Aug. 5, 1930. R. C. EZZELLE 1,772,308

COMBINATION GUITAR CASE AND STAND

Filed Oct. 21, 1929 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

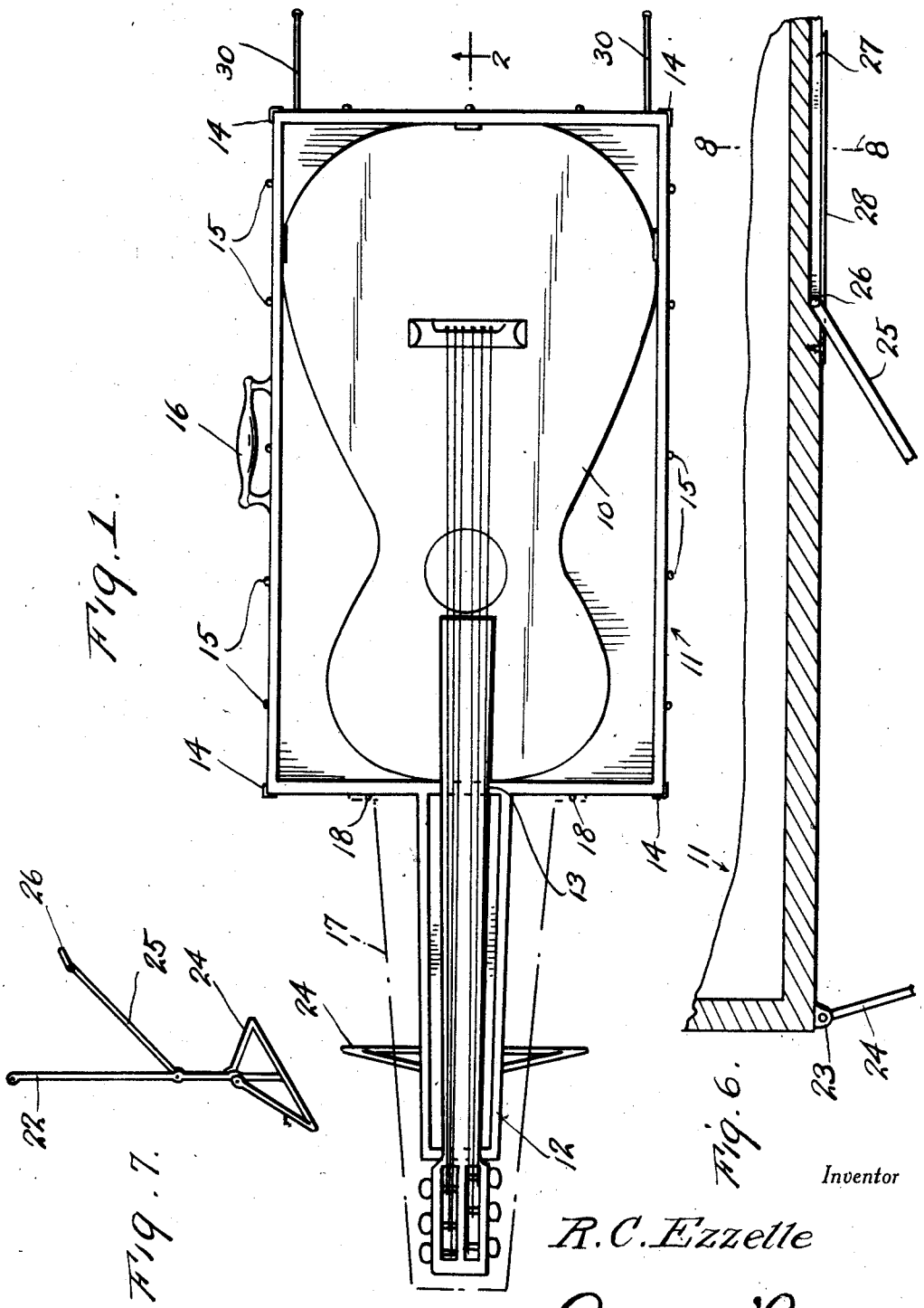


Fig. 1.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.

