

CAPO TASTO.

(Application filed Apr. 14, 1902.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

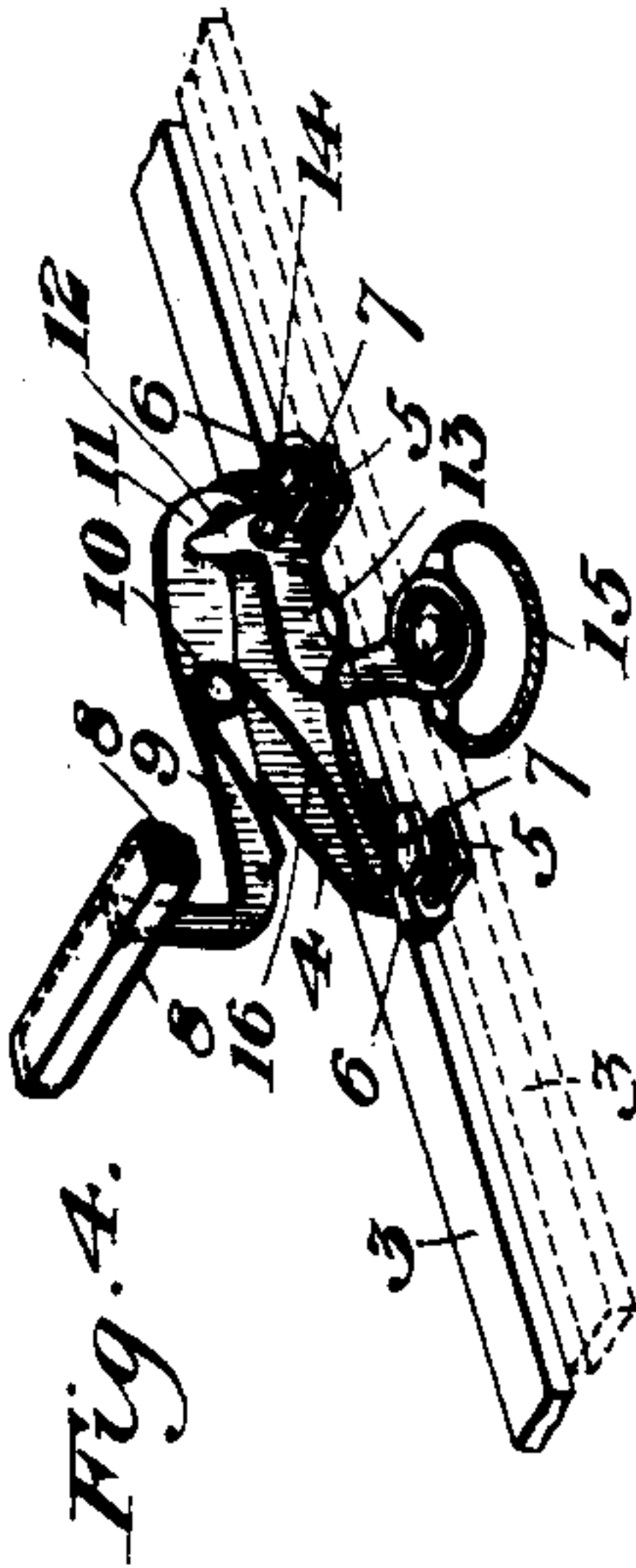
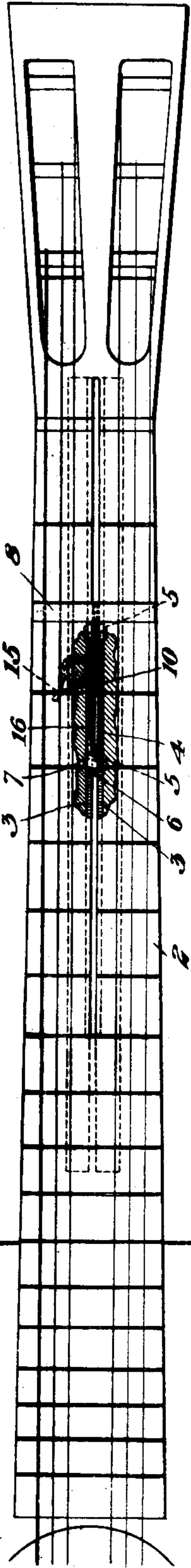


Fig. 2.

