

W. F. SHELDON.
MELODEON, &c.

No. 32,654.

Patented June 25, 1861.

Fig. 2.

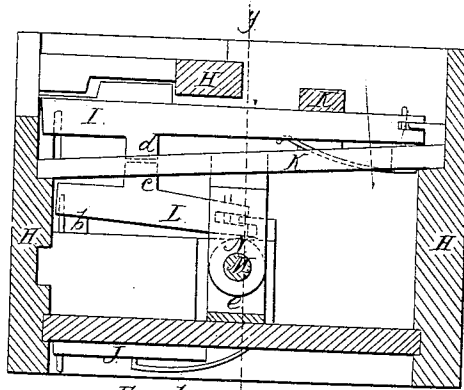


Fig. 1.

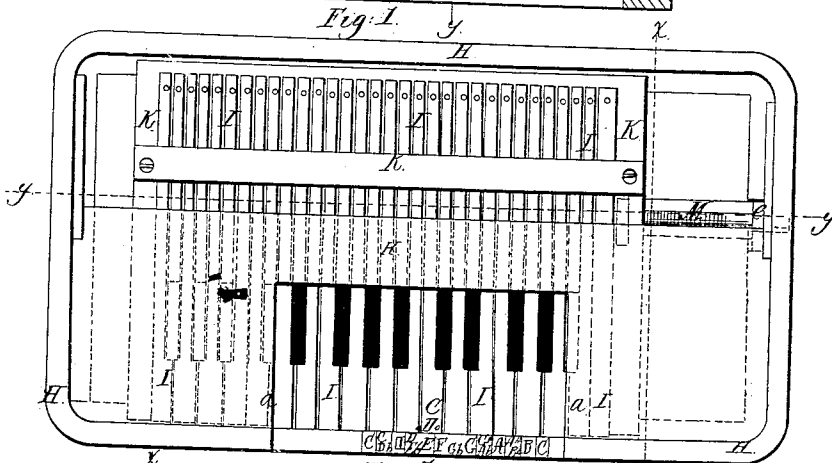
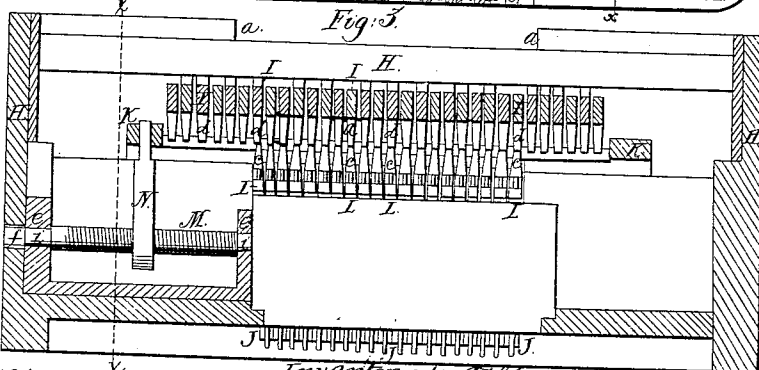


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

W. H. Gorman
R. S. Spencer

Inventor: *W. F. Sheldon* Per: *Manuel H. Allen*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. F. SHELDON, OF EAST MENDON, NEW YORK.

MELODEON.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 32,654, dated June 25, 1861; application for Reissue filed June 7, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. SHELDON, of East Mendon, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Melodeons and other Octave-Keyed Musical Instruments; 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 is a plan of a melodeon with my improvement, having its cover removed to expose the key-board. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the same, in the plane indicated by the line *x, x*, in Figs. 1 and 3. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the same, in the plane indicated by the line *y, y*, in Figs. 1 and 2, showing the parts in front of the plane of section.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of my invention is to enable players of little experience to play on different keys; and to this end my invention consists in a movable key-board so applied and combined with the reeds or their equivalents that by the aid of a fixed scale in front of the key board it may be set to play in any desired key.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

H is the case of the instrument.

I, I, is the key-board composed of a number of playing keys representing a complete octave more than is represented by the reeds J, J, or other equivalent devices for producing the musical sounds. These playing keys are attached to a horizontal sliding frame K, which enables them to be moved horizontally in a direction parallel with the front of the key-board. The opening *a, a*, of the case, where the key-board is exposed for playing, is of such length as to expose only a number of the playing keys equal to the number of reeds J, J, or their equivalents.

L L are a set of levers, one for each reed, each arranged permanently over its respective reed to operate by a push-down-pin *b*, see Fig. 2, each of said levers having a protuberance *c*, on its upper side to be acted

upon by corresponding protuberances *d, d*, on the under sides of the playing keys.

M is a horizontal screw made with journals *i, i*, to fit in fixed bearings *e, e*, in the lower part of the case, said journals being so shouldered as to prevent any longitudinal movement of the said screw.

N is a nut, fitted to the screw M, and secured rigidly to the sliding frame K. One end of the screw is made with a square, *f*, which can be reached by a key inserted in a hole at one end of the case for the purpose of turning it. By turning the screw, the nut is made to move longitudinally upon it and the frame K, and key-board are moved lengthwise of the instrument and the screw holds the key-board securely in any position. The length of the screw is sufficient to permit the key-board to be moved the entire length of an octave.

The fixed scale is shown in Fig. 1, lettered C, C#, D♭, D, D#, E♭, &c. corresponding with the denominations of the notes of a complete octave, the several equal spaces on the said scale corresponding in width with the widths of the spaces occupied by the back parts of the keys, and by the levers L, L, and being severally opposite to levers which act upon reeds representing the notes with which they (the spaces of the fixed scale) are respectively marked. One of the C playing-keys is marked C, or Do, and when this key is opposite to the C-space the key-board is in position for playing in the natural key. By moving the key-board to bring the marked playing key opposite to any other of the spaces of the fixed scale the playing will be performed in that key and in all positions of the key-board while the playing keys range with the spaces of the fixed scale, the proper order of the semitones is preserved.

I do not claim broadly providing a musical instrument with a movable key-board; but

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A movable key-board so combined with the reeds of a melodeon or the equivalent parts of any other instrument that by the aid of a fixed scale it may be set to play in different keys, substantially as herein specified.

2. Combining the so applied movable key-board with the reeds or their equivalents by means of interposed levers L, L, applied and operating substantially as herein
5 specified.

3. The horizontal screw M, applied in combination with the movable key-board,

substantially as herein described to adjust it to or hold it in any desired position.

WILLIAM F. SHELDON.

Witnesses:

HAMILTON W. GOODELL,
MARTIN S. WEBSTER.