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PATENTED FEB. 12, 1907.

E. D. SON.
TAILPIECE FOR STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 9, 1906.

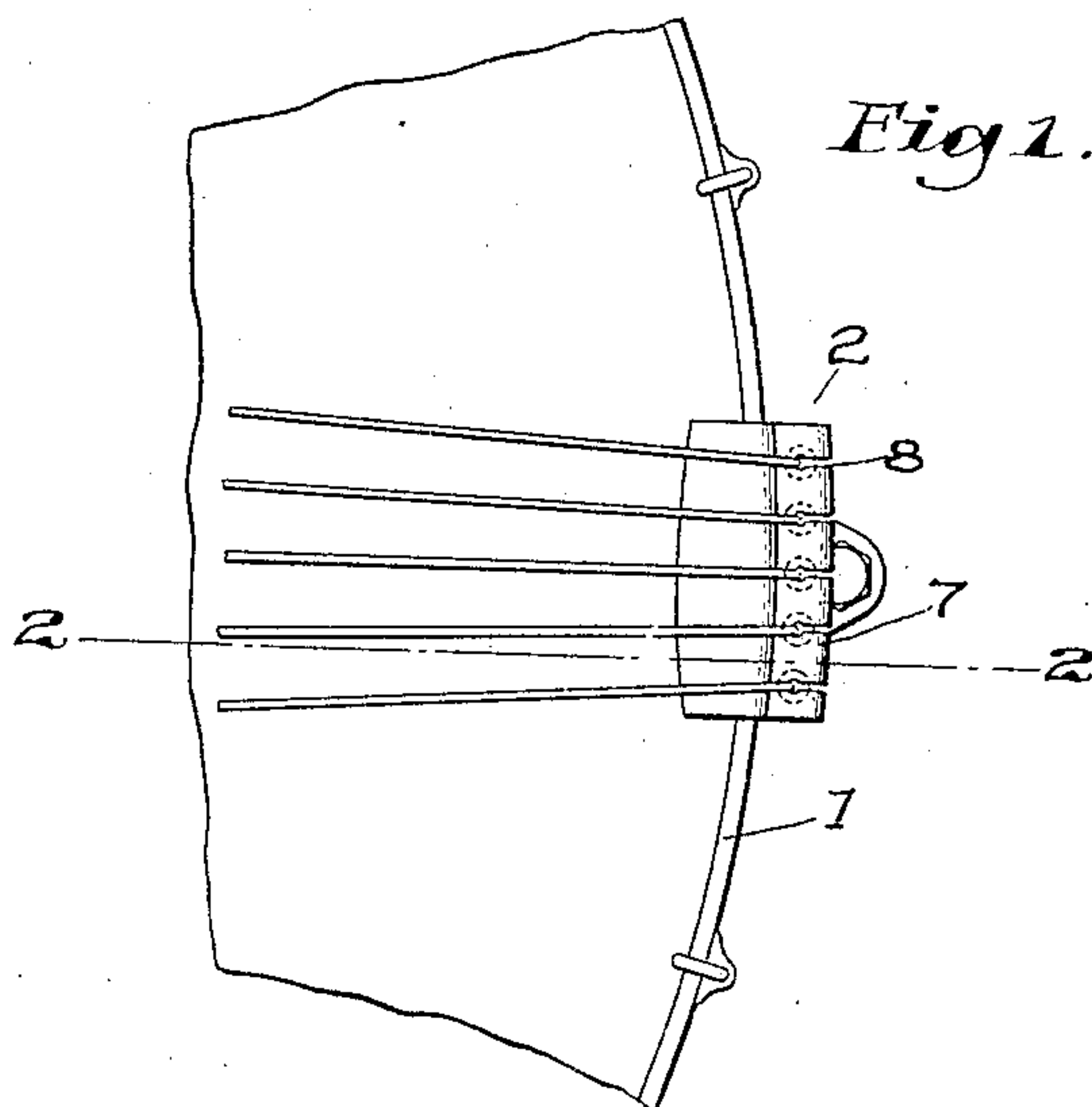


Fig. 1.

