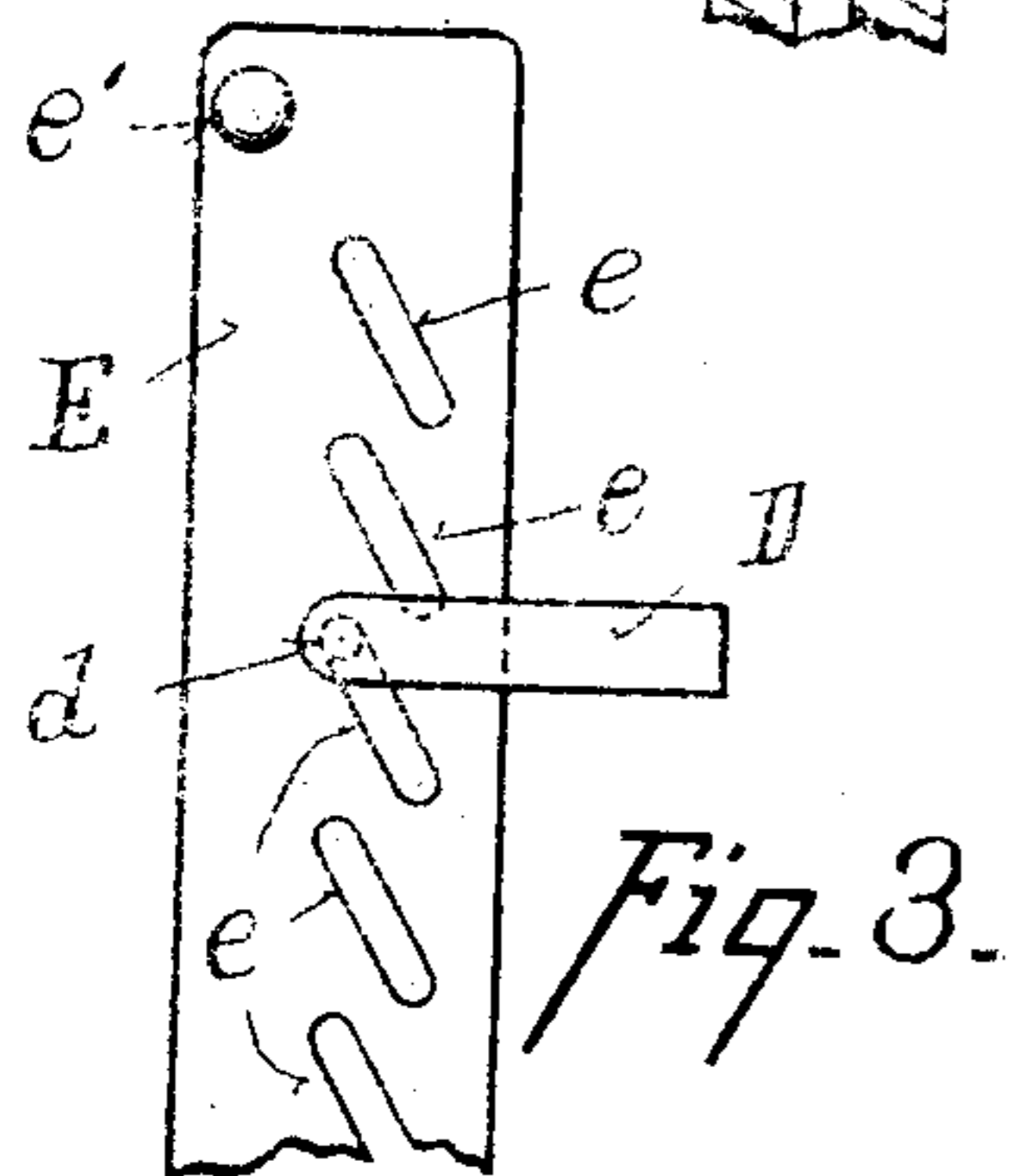
