

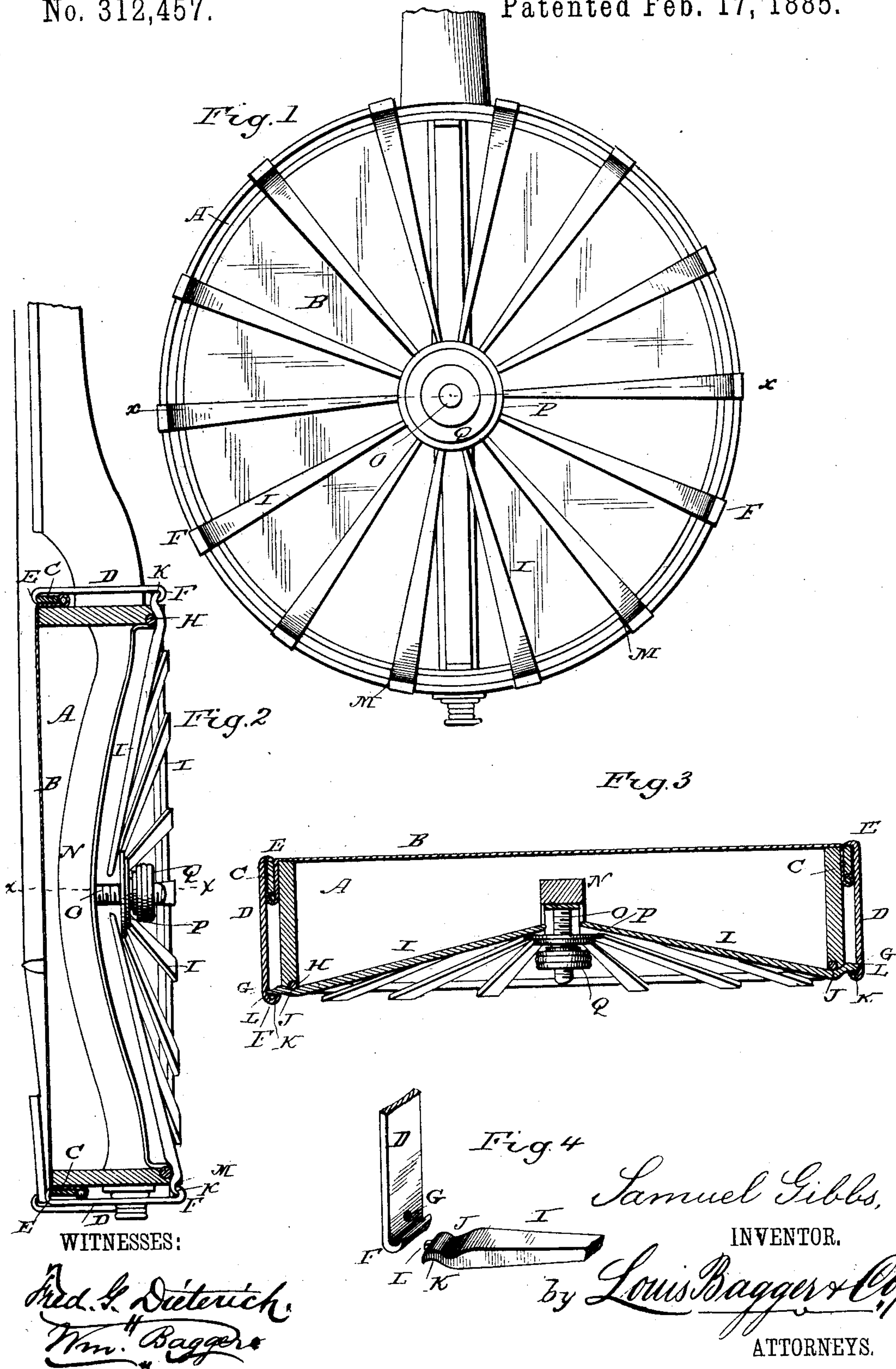
(No Model.)

S. GIBBS.

BANJO.

No. 312,457.

Patented Feb. 17, 1885.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL GIBBS, OF KNOX, PENNSYLVANIA.

