

No. 694,529.

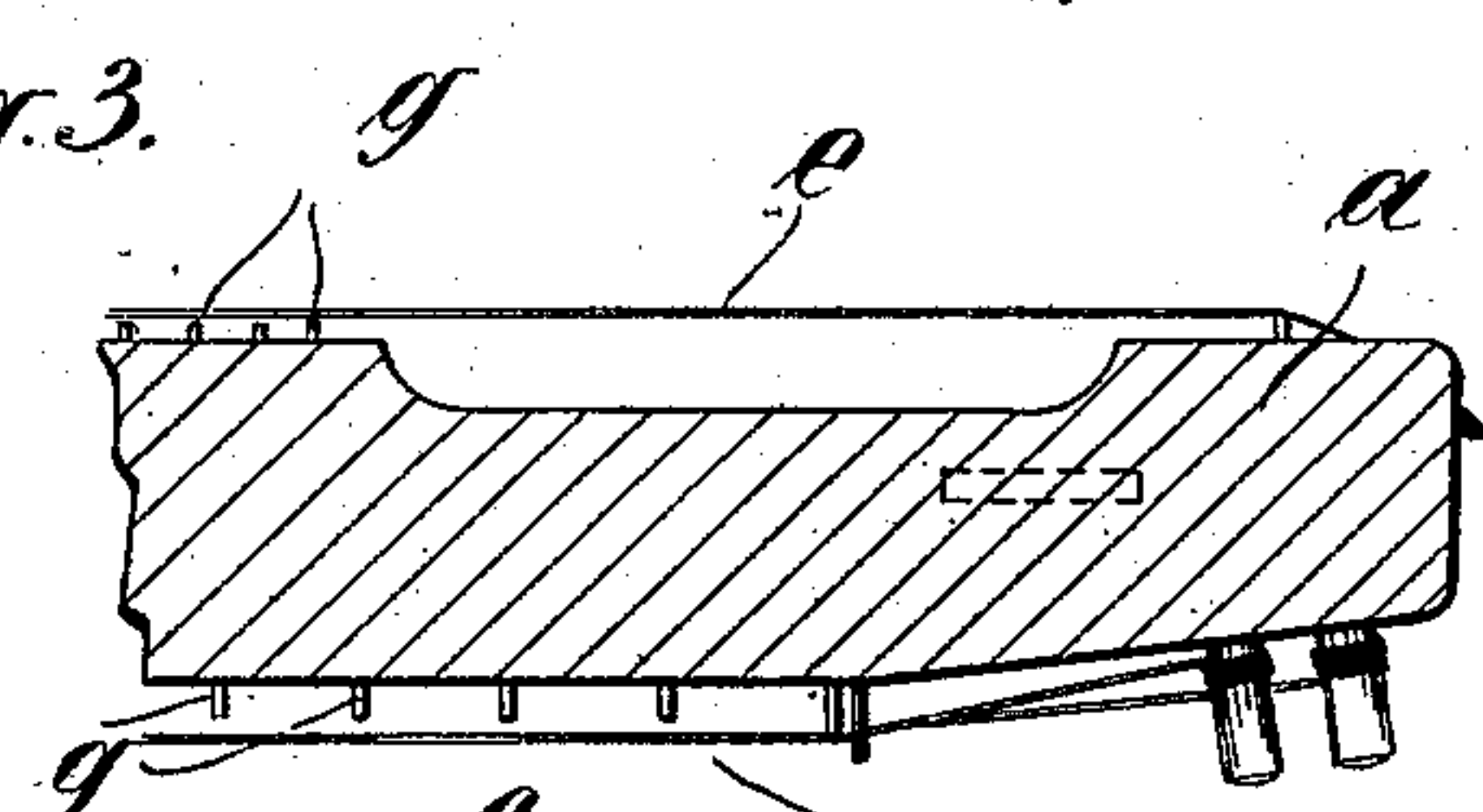
