

(No Model.)

H. I. HOLCOMB.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

No. 542,561.

Patented July 9, 1895.

Fig. 1,

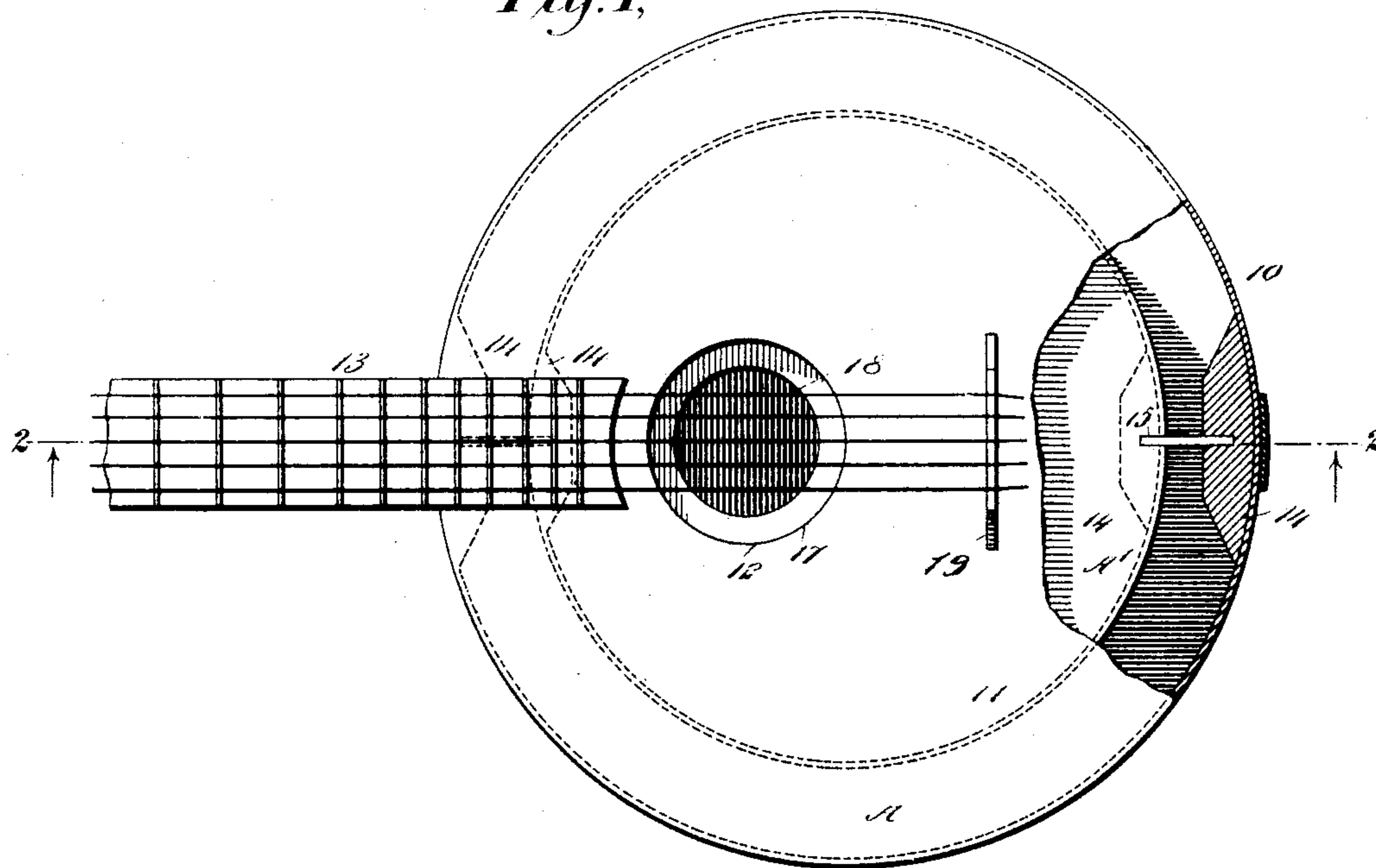
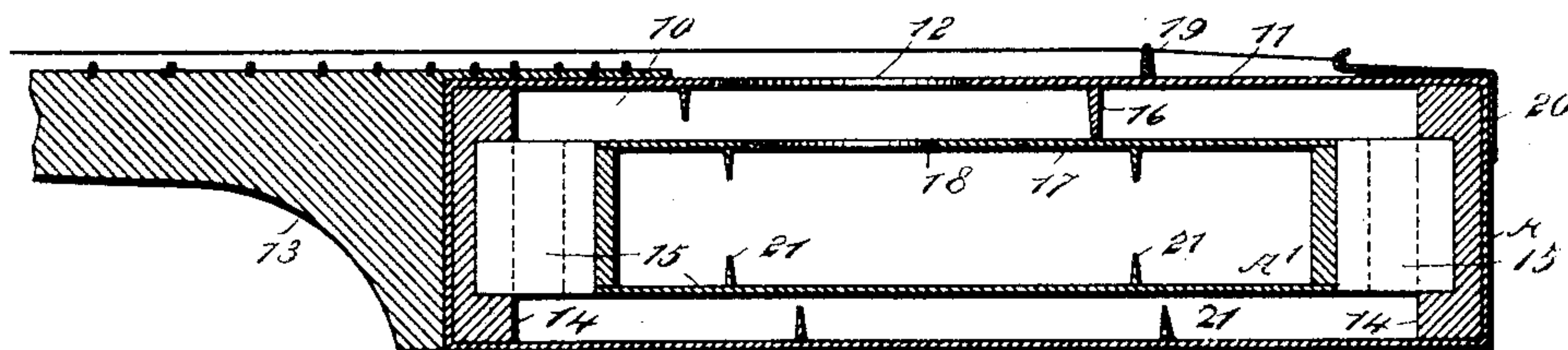


