Dec. 31, 1940. E. L. SIMPSON 2,226,949

BATON AND HANDLE

Filed Dec. 16, 1939

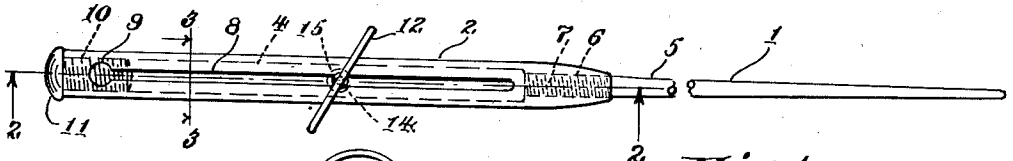


Fig. 1.

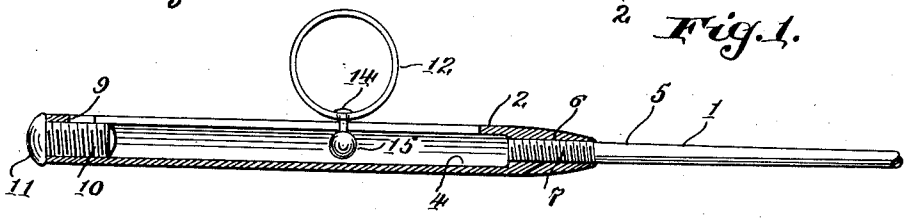


Fig. 2.

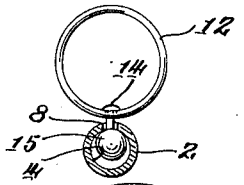


Fig. 3.

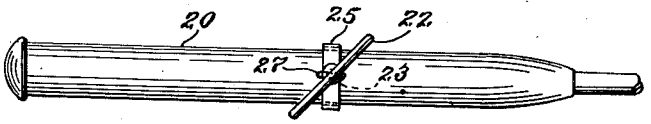


Fig. 5.

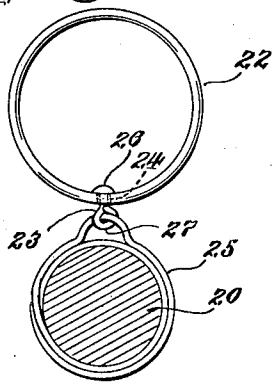


Fig. 4.

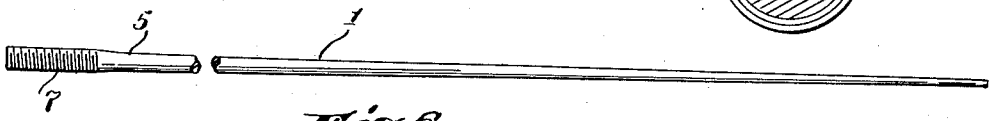


Fig. 6.

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BATON AND HANDLE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 84—477)

The invention relates to a baton for musical directors and the like, the word director being applied to the leader of an orchestra, band or drum corps, or other corps or musicians under personal leadership.

The leaders of orchestras and other corps of musicians work under a high degree of nervous tension and the movements performed in directing which are emphasized by the baton or similar implement are exceedingly quick and in many instances emphatic. The attention of the director being, at the time, focused on the music and the duty of directing, it frequently happens that the baton or stick is dropped or thrown from the hand which occurrence is embarrassing and in some instance the baton thus projected from the hand of the director has injured the eyes or other delicate exposed members of the musicians or audience.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a director's stick or baton so arranged that it cannot be accidentally dropped or projected from the hand and by the motions incident to directing.

In accordance with the invention, the grip or handle portion of the baton or stick is provided with a finger gripping device which is interchangeable and slidable along the grip to suit the size proportions and habits of each individual director.

As the sticks which are generally employed for this purpose are light and fragile and frequently broken, defaced or destroyed in the use to which they are subjected, they must be replaced at short intervals and it is of interest that these sticks are, in the construction shown, conveniently removable from the handle or grip for packing and replacement, a set of interchangeable sticks being in accordance with the preferred practice furnished with each handle or grip.

In the accompanying drawing, I have illustrated a preferred and modified construction embodying the features of the invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the baton in the preferred form, the same being broken away for convenience of illustration.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1, also broken away.

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a section on an enlarged scale otherwise similar to Fig. 3, showing a ring or finger engaging means and a modified mounting for the same.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the construction in Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the stick removed.

Referring to the drawing by numerals each of which is used to indicate the same or similar parts of the different figures, reference being had to the construction shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the construction comprises a stick, rod or staff 1, and a handle or grip 2.

The handle 2 as shown is bored or apertured at 4 in the direction of its axis, i. e., longitudinally the bore being preferably of a slightly larger diameter than the diameter of the exposed portion of the stick at 5, see Figs. 1 and 2.

In the preferred form shown in these figures, the forward end of the bore 4 is threaded internally at 6 and the bore at its rear end of the stick, which is of somewhat increased diameter, is threaded at 7 to engage the internal thread 6 of the bore, the bore at the rear of the thread 6 being larger than the threaded portion 7 of the stick.

In the form shown in Figs. 1 to 3, the handle or grip 2 is slotted at 8 from the thread 6 at the forward end to a hole or opening 9 near the rear end, the slot 8 extending from the outer surface to the bore 4 and the hole 9 being of greater diameter than the width of the slot.