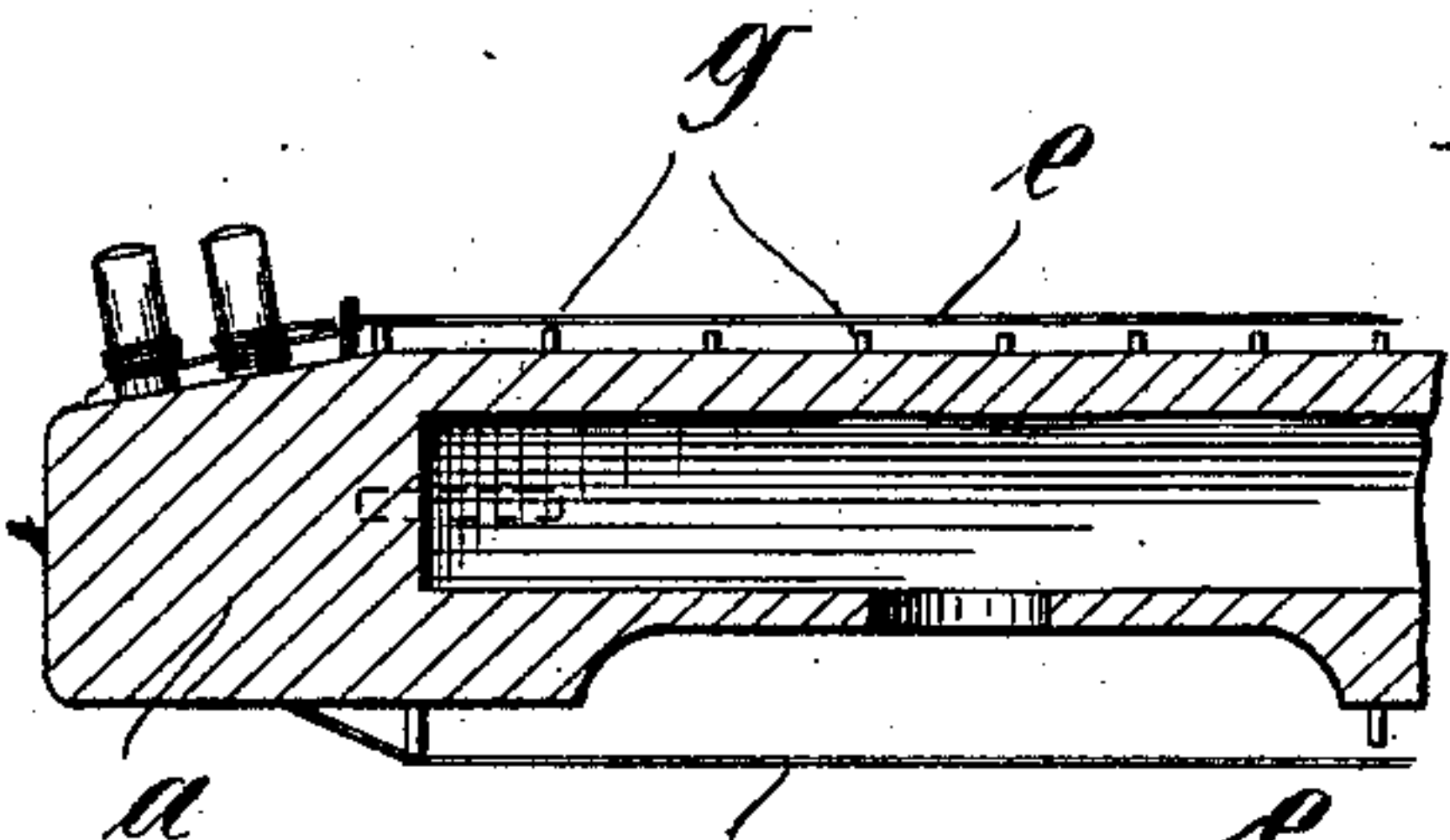
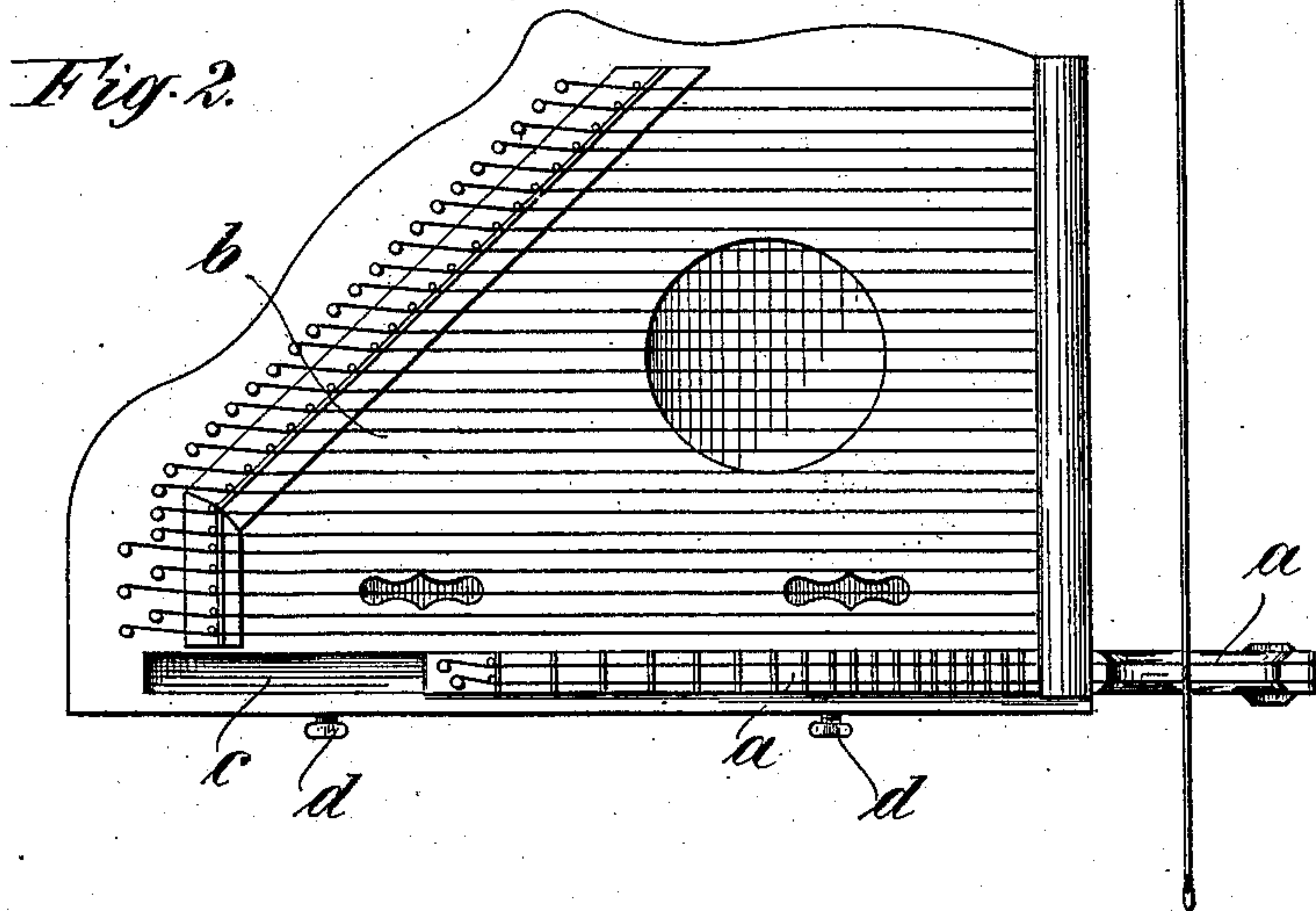