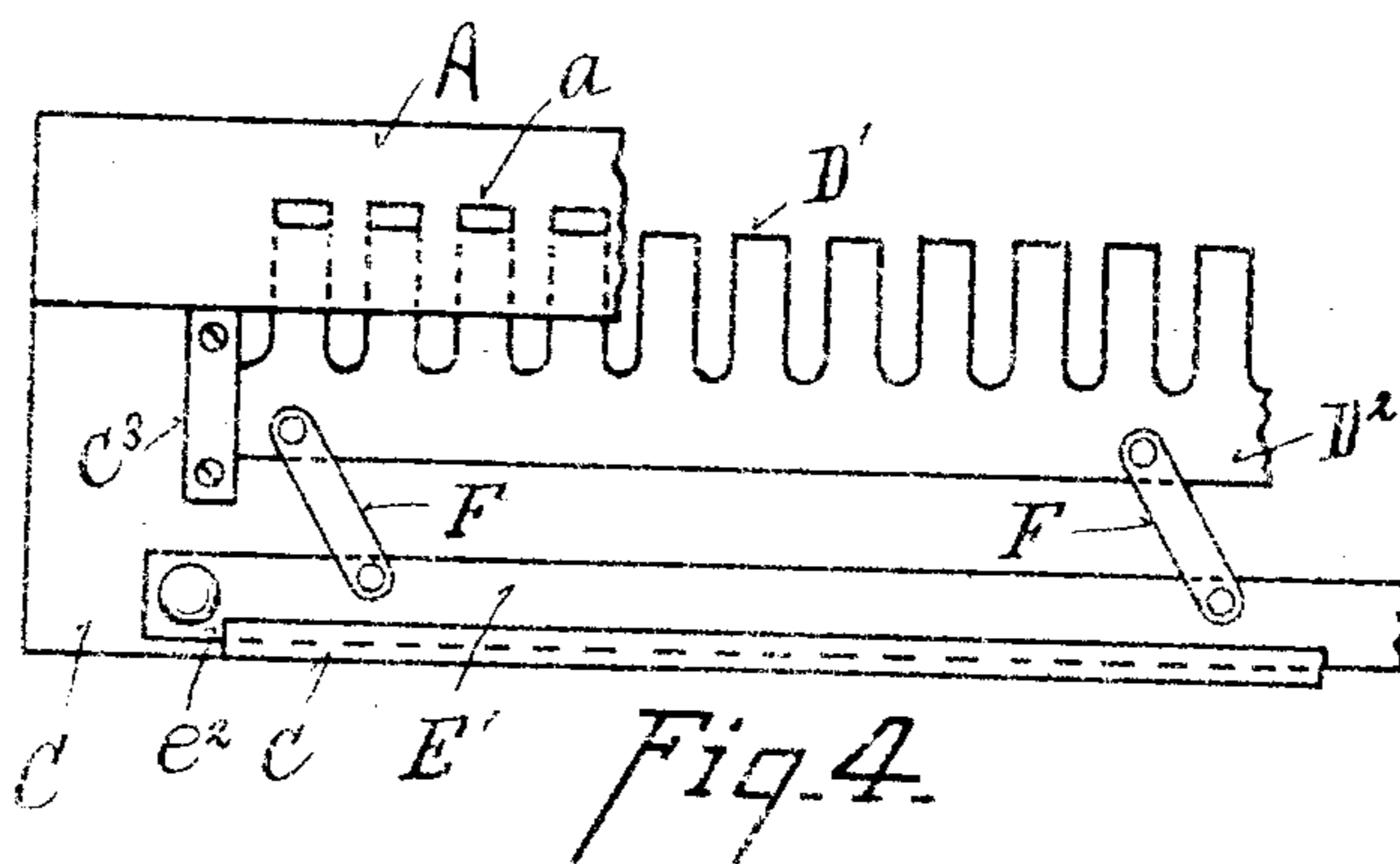
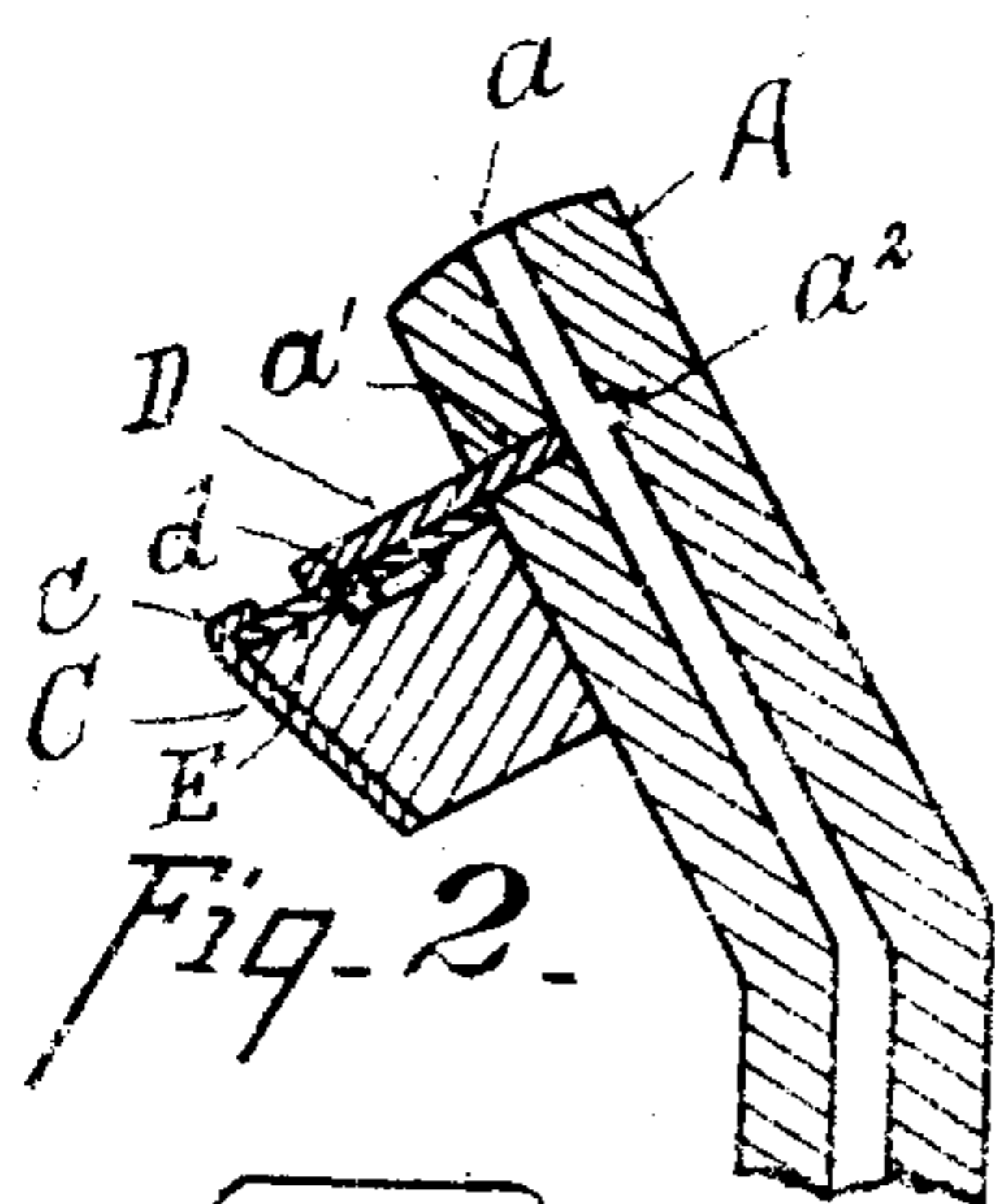
