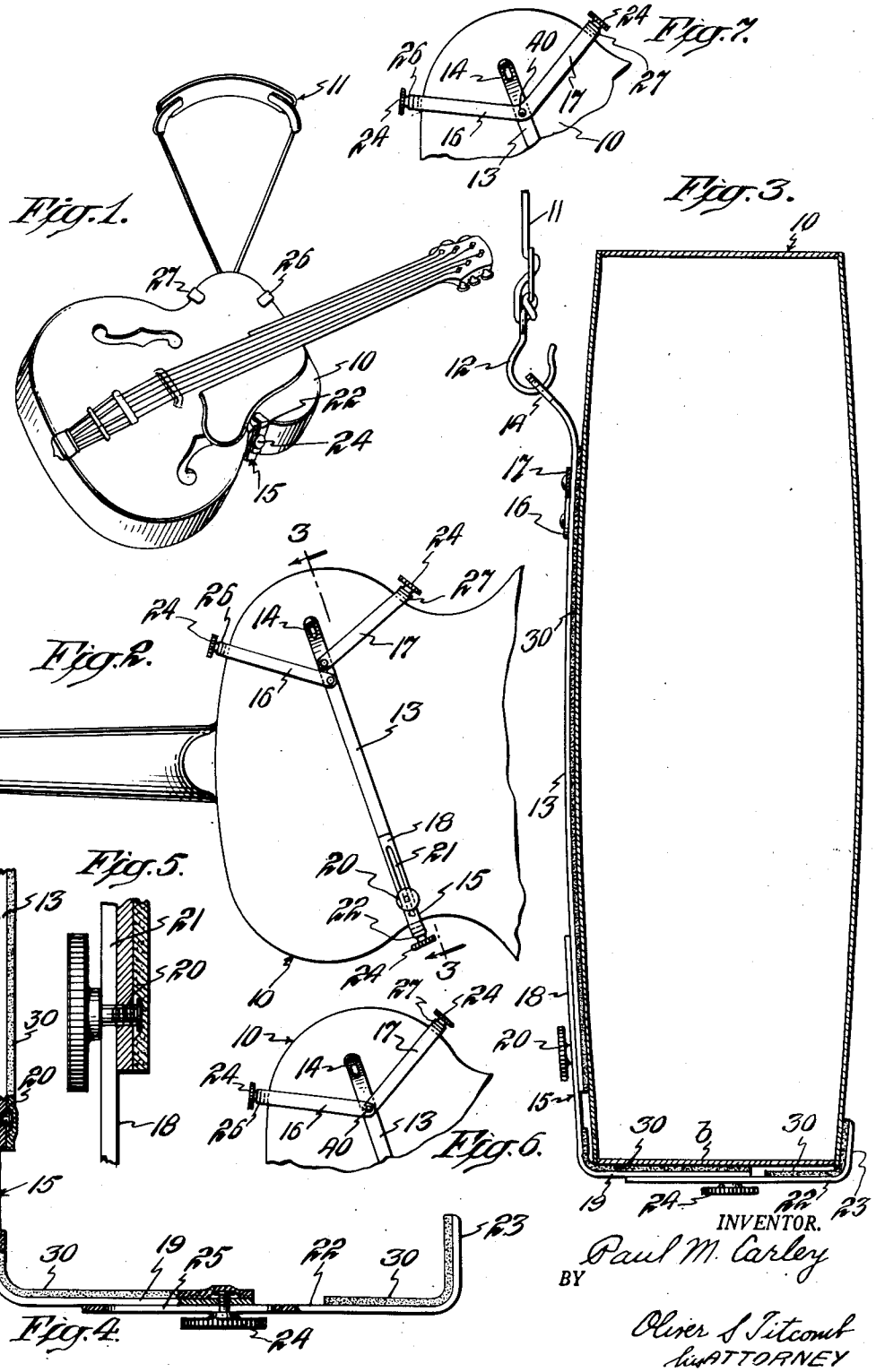
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MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SUPPORT

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SUPPORT

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The present invention relates to stringed musical instruments of the type in which the strings are plucked and more particularly to a device to adapt the instrument for quick detachable connection with a suitable supporting harness.

While the present invention may be applied to other stringed musical instruments such as banjos, ukuleles, mandolins and the like, it is particularly adapted for use with guitars which are relatively heavy and quite bulky. When a musician plays several different instruments in an orchestra including a guitar, it is desirable to be able to shift from one instrument to another quickly yet support the weight of the instrument so as to relieve the musician from fatigue. Also, when an orchestra leader plays solo arrangement on a guitar in standing position, it is essential that he be able to remove the instrument quickly and smoothly to immediately turn his attention to leading the orchestra. When guitars are played in a standing position they are usually supported by a bandolier extending around one shoulder of the musician and attached to the neck and body of the instrument. To remove the guitar it is necessary to lift the bandolier over the head with one hand while holding the instrument with the other hand and such removal of the bandolier is awkward and time consuming.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a device for supporting a musical instrument of the type indicated from a suitable harness such as a neck strap while permitting a quick and easy attachment to and detachment from the harness.

