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Copeland

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[54] **STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **84/267**; 84/291; 84/297 R; 84/312

[51] **Int. Cl.²** **G10D 3/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 84/267, 290, 293, 297–302, 84/304–305, 312, 275, 291, 1.16

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A collapsible stringed musical instrument which includes a rigid body section and a collapsible body section having a foldable neck hingedly connected to the rigid body section. A tensioning device is pivotally mounted on the rigid body section and to collapse the musical instrument, the tensioning device is pivoted upwardly, away from the rigid body section to simultaneously release the tension on all of the strings so that the foldable neck may be collapsed. In addition, the collapsible body section includes two assemblies which may be collapsed into flat configurations adjacent the sides of the rigid body section. To erect the musical instrument from its collapsed configuration, the neck is folded into its playing position and the tensioning device is pivoted into contact with the rigid body section which simultaneously returns the strings to their original tension and tuning. In addition, the collapsible assemblies are erected and simulate the shape and size of a conventional body.

8 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures

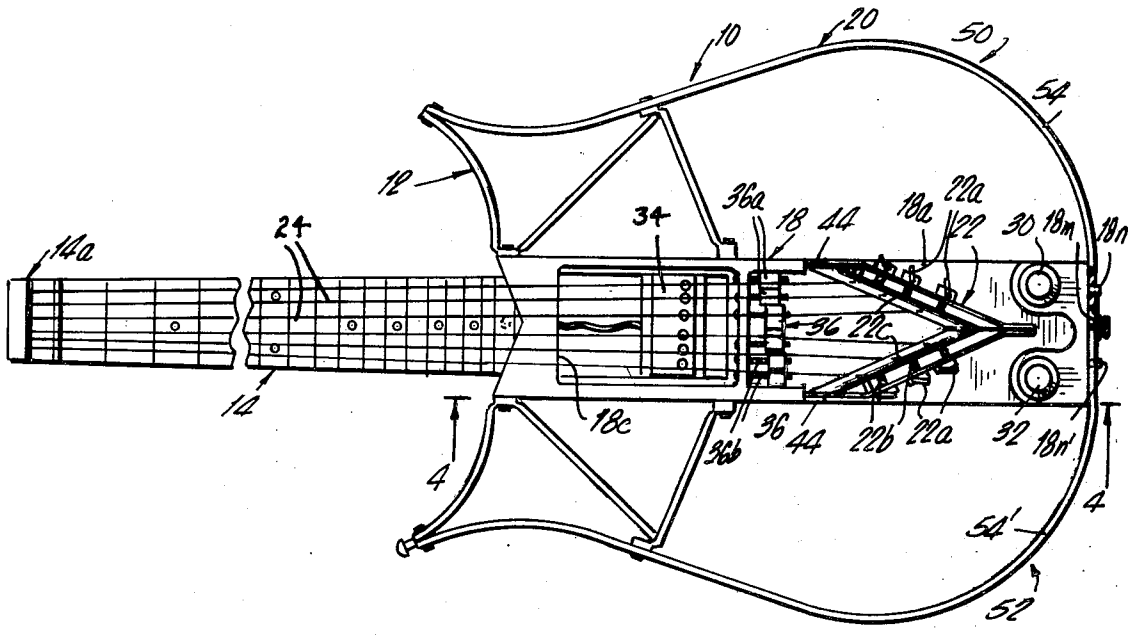


FIG. 1

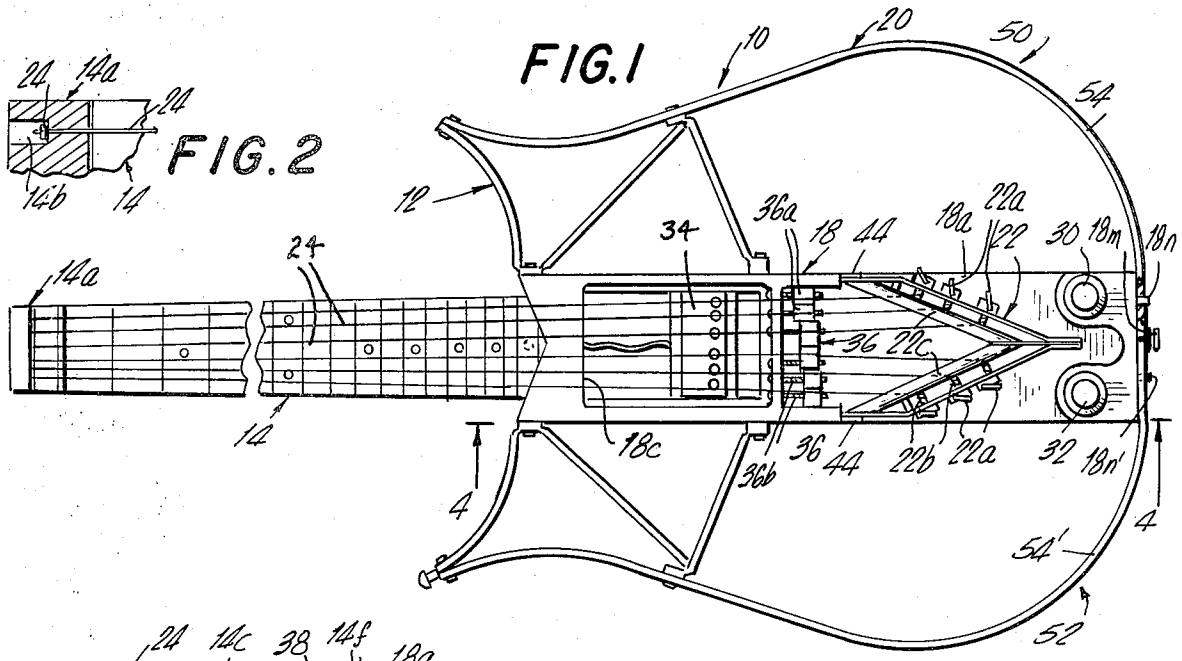


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

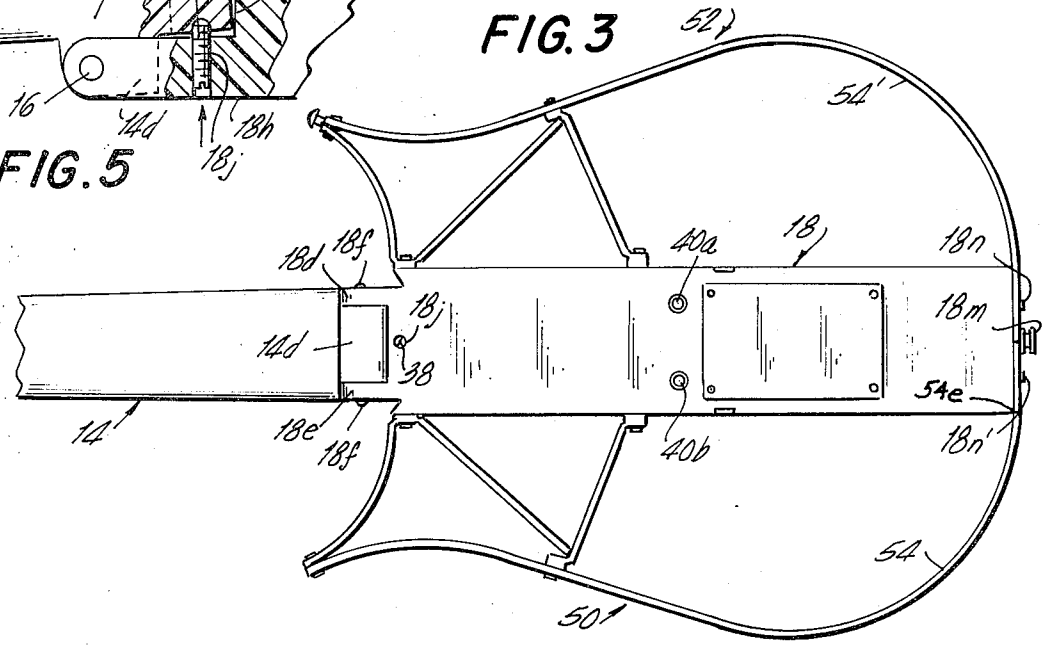


FIG. 5

FIG. 4

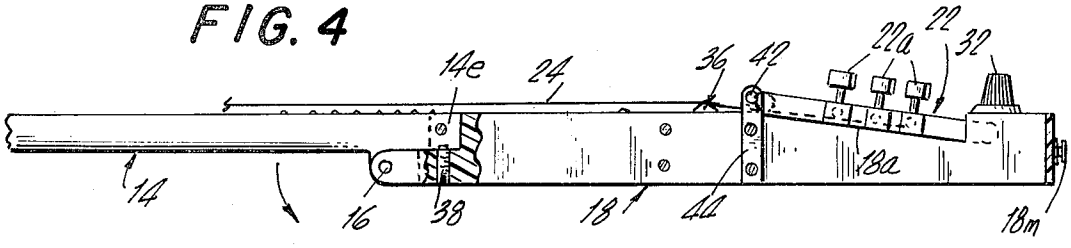
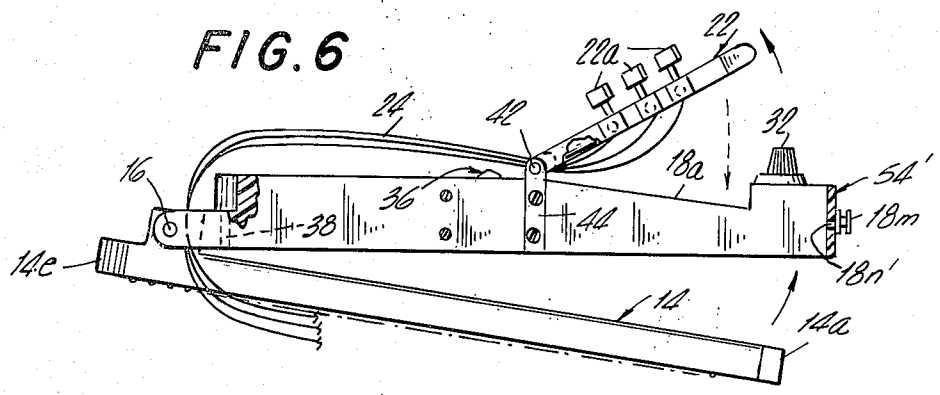