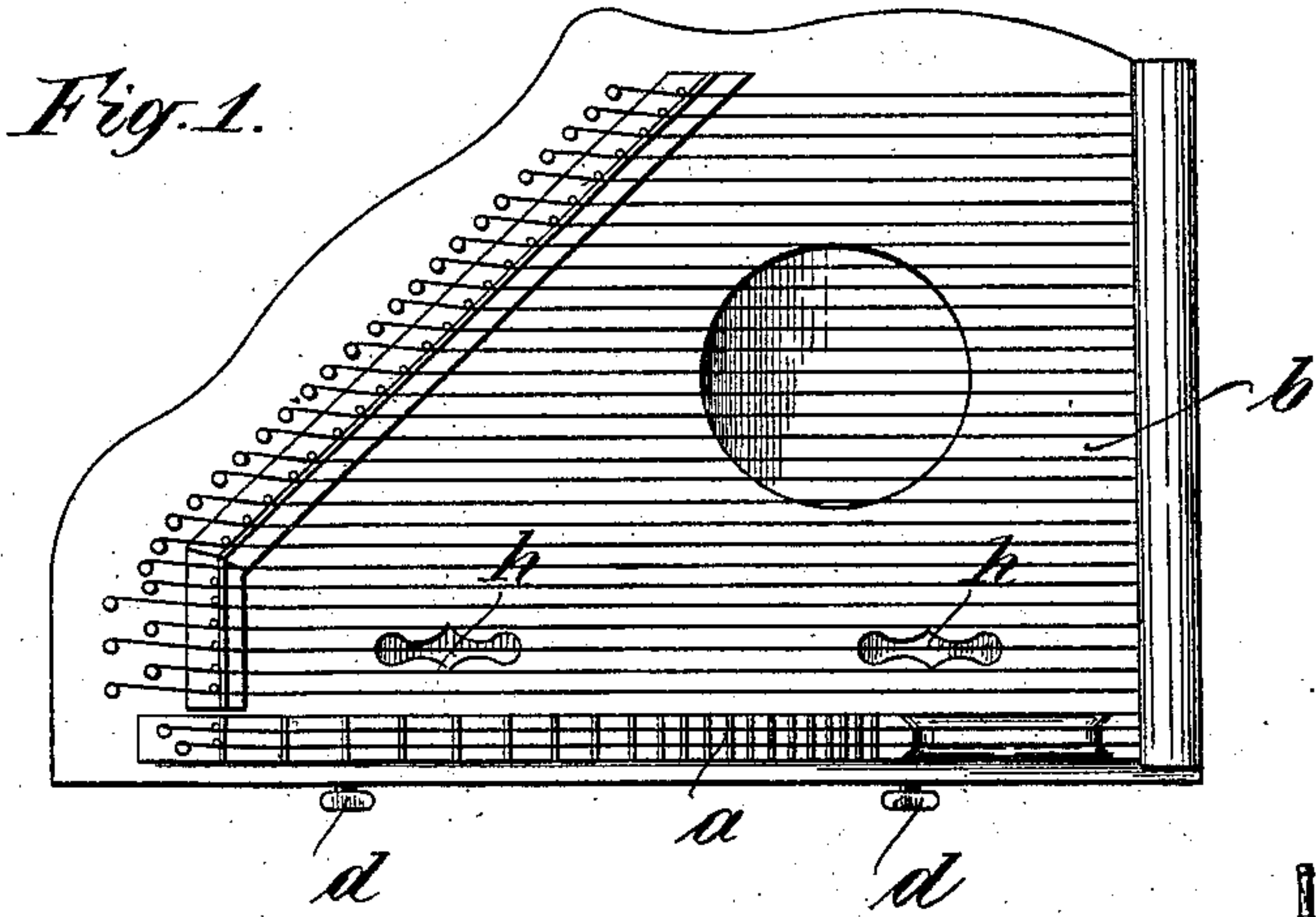
Patented Mar. 4, 1902.