Another object is to provide a supporting device of the type indicated which may be applied to the musical instrument as an attachment and adjusted to fit instruments of different shapes and sizes.

Still another object is to provide a supporting attachment of the type indicated which is inconspicuous and unharmful to the instrument or tone and one which balances the instrument in playing position.

These and other objects will become more apparent from the following description and drawing in which like reference characters denote like parts throughout the several views. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawing is for the purpose of illustration only and not a definition of the limits of the invention, reference being had for this purpose to the appended claims. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a guitar supported in playing position from a neck strap in accordance with the present invention;

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Fig. 2 is a rear view of the guitar showing the supporting device of the present invention applied thereto;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2 showing the depending hook of a neck strap attached to the end of a bar of the supporting device;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the lower end of the supporting device showing the adjustable extension arm and clamping bracket for fitting the device to the instrument;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the adjusting means for the extension arm and clamping brackets;

Fig. 6 is a partial view of a supporting device of modified construction in which the angular side arms are pivotally connected to the supporting bar on the same pivot; and

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 showing a further modified construction in which the angular side arms are rigidly connected to each other.

In the drawing, the present invention is shown applied to a guitar 10 to adapt it to be supported from a suitable harness illustrated in the form of a neck strap 11 having a hook 12 at its end. It will be understood, however, that the present invention may be applied to other stringed instruments of the type which are held in playing position at an angle between the horizontal and vertical as illustrated generally in Fig. 1. The neck strap 11 extends around the back of the neck of the musician and has depending inconspicuous cords forming a loop at their lower end to which the hook 12 is connected. Preferably, the neck strap or harness 11 is adjustable in length to adapt it for particular individuals.

In accordance with the present invention a device or fitting mounted on the guitar or other stringed musical instrument as an attachment provides a quick detachable connection with the hook 12 on which the instrument is supported and balanced in playing position. The supporting device or fitting is in the form of a bar 13, see Fig. 2, extending across the back of the instrument at such an angle as to hang substantially vertical when the instrument is in playing position. The upper end of the bar 13 is offset rearwardly from the back of the instrument and has an eye 14 formed in the offset portion through which the hook 12 of the neck strap 11 may be quickly inserted or removed, see Figs. 2 and 3.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5, the bar 13 is mounted on the in-

strument by arms 15, 16 and 17 extending from the bar and having right-angular portions overlying and embracing the sides of the instrument. As illustrated in detail in Fig. 4, the arm 15 constitutes an extension of bar 13 and has a portion 18 overlying the lower end of the bar and a right-angular portion 19 underlying the bottom side b of the instrument, see Fig. 3. The face of the right-angular portion 19 is angled to adapt it to conform to the curvature of the side of the instrument which it underlies. The extension arm 15 is clamped in adjusted position on the lower end of the bar 13 by means of a screw 20 projecting through a slot 21 in the arm and screwed into a tapped hole in the bar. Preferably, the end of the screw 20 is peened or headed over to limit the movement of the screw, see Fig. 5. A clamping bracket 22 is adjustably mounted on the right-angular portion 19 of the extension arm 15 and has an angular end portion 23 adapted to overlie the front of the instrument. Clamping bracket 22 is attached to the horizontal portion 19 of the extension arm 15 by a screw and slot connection 24, 25, like that illustrated in detail in Fig. 5.

The arms 16 and 17 have one of their ends pivotally connected to the bar 13 adjacent the eye 14 in spaced relation to each other and extend outwardly from opposite sides of the bar. Clamping brackets 26 and 27 similar to bracket 22 are adjustably mounted on right-angular portions of the arms 16 and 17 by pin and slot connections, like that illustrated in Fig. 5. The clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 are adjusted to closely fit the sides of the guitar and the extension arm 15 is adjustable along the bar 13 to fit the device on the instrument.

The bar 13, arms 15, 16, 17 and clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 may be made of any suitable thin material but preferably are made of thin strips of metal ornamented by plating or the like, and the heads of the adjusting screws are made comparatively flat so that the device does not interfere with the proper holding of the instrument. The supporting device is inconspicuous as only the ends of the clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 can be seen on the front of the instrument and only three narrow strips at the sides. Preferably, felt strips 30 underlie the bar 13, arms 15, 16, 17 and clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 so as not to mar the finish on the body of the instrument.