FIG. 6



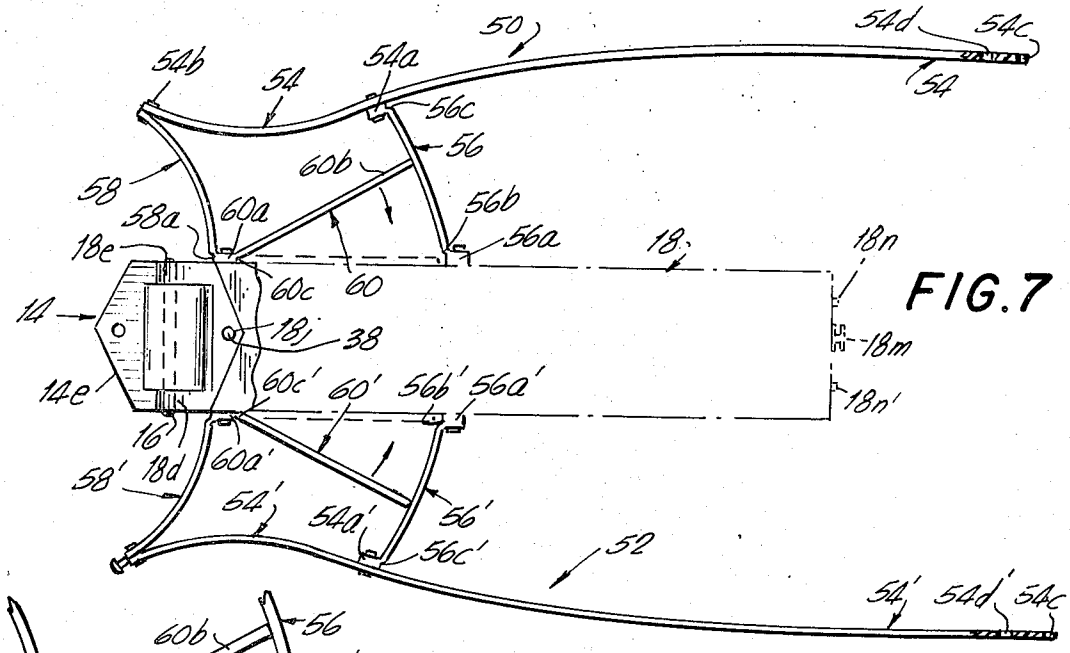


FIG. 7

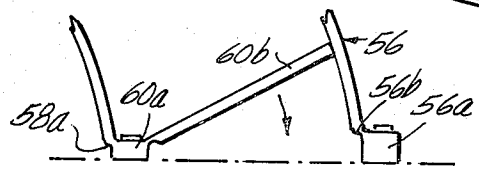


FIG. 8

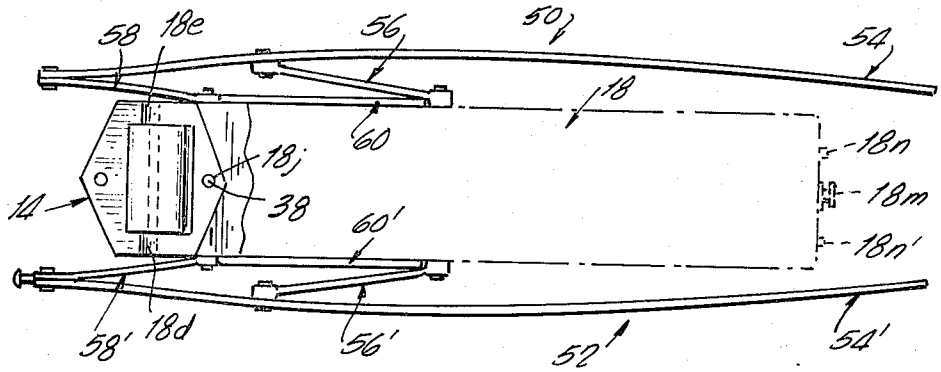


FIG. 9

STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The present invention relates generally to stringed musical instruments and, in particular, to a collapsible stringed musical instrument which includes a collapsible body and a device for applying or releasing the tension on all strings simultaneously so that the neck may be folded between a playing position and a position adjacent to the bottom of the instrument body.