E. CHRISTIAN.  
ZITHER.

(Application filed Sept. 10, 1900.)

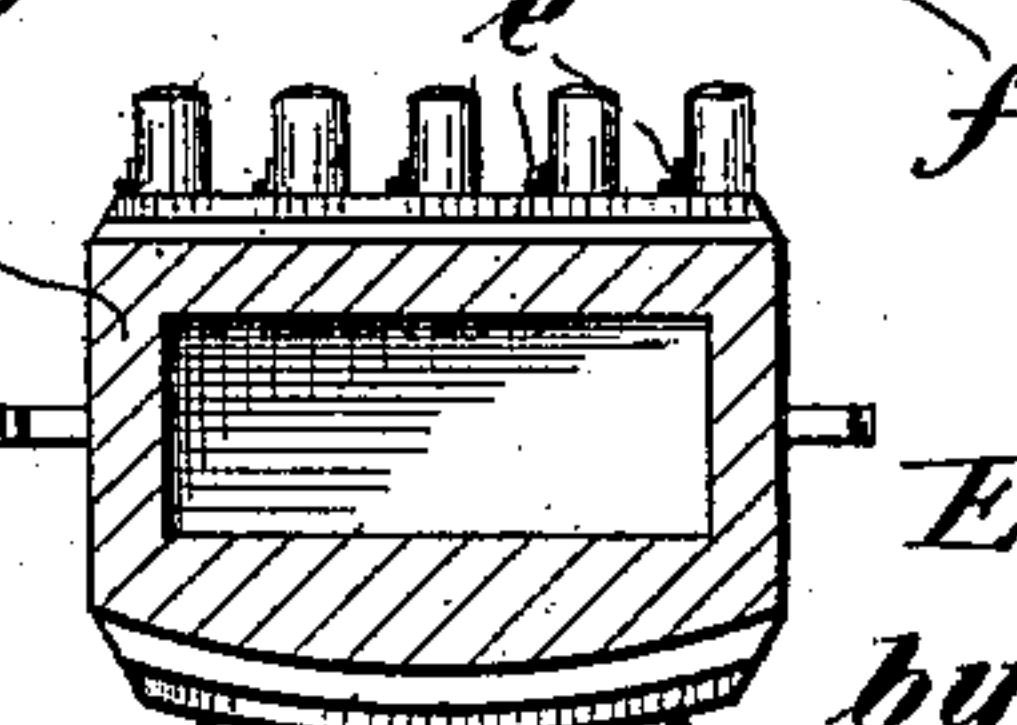
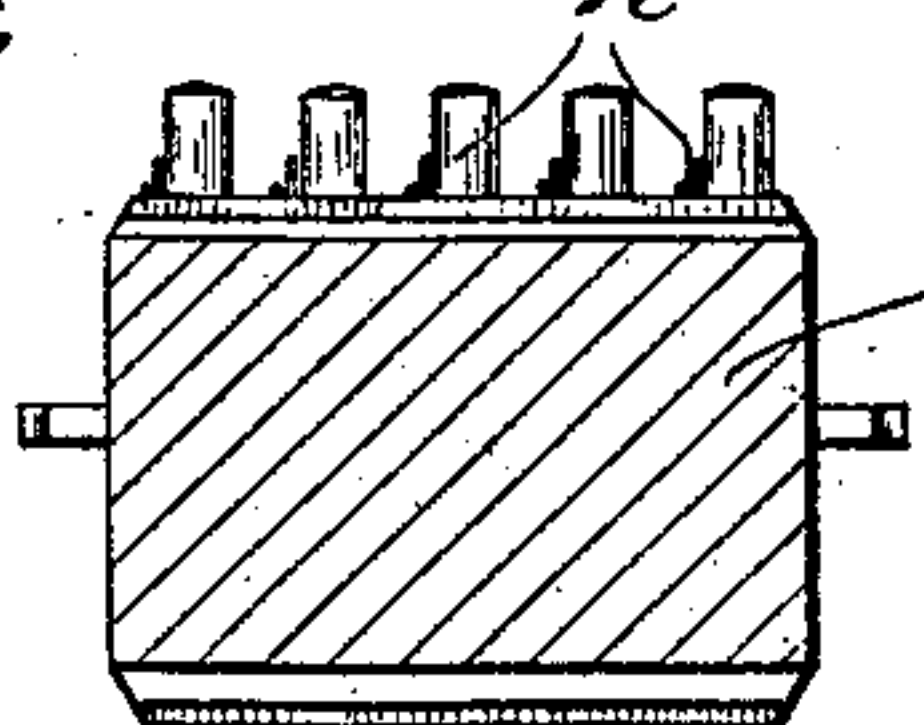
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 6.

