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PATENTED JAN. 1, 1907.

E. SCHNABEL & W. W. LAWSON.
MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 21, 1906.

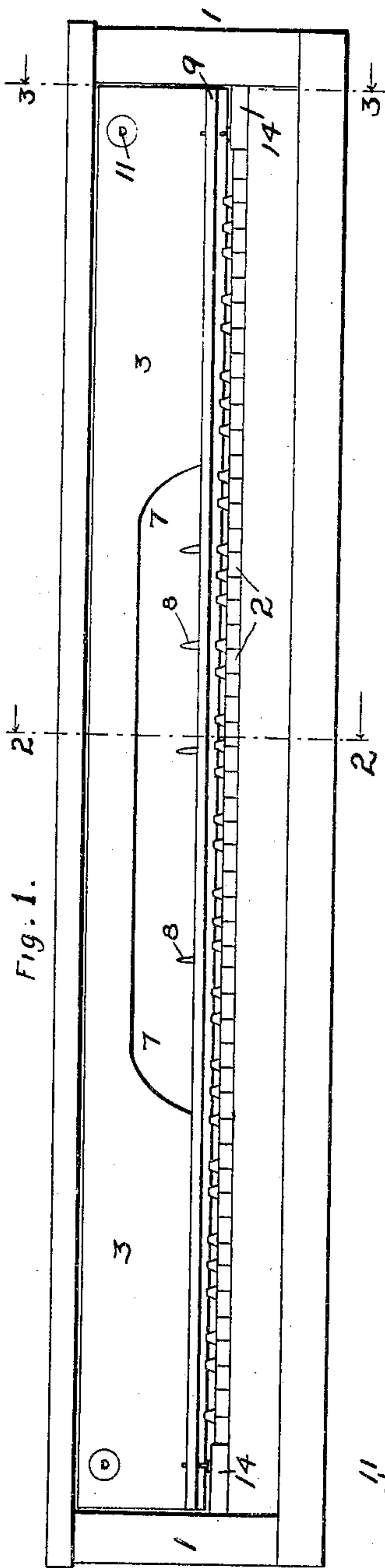


Fig. 1.