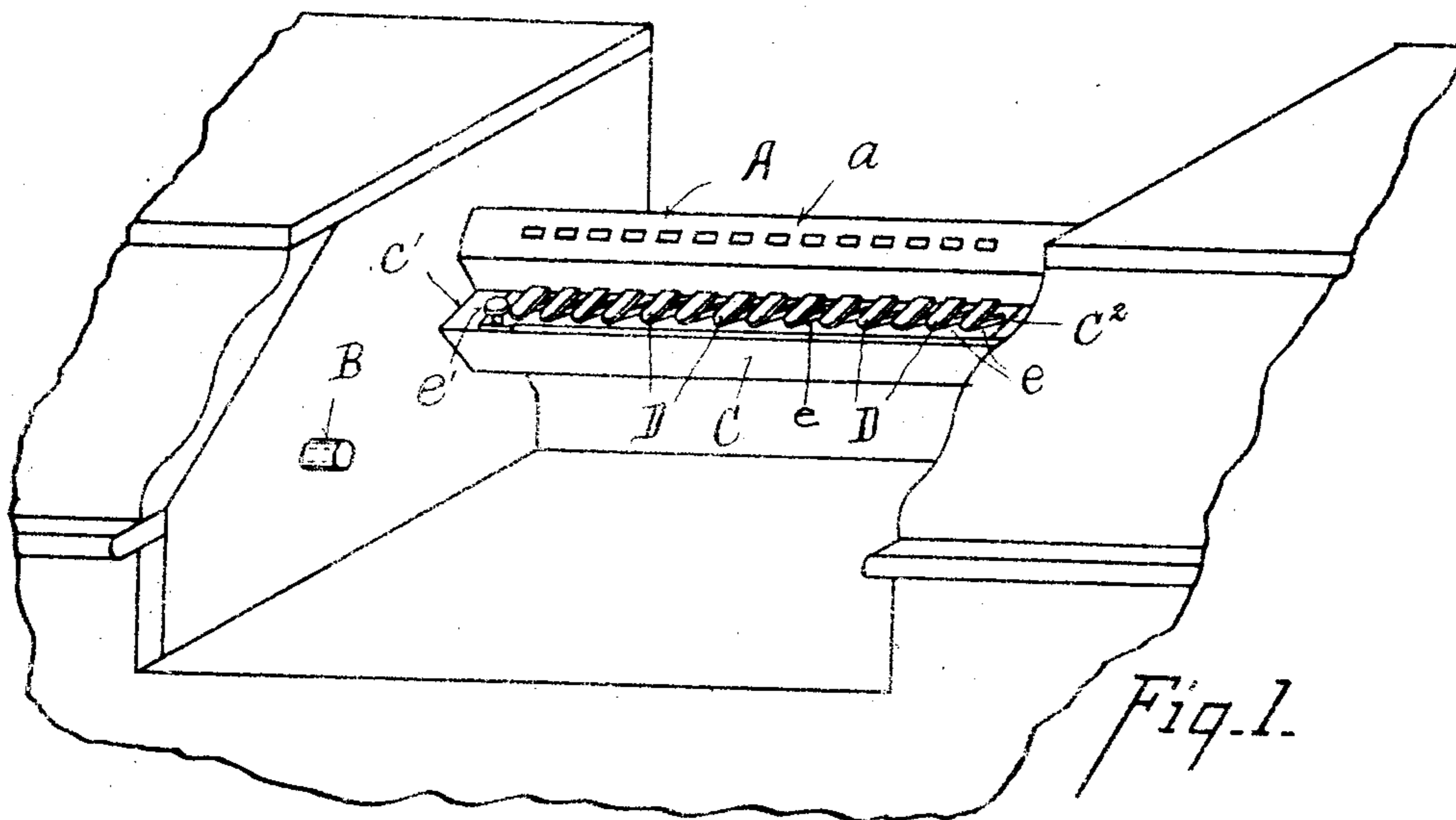


