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G. E. STEVENS

1,789,992

PRACTICE DRUM

Filed April 10, 1929

Fig. 1.

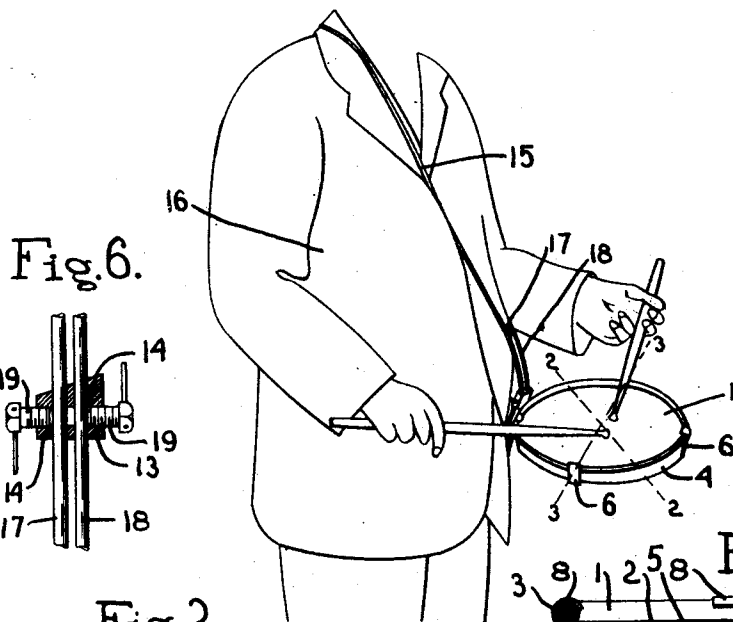


Fig. 6.

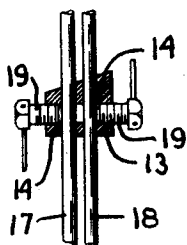


Fig. 2.

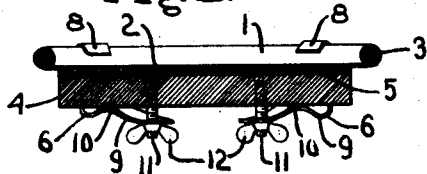


Fig. 3.

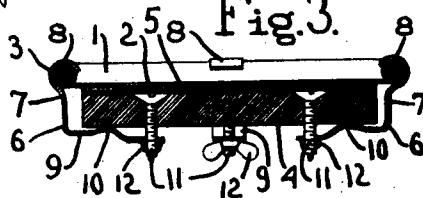


Fig. 4.

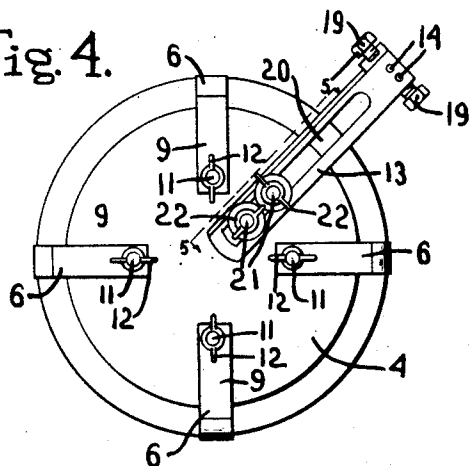
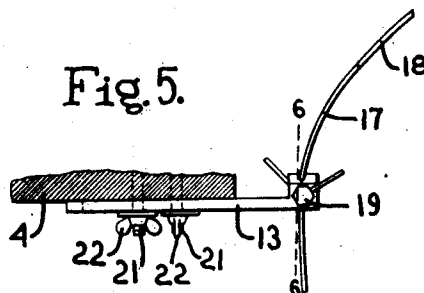


Fig. 5.



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PRACTICE DRUM

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This invention relates to a practice drum designed to be used by persons learning to drum and has for its object to provide a novel practice drum which is practically noiseless in operation but on which one may obtain the same kind of practice as he could on a regular drum. A drum is a noisy musical instrument and drum practice on a regular drum is likely to be annoying to persons in the same building or occupying rooms adjacent to that occupied by the person practicing.

An object of my present invention is to provide a novel practice drum which can be carried in the same way that an ordinary drum is but which can be practiced on without causing any noise which will be annoying to persons near.

My improved practice drum comprises a drum head made of usual construction which is mounted on a base or support carrying a sound-absorbing pad against which the drum head rests, the construction being such that the impact of the drum sticks against the drum head will produce no annoying sound.

Since the device comprises an ordinary drum head the drummer is enabled not only to acquire the technique of manipulating the drum sticks but also he is enabled to acquire the feel of the drum head so that the change from the practice drum to a regular drum is hardly noticeable.

My improved practice drum is further so constructed that it can be carried by the drummer and when so carried will be held with the drum head in the same position as that occupied by a regular drum when it is being carried and hence the drummer can obtain the practice necessary to enable him to play the drum while standing or marching.

In order to give an understanding of the invention I have illustrated in the drawings a selected embodiment thereof which will now be described after which the novel features will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Fig. 1 is a view showing how the practice drum is used;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section through the drum on substantially the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section substantially on the line 3—3, Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the practice drum;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view on substantially the line 5—5, Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section on the line 6—6, Fig. 5.

