

(No Model.)

W. J. CORDLEY.  
PIANO CASE.

No. 496,553.

Patented May 2, 1893.

Fig. 1.

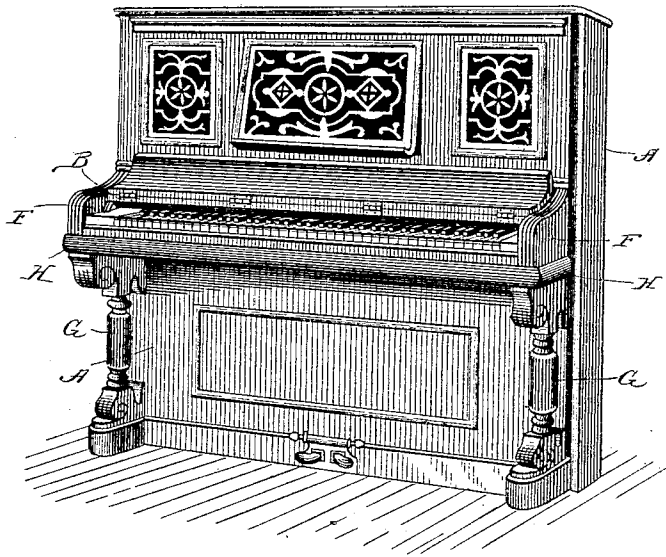


Fig. 2.

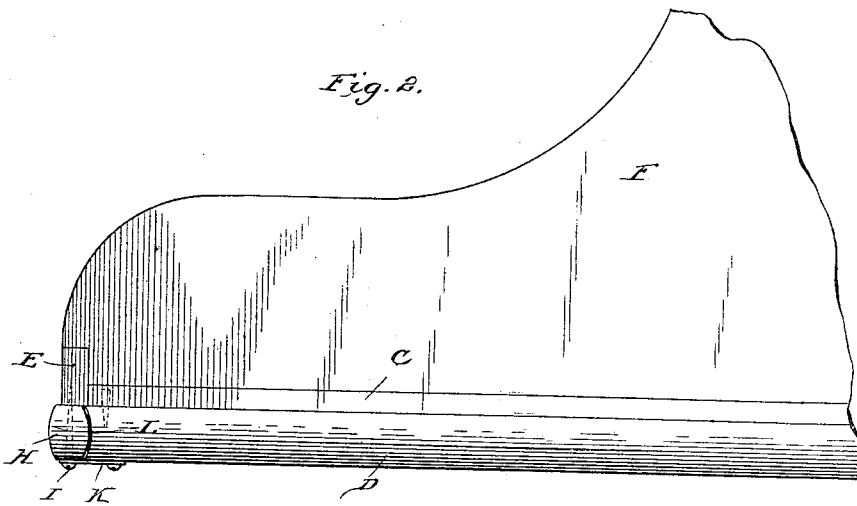
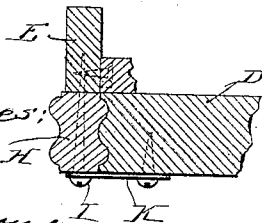


Fig. 3.

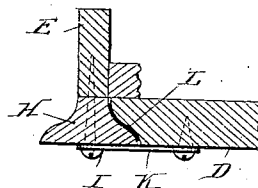


witnesses:

A. M. Kelly

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Fig. 4.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. CORDLEY, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
TO WALTER D. MOSES.

## PIANO-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 496,553, dated May 2, 1893.

Application filed January 9, 1893. Serial No. 457,781. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. CORDLEY, of Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Piano-Cases; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

In the handling and shipping of modern pianos, especially upright pianos, the dealers experience great annoyance from the mar-  
15 ring, scratching or injuring of the protecting part of the frame on the front side known as the "plinth molding." This molding located just below the key board and key slip or lock-  
20 board, occupies a prominent position, and naturally efforts are made to give it a highly ornamental and finished appearance, such efforts usually resulting in a molding orna-  
25 mentation extending in unbroken lines from one end to the other of the piano case and upon which the slightest indentation or scratch shows and at once catches the eye because of the break caused thereby in the continuity of the ornamentation, and because  
30 of the prominence of the plinth molding and its proximity to the key board to which the eye of an observer naturally wanders in looking at the instrument. Experience has shown that a large percentage of the profits are consumed in repairing injury to this part of the  
35 instrument, for buyers will not accept instruments in which this part has been injured in the slightest degree, frequently necessitating the return of the piano to the shop or manufacturer, and in any instance, even when  
40 the injury can be repaired without dismembering the case, it calls for the best efforts of the most skilled workmen to repair an injury to this part of the case in such manner as to give a perfect and finished appearance.