No. 868,229.

PATENTED OCT. 15, 1907.

C. M. THOMAS.
AIR CONTROLLER FOR PIANO PLAYERS.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1906.



Witnesses
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CORDULA MONJEAN THOMAS, OF MIDDLETOWN, OHIO.

AIR-CONTROLLER FOR PIANO-PLAYERS.

No. 868,229.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CORDULA MONJEAN THOMAS, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Middletown, county of Butler, State of Ohio, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Air-Controllers for Piano-Players, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an attachment for piano-players and similar instruments wherein a perforated
10 web of paper termed the "record" in passing over an air-conductor or tracker board controls the opening of the air passages in said conductor so as to regulate the operation of the key controlling mechanism, in accordance to the position and the length of the per-
15 forations in the record, to play the musical composition contained upon the record automatically.

In the operation of these piano-players, as long as the record is passing over the tracker-board, the key operating mechanism works continuously and thus
20 the record is played from start to finish without interruption, there being no means provided for passing over part of the record to a subsequent part without playing the intermediate portion.

The object of my invention is to provide a means
25 whereby the performer may pass from one pleasing part of a record to another part desired by him, without playing the intermediate portion.

In the accompanying drawing I have shown only so much of a piano-player as is necessary to an under-
30 standing of my attachment.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the piano-player in which the record is mounted, showing the tracker-board with my attachment connected thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken through the tracker-
35 board shown in Fig. 1 upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a detail plan view of the attachment likewise upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 4 is a plan view of a slightly modified form of my invention.

Referring to the parts: The tracker-board, A, with its
40 series of air-channels, *a*, and journal bearings, B, for receiving the roll containing the web of paper, as well as the means for carrying the web from the roll to be mounted upon the journal bearings B, over the tracker-
45 board, A, to a rear roll, (not shown), are all of ordinary construction, and need not, therefore, be more specifically described.

