

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BANJO ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 706,381, dated August 5, 1902.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOWARD M. BRONSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Forestdale, town of Brandon, in the county of Rutland and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banjo Attachments, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved attachment for banjos and like musical instruments, arranged for convenient application to any banjo, and more especially designed for removing all harshness of the banjo tone and rendering the music produced soft and sweet.

The invention consists of novel features and parts and combinations of the same, as will be fully described hereinafter and then pointed out in the claims.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement as applied, parts being broken out. Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional side elevation of the same, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the improvement.

The banjo A of ordinary construction is provided in its drumhead A' with the usual cross-brace B, on the top of which is located a longitudinally-extending lever C, terminating at one end in a loop C', from which extends the return bent arm C², terminating at its end in an upwardly-rising stem C³, on which is held vertically adjustable the bridge or muffer D, normally standing with its felted top a short distance below the under side of the head A' of the banjo A, directly opposite the string-bridge A², as plainly indicated in Fig. 2. At the sides of the loop C' are secured the upper ends of elastic bands F, extending on the sides of the cross-brace B and having their lower ends connected with each other by a ring F', abutting against the under side of the cross-brace. (See Fig. 2.) The bands F and ring F' form a yieldable clamp for holding the lever C on the cross-brace B to allow the lever to swing upward to bring the muffer D in contact with the under side of the drumhead A', the said bands

F also serving to return the muffer to its resting position on the cross-brace B.

On the forward end of the lever C is formed a depending handle C⁴, carrying a knob C⁵, adapted to be engaged by the performer to impart an upward swinging motion to the lever C to move the muffer D in contact with the drumhead with more or less force to muffle the drumhead to any desired degree, and thereby remove all harshness in the sound and render the music soft and sweet. When the performer releases the pressure on the knob C⁵, then the spring-bands F return the muffer C to a normal position, so that the lever rests on the cross-brace B and the muffer D is then out of contact with the head A'. A set-screw E serves to vertically adjust the muffer D on the stem C³ to bring the said muffer in proper position relative to the head A'. The handle C⁴ of the lever C extends loosely through a guide G in the form of a staple or the like, secured to the side of the cross-brace B.

The attachment is very simple and durable in construction and can readily be applied to a banjo of ordinary construction, and the attachment can be readily moved into an active position by the performer whenever it is desired to muffle the instrument, as above explained.

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

1. The combination with a cross-bar of a banjo, or similar musical instrument, of a lever resting on said bar, yieldable members connected to said lever, a coupling cooperating with said members in holding said lever in operative position on said cross-bar, and a muffer carried by said lever.

2. A muffling attachment for banjos and other musical instruments, comprising a lever provided with an offstanding arm, a muffer adjustably fitted to said arm and shiftable to different positions lengthwise thereof, means for holding said muffer in different positions on the arm, suitable attaching devices for the lever, and an operating device.

3. A banjo attachment, comprising a lever terminating at one end in an angular handle carrying a knob and terminating at its other end in a loop, a return bent arm having an

upright stem, elastic bands attached to the said loop and having a connection engaging the under side of the cross-brace, and a muffler secured on the said stem, for engaging
5 the head of the instrument, as set forth.

4. A banjo attachment comprising a lever terminating at one end in an angular handle carrying a knob and terminating at its other end in a loop, a return bent arm having an
10 upright stem, elastic bands attached to the said loop and having a connection engaging the under side of the cross-brace, a muffler

secured on the said stem, for engaging the head of the instrument, and a guide on the side of the cross-brace for the angular handle 15 to slide in, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HOWARD M. BRONSON.

Witnesses:

NAPOLEON B. HALE,
CHARLES W. FOWLER.