W. GERVAIS.

LEVER FOR PIANOLAS AND LIKE INSTRUMENTS.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 4, 1910.

1,010,249. **Patented Nov. 28, 1911.**

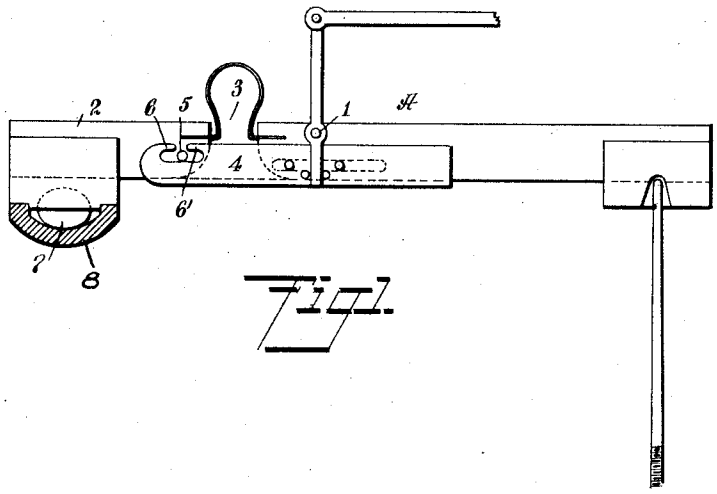

Fig. 1.

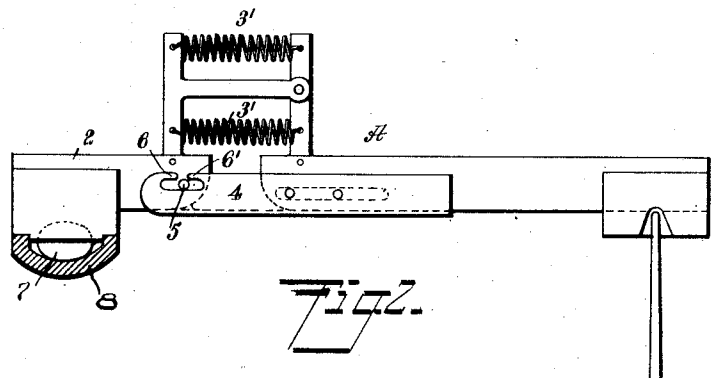

Fig. 2.

WITNESSES:

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LEVER FOR PIANOLAS AND LIKE INSTRUMENTS.

1,010,249. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 28, 1911.

Application filed March 4, 1910. Serial No. 547,276.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WLADIMIR GERVAIS, a subject of the Emperor of Russia, and a resident of St. Petersburg, Russia, lieutenant-colonel of Russian Army, have invented a new and useful improvement in levers for pianolas and like instruments, giving strokes on the keys similar to those effected by the fingers of a pianist, of which the following is a specification.

The striking levers of the existing types of pianolas and the like mechanical instruments, represent crude systems which cannot give the strokes of the keys that special touch, which is peculiar to the human hand. This drawback, notwithstanding all the improvements, cannot place pianolas and the like instruments on a level with the technical art of a human being.

My invention has for its object to avoid this drawback almost entirely.

On the annexed drawings Figure 1 represents a side elevation of one embodiment of my invention and Fig. 2 a similar view of a second embodiment thereof.

My improvement consists of the following: the lever A between the axle 1 and the striking part 2 is cut apart and both its parts are connected together by a resilient device, consisting either of spring 3 (Fig. 1) or a system of springs 3^1 (Fig. 2). Besides this, in order to attain various shades of the stroke, the slide 4 affords a means to increase the stroke and give the whole system greater elasticity on the movement of the slide in the direction of the striking part of the lever and reduce the stroke on the movement of the slide in the reverse direction. In both cases of the movement of the slide 4 the pin 5 on the striking part of the lever A is retained by the horns 6 or 6^1 and thereby reduces the elasticity of the stroke. In the central position of the slide 4 the pin 5 passes freely between the horns 6 and 6^1 and a very elastic stroke on the keys is attained, which altogether corresponds to the finger of a human being. Besides this a rubber ball 7 is placed between the key packing 8 and the head of lever A with the object of increasing the softness in the striking part of the lever.

What I claim is:

In a pianola or like mechanical musical instruments, a combination of a resilient key lever, consisting of two parts, connected by one or more springs, with a slide, overlapping the parts of said lever and having two horns, and a pin, fixed to the one part of the lever and retained by the horns.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WLADIMIR GERVAIS.

Witnesses:

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