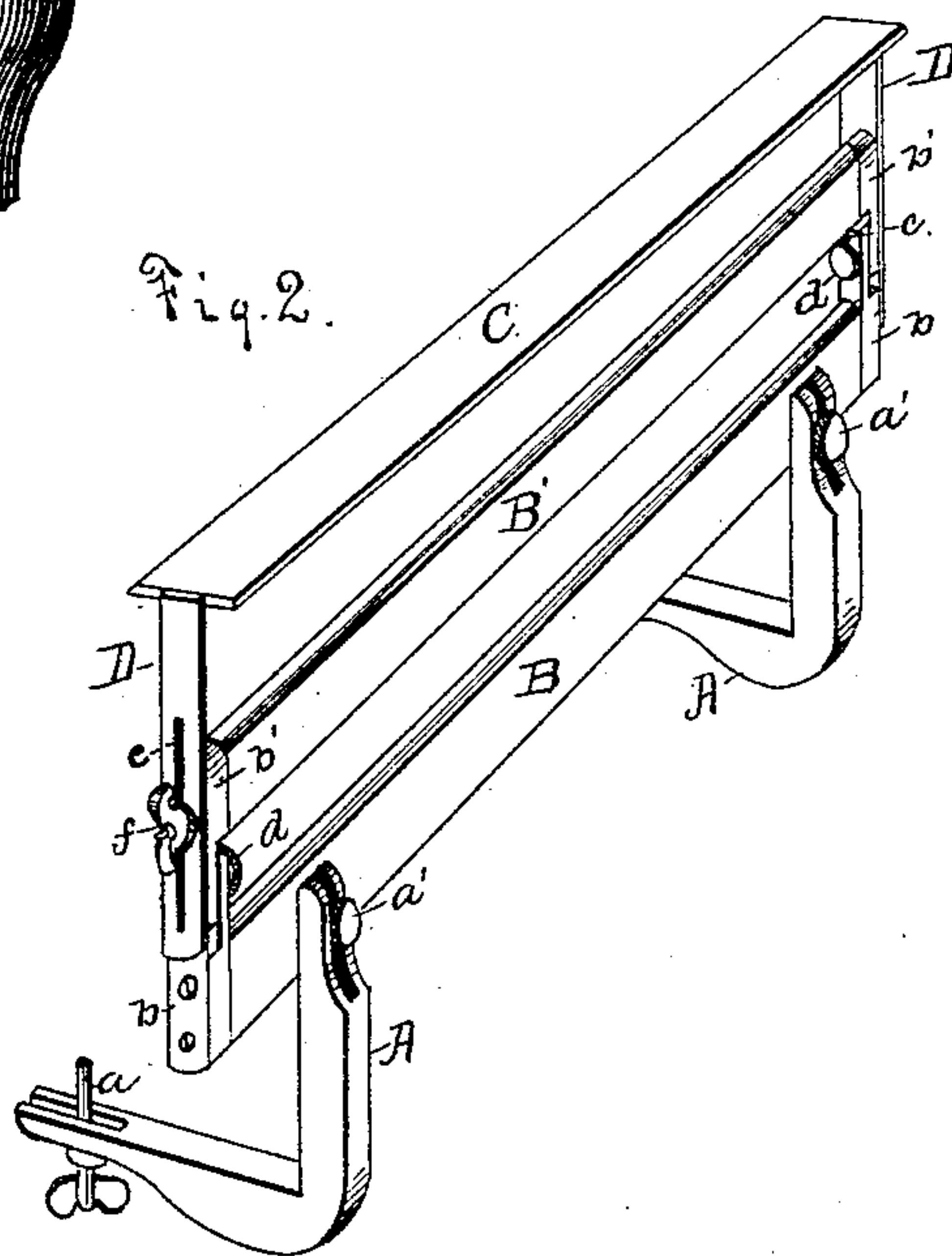