Fig. 2,



WITNESSES:

Edward Thorpe
John A. Ken

INVENTOR

H. I. Holcomb
BY *Munn & Co*
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY IRVIN HOLCOMB, OF CENTREVILLE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 542,561, dated July 9, 1895.

Application filed February 26, 1895. Serial No. 539,798. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY IRVIN HOLCOMB, of Centreville, in the county of Turner and State of South Dakota, 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 that class of instruments of the banjo or guitar type; and it has for its object to construct the instruments with two sounding-boards made connected, so that when the instrument is strung as a guitar or banjo two distinct tones will be obtained—one from each sounding-board—which tones will blend and produce a tone soft, clear, and of altogether a superior quality.

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 both views.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved instrument, a portion of the body and a portion of the neck being broken away; and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken substantially on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

The instrument is provided with the usual body A belonging to instruments of the same class and may be of any desired shape. The body contains an interior chamber 10, and the top or sounding board 11 of the body is provided with the usual tone-opening 12. The bottom of the body is closed and likewise the sides, the only opening being the aforesaid tone-opening, and the neck and finger-board 13 are secured to the body in the usual manner.

Within the chamber 10 of the body A of the instrument a second hollow auxiliary body A' is provided. This auxiliary body partakes substantially of the same contour as the main body A, and the end blocks 14 of the auxiliary and main bodies are connected at the front and rear by means of strips or pins 15, preferably made of wood. Otherwise the auxiliary body is independent of the main body,

with the exception that an interior bridge 16 is made to connect the inner face of the main or outer sounding-board 11 with the outer face of the sounding-board 17 of the auxiliary body, the aforesaid auxiliary body being provided with a sound-opening 18 in its sounding-board, registering with the opening 12 in the main sounding-board. The outer opening, however, is preferably of greater diameter than the inner one. The inner bridge 16 is located a slight distance in advance of the string-bridge 19, which is of the usual formation, and the strings are secured to the body through the medium of the ordinary tail-piece 20. Both the main and the auxiliary bodies are braced by means of rods 21, properly located.

With an instrument provided with my improvement the ordinary vibration from the outer sounding-board will be obtained, and in addition a corresponding vibration from the inner sounding-board, the two vibrations being united through the medium of the connecting-bridge 16. Thus the blending of two tones is obtained, which is exceedingly pleasing to the ear.

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

1. A musical instrument of the guitar or banjo type, provided with an auxiliary hollow body of less diameter than the body of the instrument and supported within the said body from the sides thereof, and a bridge between the inner face of the main body and the outer face of the auxiliary body, said bridge being in advance of the string bridge of the instrument, substantially as described.

2. In a musical instrument of the guitar or banjo type, the combination with the body of the instrument having end blocks on its inner surface, of an auxiliary hollow body of less diameter than the main body, and provided with end blocks, and pins or strips secured in the said end blocks and supporting the auxiliary body in the main body, substantially as described.

3. In a musical instrument of the guitar or banjo type, the combination with the body of the instrument having a sound opening in its top or sounding board, of an auxiliary hollow

body of less diameter than the main body and
provided with a sound opening in its top or
sounding board registering with the sound
opening of the main body, pins or strips se-
5 cured to the main and auxiliary bodies at the
front and rear and supporting the said auxil-
iary body in the main body, and a bridge be-

tween the two bodies and in advance of the
string bridge of the main body, substantially
as described.

HENRY IRVIN HOLCOMB.

Witnesses:

HARRY KUNKLE,
JAMES L. KUNKLE.