

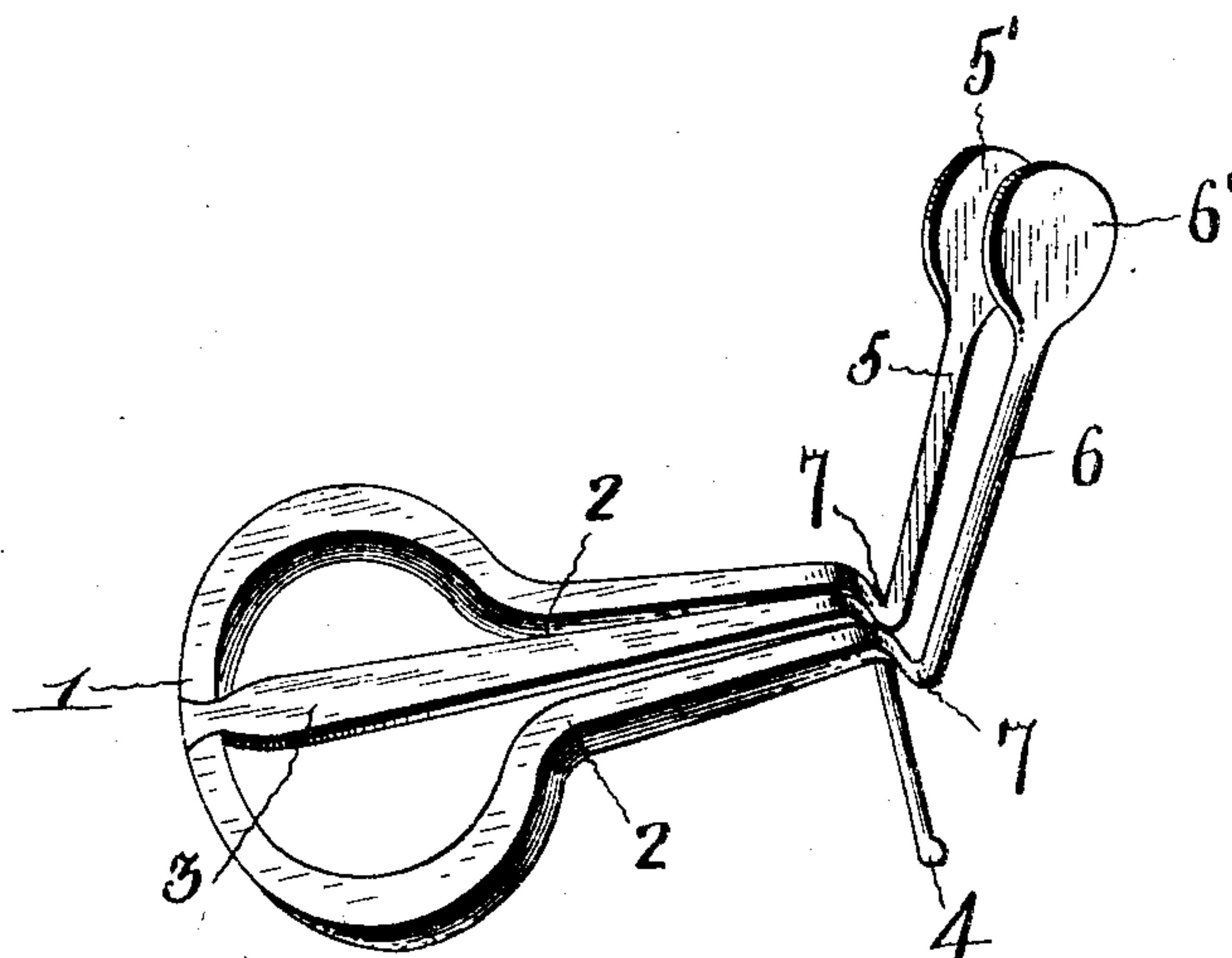
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C. E. MINCKS.