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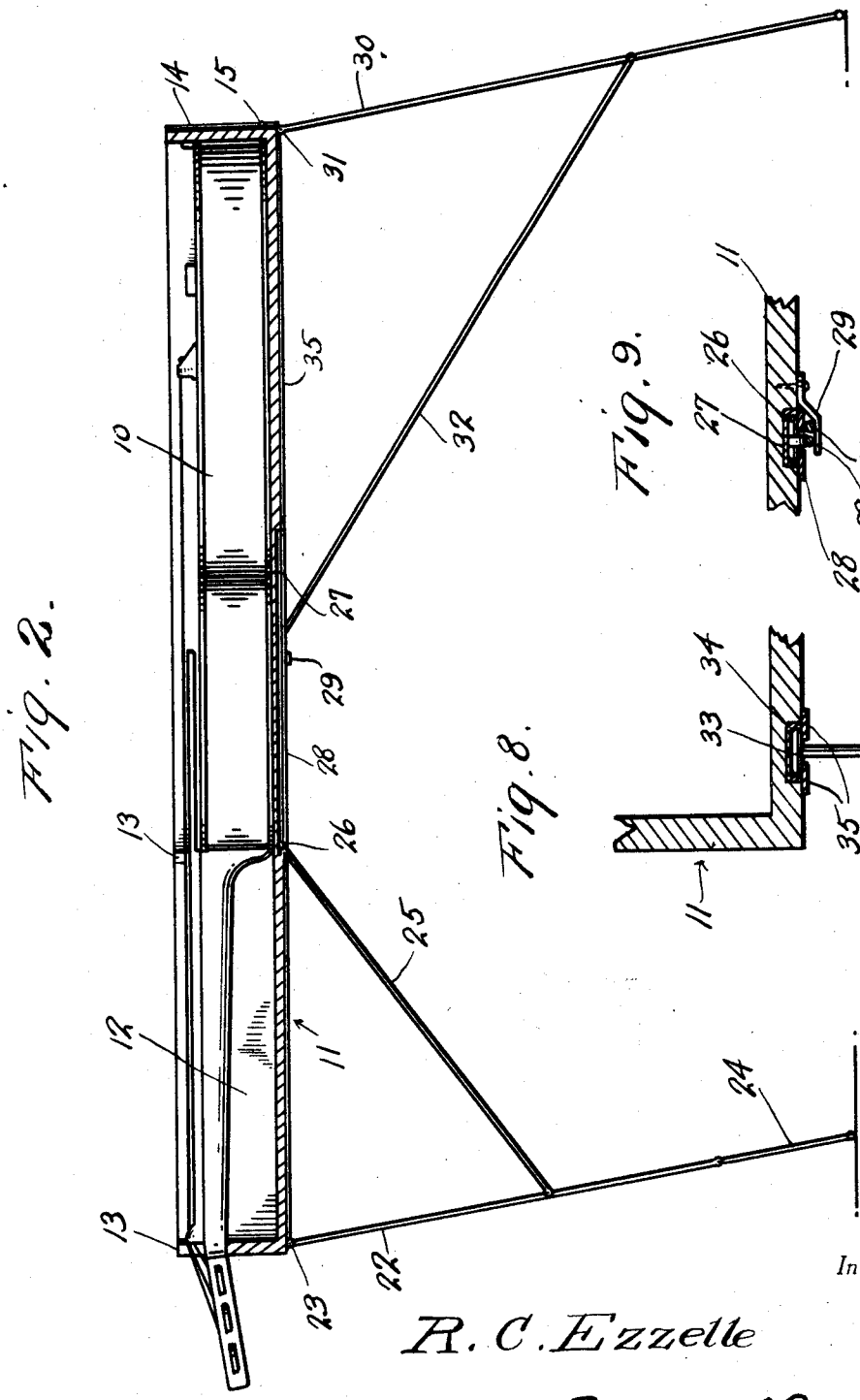


Fig. 2.

Fig. 9.

Fig. 8.

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Filed Oct. 21, 1929 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