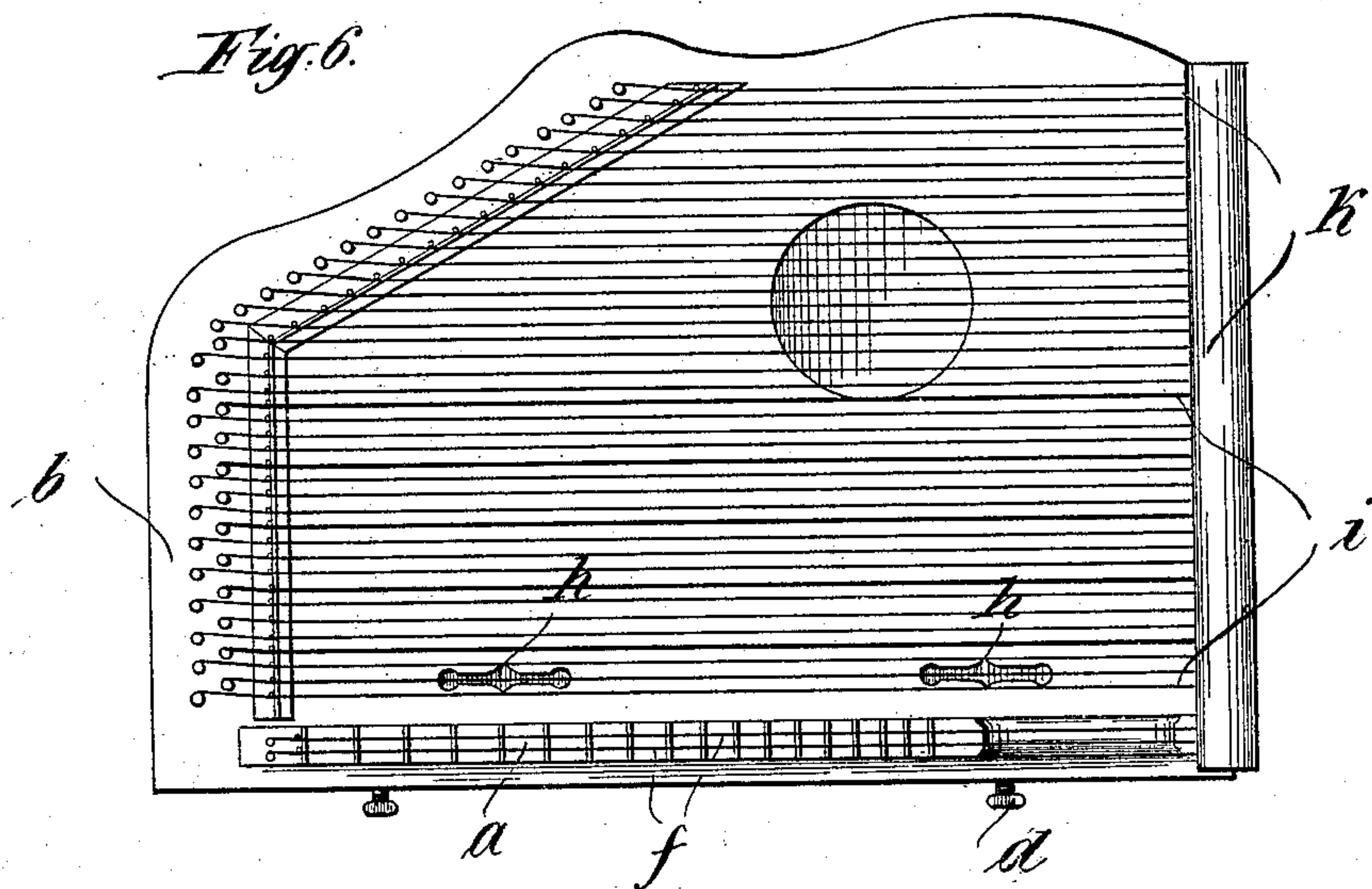


Fig. 7.