JEWS' HARP.

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Witnesses
for A. Koehl.
Katherine A. Hillson

Inventor
Charles E. Mincks.
by J. E. Hillson
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. MINCKS, OF ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA.

JEWS'-HARP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 788,419, dated April 25, 1905.

Application filed March 15, 1904. Serial No. 198,286.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. MINCKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Aberdeen, in the county of Brown and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Jews'-Harps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in jews'-harps and similar musical instruments; and it consists of certain features of construction hereinafter described and claimed.

The object of the invention is to provide a jews'-harp or like instrument with means for increasing its amplitude of sound and tonal qualities and for obviating the necessity of maintaining the instrument in contact with the teeth in playing it.

The accompanying drawing represents an inner or rear perspective view of a jews'-harp constructed in accordance with my invention.

1 in the drawing designates the frame-bow of the instrument, and 2 its arms, between which is arranged the vibrating tongue 3, fixed at one end to the center of the bow and provided at its free end with the angularly-arranged finger 4, whereby the tongue is vibrated.

In accordance with my invention the harp is provided with a resonator or sound-amplifier which may be embodied in many different forms. In the present instance I have shown it in the form of a pair of tines 5 and 6, arranged at the outer ends of and constituting prolongations of the arms 2. These tines may be parallel or divergent within determined limits and at their point of connection with the arms 2 are bent or offset, as indicated at 7, to set them at such an angle to said arms that they will extend parallel to the cheek in playing the instrument, the offsets 7 in this connection allowing the ends of the lips at the adjacent corner of the mouth to fold or project over or beyond the end of the tongue 3. Preferably the tines are solid and half-round or semicircular in form in cross-section, so as to present outer curved sides and inner flat sides, the latter to allow the tines to fit close to the cheek to give greater room for the operating-hand in playing. At their outer ends the tines have enlargements

5' and 6' of sufficient size and thickness to increase their tonal compass and resonance. These enlargements may be in the form of flat disks or of any other form to suit the purpose. They stiffen the tines and increase their zone or range of action to preserve or keep within their tonal compass sound-vibrations which might otherwise be dissipated or lost. By the use of this resonator or sound-amplifier the necessity of holding the arms 2 against the teeth to increase the volume and compass of sound is avoided, and as a consequence the instrument may not only be played with greater ease and facility, but greater freedom of movement of the lips and jaws is allowed for the formation of the tone-cavities by the mouth. Hence the instrument may be played with skill by those who find it difficult to secure or maintain the proper adjustment of the ordinary form of instrument against the teeth. Moreover, the resonator increases the sound to a great extent, as well as the tone quality and tone compass, allowing tunes of high and low extremes to be readily played.

As stated, the resonator or tone-amplifier may be constructed in various ways. Hence I do not limit the invention to the construction shown, but reserve the right to make such modifications as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A jews'-harp provided with a resonator or sound-amplifier independent of the harp-tongue, substantially as described.

2. A jews'-harp having a frame formed or provided with a resonator or sound-amplifier that is independent of the tongue, substantially as described.

3. A jews'-harp having a frame provided with arms, at least one of the arms having a prolongation forming a resonator or sound-amplifier, substantially as described.

4. A jews'-harp having a frame provided with arms, and a resonator composed of tines extending from said arms, substantially as described.

5. A jews'-harp having a frame provided with arms, and a resonator composed of tines

extending from said arms and having end enlargements, substantially as described.

6. A jews'-harp having a frame provided with arms, and a resonator composed of tines
5 extending from said arms, said tines being offset from the plane of said arms, substantially as described.

7. A jews'-harp having a frame provided with arms, and a resonator composed of tines
10 extending from said arms, offset from the

plane thereof, and having enlargements at their free ends, substantially as described.

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

C. E. MINCKS.

Witnesses:

W. A. PAYNE,

I. O. CURTISS.