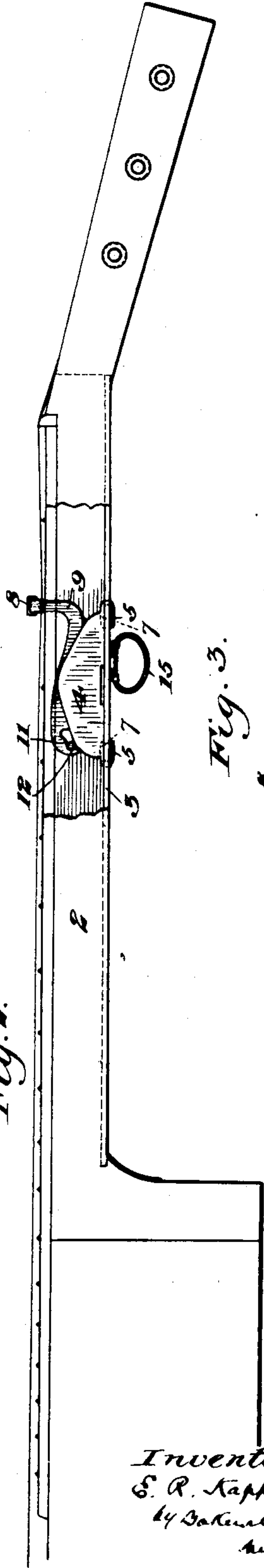


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST ROBERT KAPPELER, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

CAPO TASTO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 713,310, dated November 11, 1902.

Application filed April 14, 1902. Serial No. 102,824. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST ROBERT KAPPELER, of Allegheny, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Capo Tastos, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

10 Figure 1 is a top plan view showing a neck portion of a guitar with my improved attachment, partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, partly broken away. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the attachment on the side opposite to that of Fig. 2; and Fig. 15 4 is a perspective view, on a larger scale, of the attachment.

My invention relates to capo tasto used upon guitars or other stringed instruments, and is designed to provide a simple, smoothly-operating, and effective device of this class which may be adjusted along the neck and clamped or unclamped while the operator is playing the instrument.

25 In the drawings, 2 represents the neck of a guitar having a vertical longitudinal slot the bottom of which is partially closed by parallel plates or strips 3 3, secured along the under face of the neck. The frame of the capo tasto, which slides in this slot, consists of a vertical 30 plate 4, having at each end lower sidewise-projecting lugs 5, which contact with the under faces of the strips 3. The lugs have curved central extensions or stems 6, which extend up through the slot and are provided 35 with lateral lugs 7, which bear on the upper faces of the strips.

The bar 8 of the capo tasto is secured to a swinging lever 9, pivoted to the frame 4 at 10 40 and having at its rear a cam-recess 11, with notches at each end. The upper curved arm 12 of a bell-crank lever 13, pivoted to the frame at 14, engages the cam-recess and actuates the muffler-bar. This bell-crank lever 45 projects down through the slot and is bent laterally and provided with a removable thumb-loop 15.

A spring 16 surrounds the pivot 10 of the lever 9, and the upper arm of this spring ex- 50 erts a lifting tendency on the muffler-bar.

The lower portion of the spring is reversely bent and bears upon one of the strips 3. This spring affords sufficient friction to prevent accidental displacement of the capo tasto when not clamped in place.

55 In using the attachment the player inserts the thumb of his left hand in the loop 15 and uses his fingers in the ordinary manner for fingering the frets. When it is desired to apply the capo tasto, the operator slides it along 60 within the slot to the desired fret and then presses upwardly, thus moving the end of the bell-crank lever from the upper notch of the cam-recess to the notch at the other end, the parts then assuming the position shown in 65 Fig. 3. The strings are thus clamped at the desired fret by the muffler-bar, and the parts will remain in their locked position until the operator draws down on the bell-crank, thus moving its end within the cam-recesses and 70 releasing the upper lever, which is lifted by the spring.

