

No. 663,440.

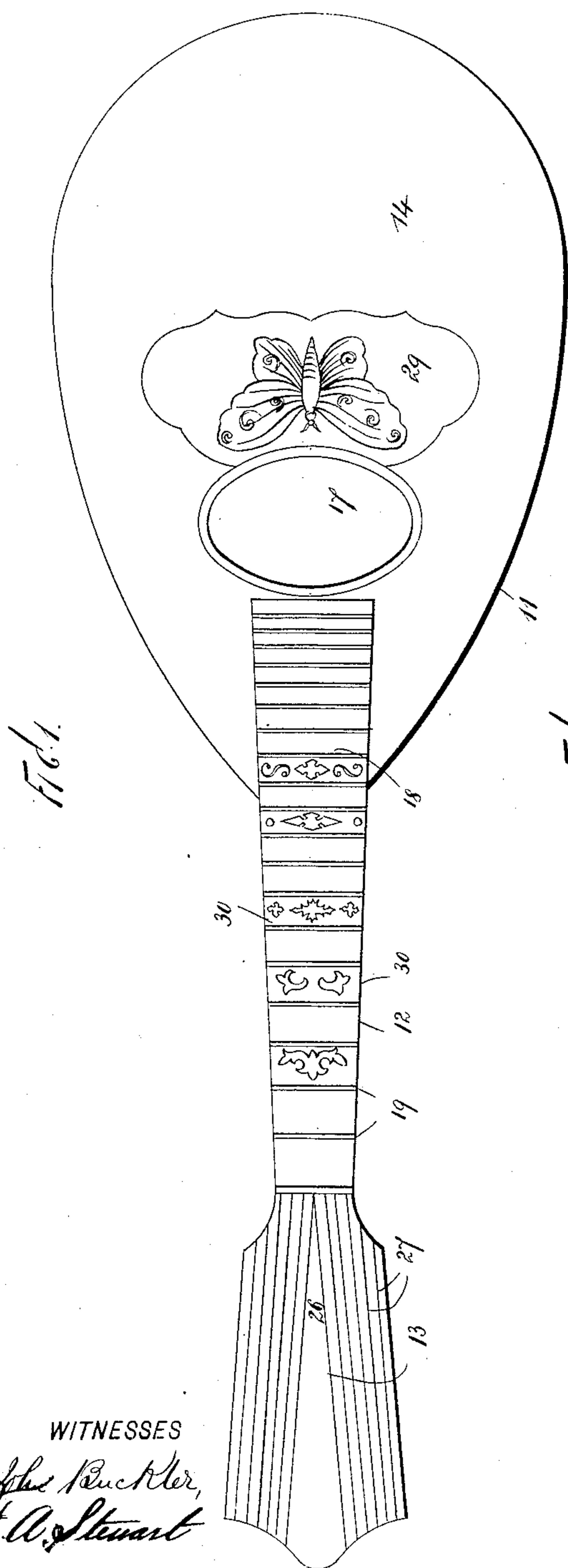
Patented Dec. 11, 1900.