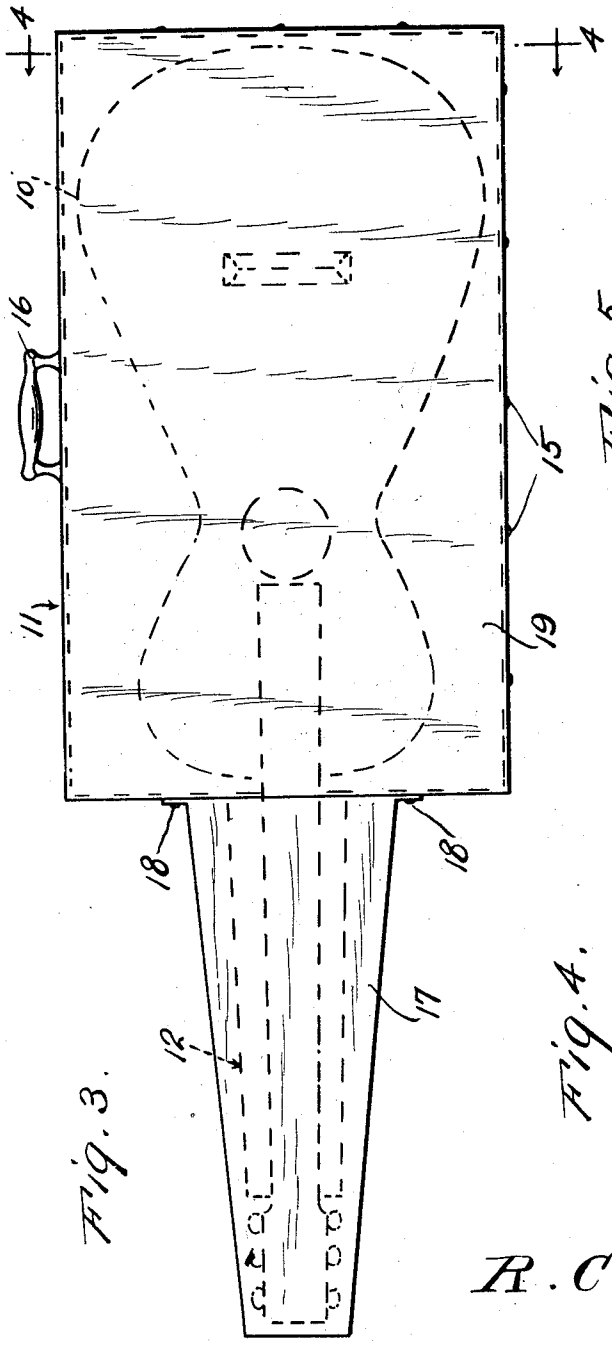


Fig. 3.

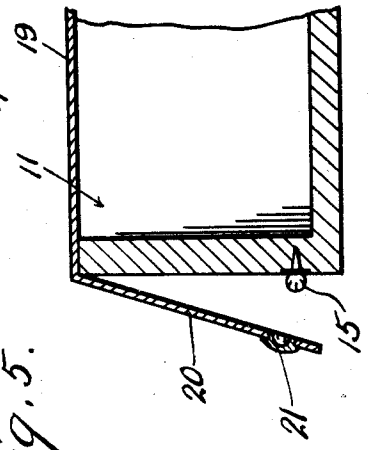


Fig. 5.

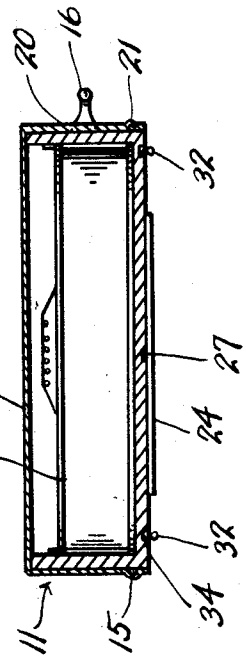


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINATION GUITAR CASE AND STAND

Application filed October 21, 1929. Serial No. 401,198.

This invention relates to the broad class of stringed musical instruments of the species generally referred to in the art as Hawaiian steel guitars, and it has more specific reference to a novel assembly of parts so constructed and associated as to provide a combination carrying case and supporting stand for the instrument.

As a general rule, a Hawaiian steel guitar is placed upon the lap of the performer in a somewhat horizontal position and the steel is slid longitudinally along the strings to the different positions while the portions of the strings overlying the instrument body are strummed.

I have observed that it is difficult for women and children to properly support the guitar on the lap because of the awkward position the legs are called upon to assume. Therefore, in order to avoid unreliable and inconvenient handling, I have evolved and produced a simple and economical structure which functions primarily as a supporting stand, enabling the instrument to be placed at the proper elevation, above the lap, and to be supported directly from the floor, thus insuring that the instrument will be held in a practical playing position for efficient performance.

As before intimated, novelty is predicated upon the employment of a case in which the instrument is placed and carried from place to place, said casing being provided with foldable supporting legs, whereby to provide a combined case and supporting stand structure.

The mechanical details and their specific association and arrangement will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view with the cover removed.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken approximately upon the plane of the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a top plan view with the cover in place.

Figure 4 is a transverse or cross sectional view of a section taken approximately on the plane of the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a corner fragmentary section of the cover buttoning or fastening means.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view showing a portion of the guide track and slidably mounted leg stay.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the front supporting leg.

Figure 8 is a section taken approximately on the plane of the line 8—8 of Figure 6.

Figure 9 is a view similar to Figure 8 showing a retaining clip associated with the track structure.

As seen in Figure 1, the reference numeral 10 designates generally a conventional steel guitar. In accordance with the present invention, this is placed in the especially designed case constituting the novelty of this invention. The case may be of any appropriate design. As a matter of fact, it is desired that the expression "case" be interpreted to comprehend a structure such as may be construed to mean a table, since in its broad aspect, this invention relates to a supporting table having supporting legs constituting a supporting stand for holding the guitar in a playing position, wherein the stand has the incidental function of a carrying case.

The case as seen in Figure 1 comprises a substantially rectangular box-like body portion 11 of appropriate depth and material. At the front end is a trough-like extension 12 which functions as a receptacle for the neck of the instrument. It is to be noted however, from Figure 2 that the left hand end of this neck extension 12 is notched as indicated at 13 and the key equipped head of the instrument extends beyond this notched end to render the keys accessible for tuning purposes.

