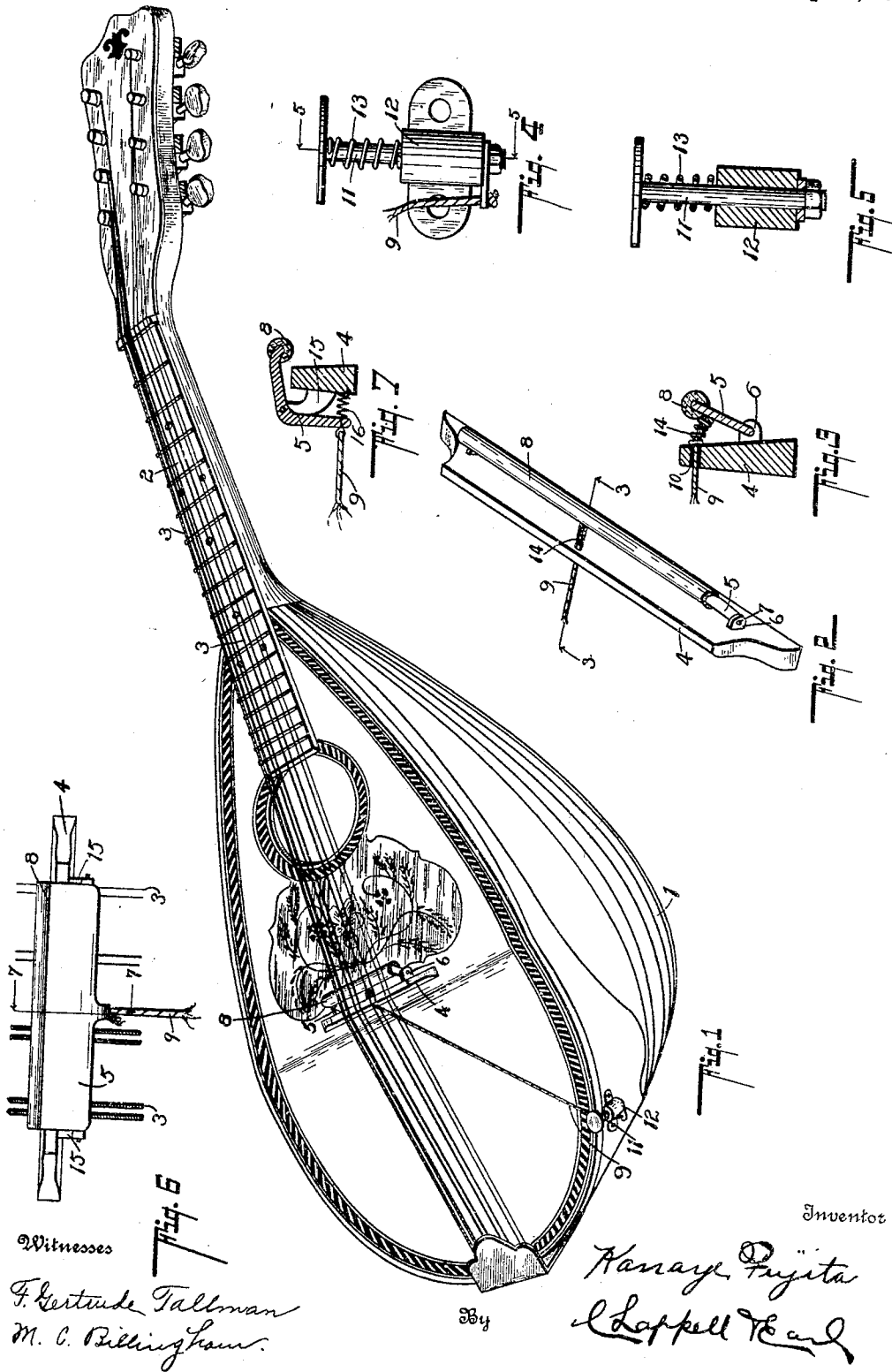


933,244.

K. FUJITA.
MUTE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 6, 1909.

Patented Sept. 7, 1909.



Witnesses

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KANAYE FUJITA, OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.

MUTE.

933,244.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 7, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, KANAYE FUJITA, a citizen of Japan, residing at the city of Ann Arbor, county of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mutes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in mutes for stringed musical instruments, such as mandolins, guitars, violins and the like.