The rear end of the bore 4 in the form shown is closed by a screw plug 10 having a convex head 11 which forms the rear end of the handle and the screw 10 extends forwardly of the hole 9 serving to close the same in the manner illustrated, it being noted that the hole 9 extends inwardly to the bore 4.

The finger ring or other finger gripping device 12 is mounted by means of a shank or pin 14 on a ball 15 which is adapted to slide freely in the bore 4 but is too large to escape through the slot 8 so that the pin 14 is free to turn with or in the ball 15, providing a swivel connection of the ring to the ball.

To assemble the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 3 and 6, the forward end of the stick, rod or staff 1 is inserted from the rear into the bore 4, the screw 10 being removed for this purpose. In the assembling operation the stick 1 is advanced until the thread 7 on its rear end meshes with the thread 6 or the inside of the bore and these threads are then engaged by rotating the stick and handle one relatively to the other until the stick is rigidly secured to the handle.

The ball 15 is then inserted through the hole 9, the shank 14 occupying the slot 8 and the screw 10 is threaded into the rear end of the bore

4 and tightened closing both this bore and the hole 9, the assembly being thus completed.

To remove and change the finger ring, the screw 10 need only be turned backwardly to expose the hole 9 to release ball 15 and when the ball carrying new finger ring has been inserted, the screw 10 is again advanced to close the hole 9.

It will thus be apparent that the ring 12 is slidably mounted on the grip 2 so that it can be turned, advanced or retracted, thus being suitable to the hand of any director. If, for any reason, a larger or a smaller ring is desired, the ring can be removed and replaced as described by loosening and retracting the screw 10 removing ball 15 from bore 9 and inserting another ring assembly and ball and closing the opening 9 by advancing the screw 10. It will also be noted that any finger gripping device can be substituted for the ring.

The director holding the baton by the handle or grip 2 having his finger in the ring 12 can use his baton freely and give his undivided attention to directing without any danger whatever of dropping his stick or projecting it toward the musicians or audience and in case of breakage of the stick it can be easily replaced as the handle, as previously adjusted, can be used continuously during the consumption of any number of sticks.

Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate a slightly different form of the invention in which the grip 20 which corresponds to the grip 2 of Figs. 1 to 3 may be solid, the slidable ring 22 being mounted on a split spring gripping ring 25 which closely encircles the grip or handle 20 and is slidable thereon. The friction exerted by the ring being sufficient to hold it in place under normal conditions but not to prevent sliding.

In this construction the ring 22 which is shown as a band ring is mounted on the gripping ring 25 by means of a pin 23 which extends through a hole 24 and the pin 23 is provided with a head 26. The lower end of the pin at 27 is wrapped around the ring 25 thus giving the ring 22 a swivel mounting on the sliding ring 25.

The ring or finger grip 22 is thus mounted to slide along the handle 20 and is provided with a swivel engagement so that it may serve as a finger grip which is adjustable to the size and form of the hand and to the habits of the director as to the manner in gripping the baton, and, while this construction may be regarded as less attractive than that of Figs. 1 and 3, it serves the purpose of providing a grip or attachment of the baton to the handle which is adjustable to all users and which will permit the director to give his entire attention to directing eliminating to a large degree the danger of dropping the stick or harmfully projecting it in the motion incident to directing.

I have thus described a preferred and modified form of the invention, the description being specific and in detail in order that the manner of constructing, applying, operating and using the invention may be fully understood, however, the specific terms herein are used descriptively rather than in a limiting sense, the scope of the invention being defined in the claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A director's baton having a staff and a handle, elongated in the direction of the length of the staff, a finger grip carrier mounted for adjustment in the direction of the length of the handle and a finger encircling gripping device mounted on said carrier.

2. A director's baton having a staff and a handle for the staff elongated in the direction of the length of the staff, a finger grip carrier encircling the handle intermediately of its length and a finger encircling grip pivotly mounted on said carrier.

3. In a director's baton having a staff and a handle therefor elongated in the direction of the length of the staff, said handle having a longitudinal bore and a longitudinal slot connecting the bore with the outer surface, a finger grip carrier sliding in said bore, a shank extending outwardly from said carrier through said slot and a finger encircling grip mounted on said shank.

4. In a director's baton having a staff and a handle therefor elongated in the direction of the length of the staff, said handle having a longitudinal bore and a longitudinal slot connecting the bore with the outer surface of the handle, a finger grip carrier sliding in said bore, a shank extending outwardly from said carrier through said slot and a finger encircling grip mounted on said shank, the slot being enlarged at its rear end and forming an opening for the insertion and removal of the carrier and a plug for closing the rear end of the bore and said opening.

5. In a director's baton having a staff and a handle therefor elongated in the direction of the length of the staff, said staff having a longitudinal bore and a longitudinal slot connecting the bore with the outer surface, a finger grip carrier sliding in said bore, a shank extending outwardly from said carrier through said slot and a finger encircling grip mounted on said shank the slot being enlarged at its rear end forming an opening for the insertion and removal of the carrier and a plug for closing the rear end of the bore and said opening, the forward end of the bore extending outwardly through the handle and being threaded to engage the staff which is similarly threaded and adapted to be in threaded engagement to the said bore from the rear and a plug for closing the bore and opening.

EARLE L. SIMPSON.