Stringed musical instruments which may be collapsed into a compact configuration for transport or storage have been developed in the past. For example, guitars have been constructed in which the neck may be folded with respect to the body to produce a more compact instrument for transport or storage. However, such collapsible stringed musical instruments have not been completely satisfactory. For example, before the neck may be folded with respect to the instrument body, it is necessary to release the tension on the strings of the instrument. Typically, in the past this has been accomplished by releasing the tension on each of the strings individually. However, not only is this procedure time-consuming, it is usually necessary to retune each of the strings of the instrument after the neck has been returned to its playing position. Of course, it would be desirable to eliminate the need for releasing the tension on each string individually and the need for retuning each string.

Moreover, although the above-described collapsible musical instruments reduce the longitudinal extent of the instrument by folding the neck relative to the body, the body of the instrument remains relatively wide and a rather large case is still needed to transport and/or store the instrument. Accordingly, it has long been desired to further reduce the compactness of stringed musical instruments, especially a guitar of the electrical type in which the body is not used to produce sounds as in an acoustical guitar.

Accordingly, it is an overall object of the present invention to provide a collapsible stringed musical instrument which realizes one or more of the aforesaid objectives. In its collapsed configuration, the instrument may be economically transported and stored in a minimum of space yet may be easily and quickly erected when ready for use. In its commercial form, the instrument is of relatively simple construction, is readily manufactured by mass production techniques at relatively low cost and includes a number of simple and relatively indestructible components.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a stringed musical instrument in which not only is the neck foldable relative to the body of the instrument, but the body of the instrument may also be collapsed and substantially reduced in size.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a stringed musical instrument which includes a tensioning device which operates by snap action to release or apply tension on all of the strings of the musical instrument simultaneously so that it may easily be collapsed or erected.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a string tensioning device for stringed musical instruments which reapplies the tension on the strings of the instrument without the need for readjustment or retuning to obtain the original tuning.

In accordance with an illustrative embodiment demonstrating objects and features of the present invention, there is provided a collapsible stringed musical instrument which includes a body having a rigid section and a collapsible section and a foldable neck hingedly connected to the rigid body section. A tensioning device is pivotally mounted on the rigid body section and operates by snap action to release or apply the string tension on all strings simultaneously. Pivoting the tensioning device away from the body automatically releases the tension on all of the strings simultaneously so that the neck of the instrument may be folded into a position adjacent the bottom of the instrument body. In addition, the collapsible body section includes two collapsible assemblies attached to the respective sides of the rigid body section. Each of the assemblies include a plurality of frame elements which may be collapsed into flat configurations adjacent the sides of the rigid body section. To erect the instrument from its collapsed configuration, the neck is folded into its playing position and the tensioning device is snapped into contact with the rigid body section which automatically reapplies the string tension on all of the strings simultaneously without the need of the strings being readjusted or retuned. To erect each assembly of the collapsible body section it is only necessary to move one of the frame elements into its erected position and attach another frame element to the rigid body section.

The above description as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more fully understood by reference to the following detailed description of the presently preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiment in accordance with the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a top plan view of the stringed musical instrument of the present invention in its completely erected configuration;

FIG. **2** is an enlarged sectional view in detail illustrating the means for attaching the strings of the instrument to one end of the neck;

FIG. **3** is a bottom plan view of the musical instrument of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is an elevational view, partially in section, taken along the line **4—4** in FIG. **1** and looking in the direction of the arrows, illustrating one side of the rigid body section and neck of the instrument of the present invention;

FIG. **5** is an enlarged elevational view, partly in section, illustrating in detail the means for adjusting the string height relative to the neck of the instrument;

FIG. **6** is a side elevational view illustrating the manner in which the musical instrument of the present invention is collapsed by pivoting the tuning instrument upwardly to its tension-releasing position so that the neck may be folded relative to the instrument body;

FIG. **7** is a top plan view showing the neck in its folded position and illustrating the manner in which the collapsible body section is collapsed into a flat configuration;

FIG. **8** is an enlarged plan view illustrating in detail the operation of one of the frame elements of the collapsible body section; and

FIG. **9** is a top plan view illustrating the neck in its folded position and the collapsible body section almost completely collapsed.

