

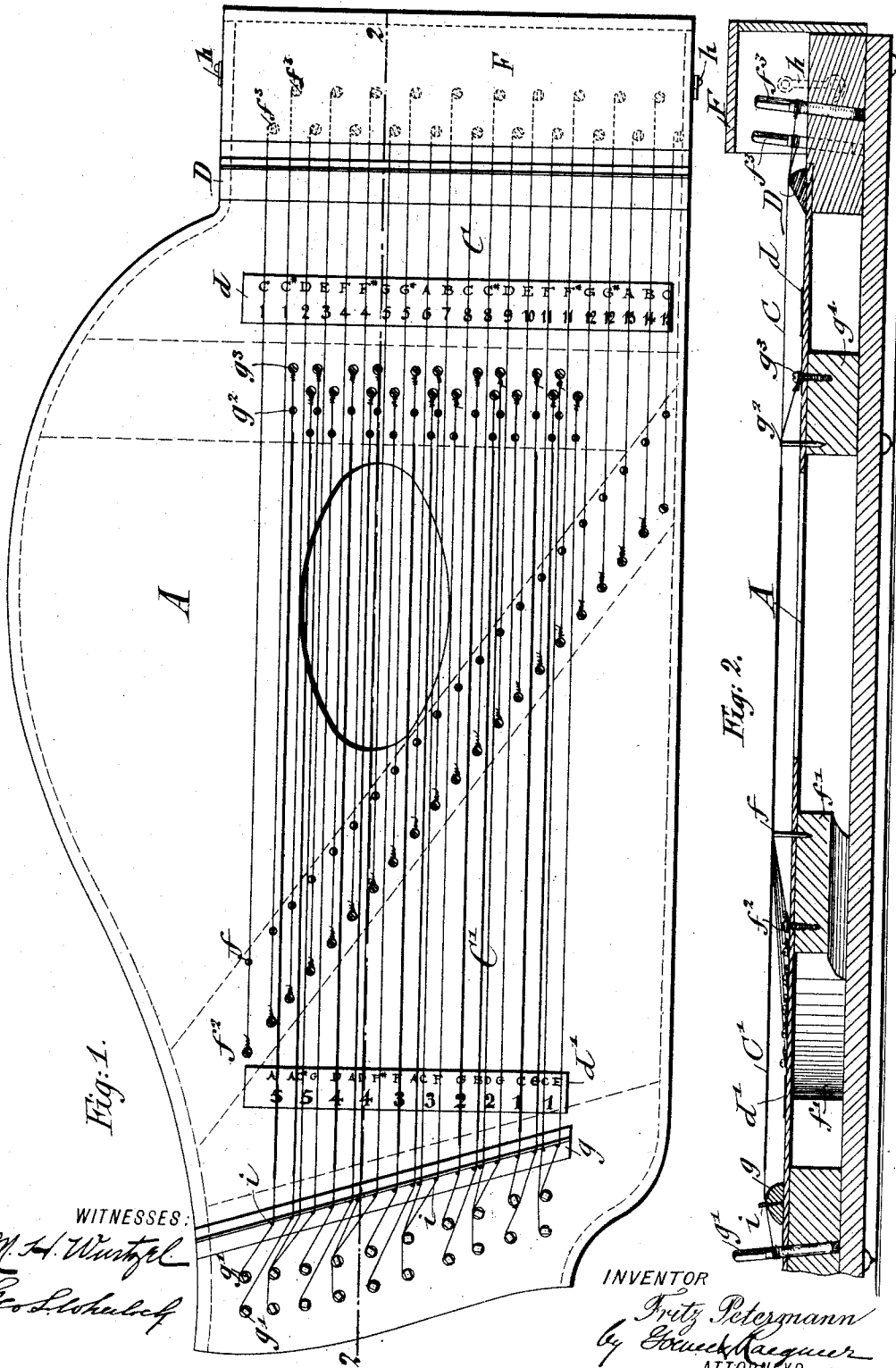
No. 622,822.

Patented Apr. 11, 1899.

F. PETERMANN.
GUITAR CITHERN.

(Application filed Dec. 9, 1898.)

(No Model.)



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRITZ PETERMANN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GUITAR-CITHERN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 622,822, dated April 11, 1899.

Application filed December 9, 1898. Serial No. 698,738. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRITZ PETERMANN, a citizen of Germany, residing in the city of New York, in the borough of Manhattan and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Guitar-Citherns, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in the musical instrument or guitar-cithern for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to Frederick Menzenhauer on May 29, 1894, No. 520,651, said improvements being designed with the view of enlarging the scope of said musical instrument and applying the same principle of construction—namely, an open scale of leading-strings arranged at one side of the sounding-board and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged at the other side of the sounding-board, the strings of each group being tuned to the intervals of separate harmonic chords for the leading-strings, in such a manner, however, that the size of the instrument is enlarged and a concert-cithern with all the advantages of the guitar-cithern produced.

The invention consists of a musical instrument or guitar-cithern provided with an open scale of leading-strings and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged parallel and in the same plane therewith, each system of strings extending beyond the other system, respectively, at opposite ends of the instrument, and, further, in a musical instrument or guitar-cithern provided with an open scale of leading-strings arranged longitudinally of the sounding-board at one end of the same and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged in the same plane therewith at the other end of the sounding-board, the groups of accompanying-strings being tuned to the intervals of separate harmonic chords for the leading-strings and entering the system of leading-strings at the inner end of said system, and, further, in certain details of construction and combinations of parts to be more fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a plan view of my improved musical instrument or guitar-cithern, and Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section drawn on line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the sounding-board of my improved guitar-cithern, the general shape and size of which is that of the well-known concert-cithern. An open scale of strings C is arranged at the right-hand side of the instrument, while a number of strings C' are arranged, according to the number of chords, in groups of four at the left-hand end of the instrument. The strings C' of each chord are tuned so as to be in harmony with the corresponding strings C of the open scale. The leading or melody strings are stretched over a scale-rib D at the right-hand end of the instrument, while the opposite ends of the leading-strings are passed over grooved straining-pins *f* and attached to small fastening-screws *f*², that are passed through the sounding-board and into a stiffening-brace *f*¹, extending diagonally across the supporting-frame of the sounding-board. The tuning-pins *f*³ for the leading-strings are arranged outside of the scale-rib D at the right-hand end of the instrument.