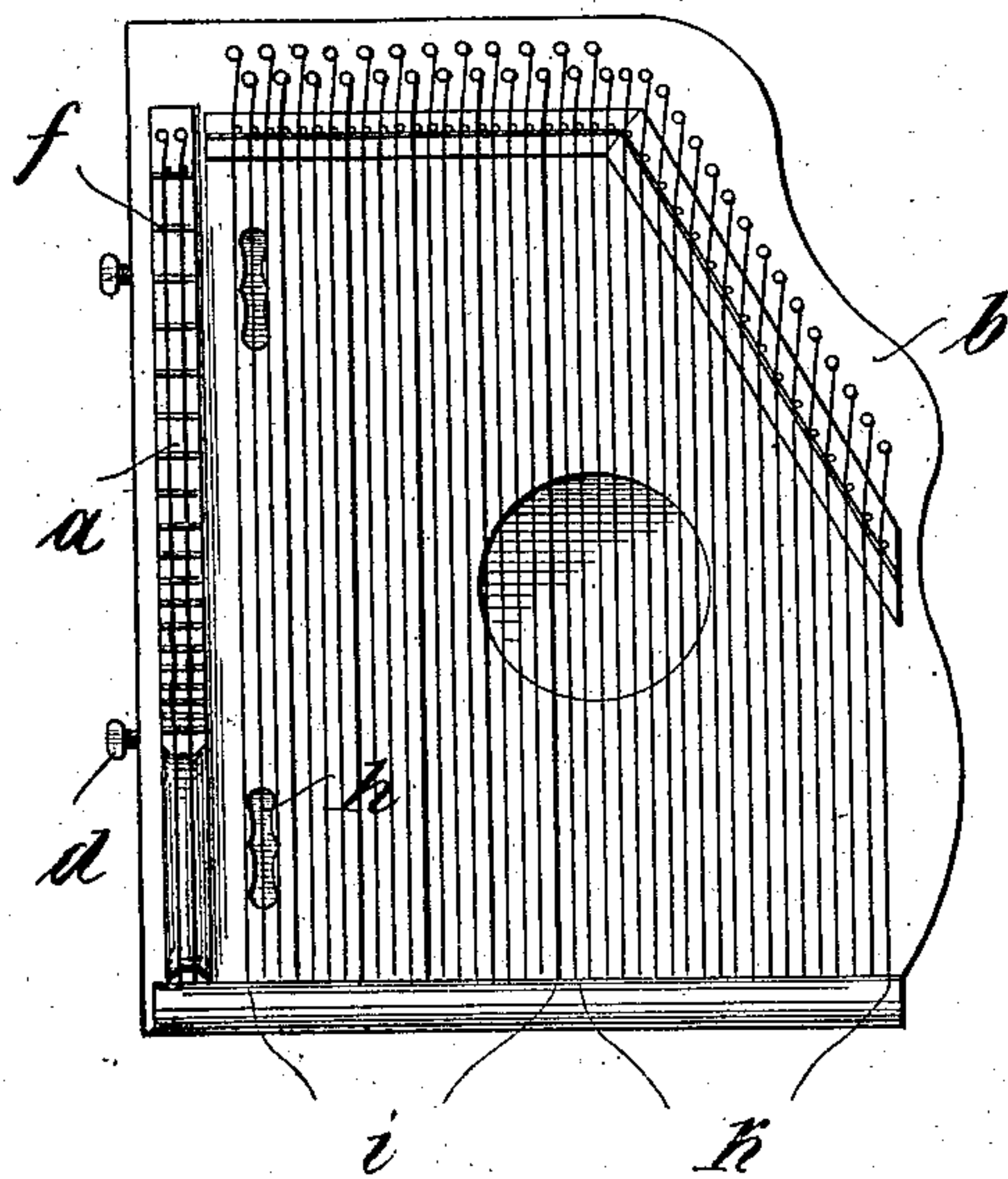
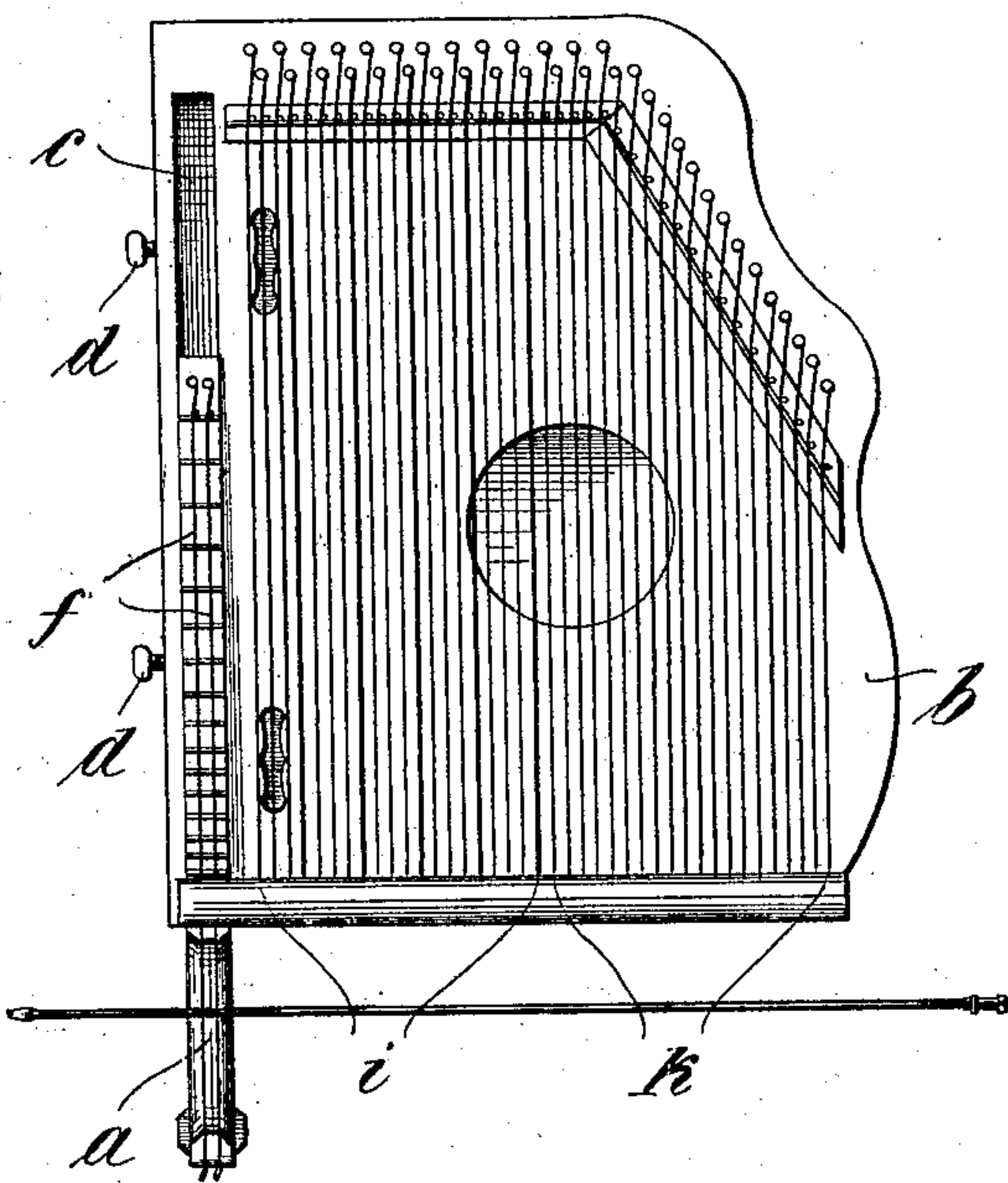


Fig. 8.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL CHRISTIAN, OF CASSEL, GERMANY.

## ZITHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 694,529, dated March 4, 1902.

Application filed September 10, 1900. Serial No. 29,614. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EMIL CHRISTIAN, turner and instrument-maker, a citizen of the Kingdom of Prussia, and a resident of Cassel, Germany, (whose post-office address is Obere Königstrasse 17,) have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Zithers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is a zither which has a touch-board movably fastened to the sounding-board of the instrument proper, thus offering the possibility of using one and the same instrument in two or three different forms.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows an ordinary striking zither with a movable touch-board, Fig. 2 showing same in use as a bow-zither. Figs. 3 to 5 shows the movable touch-board, either solid or hollow, in longitudinal and cross cuts. Figs. 6 to 8 show an accord-zither with movable touch-board in use either as a striking zither, Fig. 6, or as an accord-zither or as a bow-zither.

The movable touch-board *a*, Figs. 1 and 2, is fastened in a convenient way to the sounding-board *b* of a striking zither, so as to prevent it from rattling. It may be inserted, for instance, in a groove *c* of the sounding-board and be pressed against one side of this groove by aid of screws *d*. This touch-board is strung with strings arranged either on one side only or on opposite sides of it. The number of strings on each side varies, preferably, between two and five. If on one side of this touch-board frets of the finger-board are arranged in shorter distances than on the other one, the instrument may be changed by turning the touch-board from an ordinary one into one fit to be played upon by children.

By drawing the touch-board half-way out of the sounding-board, Fig. 2, the instrument may be used as a bow-zither.

Now in the case of more than two strings being arranged on a dead-level it would be impossible to strike a single string. It is therefore advisable to give the bridges on one side of the touch-board a slight curvature, Fig. 5, the strings on the other side being arranged in a dead-level.

To play the instrument bow-zither fashion, the touch-board is drawn completely out of

the sounding-board, turned round, and pushed half-way in again.

*h* are additional sound-holes, which may be arranged in the sounding-box near the touch-board.

The touch-board itself may be used as a sounding-board by making it hollow, Figs. 3 and 5, and providing it with sound-holes.

In any case, even if the touch-board be solid, a fuller sound is produced than with the older instruments, the second set of strings on the other side of the touch-board being caused by the vibration to emit sounds at the same time.

The movable touch-board may as well be connected with an accord-zither, Figs. 6-8. In this type of instrument the accompaniment-strings are divided into two groups, one near the touch-board embracing strings *i*, which are arranged according to groups of accords, while the other group is formed of strings *k*, arranged in chromatic or diatonic succession. By this arrangement one is enabled to use the instrument not only as an ordinary striking zither, Fig. 6, but also as an accord-zither, Fig. 7, and a bow-zither, Fig. 8.

Having thus fully described the nature of my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a zither a sounding-box strung with strings for the accompaniment, said sounding-box being provided with a groove; a touch-board being movably inserted into said groove; and means for holding said touch-board in position; substantially as shown and described.

2. In a zither, the combination with a sounding-box, strung with strings for the accompaniment, of a reversible touch-board having on its upper and lower side arranged strings in varying number.

3. In a zither, the combination with a sounding-box strung with strings for the accompaniment, of a reversible touch-board having on its upper and lower sides arranged strings in varying number, the bridges and frets being plain on one side and curved on the other one.

4. The combination with a zither of a touch-board movably fastened to the body of the instrument, measurements of different length being provided on the upper and the lower side



of said touch-board, substantially as shown and described.

5 In a zither the combination with a sounding-box strung with strings arranged in two groups, one of them containing strings arranged chromatically or diatonically, the other one containing them arranged in harmonious groups, of a reversible touch-board strung with strings on its upper and lower  
10 sides, said touch-board being inserted into a

groove of the sounding-box, and means for fixing said sounding-board to the sounding-box; substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EMIL CHRISTIAN.

Witnesses:

WOLDEMAR HAUPT;  
WILLIAM MAYNER.