In the form of invention illustrated in Fig. 1, I have secured to the front of the tracker-board, A, a horizontal guide strip, C, above which I cut a series of bores *a'*, at
50 points in the tracker directly opposite said channels, *a*, each running into corresponding channels, *a*, each of said bores, *a'*, being of a width equal to the width of its channel, *a*. In each of the bores, *a'*, I mount a flat strip, D, so that it will be capable of a sliding motion in
55 and out of said bore.

Beneath the bars, D, I mount the operating bar, E,

upon the guide strip, C. The operating bar, E, has a series of oblique slots, *e*, cut in it and has at its end a knob, *e'*. The guide strip, C, has a horizontal ledge, *c*, along its front, between which and the tracker-board, 60 A, the operating bar, E, is adapted to slide. The movement of the operating bar, E, is limited upon the left by a stop, *c'*, upon the strip and upon the right by a stop, *c''*.

Each of the bars, D, has at its outer end downwardly
65 projecting studs, *d*, each of which engages one of the oblique slots, *e*. The length of the bars, D, the relative positions of the slots, *e*, to the bars, and to the studs, *d*, are designed so that when the operating bar, E, abuts the stop, *c'*, upon the left, the bars, D, are drawn out-
70 ward so as to leave the passage, *a'*, free, as shown in Fig. 2, and that when the operating bar is moved to the right by grasping the handle, *e'*, to the position in which its end abuts against the right hand stop, *c''*, the slot, *e*, by engaging the studs, *d*, have moved the oper-
75 ating bars, D, clear across the channel, *a*, into the notches, *a''*, upon the opposite side of the channel, *a*, so that the channels, *a*, are closed by the strips, D.

In the modification shown in Fig. 4, the bars, D', are made integral with a connecting strip, D², whose ends
80 abut against transverse guide blocks, *c''*, mounted upon the guide strip, C. The operating bar, E', abuts against the ledge, *c*, and has fingers, *e''*, at its outer ends, which abutting against the strip, *c*, limit the right and left hand motion of the operating bar. The strip, D²,
85 and the operating bar, E', are connected by bars, F, pivoted at their ends respectively to the strips, D², and the operating bar, E', in a manner such that when the operating bar, E', occupies its right-hand position, such as shown in Fig. 4, the bars, F, are in an oblique
90 position, to draw the strip, D², toward the operating bar, E', and to carry the bars, D', clear of the channels, *a*, and that when the operating bar, E', is moved to its right hand position, the links, F, assume a transverse
95 position so as to push the bar, D², away from the operating bar, E', and to carry the strips, D', across the channel, *a*.

In use, when the performer comes to a portion of the record which he does not desire to hear, if he be using the modification shown in Fig. 1, he grasps the knob, 100 *e'*, and moves the operating bar to the right. This will project the bars, D, across each of the channels, *a*, thereby closing them off and preventing the air from passing through the channels so that the key operating mechanism remains inert, while the record continues to pass
105 over the tracker-board, A. When the part of the record has been reached which the performer desires to have played, he simply moves the operating bar, E, to its left-hand position, drawing the bars, D, free of the channel, *a*. In like manner, in using the modification
110 shown in Fig. 4, to place the air conductor in position to prevent the air passing through the channels, *a*,

while allowing the record to be fed over the tracker-board, the operator has simply to move the operating bar, E'.

What I claim is:

- 5 1. In a piano-player, the combination of a tracker-board, a means for feeding a record over the tracker-board, and a means for closing all the ducts of the tracker-board against the passage of air without interfering with the passage of the record thereover.
- 10 2. In a piano-player, the combination of a tracker-board having a series of air channels therein, means for feeding a record over the tracker-board, bars for regulating the opening and closing of all the channels, and an independent sliding operating-rod having connections for actuating the
- 15 bars to project them across the channels or to draw them

clear of the same, whereby the channels may be opened or closed without interfering with the passage of the records over the tracker-board.

3. In a piano-player the combination of a tracker board having a series of air channels therein, a series of trans- 20 verse channels across the air channels; a series of bars mounted in the transverse channels, a guide strip secured to the tracker-board, an operating bar guided upon the guide strip and means for connecting the operating bar to the bars in the transverse channels so that the longi- 25 tudinal movement of the operating bar actuates the channel bars to project them across the air channels or to draw them clear of the same.

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