

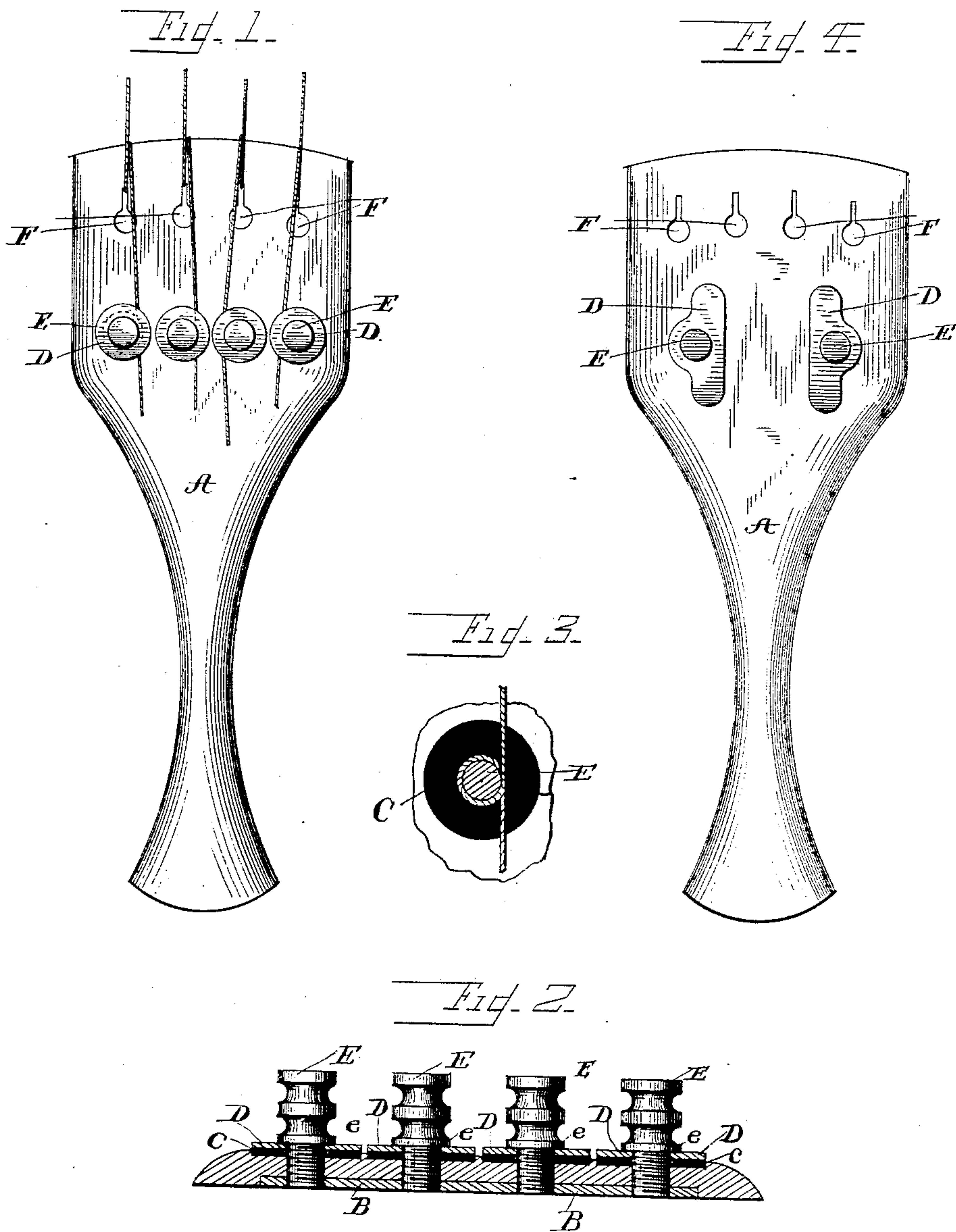
(No Model.)

J. B. DAUDELIN.

VIOLIN TAIL PIECE.

No. 387,494.

Patented Aug. 7, 1888.



Witnesses.

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VIOLIN TAIL-PIECE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 387,494, dated August 7, 1888.