The practice drum herein shown comprises an ordinary drum head 1 which is formed in the usual way by a skin 2 stretched over an annular ring 3. This drum head is supported on a base 4 which may conveniently be a disk of wood and interposed between the head 2 and the base 4 is a sound-absorbing pad 5. This pad 5 may be made of felt or one or more layers of woolen cloth or it may be a plural ply pad composed of layers of cloth and rubber or it might even be an all-rubber pad or be made of any other sound-absorbing or vibration-absorbing material.

The base 4 is of less diameter than the ring 3 and the pad 5 will preferably be of substantially the same diameter as the base 4. The drum head, the base and the pad are assembled as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 with the pad resting against the taut skin of the drum head and the annular ring 3 situated outside of the base. The drum head is yieldingly clamped against the pad by some suitable clamping device which will maintain the skin firmly pressed against the pad.

One simple and convenient clamping device is herein shown and this comprises a plurality of clamping members 6, each having an arm 7 provided at its upper end with a hook portion 8 to hook over the ring 3 and each also having another arm 9 at substantially right angles to the arm 7 and extending underneath the base 4. This arm 9 is bent or deformed to produce the bearing portion 10 which rests against the back side of the disk 4 and the end of the arm 9 engages a bolt or screw 11 which is anchored in the disk 4, said bolt or screw extending through an aperture in the arm 9. The bolt or screw carries a clamping nut 12 which is adapted to applying clamping pressure to the end of the arm.

This member 6 acts as a clamping lever

which is fulcrumed against the back of the disk 4 as shown at 10 and hence as the clamping nut 12 is tightened and pressure is applied to the inner end of the arm 9 the ring 3 will be subjected to a pressure or force tending to press the central portion of the drum head against the pad 5.

Any desired number of these clamping members may be used. I have herein shown four. They operate to yieldingly hold the head of the drum against the sound-absorbing pad 5 and in case the drum head shows any sign of slackness the nuts 12 may be turned up to tighten the head again.

I have also provided a novel form of carrier for the practice drum designed to hold it with its drum head in the same position as that occupied by the head of an ordinary drum when it is worn. Secured to the bottom of the disk 4 is an arm or supporting bracket 13 which is provided at its outer end with two apertures 14. The drum is carried by a wire support 15 which is in the form of a loop adapted to loop up over the shoulder of the person 16 carrying the drum, one side 17 of the loop extending down in front of the person and the other side in back of the person.

At the lower end of the suspender the two sides 17 and 18 are curved slightly as shown in Figs. 1 and 5 and said ends extend through the apertures 14. 19 indicate set screws which screw into the sides of the arm 13 and engage the two arms or sides of the suspender 15 as shown in Fig. 6. This construction permits the drum to be adjusted vertically.

The supporting arm 13 is adjustably secured to the disk 4 so that it may be adjusted in a radial direction. For this purpose said arm is provided with a slot 20 through which extends two clamping screws 21 that are anchored in the disk 4, said screws having clamping nuts 22 screw threaded thereto. By loosening the clamping nuts the arm 13 may be adjusted slightly, said adjustment being maintained by tightening the nuts again. These adjustments permit the practice drum to be so adjusted that the drum head will be held at the right angle and in the correct position for the drummer.

An important advantage resulting from my invention is that it gives the drummer a chance to practice the art of drumming while standing or marching as could not be done if the practice drum were one which could only be used while supported on a table or any other convenient support.

I claim:

1. A practice drum comprising a base, a sound-absorbing pad supported by the base, a drum head comprising a skin stretched on a ring, said drum head resting on the pad, and means for clamping the drum head to the pad.

2. A practice drum comprising a base, a

sound-absorbing pad supported by the base, a drum head comprising a skin stretched on a ring, said drum head resting on the pad, and resilient means to clamp the drum head to the pad.

3. A practice drum having a drum head comprising a skin stretched on a ring, a wooden base member for supporting said head, a sound-absorbing pad interposed between the skin and the base member, resilient clamping members connected to the drum head at its periphery and engaging the back side of the base and means to apply clamping pressure to said clamping members.

4. A practice drum having a wooden base, a sound-absorbing pad supported by the base, a drum head composed of skin stretched on a ring, said drum head resting against said pad, angular clamping members each having a hook portion at the end of one arm which hooks over the ring of the drum head, the other arm of each clamping member engaging the back face of the base, and means to apply clamping pressure to said arms.

5. A practice drum having a wooden base, a sound-absorbing pad supported by the base, a drum head composed of skin stretched on a ring, said drum head resting against said pad, angular clamping members each having a hook portion at the end of one arm which hooks over the ring of the drum head, the other arm of each clamping member having a fulcrum portion engaging the back face of the base member, the end of said arm being separated from the base member, and means engaging said end of each arm by which a clamping pressure is applied thereto, whereby each arm is clamped against the head through the fulcrum portion thereof.

6. A practice drum comprising a drum head in the form of a skin stretched over a ring, a support for the drum head in the form of a wooden disk of less diameter than said ring, a sound-absorbing pad interposed between the drum head and the disk, the central portion of the drum head resting directly against said pad and said pad also being of less diameter than the ring, and means for clamping the drum head against said pad.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

GEORGE E. STEVENS.