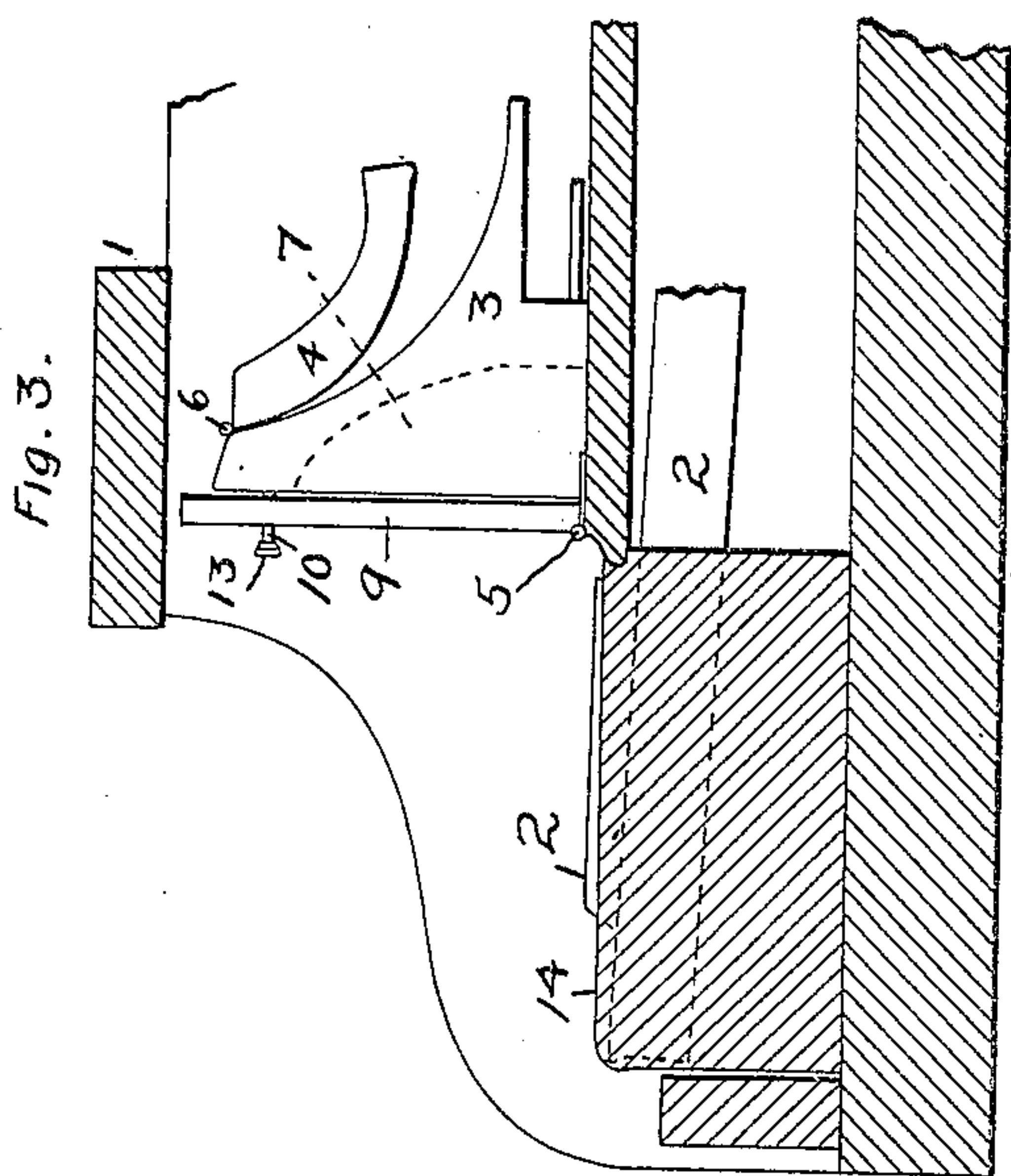


Fig. 3.