Fig. 7.

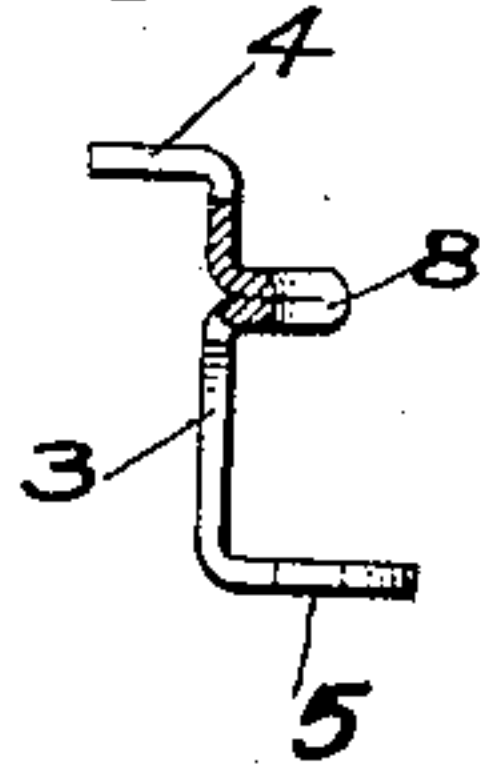


Fig. 3.

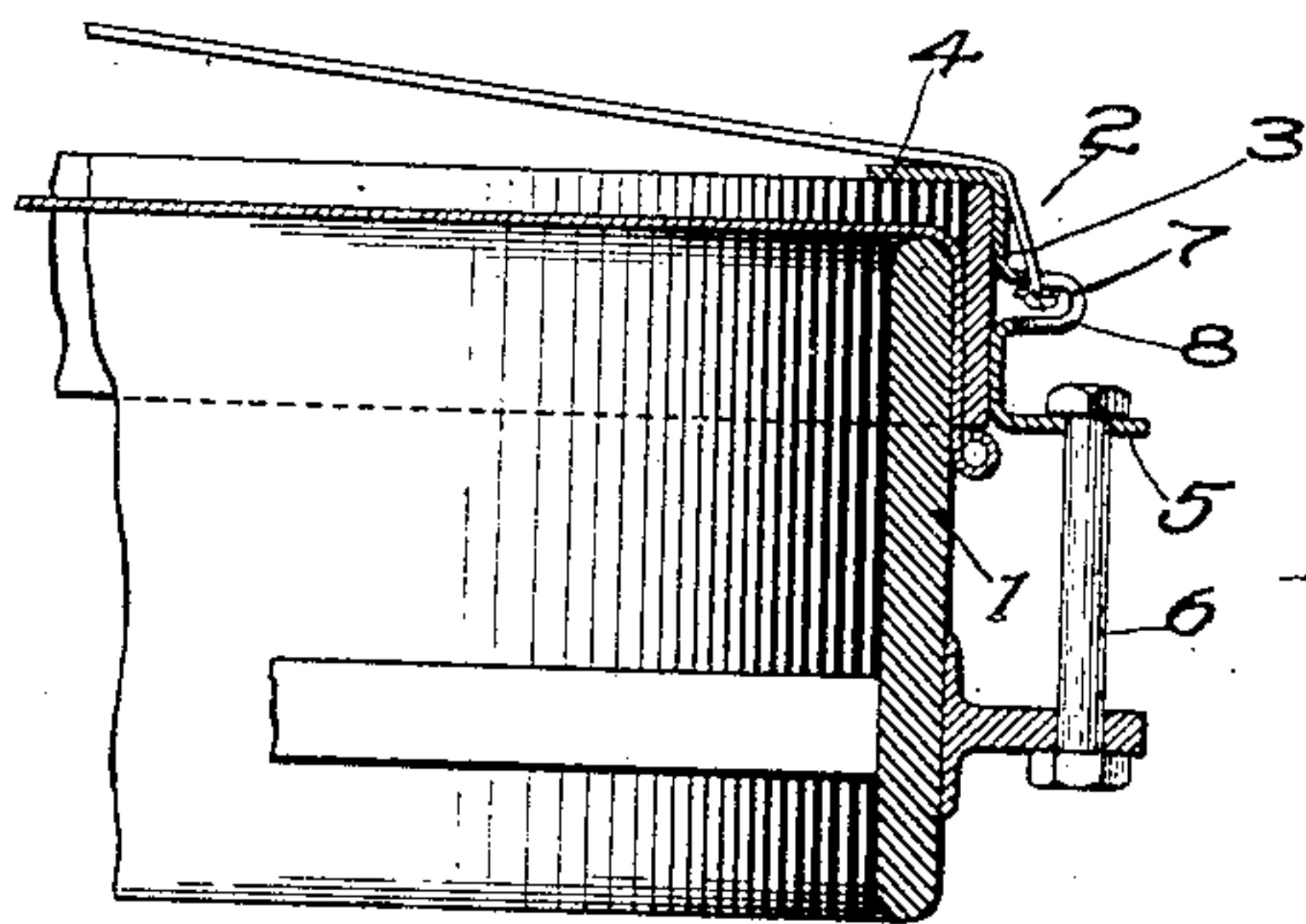
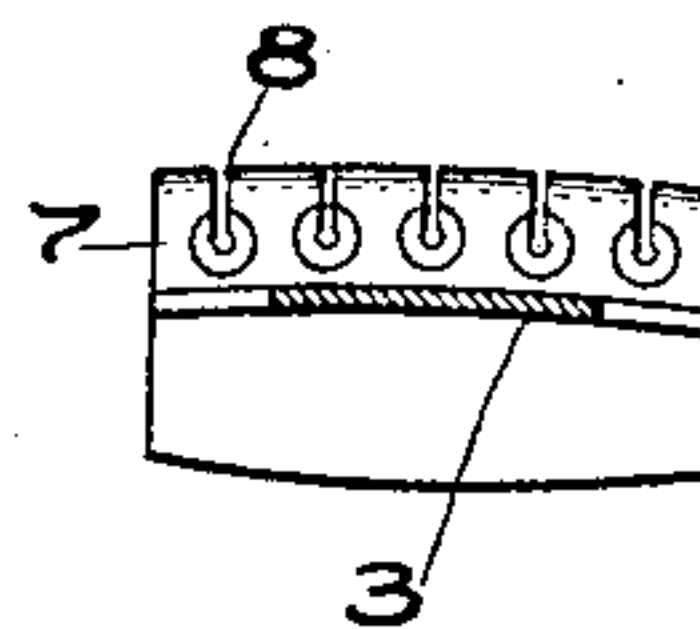


