

(No Model.)

W. E. BENT.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

No. 516,427.

Patented Mar. 13, 1894.

Fig. 1.

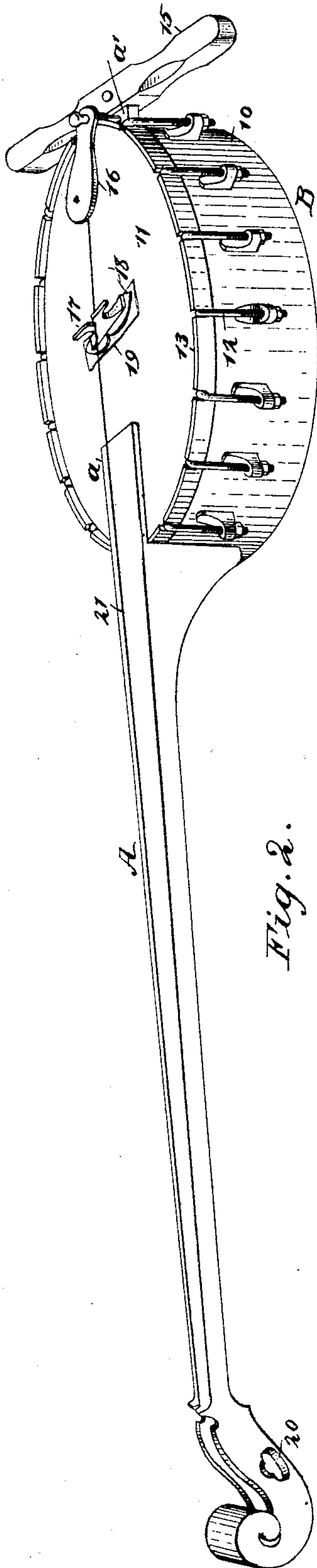
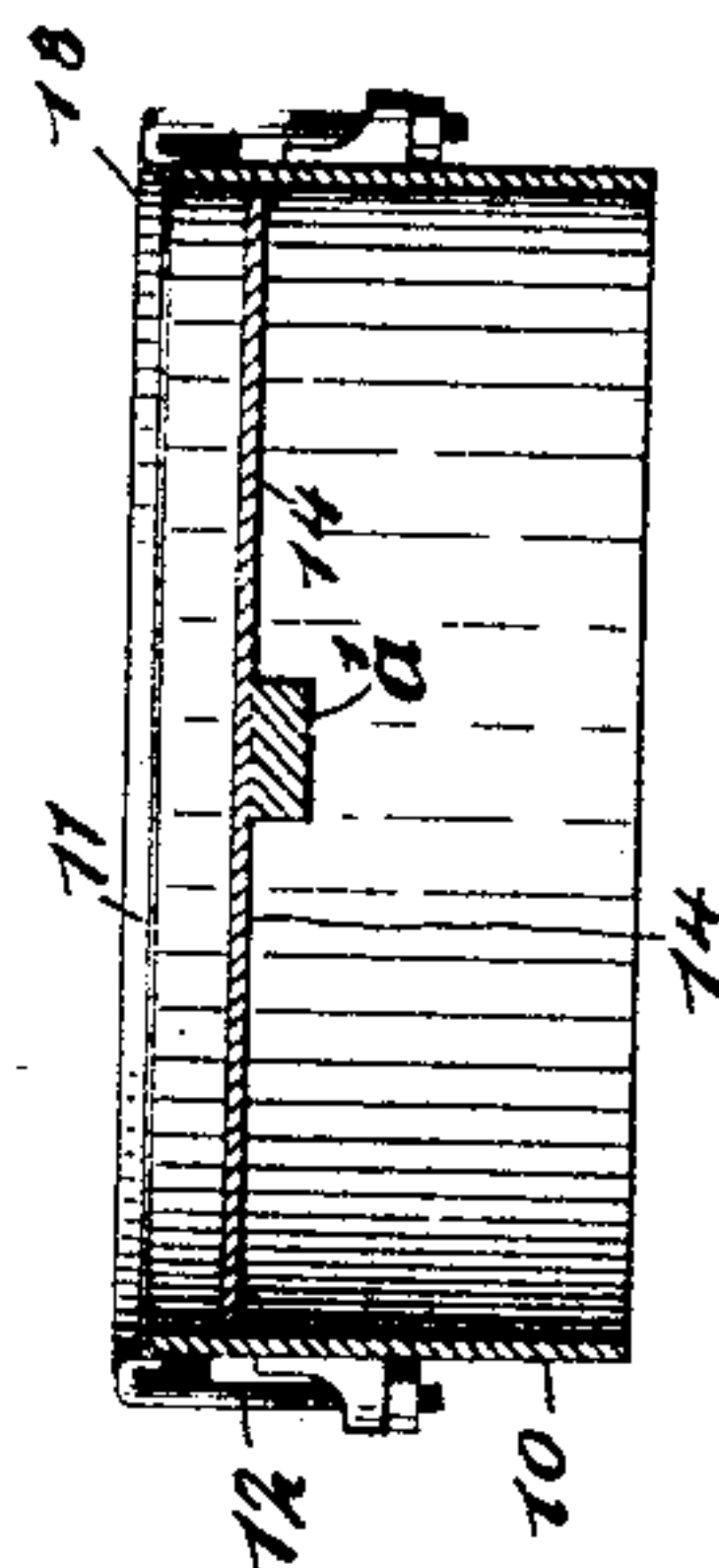