BANJO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 312,457, dated February 17, 1885.

Application filed October 21, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL GIBBS, of Knox, in the county of Clarion and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banjos; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a rear view of a banjo with my improvements. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line *x x* in Figs. 1 and 2, and Fig. 4 is a detail view.

The same letters refer to the same parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to that class of musical instruments which are known as "banjos;" and it has for its object to provide a device for adjusting the straining-hoop in the same, which shall possess superior advantages in point of simplicity, durability, and general efficiency, and in which all the brackets may be operated simultaneously for the purpose of adjusting the straining-hoop by the action of a single thumb-nut.

With these ends in view, the invention consists in the improved construction and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings hereto annexed, A designates the band or body of the banjo. B is the head, and C is the straining-hoop. All of these parts are in the main of ordinary construction.

D D designate the brackets, which consist of flat metal strips, the upper ends of which are bent, so as to form small sharp-edged hooks E, adapted to catch over the upper edge of the straining-hoop, while their lower ends are likewise provided with inturned hooks F, directly above which shallow recesses G are formed in the inner sides of the said brackets.

The lower end or edge of the body or band A is provided with an annular wire ring, H, inserted or embedded therein in any suitable

manner, and forming the fulcrum for a series of radial levers, I I, which are provided near their outer ends with recesses or concavities J, by which they are seated upon the said ring. The outer ends of the said levers are provided with down-turned hooks K, engaging the hooks F of the brackets; and the outer ends of the said levers are provided on their upper sides with projections or studs L, engaging the recesses G in the brackets, so as to prevent lateral displacement of the latter. Lateral displacement of the outer ends of the levers is prevented by providing the lower edge of the band or body A with a series of notches, M, in which the said levers are seated.

The body A of the banjo is provided with a longitudinal arched brace, N, having a centrally-located downwardly-extending screw, O, provided with a washer, P, and a thumb-nut, Q. The inner ends of the levers I I are made tapering or pointed, as shown, and inserted over the washer P. It will thus be seen that by tightening the thumb-nut Q the entire set of levers are simultaneously operated to force the brackets D in a downward direction, thus straining or tightening the head of the banjo. By loosening the thumb-nut the result is of course reversed.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings hereto annexed, the operation and advantages of this invention will be readily understood. The construction is simple and inexpensive, and at the same time admits of handsome ornamentation. This device is much stronger and more durable than the straining devices ordinarily employed, and it is easily, quickly, and conveniently operated.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. In a banjo, the combination of the straining-hoop, a series of brackets hooked over the said hoop, and having hooks at their lower ends, a series of levers fulcrumed upon the lower edge of the banjo-body, and having hooks engaging the hooks at the lower ends of the brackets, and mechanism for operating the said levers simultaneously, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a banjo, the combination, with the

body having a metallic wire or band embedded or arranged at its lower edge, of a series of levers fulcrumed upon the said wire or band, and having hooks at their outer ends engaging the straining-hoop brackets, and mechanism for operating the said levers simultaneously, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a banjo, the combination of the brackets, suitably connected with the straining-hoop, and provided at their lower ends with recesses or depressions and inturned hooks, with the levers fulcrumed upon the lower edge of the banjo-body, and having hooks and studs engaging the hooks and recesses of the brackets, and mechanism for simultaneously operating the said levers, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a banjo, the combination of the body having a series of notches at its lower edge, and provided with a metallic ring or band, levers seated in the said notches, and fulcrumed upon the said metallic ring, straining-brackets suitably connected with the outer

ends of the said levers, and mechanism for simultaneously operating the inner ends of the latter, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a banjo, the combination of the body having a longitudinal arched brace provided with a screw having a washer and thumb-nut, the straining-hoop, a series of hooked brackets adjusted over the said hoop, and a series of levers fulcrumed upon the lower edge of the banjo-body, and having hooks at their outer ends engaging hooks at the lower ends of the brackets, and having their inner ends inserted or adjusted under the thumb-nut and washer, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL GIBBS.

Witnesses:

J. L. SHANAR,

JAMES C. WECKERLY.