To apply the supporting device to the guitar 10, the screw 20 is loosened and the extension arm 15 is slid along the bar 13 to permit the clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 to be passed over the sides of the instrument. With the device loosely held in place on the instrument, the upper end of the bar 13 is attached to the hook 12 of the neck strap 11 and the lower end of the bar is moved along the bottom side b of the instrument until the latter balances in playing position on the hook 12. The extension arm 15 may then be slid along the bar 13 and the arms 16 and 17 swung outwardly on their pivots until they engage the sides of the guitar while the latter is held in playing position. The screw 20 is then tightened to clamp the extension arm 15 in adjusted position and each of the clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27 may be adjusted on the arms to engage their outer ends tightly with the front of the guitar. Thus, with the adjustable extension arm 15 and adjustable clamping brackets 22, 26 and 27, the supporting device may be applied to instruments of different sizes and shapes to adapt it for universal application. When the supporting device is properly positioned on the instrument, the latter will balance in playing position on the hook 12 without support by either hand. Also, because of the hook and eye connection 12, 14, the instrument may be quickly attached to or detached from the neck strap with ease and smoothness.

In Fig. 6 a modified construction is illustrated in which the side arms 16 and 17 are connected to the bar 13 on a single pivot 40. Such an arrangement simplifies the construction while permitting adjustment of the bar 13 to balance the instrument in playing position.

In Fig. 7 a further modified construction is illustrated in which the arms 16 and 17 are formed as a single integral piece pivotally connected to the bar on the pivot 40. Such a construction permits some adjustment of the position of the bar 13 but does not provide the flexibility of adjustment that may be obtained with the arrangement illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5. However, the device illustrated in Fig. 7 is well adapted for instruments of one size and shape.

It will now be observed that the present invention provides a device for supporting and balancing a stringed musical instrument in playing position while permitting quick attachment to or detachment from a supporting harness. It will also be observed that the supporting device of the present invention is adjustable to adapt it to fit instruments of different sizes and shapes. It will still further be observed that the supporting device of the present invention is inconspicuous from the front of the instrument, balances the instrument in playing position and is unharmful to the instrument or tone.

While three different forms of construction have been illustrated and described, it will be understood that further modifications may be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Therefore, without limiting myself in this respect, the invention is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a stringed musical instrument of the type in which the strings are plucked, a device for supporting the instrument from a neck strap having a hook at its end comprising a bar attached to the back of the instrument with one end offset therefrom and having an eye providing a quick detachable connection with the hook at the neck strap, and said bar extending at an angle across the back of the instrument and being so positioned thereon as to balance the instrument in playing position on the hook of the neck strap.

2. In a stringed musical instrument of the type in which the strings are plucked, a device for supporting the instrument from a neck strap comprising a bar extending across the back of the instrument and having a bracket at its lower end underlying the side of the instrument, said bar having means at its upper end providing a quick detachable connection with the neck strap, and arms extending angularly from opposite sides of the bar and having clamping brackets overlying the sides and front of the instrument.

3. In a stringed musical instrument of the type in which the strings are plucked, a device for supporting the instrument from a neck strap having a hook comprising a bar extending across the back of the instrument with one end offset and having an eye to provide a quick detachable connection with the hook of the neck strap, an

extension arm at the lower end of the bar and having a clamping bracket underlying the side of the instrument, arms extending angularly from opposite sides of the bar adjacent the eye, and clamping brackets at the ends of the arms overlying the sides and front of the instrument, said extension arm being adjustable along the bar and said clamping brackets being adjustable on each arm whereby to adapt the device to be applied to musical instruments of different shapes and sizes.

4. A device for supporting a guitar on the depending hook of a neck strap comprising a bar extending across the back of the guitar with its upper end offset and having an eye to provide a quick detachable connection with the hook of the neck strap, an extension arm at the lower end of the bar having a clamping bracket underlying the side of the instrument, arms pivotally connected at spaced points along the bar adjacent its upper end and said arms extending angularly from opposite sides of the bar, and clamping brackets at the ends of the arms and overlying the sides and front of the guitar, said extension arm being adjustable along the bar and said clamping brackets being adjustable on each of the arms whereby to adapt the device to be applied to guitars of different shapes and sizes.

5. A device for supporting a guitar on the depending hook of a neck strap comprising a bar extending across the back of the guitar with its upper end offset and having an eye to provide a quick detachable connection with the hook of the neck strap, an extension arm at the lower end of the bar having a clamping bracket underlying the side of the instrument, arms pivotally connected to the bar at the same point and extending angularly from opposite sides of the bar,

and clamping brackets at the ends of the arms and overlying the sides and front of the instrument, said extension arm being adjustable along the bar and said clamping brackets being adjustable on each of the arms whereby to adapt the device to be applied to guitars of different shapes and sizes.

6. A device for supporting a guitar on the depending hook of a neck strap comprising a bar extending across the back of the guitar with its upper end offset and having an eye to provide a quick detachable connection with the hook of the neck strap, an extension arm at the lower end of the bar having a clamping bracket underlying the side of the instrument, arms rigidly connected to each other and to the bar and extending angularly from opposite sides of the bar, and clamping brackets at the ends of the arms and overlying the sides and front of the guitar, said extension arm being adjustable along the bar and said clamping brackets being adjustable on each of the arms whereby to adapt the device to be applied to guitars of different shapes and sizes.

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