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

C. Sedgwick
A. Furcott

INVENTOR

W. E. Bent
BY *Munn & Co*

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. BENT, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 516,427, dated March 13, 1894.

Application filed March 27, 1893. Serial No. 467,885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. BENT, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Musical Instruments, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in musical instruments, and especially to an improvement in stringed monochord instruments.

The object of the invention is to provide an instrument of the banjo type, in which a single string only is employed, the said string being so located upon the instrument that it may be operated upon by a bow.

A further object of the invention is to provide an instrument simple in its construction and of a peculiar type, upon which an air and variations of any kind may be played, and whereby when the instrument is played its tone will correspond to the combined tones obtained from a banjo or like instrument, and a violin.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures and letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the instrument; and Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the body portion thereof.

The instrument may be said to consist primarily of a neck or finger board A and a body B. The body consists of a hoop or band 10 of wood, metal, or any approved material, upon the top of which a skin head 11, is secured by means of clamps 12 of any approved construction, the clamps engaging with a binding ring 13, which presses downward upon the head, and the said clamps are also connected with the body band 10. Below the head, within the body, a sounding board 14, is horizontally secured, being in engagement at its margin with the inner surface of the body band, as is best shown in Fig. 2. The finger board or neck A, may be of any approved construction and may be made of any

desired material. The finger board or neck may be of any length that in practice may be found most desirable, but preferably the finger board is such as is commonly used upon banjos, and the portion of the finger board designated as *a*, is made to extend over the head out of engagement therewith, while a back bar *a'*, is made to pass entirely through the body at its center, the said bar *a'*, projecting beyond the rear of the body, as shown best in Fig. 1; and the rear end of the extension bar *a'* of the neck, is secured in any suitable or approved manner to the cross bar 15, the said cross bar being horizontally located, and the cross bar is adapted to be placed upon the knees or in the lap of the operator, or may be made to rest upon any convenient support. A tail piece 16, is also provided, the said tail piece being ordinarily secured to the outer or projecting end of the extension bar of the finger board. A bridge 17, is also used, and this bridge is made to rest upon a shell plate 18, the shell used being usually tortoise shell, and the shell is made to rest upon a metal plate 19, said plate being ordinarily made of aluminum, the aluminum plate resting directly upon the head. The employment of the shell and aluminum plates between the bridge and head, softens and modifies the vibration of the string and at the same time augments the power of vibration of the said string.

The finger board or neck is provided with a single key 20, as but one string 21, is used upon the instrument, and this string extends from the key over the bridge and is secured to the tail piece 16.

The instrument is adapted to be played by means of a bow.

Upon an instrument constructed as above set forth any melody or piece of music can be performed, it being understood that only the melody or air of a piece of music with variations can be produced.

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

1. A musical instrument, the same consisting of a finger board or neck, a body connected with the finger board or neck, the body being provided with a skin head and a sounding board below the head, a single string extend-

ing from the neck or finger board over the body, and a bridge supporting the said string, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A musical instrument, the same consisting of a body, a finger board or neck secured to the body, the body being provided with a skin head and a sounding board beneath the head, a rest bar secured upon the body, a single string extending from the neck over the
10 body, a bridge located upon the body and supporting the string, and a shell plate and a metal plate interposed between the head and the bridge, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a musical instrument, the combination with the body portion, of a neck having an extension extending through the body, and a cross bar secured to the said extension, substantially as described. 15

4. In a musical instrument, the combination with the body neck and string, of a bridge, a shell plate upon which the bridge rests, and a metal plate upon which the shell plate rests, substantially as described. 20

WILLIAM E. BENT.

Witnesses:

A. A. CABLE,
W. G. PURDY.