E. Pries,

Accordion.

No. 43,226 Patented June 21, 1864.

Fig. 1.

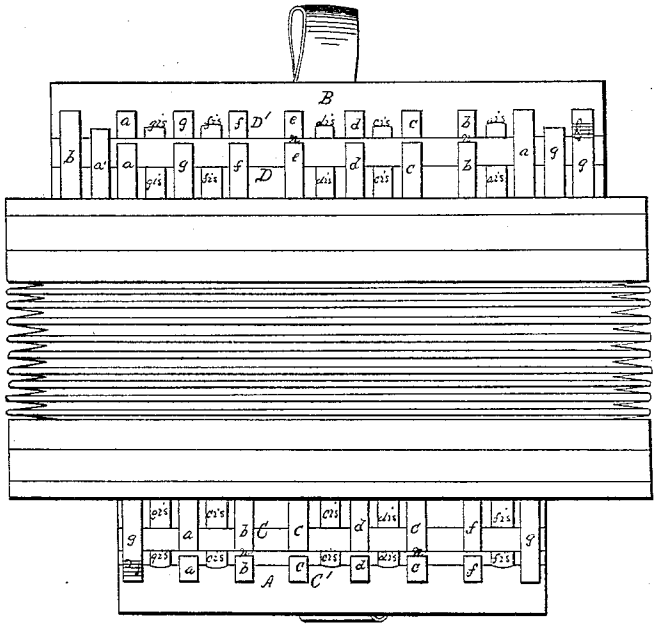
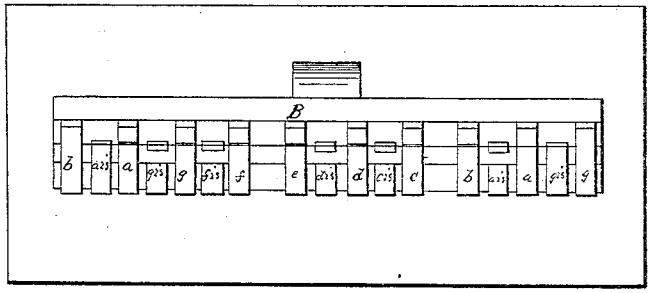


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

Jas P. Hall.

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AM. PHOTO-LITHO. CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNST PRIES, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN ACCORDIONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **43,226**, dated June 21, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNST PRIES, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Orchestreon; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a front elevation of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of reed instruments known by the name of "accordion."

The invention consists in the employment or use, in combination with a portable bellows operated by the hands, of reeds and key-boards, which represent two or more chromatic scales, in such a manner that a light and portable instrument is produced, which can be used for playing or accompanying tunes in any key, the same as a piano-forte or melodeon.

Accordions of the ordinary construction are provided with reeds and keys which represent the scale or scales and accords of one certain key—for instance, that of *g* or of *c*—and they can be used only for such pieces written in those keys; but it is impossible to use them for the purpose of accompanying an orchestra playing a piece written in any other key but that represented by the keys of the instrument. This difficulty I have obviated by my instrument, which is provided with two key-boards, A B, each provided with a series of keys, C C′ D D′, representing two or more chromatic scales, and arranged in a similar manner to those of a piano-forte or melodeon. The white keys represent the ordinary tunes and the black keys the sharps and flats, and each key connects with a reed corresponding to the tune marked on it. For instance, the lowest tune of the key-board A and of the whole instrument may represent the *g*  on the lowest line with the F clef, and thence the tunes run upon said key-board through one octave, and a second set of keys, C′, represent the following octave. These keys form a continuation of the first keys, being separated from them by a small gap or groove, *n*, so that the player can readily distinguish between the two octaves. On the opposite key-board, B, the first key represents *g*, being the octave of the last key of the key-board A, and thence the chromatic scales are continued, as marked on said keys, through an octave by the keys D, and through one octave and a half by the keys D′. On both key-boards the sharps or flats are represented by the black keys, precisely in the same manner as on a melodeon or piano-forte, and the player is enabled to play tunes of any desired key or to accompany such tunes played by other instruments.

The key-boards A B are arranged on opposite sides of the bellows E precisely in the same manner as in accordions of the ordinary construction.

I have given to my instrument the name of "orchestreon," because by the improvements hereinbefore described I am enabled to accompany the orchestra in theaters and concerts, whereas with the ordinary accordion I have been unable to accede to the request of the leaders of such orchestras, because the construction of such instruments rendered it impossible to follow tunes written in any other key than that represented by the instrument.

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

1. The combination, with a portable bellows operated by both hands, of key-boards A B and corresponding reeds, representing two or more chromatic scales, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. The arrangement of the keys C C′ and D D′, substantially as herein shown and described, so that the keys C′ represent the octaves of the keys C and the keys D′ the octaves of the keys D.

ERNST PRIES.

Witnesses:
J. W. COOMBS,
M. M. LIVINGSTON.