

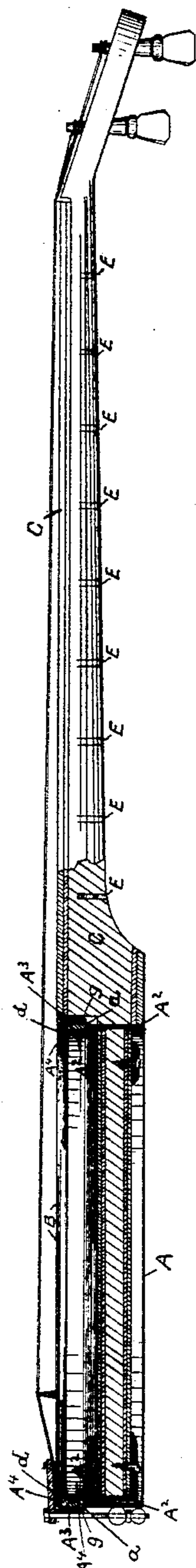
(No Model.)

J. F. LUSCOMB.

BANJO.

No. 388,781.

Patented Aug. 28, 1888.



WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. LUSCOMB, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## BANJO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 388,781, dated August 28, 1888.

Application filed June 16, 1886. Renewed February 16, 1888. Serial No. 264,185. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN F. LUSCOMB, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banjos, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The improvements in banjos constituting this invention relate to the construction of the body for the attachment of the sheep-skin or parchment head and of the neck, all substantially as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, the figure is a central longitudinal section of the body of the banjo and of the neck where it joins the head, the neck otherwise being shown in edge view.

In the drawing, A is the body, B the sheep-skin or parchment head, and C the neck, of the banjo, all, except as hereinafter particularly explained, the same as ordinarily and well known, and therefore needing no particular description herein.

The body A under this invention is composed of inner and outer circular bands, A<sup>2</sup> A<sup>3</sup>, of metal, and an intermediate band, A<sup>4</sup>, of wood. The inner metal band, A<sup>2</sup>, exteriorly is made with a peripheral ridge or shoulder, *a*, between its opposite edges, and on this shoulder rests the wooden band A<sup>4</sup>. The wooden band A<sup>4</sup> surrounds and fits outside, and projects beyond the upper edge of the inner metal band, A<sup>2</sup>, and the offset *d* of the band A<sup>4</sup> overlaps and fits said edge of the inner metal band.

The parchment head B, as usually stretched, passes over and rests upon the upper edge of the wooden band A<sup>4</sup>, and about the outside of the wooden band, where it is surrounded by the outer metal band, A<sup>3</sup>, and by its usual rolled or wired edge, *g*, it sets under the lower edge of said outer metal band. The parchment head B, inner and outer metal bands, A<sup>2</sup> A<sup>3</sup>, and intermediate wooden band, A<sup>4</sup>, in the relative positions described, are secured by hook screw-bolts and nuts, (not shown,) as ordinarily and well known in the securing of the parchment head of banjos, and therefore needing no particular description herein, except to say that so secured the wooden band A<sup>4</sup> is confined thereby to the shoulder or rest *a* therefor of the inner metal band, A<sup>2</sup>.

In the combination of parts described the parchment head B is stretched over the edge of a wooden band, A<sup>4</sup>, secured between outer and inner bands, A<sup>2</sup> A<sup>3</sup>, of metal; and rests upon a shoulder or ridge, *a*, of the inner metal band, by all of which, while preserving the necessary stiffness of the body and all of the good qualities of a metal body, they being secured by the metal bands, a resonant quality of tone is secured because of the stretch of the parchment head B over and its rest upon the edge of a wooden band, A<sup>4</sup>.

The neck C of the banjo is made of wood, and under this invention it is stiffened by cross-pieces E, of wood, which are located in cross saw-cuts at intermediate points in the length of the neck and at the back thereof. The grain of the wooden cross-pieces E is across the grain of the wood, making the neck C of the banjo and which is lengthwise of the neck. The cross-pieces E are glued in the cross saw-cuts, and thus securely fastened and made a part of the neck, stiffening it, but without otherwise changing or interfering with its action or serviceability in the instrument, which is well known, and, furthermore, acting positively to prevent the warping of the neck.

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

1. The body of a banjo composed of inner and outer metal bands, A<sup>2</sup> A<sup>3</sup>, and an intermediate wooden band, A<sup>4</sup>, the inner metal band having an outer peripheral shoulder or ridge, *a*, and the intermediate wooden band a projection beyond the upper edge of the inner band, and the whole combined with a parchment head stretched across and applied to the wooden band and metal bands, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

2. A banjo having a wooden neck, C, made and provided with a series of wooden cross-pieces, E, secured in cross saw-cuts at the back of the neck, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN F. LUSCOMB.

Witnesses:

ALBERT W. BROWN,  
FRANCES M. BROWN.