The corners of the box 11 are suitably reinforced by cornice pieces 14 and on the side walls are headed studs 15 forming elements of separable fasteners to be hereinafter further described. Then too, on one side is a handgrip 16 as clearly shown in Figure 1.

For a cover I have found it expedient to employ a leather sleeve or the like 17 which slips over the neck portion of the case and in-

strument as seen in Figure 3, the same being detachably fastened in place by suitable means as indicated at 18. Then too, there is a separate cover sheet for the open top of the box portion of the case. This is indicated by the numeral 19 in Fig. 5 and is of an area to permit the edge portions thereof to be directed downwardly as indicated at 20. These portions 20 have buttons or snap fasteners 21 which engage with the complemental studs 15 to provide suitable separable fasteners.

The case may be employed for conveniently carrying the instrument from place to place. Its finer function, however is to provide a supporting table for holding the instrument in a horizontal playing position as before described.

Appropriate supporting legs are provided for maintaining this case in a horizontal position so that it functions as a stand. The legs are foldable in order that they may be folded against the bottom of the case to provide for compactness and convenience in carrying. Three legs have been found sufficient for properly supporting the case. For instance, there is a front leg as seen in Figure 2 at 22 and this is hingedly connected at 23 to the left hand end portion of the neck extension 12. At the bottom is a triangular foot 24 which rests on the floor. The numeral 25 designates a pivotally mounted brace or stay having a cross head 26 slidingly mounted in the channel shaped portion 27 of a guide and retention track as shown in Figure 9.

This track has longitudinal side flanges 28 which constitute confining elements. Then too, if desired, I provide one or more pivoted retaining latches or clips as at 29 for holding the leg and its stay in folded position.

For the rear leg structure I provide two independent supports each comprising a leg 30 hingedly mounted at 31 and provided with a relatively long diagonal brace or stay 32. The stay 32 as seen in Figure 8 has a cross head 33 on its upper end slidably mounted in similar guide tracks 34 likewise equipped with their longitudinal keeper flanges 35. In this way I provide a dependable foldable tripod supporting leg structure.

Broadly, the principal novelty exists in the provision of a suitable stand for holding a steel guitar in a horizontal playing position wherein the stand embodies an appropriate table of a shape and design to receive and hold in place the guitar and which at the same time renders the strings accessible to facilitate sliding of the steel. Then too, I have found it practicable to embody foldable supporting legs, so that convenience and compactness in arrangement is assured.

More specifically, novelty resides in the arrangement wherein the stand is constructed in the nature of a case having appropriate cover means and carrying handle means, whereby it may be utilized for transportation purposes.

Changes in shape, size, materials and rearrangements of elements coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice if desired.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is:

1. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a horizontal supporting body adapted to assume a horizontal position above the legs of the performer and constructed to retain a steel guitar in a steady playing position, together with supporting legs therefor.

2. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a horizontal supporting body adapted to assume a horizontal position above the legs of the performer and constructed to retain a steel guitar in a steady playing position, together with supporting legs therefor, said supporting legs being foldable to render the stand of a knock-down portable type.

3. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a receptacle for reception of the musical instrument to hold the latter in a horizontal playing position, and a foldable supporting leg structure for said receptacle.

4. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a receptacle for reception of the musical instrument to hold the latter in a horizontal playing position, and a foldable supporting leg structure for said receptacle, said leg structure embodying a single front leg, and a pair of rear legs, all of said legs being hingedly connected to the end portions of the receptacle and equipped with pivotally connected braces, said braces having sliding connection at their inner ends with the receptacle.

5. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a body including a box for reception of the body portion of the instrument, and a trough-like extension at one end of the box for reception of the neck of the instrument, said trough-like extension being provided at its terminal end with a notch through and beyond which the headed end of said neck extends in a manner so that the customary keys on the head of the instrument are accessible for tuning, and a plurality of supporting legs carried by the end portions of said body.

6. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument stand comprising a body including a box for reception of the body portion of the instrument, a trough-like extension at one end of the box for reception of the neck of the instrument, said trough-like extension being provided at its terminal end with a notch through and be-

yond which the headed end of said neck extends in a manner so that the customary keys on the head of the instrument are accessible for tuning, and a plurality of supporting legs carried by the end portions of said body, said supporting legs being foldable against the bottom of the body and including sustaining stays slidably connected with said body.

7. In a structure of the class described, a stringed musical instrument case constructed to accommodate a steel guitar and including an open top body and a removable cover therefor, and a foldable supporting leg structure carried by said body, and allowing it to be arranged in a horizontal supporting position, with the legs resting on the floor so that the instrument may be supported in a playing position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ROBERT CULLEN EZZELLE.