F. ISBELL.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

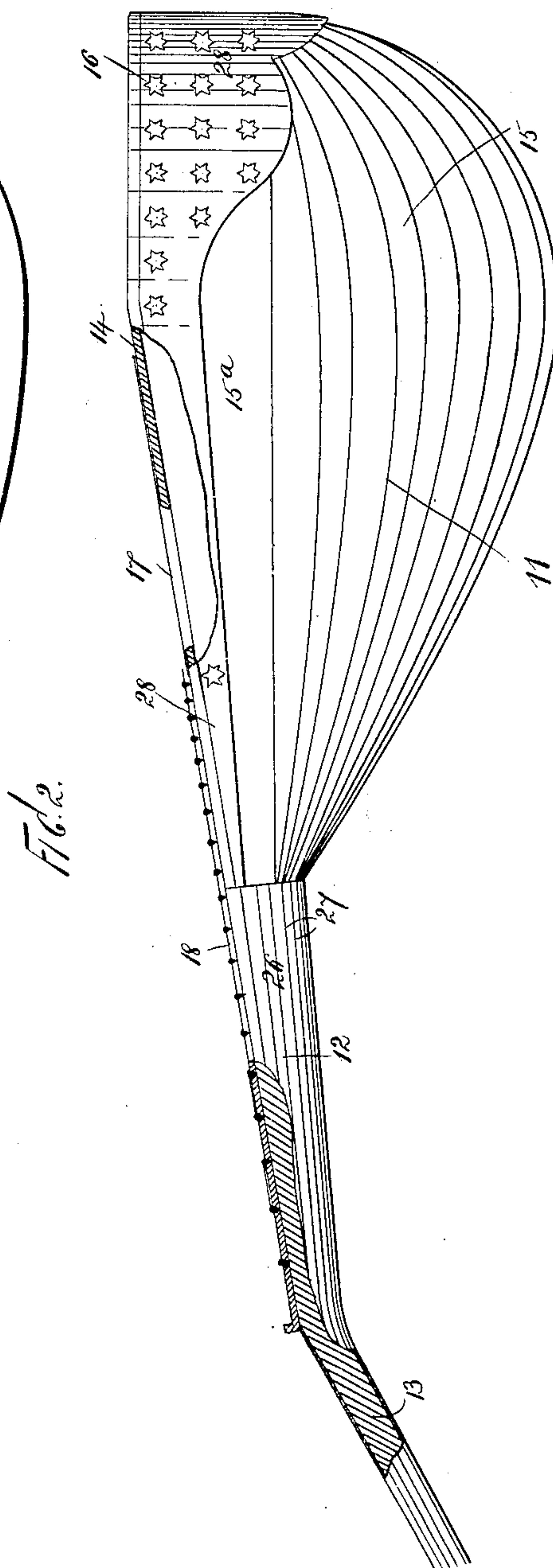
(Application filed June 7, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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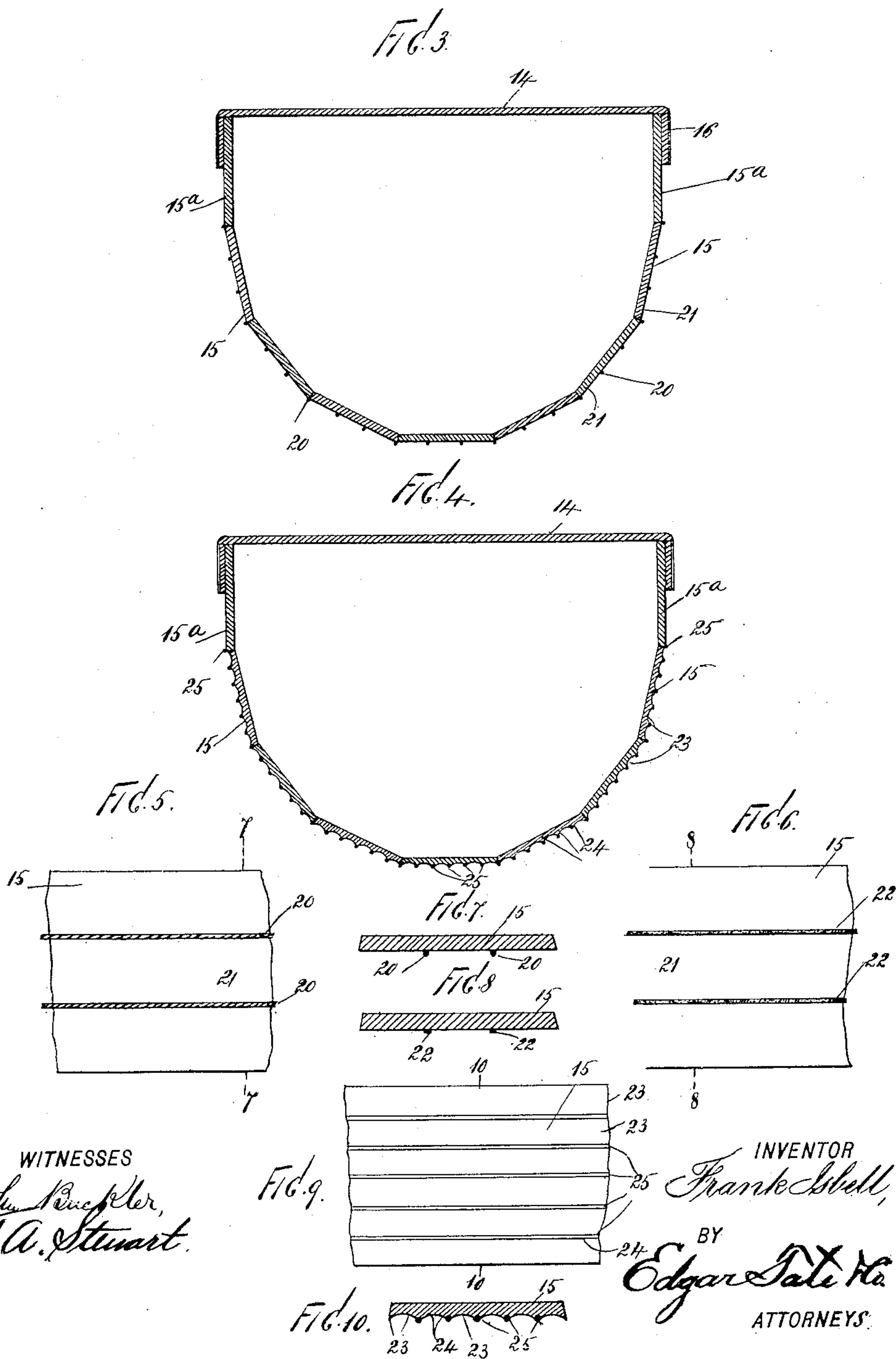
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(Application filed June 7, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 663,440, dated December 11, 1900.