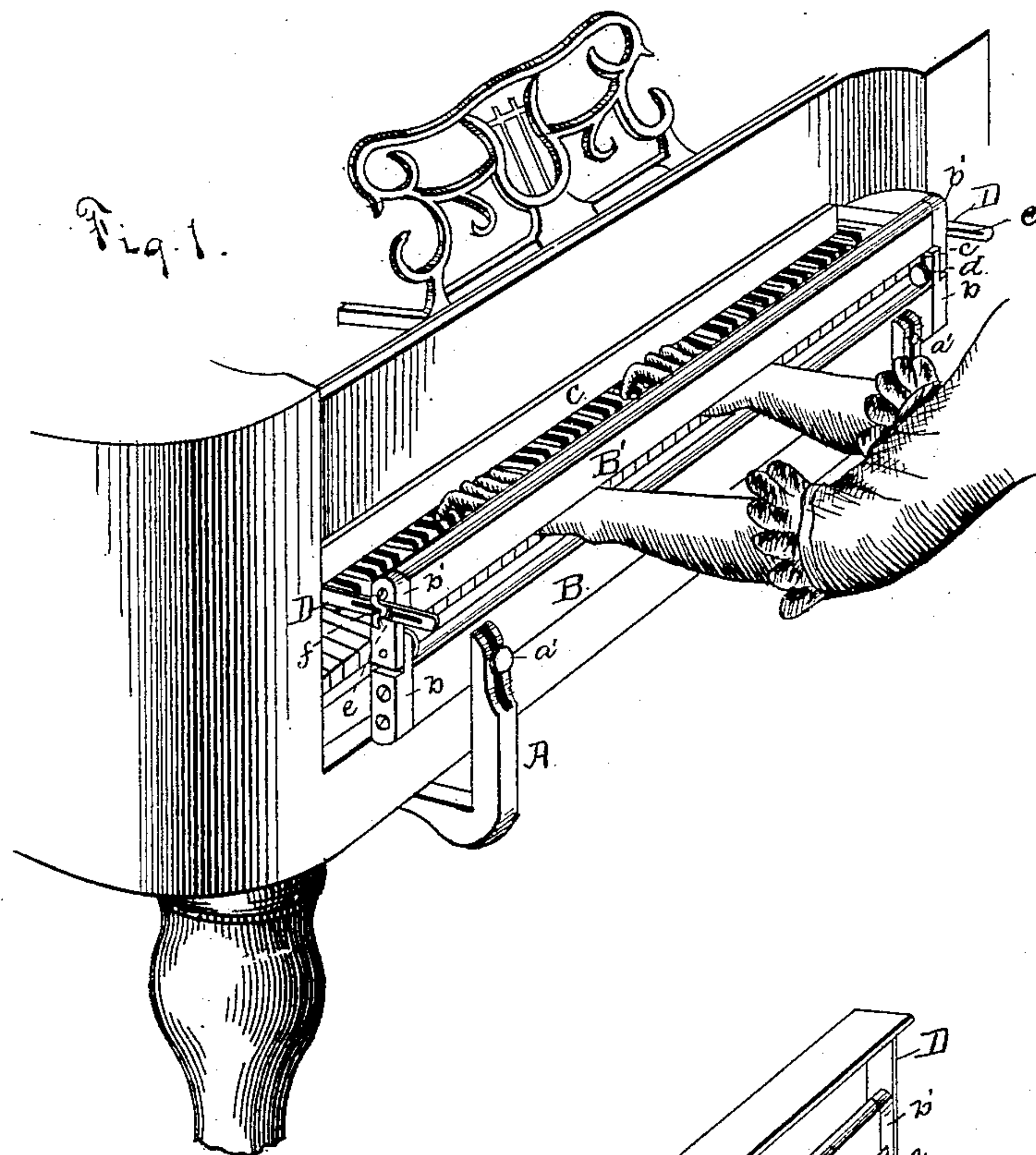
(No Model.)