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

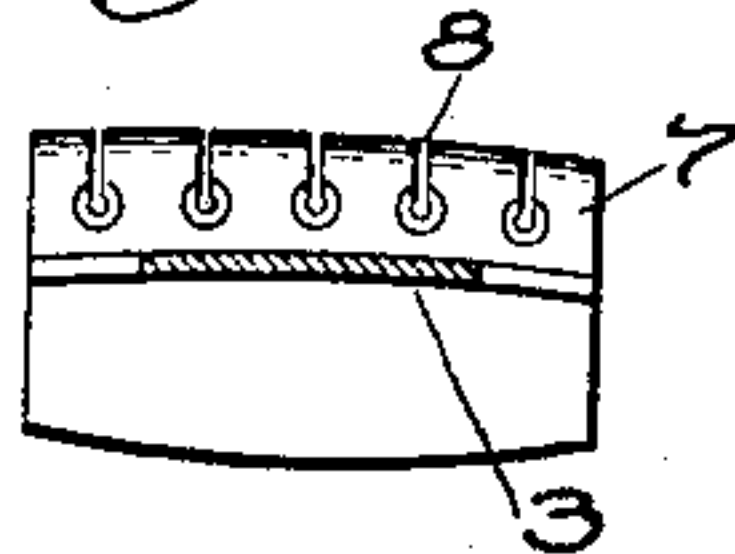


Fig. 6.

