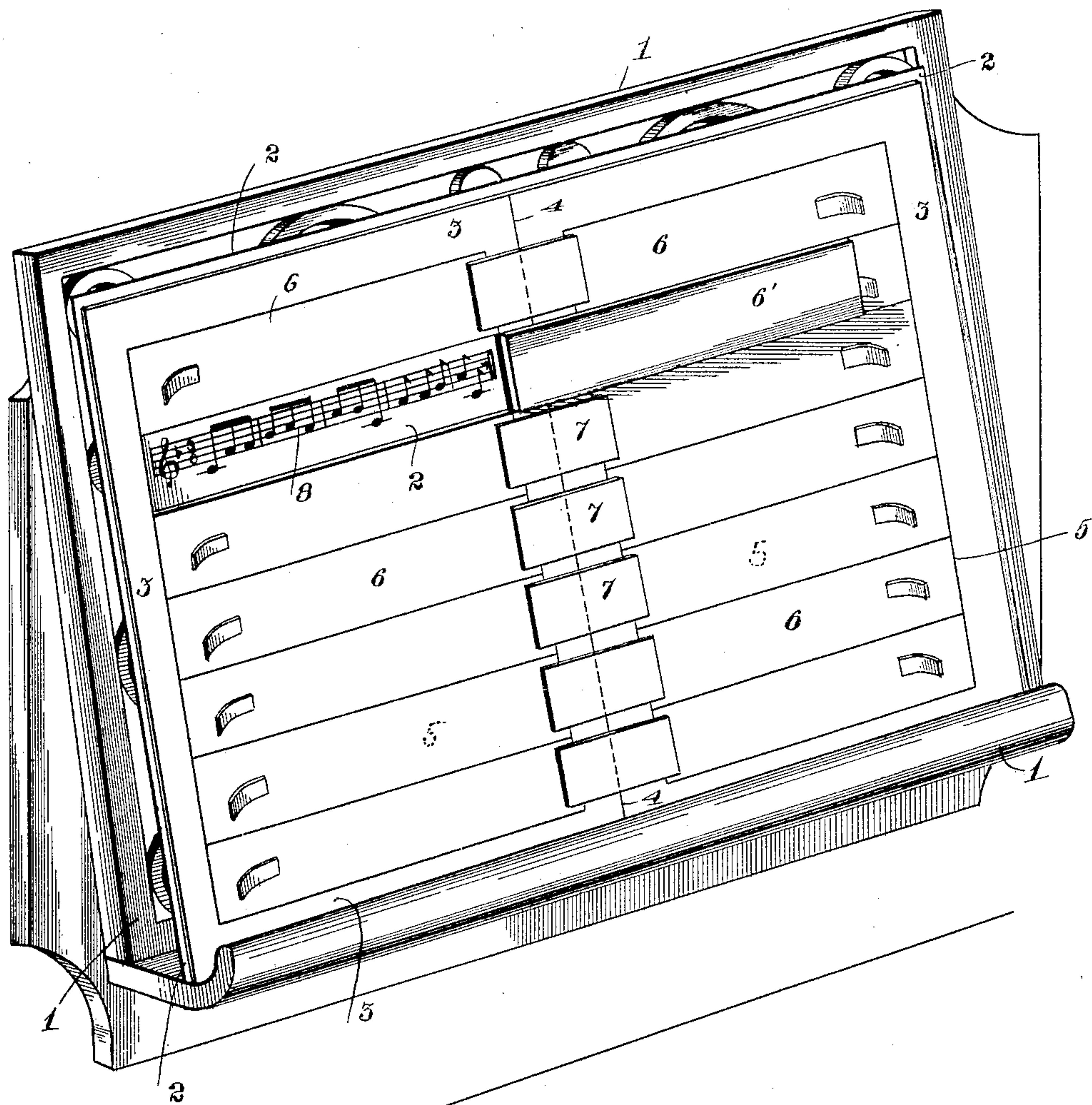


(No Model.)

J. H. THWING.  
STAFF SEPARATOR.

No. 583,664.

Patented June 1, 1897.



WITNESSES -

*Geo. H. Cushman.*

*Wm. H. Varnum.*

INVENTOR -

*James H. Thwing,*

*by his Attorney,*

*Chas. V. Gooding.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. THWING, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## STAFF-SEPARATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 583,664, dated June 1, 1897.

Application filed February 19, 1897. Serial No. 624,273. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. THWING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Staff-Separators, of which the following description, taken in connection with the drawing, is a specification.

10 In the drawing like numerals refer to like parts.

The object of my invention is to provide a cheap, simple, and convenient article for the use of musicians, more especially for beginners, whereby a sheet of music may be entirely covered, with the exception of one or more staves of the same, so that the attention of the player may be concentrated upon one staff at a time, or more, if desired, and will not be diverted to or confused by the staff above or below the one which the musician is playing.

25 The invention consists of a cover for sheet-music provided with means whereby any desired amount of surface of the cover may be opened or removed to expose the surface underneath.

30 In the drawing forming a part of this specification, 1 is a music-rack of any suitable construction. 2 is a sheet of music resting thereon.

35 3 is the frame of my improved staff-separator, preferably constructed of cardboard or pasteboard and being adapted to fold in the center on the line 4, so that it can be folded like a sheet of music and thus occupy less space.

The frame 3 has two openings 5 5 therein, said openings having an area slightly larger than the space occupied by the staves upon a page of music. The openings 5 5 are completely filled by sections of cardboard 6 6 6, said sections being connected to the frame 3 by hinges 7 7 7, preferably of cloth or other tough flexible material and pasted or otherwise fastened to the frame 3 and to the sections 6 6. In the drawing one of the sections 6 is shown open, thus allowing the staff 8 to be seen.

50 The cardboard of which the staff-separator is composed has preferably a tinted surface to make the same restful to the eye of the musician.

When the musician has finished practicing the staff 8, the section 6' is turned back so as to cover the staff 8, and the next section is turned back to expose the staff underneath, and so on until the whole sheet of music has been exposed to view.

60 I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact construction shown and described, as the sections 6 6 might be hinged at the bottom to the frame 3 without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A staff-separator consisting of a frame 3, with openings 5, 5, therein and having sections 6, 6, hinged thereto, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

JAMES H. THWING.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. CUSHMAN,  
W. SCOTT MATHESON.