The main objects of this invention are: First, to provide an improved mute for stringed musical instruments, such as mandolins, guitars, violins and the like. Second, to provide an improved mute for stringed musical instruments with which very satisfactory results in the matter of tone graduation or shading may be easily attained. Third, to provide an improved mute for stringed musical instruments which is very easily operated. Fourth, to provide an improved mute for stringed musical instruments, which is adapted to be left on the instrument and does not detract from the appearance of the instrument or render it cumbersome, and does not interfere with its use without the mute being brought into operation.

Further objects, and objects relating to structural details will definitely appear from the detailed description to follow.

I accomplish the objects of my invention by the devices and means described in the following specification.

The invention is clearly defined and pointed out in the claims.

A structure embodying the features of my invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a structure embodying the features of my invention, the structure illustrated being a mandolin. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the bridge with the mute mounted thereon removed from the instrument. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section through the bridge and mute, taken on a line corresponding to line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an enlarged elevation of the actuating member for the mute and its supporting bracket. Fig. 5 is a detail, partially in vertical section, taken on a line corresponding to line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a detail plan of a modification in which the mute is arranged to engage the

strings from above. Fig. 7 is a vertical section through the structure appearing in Fig. 6, taken on a line corresponding to line 7—7 thereof.

In the drawing, similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views, and the sectional views are taken looking in the direction of the little arrows at the ends of the section lines.

Referring to the drawing, the body 1 of the instrument illustrated is of the common design of mandolin body, provided with the usual finger board 2, set of strings 3, and the bridge 4. The mute 5 is preferably pivotally supported on the front side of the bridge and below the strings, the bridge being provided with hinge members 6 to receive the pivots 7 of the mute. In the modification shown in Fig. 6 the mute is arranged above the strings, the bridge being of the low type which does not readily permit of the arrangement of the mute below the strings. The mute is preferably provided with a facing 8 of leather, felt, or other suitable material, for engaging the strings.

The mute is actuated by throwing it up against the under sides of the strings when arranged below the strings or down upon them when arranged above the strings. This I preferably accomplish by means of the actuating cord 9, which is arranged through a hole 10 located centrally of the bridge and connected to the movable actuating member 11, which is positioned on the body 1 to be engaged by the arm of the operator. This movable actuating member is preferably in the form of a button arranged to reciprocate through the bracket 12, which is mounted on the side of the body—see Fig. 1. The member 11 is held yieldingly upward by means of the spring 13. By pressing downward on this actuating member, the mute is thrown into its engaging position. When the actuating member is released, the coiled spring 14, arranged between the bridge and the mute, returns the mute to its inoperative position. This spring is in the structure illustrated, supported by the cord 9.

By thus arranging the parts, the mute can be easily controlled and as much or as little pressure applied thereto as is required to secure the desired results, so that a very effective graduation of tone may be secured. This arrangement also supports the mute so that it does not detract from the appearance of

the instrument or interfere with its use when it is not desired to operate the mute. The engaging of the strings by the mute from the under side and the front of the bridge is also
5 a very desirable feature, although the arrangement as shown in Fig. 6 is quite satisfactory. In this modification the hinge brackets 15 project upwardly above the strings as illustrated. The spring 16 is here
10 arranged as a pull spring.

I have illustrated and described my improvements in detail in a form which I have found to be a satisfactory embodiment. I am aware that the structural details and
15 arrangement of parts can be very greatly varied without departing from my invention, however, as the structure illustrated and described discloses my invention broadly. I have not attempted to illustrate or describe
20 the various modifications thereof herein.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a structure of the class described, the
25 combination with the body, of strings; a bridge; a mute adjustably mounted on the front side of said bridge below the strings; and means for actuating said mute comprising an actuating cord arranged through said
30 bridge and connected to said mute, a movable member to which said cord is connected, a supporting bracket for said movable member, mounted on said body, a return spring for said movable member; and a spring for

normally holding said mute in inoperative
position. 35

2. In a structure of the class described, the combination with the body, of strings; a bridge; a mute adjustably mounted on the front side of said bridge below the strings;
40 and means for actuating said mute comprising an actuating cord arranged through said bridge and connected to said mute, and a spring for normally holding said mute in inoperative position. 45

3. In a structure of the class described, the combination with the body, of strings; a bridge; a mute adjustably mounted on said bridge below the strings; and means for actuating said mute, for the purpose specified. 50

4. In a structure of the class described, the combination with the body, of strings; a bridge; a mute pivotally mounted on said bridge to engage the said strings; and means for actuating said mute. 55

5. In a structure of the class described, the combination with the body, of strings; a bridge; a mute adjustably mounted on said bridge to engage the said strings; and means for actuating said mute. 60

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of two witnesses.

KANAYE FUJITA. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

ANNA E. FISHER,
MORTIMER E. COOLEY.