Referring now specifically to the drawings and in particular FIG. **1**, there is shown a stringed musical instrument **10**, such as an electrical guitar, embodying fea-

tures of the present invention. It is be to understood that although this invention is being illustrated with respect to an electrical guitar, the present invention has application in other types of stringed musical instruments. The guitar **10** includes a body **12** and a foldable neck **14** hingedly connected to the body at **16.** The guitar body **12** includes a rigid section **18** and a collapsible section **20,** as will be more fully explained below. A snap-action tensioning device **22** is pivotally mounted on rigid body section **18** for controlling the tension on strings **24.** Although in this illustrative form of the invention, six strings are employed, it should be understood that this is only for the purposes of illustration and the invention is not limited thereto. As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2,** one end of strings **24** are connected to tensioning device **22,** in a manner to be explained, and the other end of strings **24** are connected to the end **14***a* of neck **14.** More particularly, as shown in FIG. **2,** neck end **14***a* includes a recess **14***b* in which the ends of strings **24** are movable. Each string **24** includes a stop **24***a* for securing the string within recess **14***b*.

Turning now to FIGS. **1** through **6,** the constructional details of rigid body section **18** and tensioning device **22** of the present invention are clearly illustrated. More particularly, rigid body section **18** includes an inclined surface **18***a* on which tensioning device **22** rests when strings **24** are under tension. Adjacent inclined surface **18***a*, rigid body section **18** includes a raised surface **18***b* on which control knobs **30, 32** for volume and tone are mounted. An electrical pickup **34** is also movable or slidable within a recess **18***c* formed in the top of rigid body section **18.** In addition, a tuning bridge **36** is mounted on the top of rigid body section **18** and includes individually adjustable members **36***a* which may be adjusted in any suitable manner, such as by screws **36***b*, mounted on rigid body section **18.**

As shown most clearly in FIGS. **3** to **5,** rigid body section **18** also includes two hinge mounting members **18***d*, 18*e* extending from one end thereof for hingedly mounting foldable neck **14** at **16.** The pivotally mounted end **14***c* of foldable neck **14** includes a lower section **14***d* and an upper section **14***e*. Lower section **14***d* extends between mounting members **18***d*, 18*e* with neck **14** hingedly connected to rigid body section **18** in any suitable manner, such as by hinge pins **18***f* to form hinge connections **16.** Upper neck section **14***e* is essentially V-shaped in configuration (see FIG. **1**) and rests within a recess **18***g* formed on one end of rigid body section **18.** Recess **18***g* is formed by an extension **18***h* extending between the main portion of rigid body section **18** and mounting members **18***d*, 18*e*. As shown most clearly in FIG. **5,** extension **18***h* is formed with a recess **18***j* in which an adjustable screw **38** is mounted. The upper end of screw **38** engages a recess **14***f* formed in the bottom of upper neck section **14***e*. Accordingly, as screw **38** is adjusted within recess **18***j*, it engages recess **14***f* and thereby raises or lowers the height of upper neck section **14***e* relative to rigid body extension **18***h*.

Of course, if the height of upper neck section **14***e* is raised, the opposite end **14***a* of neck **14** is lowered so that the height of strings **24** relative to frets **40** is decreased. And, as will be clearly understood, if screw **38** is adjusted so that upper neck section **14***e* moves towards rigid body extension **18***h*, the height of strings **24** relative to frets **40** will be increased. Accordingly, in the present invention, the height of strings **24** relative to frets **40** may be adjusted with one set screw **38** at the neck hinge and thereby avoids the need of having tuning bridge **36** mounted on rigid body section **18** so that it is adjustable in height.

As shown in FIG. **3,** the bottom of guitar body **12** includes two female jacks **40***a*, 40*b*. Jack **40***a* is connected to pickup **34** so that it may be connected to an amplifier. Jack **40***b* is adapted to receive a pair of earphones which actuate a batterypowered amplifier for private listening.

Turning now to the constructional details of tensioning device **22,** it is pivotably mounted at **42** on rigid body section **18** by upstanding brackets **44** fixedly connected on both sides of rigid body section **18.** In this illustrative form of the invention, tensioning device **22** incorporates the tuning instrument of the guitar. However, it should be clear that the tuning instrument may be separate from tensioning device **22.** For example, a conventional tuning instrument may be mounted at neck end **14**a and tensioning device **22** may be mounted as shown in the drawings. Or, a combined tensioning device and tuning instrument could be mounted at neck end **14***a*. However, in the preferred embodiment, tensioning device **22** is essentially V-shaped in configuration and includes the conventional tuning pegs **22***a* for individually adjusting the tension on each of the strings **24.** Each tuning peg **22***a* includes the conventional worm gear arrangement and a winding spool **22***b* which extends into a V-shaped member **22***c*. Member **22***c* is circular in cross section so that strings **24** may be passed under a smooth surface, rather than a sharp or pointed surface. In this manner, strings **24** extend beneath and around circular member **22***c* and are wound on their respective winding spool **22***b* so that the tension on each of the strings **24** may be individually adjusted by tuning pegs **22***a*. Further, as shown most clearly in FIG. **4,** pivot point **42** of each of the brackets **44** is always above the height of strings **24** when tensioning device **22** is in its tension-applying position. Accordingly, as long as strings **24** are below the height of pivot points **42** when they are under tension, the tension of strings **24** are sufficient to maintain tuning instrument **22** in its tension-applying position. It should also be understood that tensioning device **22** may take other forms for applying and releasing string tension by snap-action. For example, tensioning device **22** may be in the form of a snap-action toggle arrangement.

