P. M. ZEIDLER.

FALL BOARD FOR PIANOS.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 10, 1912.

1,050,507.

Patented Jan. 14, 1913.

Fig. 1.

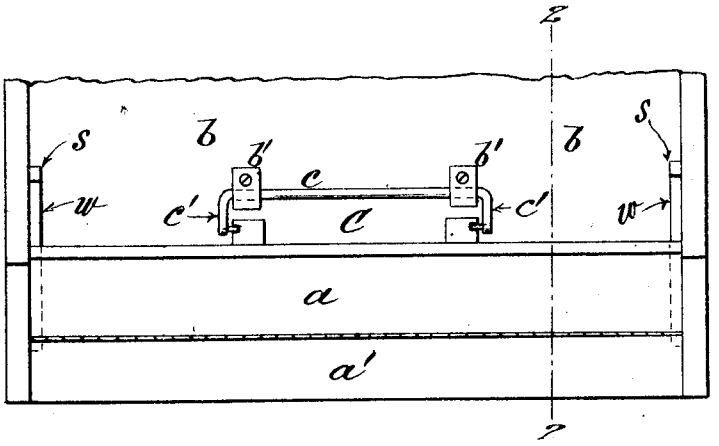


Fig. 2.

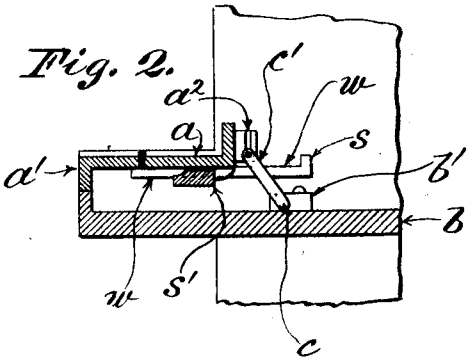


Fig. 3.

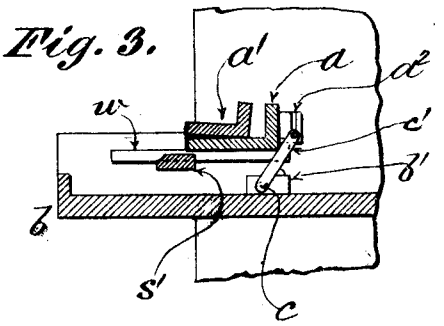


Fig. 4

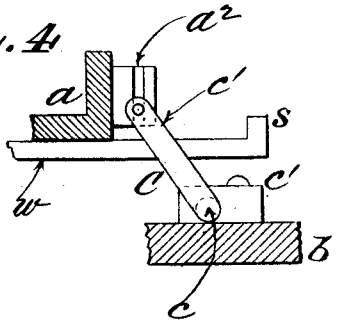
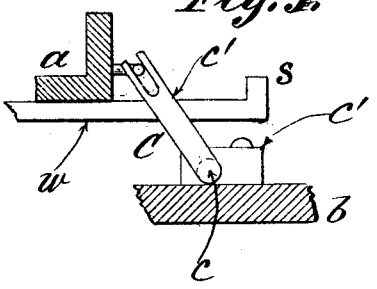


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FALL-BOARD FOR PIANOS.

1,050,507. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 14, 1913.

Application filed June 10, 1912. Serial No. 702,935.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL M. ZEIDLER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Mount Vernon, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fall-Boards for Pianos, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to afford simple and inexpensive but effective means whereby a piano-fall-board may be quickly and conveniently advanced or retracted with practically little or no frictional resistance; and it consists in the specific construction and arrangement of parts described and claimed, a distinctive feature being the provision of a medial controlling guide for maintaining the perfect alinement of the fall-board, whereby end-binding is obviated, as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1, is a plan of parts essential to an understanding of my invention, the fall-board being shown in its forward or closed position; Fig. 2, is a transverse section taken upon plane of line 2—2 Fig. 1; Fig. 3, is a like transverse section upon the same plane, showing the fall-board in its retracted position; Fig. 4, is an enlarged detail view of one end of the medial alinement guide; Fig. 5, a similar view showing a modification.

The figures show my improvement as applied to a fall-board consisting of a rear section a, to which a front fall a', is hinged in the manner usual in folding fall-boards of this class, although the invention is applicable to other forms of fall-boards slidable on end run ways. The main trouble with slidable fall-boards is that a very slight deviation from perfect longitudinal alinement is sufficient to make their ends bind or stick upon the run ways, and against the sides of the case, rendering the manipulation of the fall-board difficult, and causing delay and annoyance during the operations of opening or closing the same, not to mention the wear and strain involved, and the danger of distorting or damage. I overcome this difficulty by means of a controller C, interposed between the ways w, w, upon which the ends of the fall-board are slidably supported upon and between the side members of the on and between the side members of the piano frame. This controller C, consists essentially of an elongated U-shaped rocker, the horizontal member c, of which is fulcrumed in or on the key bed b, or other stationary part or parts, as by means of the bearing caps b', b', shown by way of illustration in the drawings, said horizontal member c, being provided with rocker arms c', c', the upper or free ends of which engage articularly with the rear side of the fall-board.

The rocker arms c', c', being rigid upon the horizontal or fulcrum member c, and the object being to preserve the longitudinal alinement of the fall-board, it is obvious that the connection of the rocker arms c', c', therewith must not interfere with the movement of the fall-board horizontally on its end ways w, w, and this result is obtained by either bifurcating the ends of the rocker arms c', c', and having them straddle coupling parts on the back of the fall-board as indicated in Fig. 5, or by providing the back of the fall-board with vertical grooves a^2, a^2, for the reception of pins or projections c^2, on the rocker arms c', c', as in the first four figures of the drawings. In either case the result is the same in that the rocker constituted by the horizontal member c, and arms c', c', while permitting the free movement of the fall-board laterally in either direction upon and parallel to the ways w, w, nevertheless effectually controls the fall-board at two points of its length intermediate with relation to the ways w, w, thereby insuring the perfect alinement of the fall-board longitudinally and keeping the ends thereof parallel with and upon the said ways w, w, so that pinching or binding, or excessive frictional contact is rendered impossible. The lateral play of the fall-board is limited by stops s, s', or equivalent means. The simplicity of my parallel controller contributes to its efficiency and adapts it for use where economy of space is a desideratum.

I am aware that the rear portion of a fall board has been pivotally suspended upon a wire, as in Letters Patent 802,757, but in my device the fall board is not pivotally suspended or supported, but rests and slides bodily upon and parallel to the ways w, w. Furthermore my guiding rock lever is situated beneath the fall board and the connection therewith is not strictly speaking positive or pivotal, otherwise the fall board during movement would be raised from the end ways, which I obviate by a pin-and-slot connection between the transverse arms of the rock lever and the rear of the fall board by

either of the alternative methods shown in the drawings.

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

1. The combination with a piano fall board, of end ways on the piano frame supporting said fall board, and an intermediate alinement-controlling guide consisting of a rocker fulcrumed on the key bed parallel to the length of the fall board and formed with laterally projecting arms having pin-and-slot connection with the rear of the fall board, for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination with a piano fall board, of end ways on the piano frame supporting said fall board and upon which it is transversely slidable, and an intermediate elongate U-shaped rocker the central part of which is fulcrumed below and parallel to the length of the fall board, the lateral arms of said rocker having pin-and-slot connection with the rear of the fall-board, for the purpose set forth.

PAUL M. ZEIDLER.

Witnesses:
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