

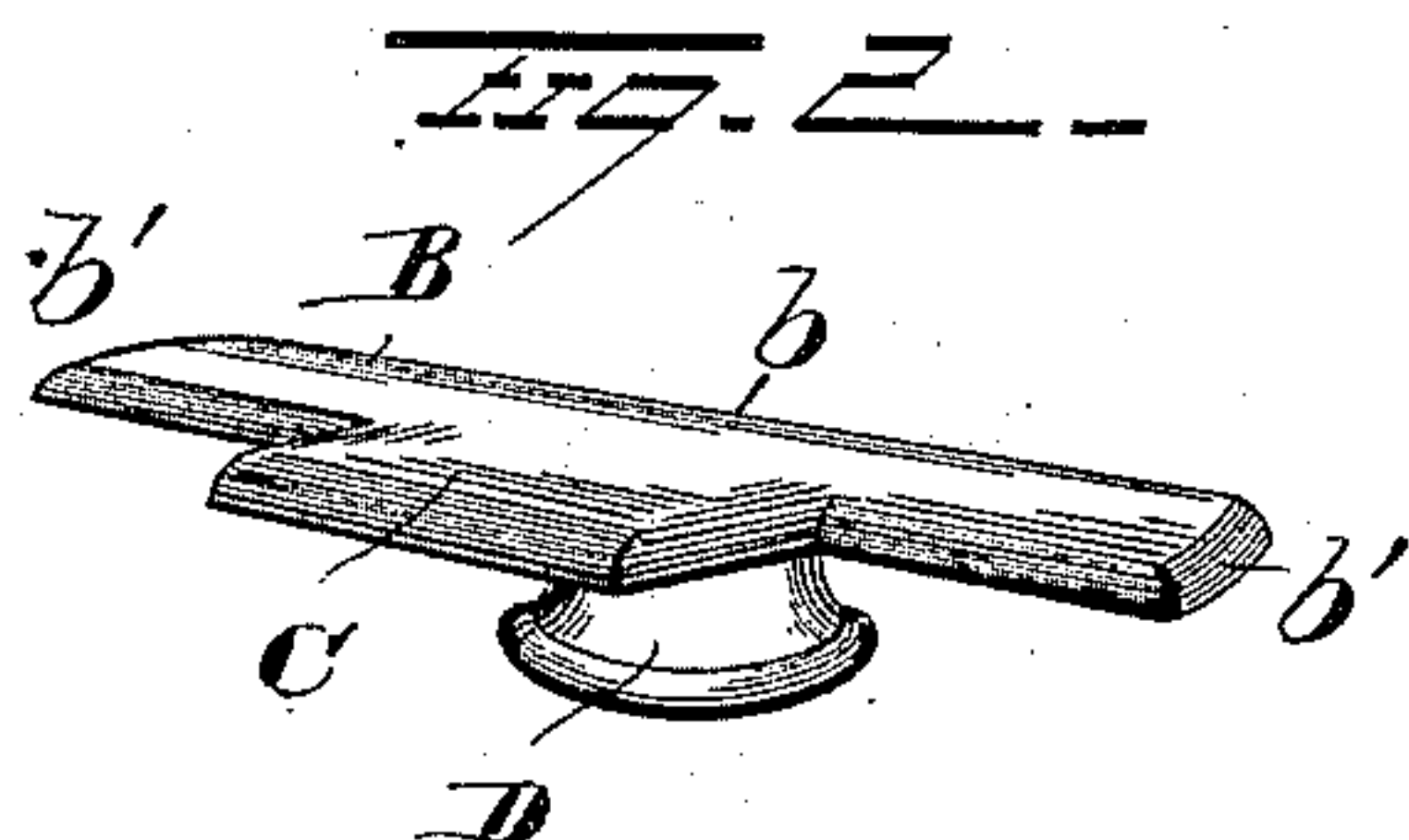
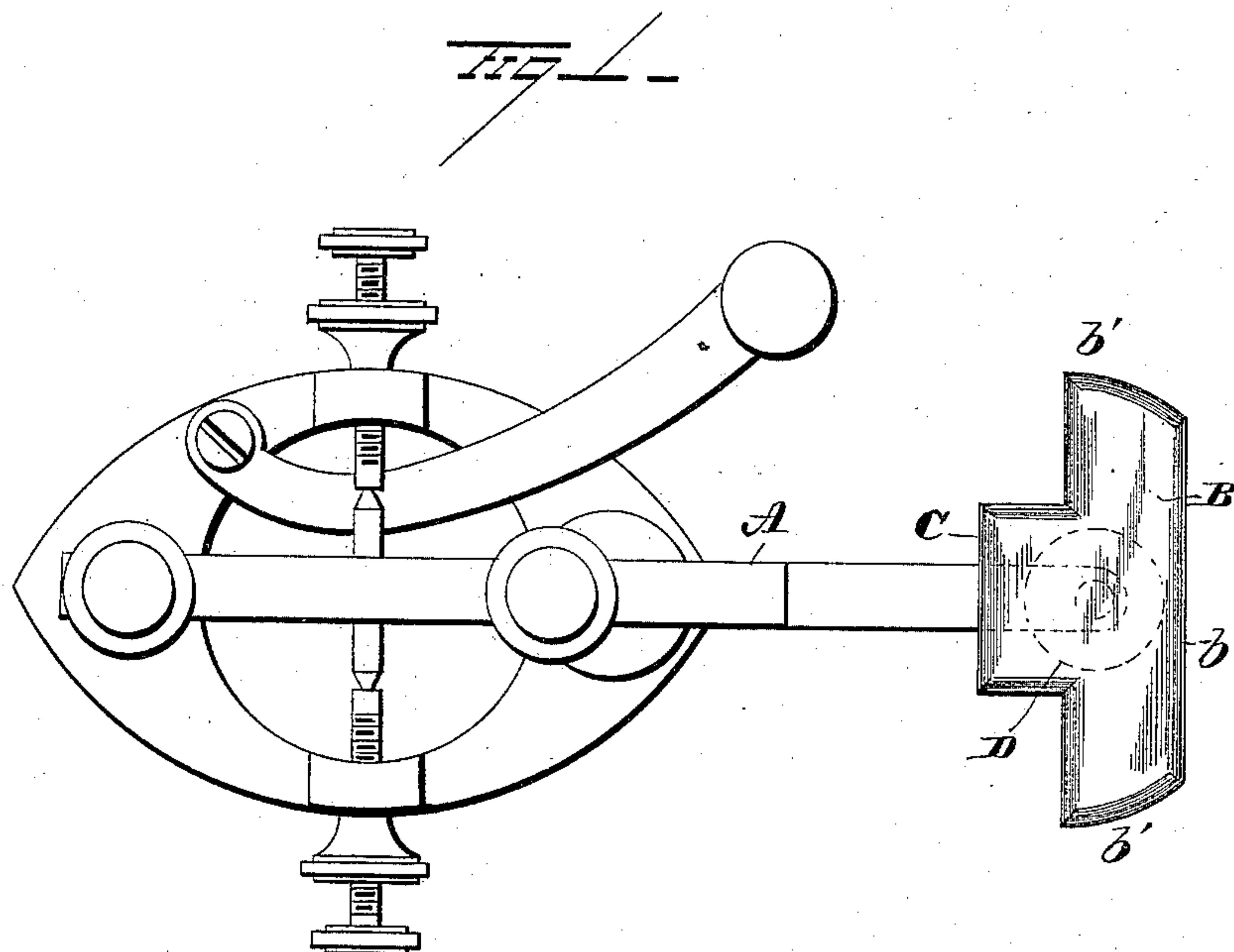
(No Model.)