To release the tension on strings **24,** tensioning device **22** is manually pivoted upwardly out of contact with inclined surface **18***a* about pivot points **42.** It should be understood that as tensioning device **22** is pivoted upwardly, as shown in FIG. **6,** from its tension-applying position to its tension-releasing position, strings **24** will first experience an increase in tension as tensioning device **22** passes through a position of maximum tension in which it is approximately perpendicular to brackets **44.** In this position of maximum tension, tensioning device **22** is at equilibrium or is stable in the sense that there is no net component of force in an upward or downward direction tending to move tensioning device **22** toward its tension-applying or releasing positions. However, once tensioning device **22** is manually snapped through this point of maximum tension, the tension on all strings **24** will be simultaneously released and foldable neck **14** may be folded about hinge connection **16** from its playing position to its collapsed position in which it is adjacent the bottom of rigid body

section **18** and is in a plane parallel therewith. Of course, to erect the collapsed guitar, neck **14** is folded back about hinge connection **16** to its playing position in which it is coplanar with rigid body section **18.** Then, tensioning device **22** is pivoted downwardly about pivot points **42** and snapped into engagement with inclined surface **18a** to thereby reapply the tension to strings **24.** Advantageously, with the present invention, in one motion or snap-action, that is by pivoting tensioning device **22** between its tension-applying position and its tension-releasing position, and passing through its position of equilibrium or maximum tension, the tension on all of the strings is simultaneously applied or released.

In addition, it should also be pointed out that when tensioning device **22** is returned to its tension-applying position, strings **24** do not have to be completely retuned as the strings are returned to substantially the same position and tuning which existed before tensioning device **22** was pivoted upwardly to its tension-releasing position. More particularly, each string **24** is constrained to wind about its respective winding spool **22***b* and can only move laterally along the short width of winding spool **22***b* between tuning peg **22***a* and V-shaped member **22***c*. In addition strings **24** have a tendency to be held under tension in a position adjacent V-shaped member **22***c* and have a tendency to return to that position after the tension has been released and reapplied. As a result, strings **24** are automatically returned to their original alignment and tuning. Accordingly, the V-shaped configuration of member **22***c* avoids the problem of strings **24** becoming tangled as tensioning device **22** is moved between its tension-applying and tension-releasing positions and also insures that strips **24** will be returned to their original position and alignment.

Referring now to FIGS. **7** through **9,** the constructional details of collapsible body section **20** are most clearly shown and include two separately operable collapsible assemblies **50, 52** which are essentially identical in structure and operation. Each collapsible assembly **50, 52** is attached to one side of rigid body section **18,** is separately operable and may be formed from any suitable material which will allow the assemblies to be moved between their erected and collapsed configurations. In this illustrative form of the invention, collapsible assemblies **50, 52** are formed from a flexible material such as plastic, and are therefore resilient. In addition, each of the collapsible assemblies **50, 52** may be formed from a plurality of frame elements which are constructed and arranged to simulate the shape and size of a guitar body or each may be formed from only one or two continuous frame elements. In this illustrative form of the invention, each of the collapsible assemblies **50, 52** is formed from a plurality of frame elements which are connected so as to be movable between a collapsed configuration and an erected configuration in which the frame elements simulate the shape and size of a guitar body. However, it should be understood that this is only for the purposes of illustration and that the invention is not limited by the number of frame elements employed.

As collapsible assemblies **50, 52** are identical in structure and operation and are separately operable, it will only be necessary to describe collapsible assembly **50** with corresponding prime numbers being used to describe collapsible assembly **52.** Turning now to collapsible assembly **50,** it includes an outer frame element **54** connected at **54***a* to an inner support member **56** and connected at **54***b* to an inner frame element **58.** Connections **54***a*, 54*b* may be formed in any suitable manner, such as by rivets, or frame element **54** and frame element **58** may even be one continuous element. In addition, the other end of outer frame element **54** is shown removably attached to one end of rigid body section **18** and includes a slotted end **54***c* and a pin-receiving hole **54***d* adjacent thereto. A slot-receiving member **18***m* and a pin **18***n* are formed on the end of rigid body section **18** and, to removably attach the end of outer frame element **54** to rigid body section **18,** the slotted end **54***c* of outer frame element **54** is placed about slot-receiving member **18** *m* and, in order to insure that outer frame element **54** is maintained in position, pin-receiving hole **54***d* is placed about pin **18***n*. Of course, it would also be possible to collapse frame element **54** even if it were fixedly attached at **18***m*, by providing a hinge or by scoring frame element **54** at **54***e* (see FIG. **3**).