At the left-hand end of the instrument is arranged an independent scale-rib *g* for the groups of accompanying-strings, said scale-rib being provided with straining-pins *z* for said strings, while the tuning-pins *g*¹ for the accompanying-strings are arranged outside of the scale-rib *g* at the left-hand end of the instrument, as shown clearly in Figs. 1 and 2. The inner ends of the accompanying-strings C' are stretched over the ends of grooved straining-pins *g*² and attached to fastening-screws *g*³, which pass through the sounding-board into a transverse brace *g*⁴ of the frame of the instrument.

The body of the instrument is made of such length that the entire series of leading-strings are arranged in parallel line with the groups of accompanying-strings and in the same or approximately the same plane therewith and in such a manner that each system of strings enters the other system at the inner end of the same, as shown in the drawings. This permits the playing of the leading-strings at the right-hand end of the instrument in the usual manner, while the groups of accompanying-strings are sounded at the left-hand end by the fingers at that end of the instrument. The different groups of accompany-

55

60

65

70

75

80

85

90

95

100

105

ing-strings *C'* furnish the accompaniment for the leading-strings or open scale and produce by the vibration of any one group a full and harmonious accompaniment to the leading-strings. The chord-strings *C'* are arranged, as stated, in groups, there being four strings in each group, of which one is the leading or bass string of the group. Below the right-hand end of the system of leading-strings is arranged a strip *d*, provided with the numbers and notation of the leading-strings, while below the left-hand end of the groups of accompanying-strings is arranged a similar strip *d'*, provided with the numbers of the chords and the musical notation corresponding to the accompanying-strings. The pieces of music which are used for playing are not printed in the ordinary musical notation; but the notation is preferably the generally-accepted one used for the instruments known as "guitar-citherns," in which the string of the open scale and the corresponding chord are indicated by numbers corresponding to the numbers on the strips *d* and *d'*.

The strings are preferably arranged longitudinally of the body of the instrument.

Above the tuning-pins *f*³ for the leading-strings at the right-hand end of the instrument is arranged a rest-board *F*, which is attached by hooks *h* or other fastening devices to the right-hand end of the instrument and which serves as a rest for the right hand in playing the leading-strings. A small rest-board (not shown in the drawings) may be used at the left-hand end, although in this case it is not so necessary, as the free space between the groups of accompanying-strings and the edge of the body of the instrument can be used as a rest for the left hand. The sounding-board *A* can be supported either on a simple wooden frame, as illustrated, or on a frame made of case metal, in the nature of the metallic frames of a pianoforte, whereby the tone of the instrument is rendered more sonorous and bell-like and the so-called "woody" tone is avoided.

The instrument combines the advantages of the guitar-cithern with the fullness of tone and sonority of an old-style concert-cithern, enabling thereby the guitar-cithern also to be built and furnished as a concert-cithern, which heretofore was not accomplished.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A musical instrument or guitar-cithern, provided with an open scale of leading-strings and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged parallel and in the same plane therewith, each system of strings extending beyond the other system, respectively, at opposite ends of the instrument, substantially as set forth.

2. A musical instrument or guitar-cithern, provided with an open scale of leading-strings arranged longitudinally of the sounding-board at one end of the same, and a number of groups

of accompanying-strings arranged parallel therewith at the other end of the sounding-board, the groups of accompanying-strings being tuned to the intervals of separate harmonic chords for the leading-strings, and entering the system of leading-strings at the inner end of and in approximately the same plane with the same, and each system extending at its outer end beyond the other system of strings, substantially as set forth.

3. A musical instrument or guitar-cithern, provided with an open scale of leading-strings and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged parallel and in approximately the same plane therewith, independent scale-ribs at both ends of the instrument, one for the leading-strings and the other for the accompanying-strings, tuning-pins for the leading-strings near the scale-rib for the same, a separate group of tuning-pins near the scale-rib for the accompanying-strings, braces beneath the sounding-board of the instrument, intermediate of the scale-rib ends of the string systems, straining-pins arranged in said braces, and fastening-screws arranged in said braces for attachment of the inner ends of the leading and accompanying strings, substantially as set forth.

4. A musical instrument or guitar-cithern, consisting of a sounding-board, a frame for said sounding-board, separate scale-ribs at opposite ends of the instrument, tuning-pins adjacent to said scale-ribs respectively for the leading and accompanying strings, transverse braces intermediate of said scale-ribs, an open scale of leading-strings applied to the scale-rib and tuning-pins at one end of the instrument and to straining-pins and fastening-screws applied to one of said braces, and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged parallel and in the same plane with the leading-strings and applied to the scale-rib and tuning-pins at the opposite end of the instrument and to straining-pins and fastening-screws applied to a second brace of the frame, substantially as set forth.

5. A musical instrument or guitar-cithern, provided with an open scale of leading-strings arranged longitudinally of the sounding-board at one end of the same, and a number of groups of accompanying-strings arranged at the opposite end of the sounding-board, the leading-strings entering the system of accompanying-strings at the inner end of said system, and each system extending at its outer end beyond the other system, and tuning-pins for each system of strings respectively at each end of the sounding-board, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRITZ PETERMANN.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
M. HENRY WURTZEL.