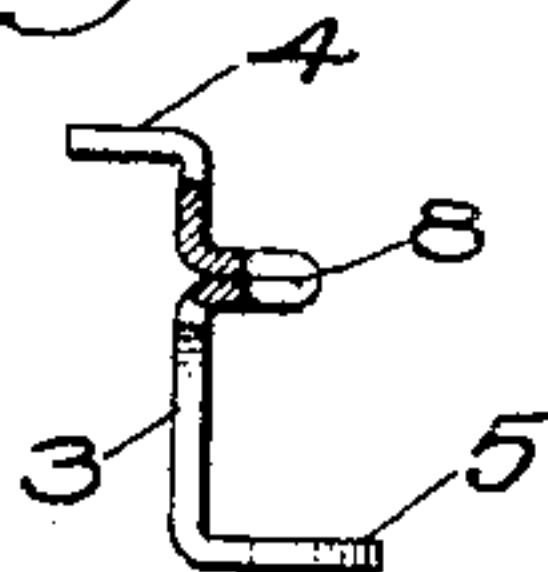
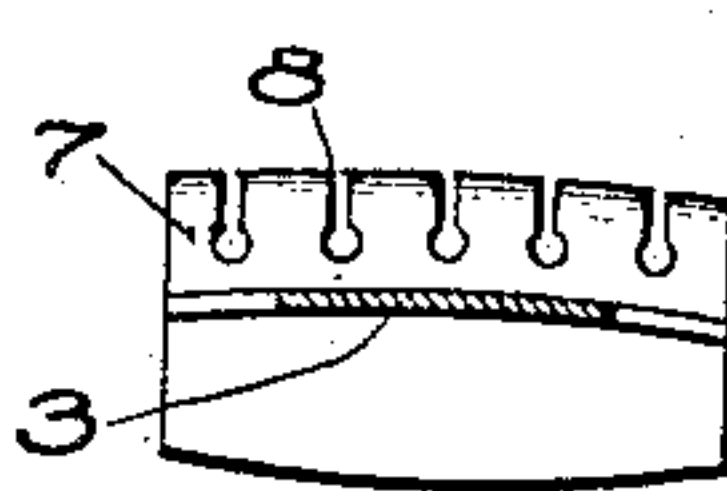


Fig. 4.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TAILPIECE FOR STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

No. 843,851.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 12, 1907.

Application filed November 9, 1906. Serial No. 342,634.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELEANOR D. SON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Utica, in the county of Oneida and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Tailpiece for Stringed Musical Instruments, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to tailpieces for stringed musical instruments, and is intended to provide a tailpiece that may be cheaply and readily manufactured and that may be an ornament to the instrument to which it is attached and that may effectively secure the strings in position, and preferably with the knots thereof concealed from observation.

In order that the principles of the invention may be readily understood, I have disclosed in the accompanying drawings one embodiment or type thereof, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a portion of a stringed musical instrument, such as a banjo, representing one type of improved tailpiece embodying my invention secured thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical central sectional view taken upon the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the preferred form of tailpiece, an upstanding securing end thereof being cut away that other features of the construction may clearly appear. Fig. 4 is a similar view of another form of tailpiece. Fig. 5 is a similar view of still another form of tailpiece; and Figs. 6 and 7 are longitudinal sectional views of the tailpieces shown, respectively, in Figs. 4 and 5.

Having reference to that single type or embodiment of the invention here chosen for illustration, the body of the musical instrument is represented at 1, it being a stringed musical instrument of any desired character. To any suitable portion thereof, and preferably to the upper edge portion, is adapted to be applied the improved tailpiece 2, embodying this invention, it being herein represented as formed of a single piece of preferably sheet metal and having a main body portion 3, preferably adapted when positioned to be disposed against a vertical wall or periphery of the instrument, and end portions 4 and 5, preferably disposed at an angle to the body portion, the end portion 4 overlying the upper face of the instrument and receiving the upper edge thereof within the angle formed between the body portion 3 and