The advantages of my invention will be apparent to users of stringed instruments—such as guitars, banjos, &c.—since the capo tasto 75 may be moved while playing a piece to change the key and give different chords or chords in different positions, the fingers remaining in the proper position for fingering the frets. The device is simple, may be cheaply made 80 and applied, and is found to work efficiently in practice.

Many changes may be made in the form and arrangement of the device without departing from my invention, since I consider myself 85 the first to provide a capo tasto which can be moved along and clamped or unclamped by the thumb, leaving the fingers in proper position for playing.

I claim— 90

1. A musical instrument having a sliding capo tasto on its neck, a movable locking-lever for the capo tasto, and a thumb-loop on said lever arranged to receive the thumb of the player; substantially as described. 95

2. A musical instrument having a longitudinally-slotted neck, a capo tasto sliding within the slot and having a stem projecting upwardly through the slot, a clamping-bar carried by said stem, and a lever projecting 100

below the slot and arranged to lock the capo
tasto in any desired position; substantially
as described.

3. A musical instrument having a longitu-
5 dinally-slotted neck, a sliding capo taste
within the slot, and a locking device provided
with a lever projecting below the slot and hav-
ing a thumb-loop to receive the thumb of the
operator; substantially as described.

10 4. A musical instrument having a neck
provided with a longitudinal slot, a frame
movable in the slot, a movable element car-
rying the muffler-bar and mounted in the
15 frame, a lever connected to the frame and ar-
ranged to slide the frame and clamp the muf-
fler-bar, and a lock for the bar; substantially
as described.

5. A musical instrument having a sliding
20 capo taste attached thereto, a muffler-bar
forming a part of the capo taste, a spring
arranged to normally lift the muffler-bar, and
a lever device arranged to slide the capo
taste and clamp or unclamp the muffler-bar;
substantially as described.

25 6. A musical instrument having a longitu-
dinally-slotted neck, longitudinal metal strips
extending along the slot and partially closing
it, a capo taste having operating mechan-
ism moving within the slot, and a locking-
30 lever having a thumb-piece projecting from
said mechanism below the slot and serving as
a handle to move the capo taste along the
neck; substantially as described.

7. A musical instrument having a neck with
35 a longitudinal slot, a frame arranged to slide
within the slot, a tilting lever mounted in
the frame, a muffler-bar on the tilting lever,
and another lever engaging the bar-lever and

arranged to swing and hold it in its differ-
ent adjusted positions; substantially as de- 40
scribed.

8. A capo-taste attachment having a frame
consisting of a plate, said plate having bent
holding-strips arranged to engage the neck
of the instrument, a spring-actuated lever 45
carrying a muffler-bar pivoted to the plate,
and another lever pivoted to the plate and
bearing upon the bar-lever, the latter lever
having a thumb-loop; substantially as de-
scribed.

9. A stringed instrument having a neck 50
with a longitudinal slot, a frame movable in
the slot, a muffler-bar lever pivoted on the
frame, and another lever pivoted on the frame
and having cam connection with the bar- 55
lever arranged to swing the same and hold it
in different positions, the actuating-lever
having a thumb-loop; substantially as de-
scribed.

10. A stringed instrument having a neck 60
with a longitudinal slot, a plate movable
within the slot and having bent clip portions
arranged to hold and guide the plate-frame,
a spring-pressed muffler-bar lever on the
frame, having a cam-recess and a bell-crank 65
lever pivoted on the frame and having an end
portion operating in the cam-recess in the bar-
lever, the bell-crank lever projecting below
the slot and being provided with a thumb-
loop; substantially as described. 70

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand.

ERNEST ROBERT KAPPELER.

Witnesses:

H. M. CORWIN,
G. B. BLEMING.