Application filed June 7, 1899. Serial No. 719,663. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK ISBELL, a citizen of Italy, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Musical Instruments, of which the following is a full and complete specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

10 This invention relates to musical instruments, and has more particular reference to instruments of this class having body portions built up of several separate sections and the surfaces of the various parts of which are usually provided with decorative designs and configurations.

The object of this invention is to construct a mandolin of decorative and structurally elaborate appearance and at the same time comparatively inexpensive.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawings form a part, in which like characters of reference denote like parts in the several views, and in which—

25 Figure 1 is a face or plan view of a mandolin constructed according to my invention; Fig. 2, a side view thereof, partly in section; Fig. 3, a transverse section of the body or bowl of the mandolin shown in Figs. 1 and 2; Fig. 4, a similar view of a modification thereof; Fig. 5, a face view of a portion of a body-strip shown in Fig. 3 and upon an enlarged scale; Fig. 6, a similar view of a modification thereof; Fig. 7, a transverse section on the line 7 7 of Fig. 5; Fig. 8, a transverse section on the line 8 8 of Fig. 6; Fig. 9, a face view of one of the body-strips shown in Fig. 4, and Fig. 10 a transverse section thereof on the line 10 10.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 11 is the body or bowl of a mandolin and is connected in the usual manner with the neck 12, which is provided at its outer end with the usual key-head 13. The bowl or body portion 11 is, as is usual in this class of instruments, of bulbous or semibulbous form, having a plane face 14, with the edges of which are connected a plurality of longitudinally-curved body-strips 15, which lie longitudinally of the body-face 14, and the sides of each of which strips converge toward

each end substantially to a point and the ends of which adjacent the junction of the neck 12 and body-face 14 are gathered together and connected with said neck. The other ends are connected with a jacket or band 16, which is secured to and extends entirely about the edge portion of the body-face 14 and to the inner side of which the outer sides of the edge body-strips 15 are connected. The body-face 14 is provided with the usual sound-opening 17 and the neck with the usual fret-strip 18, which extends longitudinally thereof and one end of which rests upon the surface of the body-face 14, extending to the sound-opening 17. The fret-strip 18 is provided with the usual frets 19, and the construction of the mandolin as thus described is as usual in the practice of constructing instruments of this class.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 3, 5, and 7, I provide the outer surface of each of the strips 15, excepting the edge strips, which shall be denoted as 15^a and are to a certain extent covered by the jacket 16, with longitudinally-arranged threads 20, of cotton, silk, or other textile or suitable substance, and these threads converge at their ends similarly to the sides of the strips 15 and are preferably connected with said strips by means of a coating of shellac, varnish, or other embellishing, decorating, or adhesive material applied thereto and to the strips 15. I also similarly arrange a similar thread 20 along the line of junction of each of the strips 15 and 15^a, it being understood that the strips 15 and 15^a are glued or otherwise joined at their meeting edges. The result of thus arranging the threads 20 as described is to divide up the outer surface of the mandolin bowl or body into a plurality of sections 21, such sections being formed by each adjacent pair of threads 20, and the effect of the consequent subdivision of the surface of each of the strips 15 is to apparently change the construction of the bowl or body 11, multiplying the number of strips forming the latter in proportion to the number of surface spaces existent between the threads 20, and thus adding to the finished or ornamental appearance of said bowl or body 11.