45 Now, it is the object of my invention to overcome this trouble if not entirely, at least to such a degree as to save a large percentage of the expense of repairs and at the same time render it possible to make the plinth

molding as ornamental as desired without 50 running the risk of having the same irreparably injured in delivering the piano or moving or shipping the same.

Referring to the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of an upright 55 piano showing the plinth molding. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail section in outline showing the application of the invention. Figs. 3 and 4, are detail sections showing modifications.

Like letters of reference in the several fig- 60 ures denote the same parts.

It is unnecessary for me to describe the construction of the main upright portion of the case, lettered A in the drawings, nor the operating mechanism within the case, as such 65 parts form no part of my present invention. The key board B in this, as well as other styles of piano, projects to the front of the upright portion of the main case and has an open space beneath for the performer's knees. 70 The keys, or key board as I shall term them, are mounted upon what is known as the "key-frame" C, removably held within the frame upon the "key-frame-bottom" D by suitable fastenings, and the "key-slip" or "lock-board" 75 E covers the end of the frame. As ordinarily constructed, the key-frame-bottom D is formed of a heavy board connected with the main casing and in upright pianos supported by the arms F and legs G. At the front edge, 80 this key-frame-bottom is ordinarily formed into the plinth molding H, or where the board is of different material from the outside of the case, a veneer, or strip is glued permanently to the edge of the key-frame- 85 bottom becoming a fixed part of the said bottom and the molded surface is formed on this strip. Now for the reasons before pointed out, I propose to make the front edge of this key-frame-bottom removable, and preferably 90 reversible, and by forming this removable section or strip into the plinth molding, it may be easily removed when damaged and returned to the factory, or when reversible, reversed to present a new face. So too, the 95 reversible feature allows one side to be made highly ornamental and finished, while the other side is plain, then, when the instrument

is shipped or moved, the plain side is turned out and the strip reversed after the instrument is in place.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 it will be seen  
 5 that the plinth molding H is smooth and transversely convex on both sides while the edge of the key frame bottom is correspondingly concave. The usual screws I pass up  
 10 through the molding into the lock board E; and to hold the molding rigidly in place, I preferably pass the screws through metallic clips or strips K secured to the under side of  
 15 the key-frame-bottom by screws or otherwise. This method of fastening holds the molding rigidly in place without exposing the fastenings to view and at the same time allows the lock-board and key-frame to be secured in place with screws in the ordinary manner.

The plinth molding may be of any desired  
 20 cross-sectional contour, for instance as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and the edge of the key-frame-bottom correspondingly formed to afford a seat therefor. If desired also pads L  
 25 of leather or felt may be interposed to protect the surface of the molding and when these pads are employed it may be found to be unnecessary to shape the edge of the key frame bottom, the pads serving to seat the molding, as well as to protect its inner face from being  
 30 damaged against the said key frame bottom.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is

1. The combination with a piano case and key board, of the plinth molding projecting  
 35 beyond the edge of the key board and de-

tachably secured in place, whereby it may be removed and repaired; or another one substituted; substantially as described.

2. The combination with a piano case of the reversible plinth molding detachably secured in place; substantially as described. 40

3. In a piano case, the combination with the key frame bottom, of the reversible plinth molding detachably secured to its edge; substantially as described. 45

4. In a piano case, the combination with the key frame bottom having its edge molded to conform approximately to the contour of the plinth molding, of the plinth molding fitting said edge of the key frame bottom and detachably secured thereto; substantially as described. 50

5. In a piano case, the combination with the key frame bottom, of the detachable and reversible plinth molding and the pads interposed between said molding and key frame bottom; substantially as described. 55

6. In a piano case, the combination with the key frame bottom, the key frame and the key slip or lock-board, of the independent  
 60 plinth molding the screws passing up through the plinth molding into the key slip or lock-board and the metal clips uniting the bottom of the molding and key frame bottom; substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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