G. F. THOMPSON.

KEY FOR TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENTS.

No. 343,742.

Patented June 15, 1886.



WITNESSES
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KEY FOR TELEGRAPH-INSTRUMENTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 343,742, dated June 15, 1886.

Application filed February 10, 1886. Serial No. 191,468. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE F. THOMPSON, of Olean, in the county of Cattaraugus and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Keys for Telegraph-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.

My invention relates to an improvement in keys for telegraph-instruments, and more particularly to the buttons which are grasped or pressed by the fingers of the operator in sending a message.

Hitherto the buttons have been constructed circular with flat or concave tops. They could be grasped by the thumb and one or two fingers only, and when so grasped the fingers occupied a cramped position, with a tendency to slip from the button. This cramped position of the hand, taken in connection with the positive force which it was necessary to exert to prevent the fingers from slipping, when continued for a great length of time, has produced severe pain in the knuckles, wrist, arm, and, finally, in many cases has produced paralysis and consequent loss of position.

The object of my present invention is to provide a button which will admit of the use of the thumb and two or three fingers, affording a natural rest therefor without any tendency to slip off, and hence enabling the operator to write with greater uniformity and firmness, and with as great or greater rapidity than hitherto, and which will not lead to operators' paralysis.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view of the button in position on the key, and Fig. 2 is a detached view of the button.

A represents the vibrating lever of a key of any well known or approved construction. On its end, in the position usually occupied

by the ordinary round button, is placed the improved button constructed as follows: A flat strip or narrow plate, B, of wood, hard rubber, or other suitable material occupies a horizontal position transversely to the key-lever. Its length is sufficient to admit of three fingers—the first, second, and third, for example—resting easily side by side thereon. Its front edge, *b*, is preferably somewhat shorter than its rear edge, the ends being rounded, as shown at *b'*. At its central portion the plate B projects rearwardly, as shown at C, a distance about equal to the difference in length between the first and second fingers of a person's hand. The rear edge of the projection C and the rear edge of the plate B, on each side of the projection C, are straight and extend at right angles to the key-lever. A stem, D, on the under side of the plate B, is provided with a threaded perforation or with a screw set therein for securing it to the key-lever. The ends of the fingers of the operator project over the rear edges of the plate, the second finger resting over the rear edge of the projection C, and the thumb pressing gently against the under side of the plate. The fingers are thus relieved from tendency to slip from the button when the wrist is lowered and raised, as is common in sending a message, the strain which has hitherto been either intentionally or inadvertently applied is relieved, and the cramping of the fingers avoided.

It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the form of the button without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention; hence I do not wish to limit myself strictly to the construction herein set forth; but,

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

1. A button for a telegraph-key, provided with rests and holding-edges adapted to accommodate three fingers, the said holding-edges extending at right angles to the length of the fingers, substantially as set forth.

2. A button for a telegraph-key, consisting

of a flat elongated plate provided with a rear-
wardly - extending projection, the plate and
projection being adapted to form natural rests
for the first, second, and third fingers, and
5 their edges being adapted to afford holds for
the ends of the fingers, substantially as set
forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this speci-
fication in the presence of two subscribing wit-
nesses.

GEORGE F. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

F. L. BARTLETT,
C. D. CLARKE.