In Figs. 6 and 8 I have shown a modification of the construction shown in Figs. 3, 5,

and 7, consisting of the substitution for the threads 20 of strips of paper 22, preferably square in cross-section.

In Figs. 4, 9, and 10 a still further modification is shown, in which each of the strips 15 is provided with a plurality of longitudinal exterior surface grooves 23, preferably laterally curved and forming intermediate longitudinal beads 24, and the grooves 23 taper in width at the end portions of the strips 15. Upon each of the beads 24 is mounted a longitudinally-extending strand of wire 25, and a similar strand of wire 25 is mounted upon each line of junction of the meeting edges of the adjacent strips 15 and 15^a. The wire strands 25 also enhance the resonant quality of the bowl or body of the mandolin. The wire strands 25 are secured in place upon the strips 15 and 15^a by a coating of shellac, varnish, or other embellishing, decorative, or adhesive material applied thereto and to the strips 15 and 15^a, and the beads 24 are preferably longitudinally notched to receive the wire strands 25. The result of thus grooving, beading, and providing with strands of wire the outer surfaces and meeting edges of the strips 15 and 15^a is similar to that produced by the construction above described, the surface of the body or bowl being apparently divided into a number of constructional strips equal to the number of grooves 23.

About the key-head 13 and under the surface of the neck 12 of the mandolin above described I wrap a sheet or sheets of decorative paper 26, carefully conforming it thereto, and over the paper I place a coating of shellac, varnish, or other embellishing substance, and the paper wrapping 26 is preferably provided with a plurality of approximately longitudinal surface lines 27. I similarly provide the surface of the body-jacket 16 with decorative and shellacked or varnished paper 28, and upon the body-face 14 I secure an ornamental strip of paper 29 of any desired form and bearing any desired symbol or decorative imprint and shellac or varnish the surface thereof.

Between the frets 19 of the fret-strip 18, according to any desired arrangement, I secure transverse strips of paper 30, ornamented as desired and provided with a shellac, varnish, or similar coating.

Any desired form and arrangement of strings and keys may be mounted in connection with the construction described, and it

is evident that many changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the various parts of the mandolin described; also, that the various features may be applied to other musical instruments, and I claim all such modifications, rearrangements, and adaptations as come within the scope of my invention.

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

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a mandolin bowl or body consisting of a plurality of edge-to-edge-arranged strips, each of which is provided with a plurality of longitudinally-arranged beads, whereby intermediate curved grooves are formed, the adjacent edges of said strips being raised to form beads at the meeting-lines of said strips, the crown of each of said beads being provided with a longitudinally-arranged notch, and a strand of wire secured to each of said beads and within the notch and in the crown thereof, whereby the portions of said strips intermediate of said beads are caused to simulate the effect of unitary constructions, said strands of wire causing in their intimate association with said strips an enhanced resonance of said bowl or body, substantially as shown and described.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a mandolin bowl or body consisting of a plurality of edge-to-edge-arranged strips, each of which is provided with a plurality of longitudinally-arranged beads, whereby intermediate curved grooves are formed, the adjacent edges of said strips being raised to form beads at the meeting-lines of said strips, the crown of each of said beads being provided with a longitudinally-arranged notch, and a strand of suitable substance secured to each of said beads and within the notch of the crown thereof, whereby the portions of said strips intermediate of said beads are caused to simulate the effect of unitary constructions, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, this 5th day of June, 1899.

FRANK ISBELL.

Witnesses:

F. A. STEWART,
V. M. VOSLER.