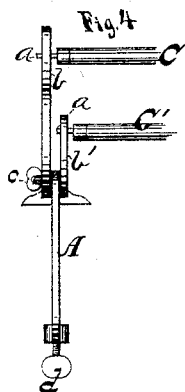
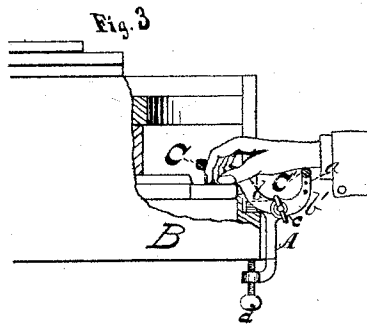
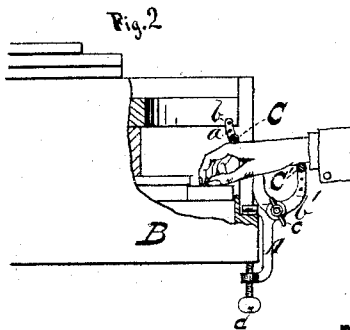
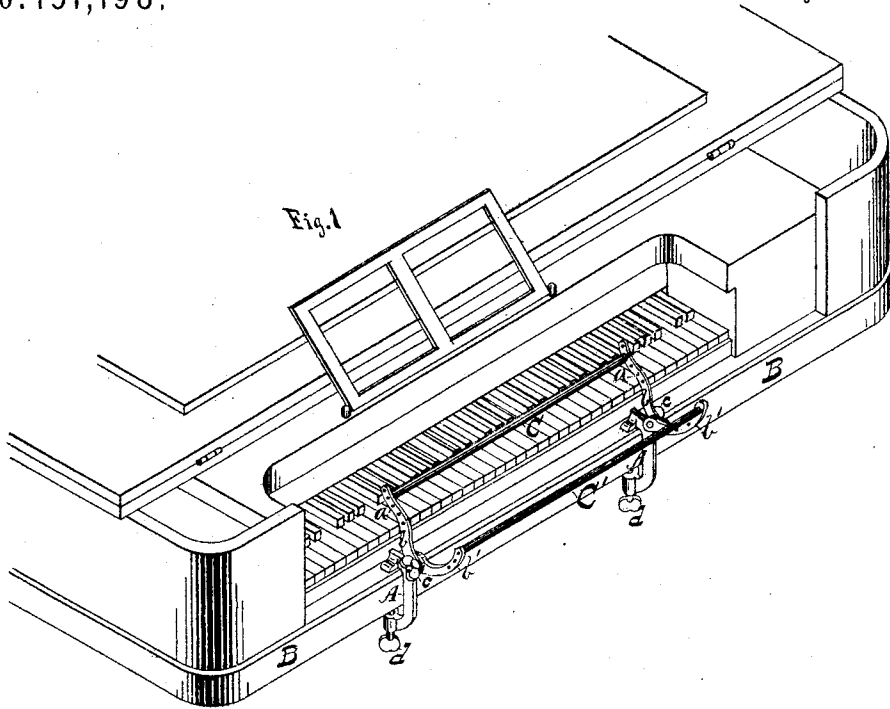


W. O. BREWSTER.

Hand-Guides for Piano-Forte Players.

No. 151,198.

Patented May 26, 1874.



Witnesses.
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J. H. Parsons.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM OTIS BREWSTER, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND-GUIDES FOR PIANO-FORTE PLAYERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **151,198**, dated May 26, 1874; application filed April 18, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM OTIS BREWSTER, of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Hand-Guides for Piano-Forte Players, of which the following is a specification:

The invention relates to a device by which pupils and players of the piano-forte will be enabled to acquire a correct position for the hands and wrists, and thereby give proper action to the fingers; and the invention consists in providing two metal vertical side pieces or clamps fastened to the frame of a piano-forte in front of the key-board, at a sufficient distance apart, and provided with arms which hold two longitudinal guide-rods set in adjusting-holes in the arms. It further consists in making the arms of each clamp adjustable higher or lower, all as hereinafter explained.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective, showing the guide attached to a piano-forte; Figs. 2 and 3, side views, showing different positions in using the device; Fig. 4, detail view.

A A represent the two metal side pieces, which clamp at the bottom by a thumb-screw, *d*, to the main frame B of a piano-forte, just in front of the key-board, as shown. C C' are two guide-rods, whose ends set into the arms *b b'*, which are provided with a series of holes, *a a*, for that purpose, and which allow of an adjustment of the rods higher or lower to suit the player, a sufficient space being left between the two rods C C', through which the player inserts the hands, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The arms *b b'* of each clamp, and which hold the rods C C', swing up and down on a thumb-screw, *e*, which set either of the rods, or both, at various degrees of height or depression, so that the position of the wrist may be raised or lowered, and the upper rod or guide C lowered, as in Fig. 3, to keep the

fingers in a vertical position. The rods are made long enough to allow of a movement over the keys right and left of about two and a half octaves, or more, if required.

This invention is very important, especially to beginners, to give a correct action to the fingers and wrist, cutting off all aid from the hands, thus at once training them to correct motion, and throwing the labor of the exercise upon the fingers, where it belongs.

The wrist touches lightly on the lower rod, the upper rod touches lightly the back of the hand, preventing the flying up of the hands, as in Fig. 2, and, when rod *b* is lowered, keeps the fingers in a vertical position, as in Fig. 3.

The longitudinal arms *b b* can be swung back with the rod C, so as to prevent the wrists in octave-playing from rising out of the center of motion.

It gives healthy and muscular activity to the fingers, as well as flexibility and independence.

By the use of my hand-guide months of technique or tedious mechanical practice can be done away with.

It is a cheap prevention, and a certain and speedy cure for mechanical faults of students and players in general.

I claim—

The hand-guide herein described, consisting of the two side clamps A A, provided with the swinging arms *b b'*, held by thumb-screws *e e'*, the adjusting-holes *a a*, and two guide-rods, C C', all arranged to operate in connection with the key-board of a piano-forte, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

Witnesses: WM. O. BREWSTER.
J. R. DRAKE,
T. H. PARSONS.