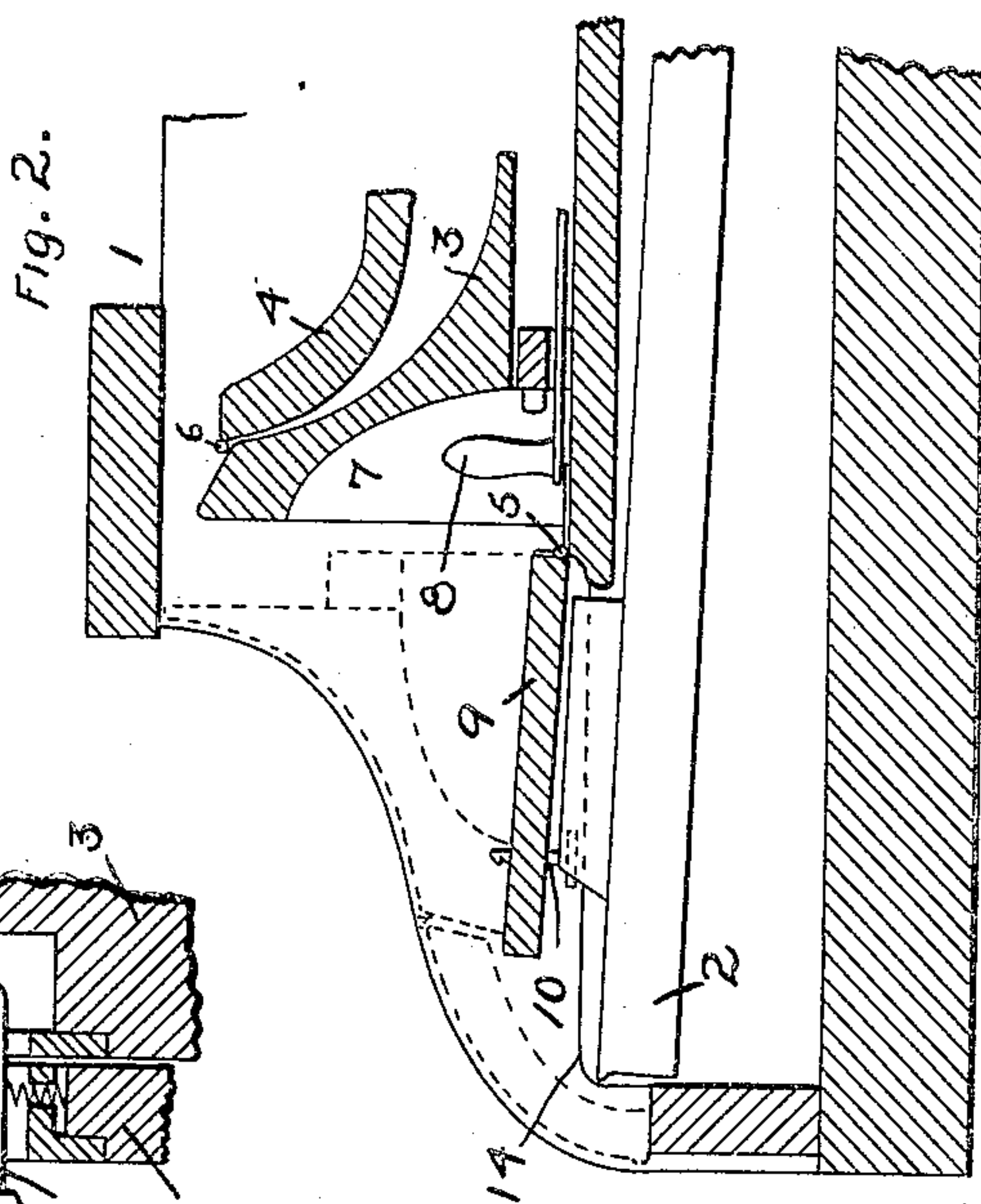


Fig. 2.

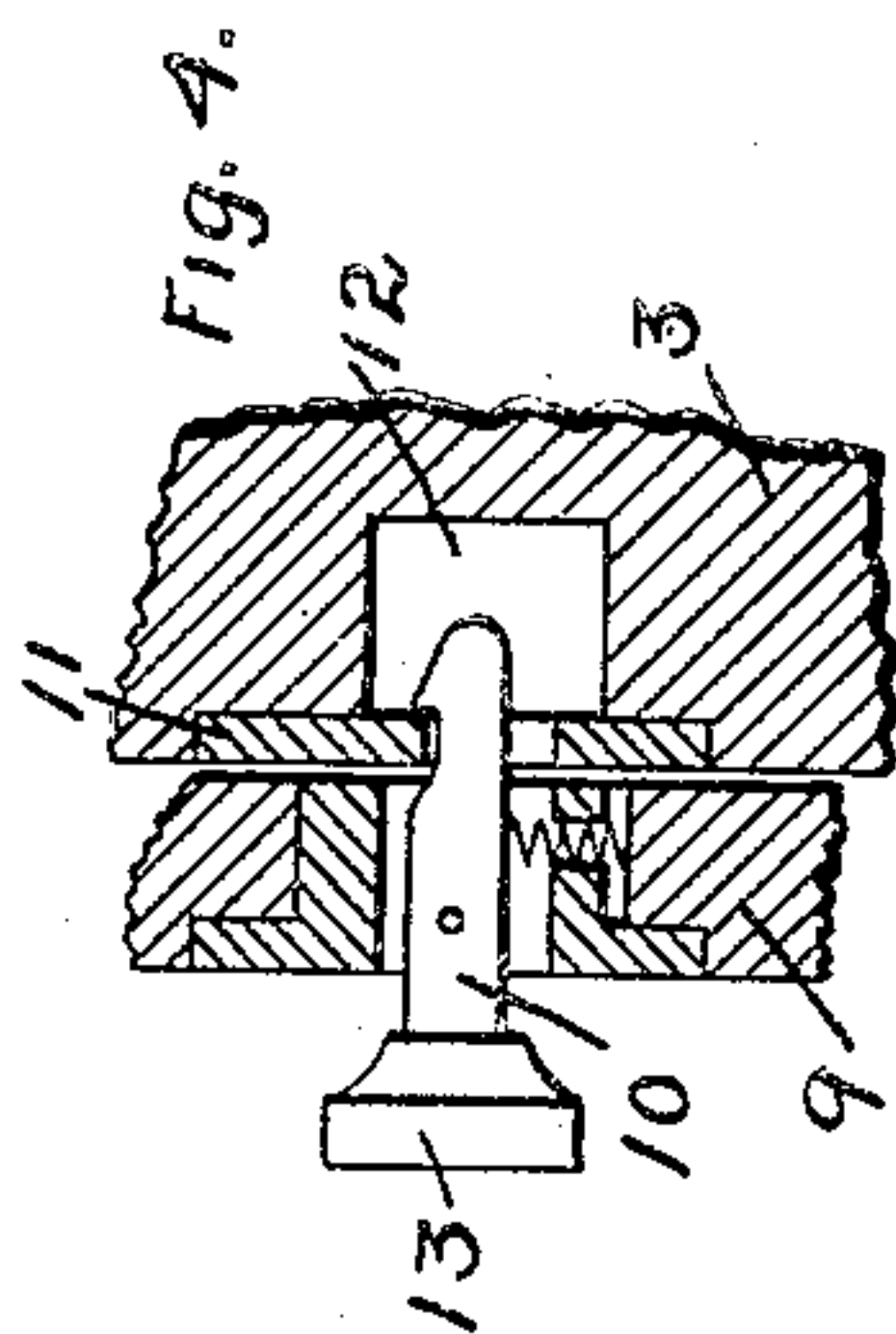


Fig. 4.