Application filed February 20, 1888. Serial No. 264,546. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEAN BAPTISTE DAUDELIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fall River, in the county of Bristol and State
5 of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tail-Pieces for Violins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled
10 in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to tail-pieces for violins and similar stringed instruments; and it consists in an improved construction for hold-
15 ing the strings, whereby they may be made to last longer than with the constructions now in use.

I have illustrated my invention in the accompanying drawings, and said invention is
20 fully disclosed in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a top view of a tail-piece for stringed instruments with my improvements applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an
25 enlarged sectional view of my improved devices for holding the strings. Fig. 3 is an enlarged top view of one of said devices with the top plate removed, showing the disposition of the string around the thumb-screw. Fig. 4 is
30 a top view of a modified form of construction.

In using violins it is customary to secure one end of the string to the tail-piece, drawing the string through the key, and coiling the portion of the string which is not to be used about the
35 head of the instrument. The constant fingering of the strings upon the finger-board of the instrument causes them to wear out and break at a point near the head of the same, so that the entire length of the string between the head
40 and tail-piece must be thrown away and the remaining portion drawn through the key and secured to the tail-piece, as before. With the ordinary string this replacement cannot be made more than two or threetimes, and a considerable amount of string is thereby rendered
45 useless.

I am aware that it has been proposed to provide the tail-pieces of violins with spools whereon to wind the surplus string; but this
50 construction I do not claim.

In applying my invention to stringed instru-

ments I attach one end of a string to the key and secure the loose portion to the tail-piece in such a manner that when the string becomes worn and breaks the short portion between the
55 finger-board and the key will be thrown away, instead of the longer portion between the finger-board and the tail-piece, and the string may be drawn through and again secured to the key. In this manner a string may be
60 broken and replaced about ten times, instead of two or three, as in the former constructions. In order that the portion of the string drawn forward may not be injured when held upon the tail-piece, I provide a construction which
65 enables me to hold the strings in such a manner that they will not become worn or frayed while being held by the string-holding devices.

I provide the under side of the tail-piece A with a recess extending transversely of the
70 same, in which is located the plate B. In the body of the tail-piece, above the plate B, I provide a number of perforations, which correspond to screw-threaded circular openings in the plate B. In the upper surface of the tail-
75 piece and surrounding the apertures are recesses C, which are filled with an elastic packing—such as rubber, leather, or similar substances. Above this packing is the plate D, of circular or polygonal form, provided with a
80 circular opening. These plates are held down upon the packing by screw-threaded thumb-screws E, which pass through the opening in the plate and body of the tail-piece and en-
85 gage the screw-threads of the opening in the plate B, and are provided with shoulders e, which bear upon the plates D.

In attaching a string one end is first secured to the key, and the string is then placed around the thumb-screw, as shown in Fig. 3, beneath
90 the plate D, and the thumb screw turned until the plate D forces the string down upon and into the elastic packing, where it will be held firmly, but without injurious pressure. The string may in addition be passed down through
95 key-hole slots, with which tail-pieces are ordinarily provided, and up and over the front edge of the tail-piece before being placed in engagement with the holding devices.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a modified form of
100 construction, in which I provide a plate, D, of somewhat different form, adapted to give a

more extended bearing upon the string. In this case I provide the face of the tail-piece with recesses slightly longer than their width, and I also provide plates of similar shape having the extended bearing upon one side of the thumb-screw. The string is then placed around the thumb screws, so that the two portions of the same cross on the side of the extended bearing of the plate, whereby a greater portion of the string is held by the pressure of the plate upon the packing, and in both forms of my invention the compression of the strings upon their points of crossing forms one of the important features in the operation of my holding devices.

In Fig. 1 I have shown a holding device for each string; but I may prefer to provide such devices for the two lighter strings only, as they are more liable to wear out and break than the other heavier strings. I may also use one holding device for two or more strings, if preferred, as shown in Fig. 4, where two strings

may be attached to the same device, and in other ways I do not desire to be limited to my exact constructions, as many variations may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

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

1. A tail-piece for violins, provided with a screw-actuated pressure-plate, substantially as described.

2. A tail-piece for violins, provided with a screw-threaded plate on the under side of the same and on its upper side with packing, pressure-plate, and screw, substantially as described.

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

JEAN BAPTISTE DAUDELIN.

Witnesses:

EDWARD HIGGINSON,
JOSEPH H. BURON.