end portion 4. As here shown, the end portion 5 is provided with an opening, whereby the tailpiece may be secured to the instrument, as by a bolt 6. In the present type of the invention the tailpiece is provided, Figs. 1 and 2, with a transverse corrugation or formation 7, provided with a series of string-slots 8 therein, extending through both walls of the said corrugation or formation. In Fig. 2 the walls of the corrugation are shown as spaced apart, and that wall that is the more remote from the head of the instrument when the tailpiece is positioned—that is, the lower wall of the corrugation, viewing Fig. 2—is provided with enlarged and preferably terminal portions, the remaining portion of the slots being of substantially uniform diameter throughout their extent, whereby the upper wall of the corrugation affords a support for the knotted string ends, said knots in the preferred form of the invention and in the positioning of the strings passing through the enlarged portions of said slots to the space between the walls of the said transverse corrugation, where they are retained by the said upper wall, so that the knots are completely housed within said corrugation and are substantially concealed from sight. It is apparent that the conformation of the corrugation may be varied in any desired manner—as, for example, in this form of the invention by further bending the walls forming the corrugation, so that they meet or nearly meet and present a tubular portion wherein the knots of the strings may be housed. Other modifications will readily occur to one skilled in the art.

It is apparent that a tailpiece thus constructed not only effectively secures and maintains the strings of the instrument in position, but houses the knots from observation or contact with the hands of the player, and that the tailpiece does not detract from, but indeed adds to, the attractiveness of the musical instrument. Moreover, the tailpiece may, if desired, be readily and cheaply struck up from sheet metal.

If desired, the walls of the transverse corrugation or formation may be in contact or substantially in contact with each other, in which case the knots upon the string ends will be positioned below the lower wall of the corrugations of the tailpiece when the same is secured in position. In such construction enlarged portions are not provided, as shown in Fig. 2, for the passage of the knots, and

hence the tailpiece may be constructed as shown in Fig. 4, wherein the string-slots are of substantially uniform diameter throughout or are but slightly enlarged at the opposite terminals thereof, it being apparent that the strings when knotted may be thus securely held.

If desired and as shown in Fig. 5, the string-slots may be provided upon the lower wall of the corrugation or formation with countersunk portions, the knots of the strings being seated within the said countersunk portions, so that the strings will not readily be withdrawn from the slots even though the strings vibrate considerably in the playing of the instrument.

It is apparent that the process of manufacture of the tailpiece may be varied as found desirable to readily and cheaply produce the same—that is to say, the transverse corrugation may be formed therein and the slots sawed or otherwise formed in the corrugation, or the slots may be sawed or punched in a flat piece of metal and the same then bent to present the transverse corrugation or formation.

Having thus disclosed one type or embodiment of the invention, I wish it to be understood that although the same is specifically described yet the terms are used in their generic sense, and not as terms of limitation, and that the scope of the invention is defined in the following claims.

I claim—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a tailpiece for stringed musical instruments comprising a body portion having a transverse rib formed therefrom by bending the body portion upon itself, said rib having a plurality of open string-slots each provided with an enlarged terminal.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a tailpiece for stringed musical instruments com-

prising a body portion provided with a transverse corrugation having spaced walls, said corrugation having continuous string-slots provided in both walls, said slots having in one wall enlarged portions permitting the passage of the string-knots to the open space between said walls, whereby said knots may be housed within said transverse corrugation.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a tailpiece for stringed musical instruments comprising a body portion formed of a single piece of metal, and provided with a transverse corrugation having spaced walls, said corrugation having continuous string-slots provided in both walls, said slots having in one wall enlarged portions permitting the passage of the string-knots to the open space between said walls, whereby said knot may be housed within said transverse corrugation.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a tailpiece for stringed musical instruments formed of a single piece of sheet metal and comprising a body portion and oppositely-bent end portions, one end portion having provisions for securing the tailpiece to the instrument, said body portion having a transverse corrugation struck therefrom and having spaced walls provided with string-slots, said slots being provided in one of the walls with enlarged terminal portions permitting the passage of string-knots to the space between said walls, whereby said knots may be housed within said transverse corrugation.

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

ELEANOR D. SON.

Witnesses:

WM. BROWN,
H. N. BURRILL.