Inner support member **56** is fixedly connected at **56***a* to one side of rigid body section **18.** In addition, inner support member **56** is formed from one strip of a resilient plastic material which has been partially scored at its respective ends **56***b*, 56*c* to form hinges or pivot points so that inner support member **56** may be movable with respect to outer frame element **54** and rigid body section **18,** as will be explained below. Collapsible assembly **50** also includes an inner frame element or operating member **60** which operates in one position to maintain collapsible assembly **50** in its erected configuration and operates in another position to allow assembly **50** to be collapsed. One end of inner frame element **60** is fixedly connected to rigid body section **18** at **60***a* and the other end **60***b* is movable between an erected position and a collapsed position, as will be explained. In this illustrative form of the invention, inner frame elements **58, 60** are formed from one continuous strip of plastic which has been partially scored at **58***a*, 60*c* to form hinges or pivot points. In this manner, inner frame element **58** is movable about hinge or scoreline **58***a* and inner frame element **60** is movable about hinge or scoreline **60***c* so that collapsible assembly **50** may be moved between its erected and collapsed configurations. In this illustrative form of the invention, frame elements **54, 56, 58** and **60** are of a width approximately equal to the height of rigid body section **18** between its top and bottom surfaces so that they simulate the thickness or height of a conventional guitar body.

It should also be pointed out that frame elements **54,** 56, 58 and **60** have been formed from a resilient material and have been connected and arranged so as to form a spring-like construction which is normally urged or biased toward its collapsed configuration. However, when inner frame element or operating member **60** is in its erected position in which it engages connection **54***a*, it maintains collapsible assembly **50** in its erected configuration and prevents assembly **50** from collapsing as a result of its spring-like construction. However, when the movable end **60***b* of inner frame element **60** is moved about hinge **60***c* to its collapsed position between hinge connections **56***a*, 69*a*, there is no longer any force tending to hold collapsible assembly **50** in its erected configuration against the biasing effect of spring-like elements **54, 56** and **58** and, accordingly, collapsible assembly **50** is urged or biased toward its collapsed configuration, as shown in FIG. **9.** FIG. **9**

shows collapsible assembly **50** in its almost completely collapsed condition in which the inner frame member **58** approaches a coplanar relationship with the element **60** which has been moved in the direction of the arrow shown in FIG. **7.** When completely collapsed, the elements **58** and **60** are essentially coplanar running from the hinge connection **56***a* to hinge connection **60***a* to connection **54***b*. In addition, when inner frame element **56** is in its completely collapsed position, it will be adjacent to and engage inner frame element **60.** Further, when outer frame element **54** is in its completely collapsed position, it will be adjacent to and engage inner frame element **56** and the side of rigid body section **18.** Of course, collapsible assembly **52** is collapsed in an identical manner.

Accordingly, in order to provide a complete understanding of the present invention, a typical sequence of operation will now be described illustrating the manner in which body section **20** is collapsed from its erected configuration shown in FIGS. **1** and **3** to its collapsed configuration shown in FIG. **9.** More particularly, as shown in FIG. **7** slotted end **54***c* and pin-receiving slot **54***d* of outer frame element **54** are removed from slot-receiving member **18***m* and pin **18***n*, respectively. Then, the movable end **60***b* of inner frame element **60** is pivoted about hinge **60***c* from its erected position where it engages hinge connection **54***a* to its collapsed position, shown in dotted lines in FIG. **7,** where it engages the side of rigid body section **18** and is of such a size to fit between hinge connections **56***a*, 60*a*. As explained above, once inner frame element **60** is moved to its collapsed position, there is no longer any force tending to hold collapsible assembly **50** in its erected configuration against the bias of its spring-like construction, and the remaining frame elements **54, 56** and **58** of collapsible assembly **50** are urged or biased toward their collapsed configuration shown in FIG. **9.** Of course, collapsible assembly **52** is collapsed in an identical manner so that body section **20** is completely collapsed.