T. GIDDINGS.

ARM AND FINGER GUIDE FOR PIANOS AND ORGANS.

No. 291,330.

Patented Jan. 1, 1884.



Attest
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ARM AND FINGER GUIDE FOR PIANOS AND ORGANS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 291,310, dated January 1, 1884.

Application filed April 11, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS GIDDINGS, of Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Arm and Finger Guides for Pianos and Organs; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The invention involved in the subject-matter of this application relates to an improvement in arm and finger guides for pianofortes and organs, whereby pupils of either instrument are enabled to obtain a correct position of the arms and proper curvature of the fingers, to thereby acquire a proper touch from the wrist and finger joints, and to compel the fingers to act upon the ends of the black keys as required by the rules governing piano and organ performances.

The object, further, of this improvement is to prevent the fingers of the performer from striking and thereby marring the polished surface of the frame-work in the rear of the key-board, and, further, to permit of the opening and closing of the instrument and the execution of the most difficult music without detaching either the arm or finger guide, which combined are intended to embrace the entire range of the key-board.

To the successful accomplishment of the objects above related, the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the component parts of the device, whereby the same may be adjusted to enable the arms and fingers of the performer together to comply with all the rules governing performances on a piano or organ, as more fully hereinafter described, and designated in the claims.

For the better understanding of the invention, and to illustrate to the profession its application to instruments of the class specified, reference will be made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a view of the device properly attached to the front of a piano, and Fig. 2 a view of the same detached.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

A A represent two wood or metal brackets,

preferably of a right-angular form, and each longitudinally slotted at one end to embrace a screw-threaded bolt, *a*, which is rigidly secured in the bottom of the piano. By the aid of a thumb-nut upon the end of this bolt *a*, the said brackets may be firmly attached to the piano, and adjusted at any desired distance from the key-board thereof. The opposite or free end of each bracket A is likewise slotted to embrace a thumb-screw, *a'*, by which the lower rail, B, of the arm-guide is attached to the brackets, and adapted to be vertically adjusted thereon, accordingly as desired. Each end of the lower rail, B, above referred to is provided with a casting, *b*, which is tenoned, as shown, to form a perfect joint with a corresponding tenon of a casting, *b'*, secured to each end of the upper rail, B', of the arm-guide.

In the tenon or projection of each casting *b* of the lower rail, B, is cut a rectangular slot, *c*, through which into the casting *b'* of the upper rail, B', passes a thumb-screw, *d*, adapting the two rails of the arm-guide to be adjusted to accommodate any thickness of wrist.

The finger-guide consists, preferably, of a smooth flat strip of wood, C, secured at each end to a flat metal plate, D, which is provided with a long rectangular slot, *e*, through which into the casting on the ends of the upper rail, B', passes a thumb-screw, *f*, by which the finger-guide may be adjusted as required, and securely held in the position which it is given. By this slot and thumb-screw the finger-guide can be brought to a position vertically above the arm-guide, and the raising and lowering of the piano-lid accomplished without detaching either of said guides from the instrument. Another advantage of this means for adjusting the finger-guide is that the fingers are at all times compelled to assume a proper curve regardless of the key in which the music may be written. For instance, in executing a piece of music written in the key of G, (whose signature is one sharp,) only one black key is manipulated in each octave, and the guide is accordingly placed near the outer ends of the black keys. In the key of D (two sharps) it is moved a little farther to the rear, and so on as the number of sharps or flats increase. It will thus be manifest to the profession and to all acquainted with the art that this device

assists the performer in gaining a perfect touch by giving a correct position for obtaining independent action to the fingers and wrist. It is adapted to be adjusted near or away from
5 the key-board and on a level with the same, to accommodate any length of hand and fingers.

Both guides are brought into use simultaneously, and, combined, can be attached to and detached from any piano or organ in a short
10 time and without special skill.

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

1. An arm and finger guide for pianos and
15 organs, such guide having its constituent parts adjustably connected together, and likewise attached to the instrument by means of slots and thumb-screws, with which the several parts are provided, substantially as described.

20 2. An arm-guide for pianos and organs, consisting of two rails, arranged one above the other and adjustably connected together, and likewise attached to and supported by a pair of brackets attached to the instrument, and
25 adapted to be adjusted horizontally toward or away from the key-board by means of slots and thumb-screws, with which the several parts are

provided, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, with the arm-guide, as
30 described, of a finger-guide adapted to be used simultaneously therewith, and consisting of a rail attached to the rails constituting the arm-guide, and adapted to be horizontally ad-
justed over the key-board and to be swung
35 vertically above the arm-guide by means of slots and thumb-screws, with which the several parts are provided, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a device of the character described,
40 the combination, with the brackets A A and the arm-guide, constructed, arranged, and attached to the piano or organ as described, of the finger-guide consisting of the strip C and plates D D, constructed, attached, and made
45 adjustable upon the arm-guide, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOS. GIDDINGS.

Witnesses:

JNO. K. HAYS,
W. D. CROCKER.