Witnesses;

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

No. 840,259.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 1, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EDMUND SCHNABEL, a resident of the borough of Bronx, and WILLIAM W. LAWSON, a resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mechanical Musical Instruments, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to musical instruments provided with a keyboard and adapted to be operated manually or mechanically—as, for instance, by means of a perforated music-sheet. In the mechanical operation of the instrument it is necessary, or at least advantageous, to provide manual handles for controlling “expression,” “tempo,” and the like. It is necessary that these should be placed where they can be conveniently manipulated by the operator, and it is advantageous that when the instrument is being played manually these handles should be hidden from view. The object of our invention is to provide a convenient location for these handles and means for covering them when the instrument is being played manually.

A further object of the invention is to utilize such cover as a hand-rest for the operator when the instrument is being played mechanically.

Still further objects of the invention will appear in the specification and be pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of so much of a keyboard musical instrument as is necessary to show our invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are vertical sections on the planes 2 2 and 3 3, respectively, of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of a detailed portion of the invention.

1 designates the casing of a keyboard musical instrument, and 2 the “keyboard,” by which we designate the forward exposed portion of the keys which are struck by the operator when the instrument is manually played.

3 4 designate the portions of the fall-board, the portion 3 being pivoted to the instrument at 5 and the portion 4 pivoted to

the portion 3 at 6. The portion 3 of the fall-board is provided with a recess 7, adapted to receive a plurality of handles 8. It is obvious that these handles may be of any desired form and that by the term “handle” we include any stop, lug, or projection adapted to manual operation. These handles 8 are in practice used to control expression, tempo, and other levers connected with the mechanical operation of the instrument. Pivoted at 5 is a second movable portion 9, adapted when in its closed position, as shown in Fig. 3, to abut against the face of the fall-board portion 3 so as to cover the recess 7 and conceal the handles 8. When in its lowered position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, it substantially covers the keyboard 2 and forms a convenient hand-rest for the operator in manipulating the handles 8. As a means of securing the movable portion 9 in its closed position and of causing it to move with the fall-board when this is closed, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 2, we provide in the portion 9 a latch 10, the inner end of which engages with a plate 11, let into a recess 12 in the fall-board portion 3. The knob or handle 13, which forms the outer portion of the latch 10, is adapted to rest upon the key-blocks 14, placed at the ends of the keyboard 2 for supporting the portion 9 in its lowered position.

The operation of the device will be clearly understood from the drawings, where it will be seen that when the instrument is to be manually played the latches 10 on the board 9 engage with the plate 11 to hold the board in its upright position. When it is desired to play the instrument mechanically a slight raising of the knobs 13 detaches the latches from their engagement with the plate 11 and permits the board 9 to be lowered to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the knobs 13 resting on the key-blocks 14, in which position the board furnishes a convenient hand-rest for the manipulation of the levers 8 and at the same time acts to prevent any accidental depression of any of the keys of the keyboard 2.

It is obvious that certain mechanical changes may be made in the device without departing from the invention.

What we claim is—

1. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, and a movable portion for alternately covering said handle and said keyboard.
2. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, and a movable portion hinged at its lower edge to a stationary portion at the rear of said keyboard for alternately covering said handle and said keyboard.
3. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, and a movable portion forming in its raised position a cover for said handle and in its lowered position an approximately horizontal hand-rest above said keyboard.
4. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle, and a second portion movable to cover said handle when said fall-board is in its open position.
5. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle and recessed to receive said handle, and a second portion movable to cover said handle when said fall-board is in its open position.
6. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, key-blocks, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, and a movable portion forming in its raised position a cover for said keyboard and in its lowered position resting on said key-blocks and forming an approximately horizontal hand-rest.
7. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle, and a second

movable portion pivoted for movement with said fall-board and independently movable to cover said handle when said fall-board is in its open position.

8. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle, a second portion movable to cover said handle when said fall-board is in its open position, and means for engaging said movable portion with said fall-board.

9. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle, a second portion movable to cover said handle when said fall-board is in its open position, a latch in said keyboard, and an engaging portion in said fall-board for said latch.

10. In a mechanical musical instrument, a keyboard, key-blocks, a handle at the rear of said keyboard, a fall-board movable to uncover both said keyboard and said handle, a second portion forming in its raised position a cover for said handle and in its lowered position an approximately horizontal hand-rest above said keyboard, latches in said second portion, and engaging portions for said latches in said fall-board, said latches being provided at their free ends with knobs for resting on said key-blocks when said portion is in its lowered position.

In testimony whereof we have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDMUND SCHNABEL.
WILLIAM W. LAWSON.

Witnesses:

HENRY W. HAROLD,
E. M. DE GROVE.