Accordingly, with collapsible assemblies **50, 52** of collapsible body section **20** in their completely collapsed configuration and with foldable neck **14** folded to its collapsed position in which it is adjacent to the bottom of rigid body section **18,** the collapsible stringed musical instrument of the present invention is extremely compact in size and may be easily transported and/or stored. In addition, as the stringed musical instrument of the present invention may be stored with the tension on the strings released, weakening or stretching of the strings is thereby prevented so that the useful life of the strings is greatly increased. Moreover, stringed musical instrument **10** may be erected from its compact and collapsed configuration simply and quickly. More particularly, the free end of outer frame element **54** is urged away from rigid body section **18** causing inner frame elements **56, 58** to assume a partially erected configuration. Then, the end **60***b* of inner frame element **60** is moved from its collapsed position adjacent the side of rigid body section **18** to its erected position in engagement with hinge connection **54***a* to maintain collapsible assembly **50** in its erected configuration against the bias of its spring-like construction which normally urges or biases it toward its collapsed configuration. Then, the free end of outer frame element **54** is connected by slotted end **54***c* and pin-receiving slot **54***d* to slot-receiving member **18***m* and pin **18***n*, respectively. Similarly, the same steps are followed to erect collapsible assembly **52.** In this manner, collapsible body section **20** is erected to simulate the size and shape of the body of a conventional guitar. Of course, as explained above, to completely erect guitar **10,** foldable neck **14** is folded about hinge connection **16** and is returned to its playing position so that it is coplanar with rigid body section **18.** Then tensioning device **22** is pivoted downwardly about pivot points **42** into engagement with inclined surface **18***a* and into its tension-applying position. In this manner, all of the strings **24** are simultaneously returned to their original positions and tuning, without the need of any substantial adjusting of tuning pegs **22***a*.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that there has been provided in accordance with the present invention a collapsible stringed musical instrument which may be quickly and easily collapsed or erected. Advantageously, the body of the musical instrument includes a rigid body section and a collapsible body section so that the body of the instrument may be reduced in size for transport and/or storage and easily returned to its erected configuration. In addition, the neck of the musical instrument may be quickly folded with respect to the body without the need for releasing or reapplying the tension on each of the strings individually. In the present invention, the snap-action tensioning device is pivotally mounted on the the body so that the tension on all of the strings may be simultaneously applied or released in one simple snapping motion without substantially changing the original tuning of the strings.

A latitude of modification, change and substitution is intended in the foregoing disclosure, and in certain instances, some features of the invention will be used without a corresponding use of other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible stringed musical instrument comprising a body including a rigid section, a neck section, means for pivotally connecting said neck section to said rigid section, a collapsible section connected to said rigid section, a tensioning device movably mounted on said rigid section, means for tuning said strings, said strings being connected between said neck section and said tensioning device, said tensioning device being movable between a first position in which said strings are under tension and a second position in which said string tension is released, said neck section being movable between a playing position when said strings are under tension and a collapsed position when said string tension is released, said collapsible section cooperating with said neck section to move between a playing position and a collapsed position to permit playing of the stringed instrument and to permit the stringed instrument to be reduced to a compact shape, respectively.

2. The collapsible stringed musical instrument of claim **1** wherein said collapsible section includes a plurality of movable frame elements, at least one of said frame elements being movable between a first position in which one or more of the other frame elements is held in an erect configuration and a second position in which one or more of the frame elements is in a collapsed configuration.

3. A collapsible stringed musical instrument comprising a body including a rigid section, a neck section con-

nected to said rigid section forwardly thereof, a tensioning device mounted on said rigid section for movement about an axis, means for securing one end of said instrument strings to said neck section, means for securing the opposite end of said instrument strings to said tensioning device, said strings extending from said neck section rearwardly past and beneath said axis to said tensioning device, means for tuning said strings, said tensioning device being movable about said axis between a first position in which said strings are under tension and said axis is above said strings and a second position in which said string is released after passing through a third position in which said strings are under maximum tension.

4. The collapsible stringed musical instrument of claim **3** wherein said rigid section includes an inclined section extending rearwardly and downwardly from said axis for receiving said tensioning member when said tensioning member is in its first position.

5. The stringed musical instrument of claim **3** wherein said tensioning member further includes a plurality of tuning pegs, said strings being coupled to the individual tuning pegs to that each string can be separately tuned.

6. The stringed musical instrument of claim **5** wherein said tensioning member has a V-shaped portion and each string passes around said V-shaped portion to its respective peg.

7. A collapsible stringed musical instrument comprising a body including a rigid section, a neck section positioned forwardly of said rigid section and mounted for movement with respect to said rigid section, a combined tensioning and tuning device mounted on said rigid section for movement about an axis, means for securing the forward ends of said instrument strings to said neck section, means for securing the rearward ends of said instrument strings to said combined tensioning and tuning device, said instrument strings extending rearwardly from said neck section past and below said axis to said combined tensioning and tuning device, said tensioning and tuning device being movable between a first position in which said strings are below said axis and under tension and in position for the instrument to be played and a second position in which the rearward ends of said strings are above said axis and said string tension is released, said neck section being movable about said rigid section when said combined tensioning and tuning device is in said second position to collapse said stringed musical instrument.

8. The stringed musical instrument of claim **7** wherein said body further includes a collapsible section connected to said rigid section for cooperating with said neck section, said collapsible section having a first position in which a collapsible section extends outwardly from said body section and the instrument is ready to be played and a second collapsed position arranged to cooperate with said neck section so that when the collapsible and neck sections are in the second position said stringed musical instrument is formed into a compact configuration for storage and transport.

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