

(No Model.)

C. S. TAINTER.  
GRAPHOPHONIC TABLET.

No. 385,887.

Patented July 10, 1888.

FIG. I.

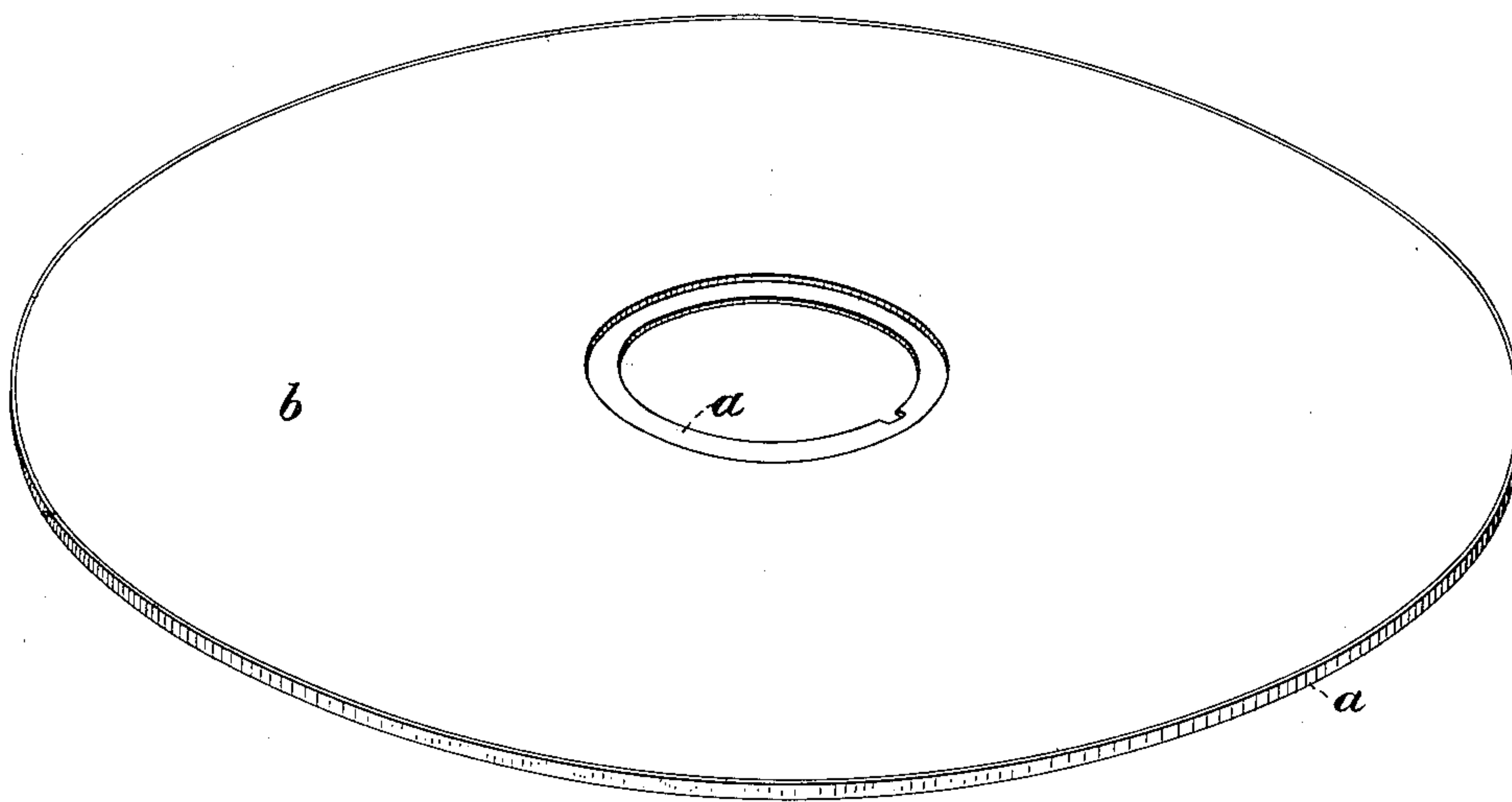
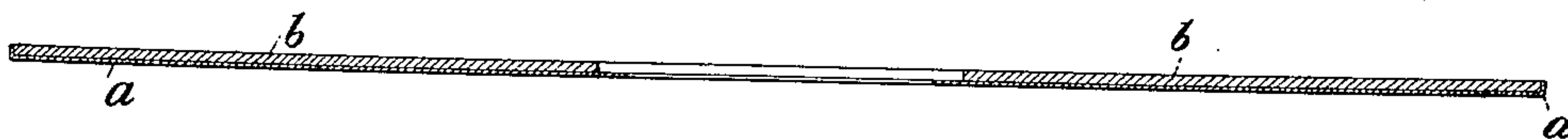


FIG. II.



*Attest:*

*Geo. T. Smallwood.*  
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*his attorney.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES SUMNER TAINTER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## GRAPHOPHONIC TABLET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 385,887, dated July 10, 1888.

Original application filed December 24, 1887. Serial No. 258,874. Divided and this application filed April 3, 1888. Serial No. 269,465. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES SUMNER TAINTER, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Graphophonic Tablets, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification.

This invention has reference to the construction of tablets for use in "graphophones," or instruments for recording and reproducing vocal and other sounds, the tablet being the medium in or upon which the sound-record is cut by the recording-style. Such tablets are composed generally of a base or foundation of a material more or less rigid and a surface coating of wax or a waxy composition suitable for recording the vibrations of the style. The tablets are sometimes cylindrical and sometimes flat.

The present invention relates to the production of flat tablets.

Many difficulties have been encountered in the construction of tablets of this kind. The essential requirements are that they should be cheap, light, easily made, and possess sufficient rigidity to preserve their shape under all ordinary conditions. The least alteration of the plane or flat surface of the wax would, of course, impair the utility of the tablet.

The materials available for the easy and economical construction of cylindrical tablets are found unsuitable for the base or foundation of a flat tablet. Experiment has been made with paper, card-board, leather, leatheroid, vulcanite, and other materials and compositions; but it is found that these are all liable to warp, which cracks the wax coating or bends it out of shape. The warping usually occurs upon the cooling of the wax, which is applied while hot; but if by any means the tablet be held rigid until the wax has cooled

warping is likely to occur at any subsequent time by reason of atmospheric changes.

In attempting to use card-board and other porous material much trouble is encountered on account of air-bubbles formed in the wax by air held in the card-board. I have found that these difficulties can be overcome, and a successful flat tablet can be produced by using thin sheet metal as the base or foundation, and the present invention consists in a tablet composed of a flat base of metal having a layer of wax thereon. Such a tablet is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figure I being a perspective view, and Fig. II a section.

The base *a* is a thin metal disk (sheet-iron or tin will answer the purpose) turned up around the edge, forming a sort of dish, in which the wax, *b*, is poured while in a melted state. The turning up of the edge of the plate, or disk *a* contributes greatly to the rigidity of the tablet, enabling the desired result to be attained with a very thin sheet of metal.

It is not, of course, material that the tablet should be circular, as shown in the drawings.

This application is a division and continuation of my application filed December 24, 1887. Serial No. 258,874.

I claim—

As an article of manufacture, a graphophonic tablet composed of a flat plate or disk of metal having a turned up edge, and a layer of wax or a waxy composition thereon, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES SUMNER TAINTER.

Witnesses:

FRANK BLAIR RIVES,  
PHILIP MAURO.