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CONVERTIBLE ELECTRICAL STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

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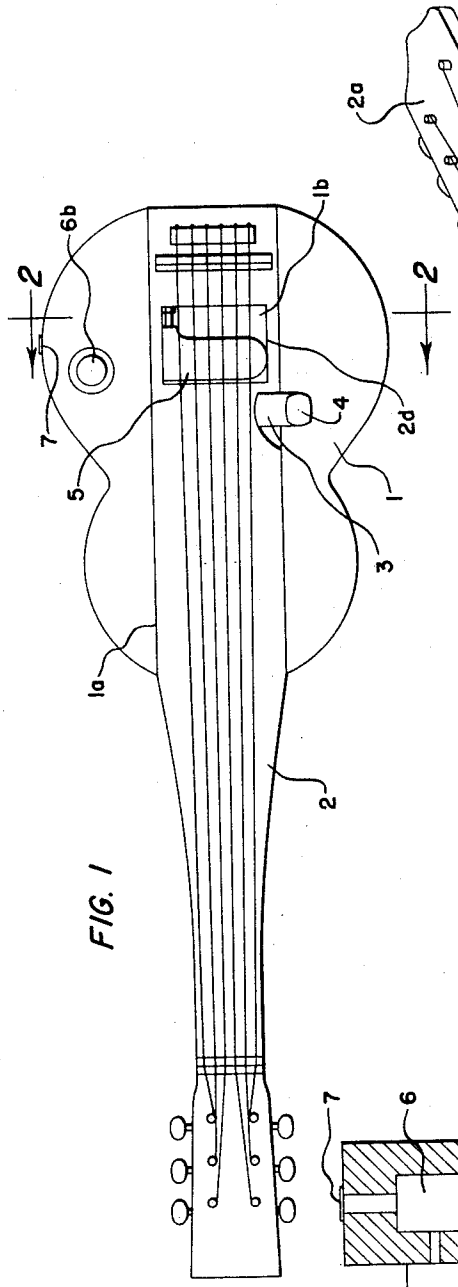


FIG. 1

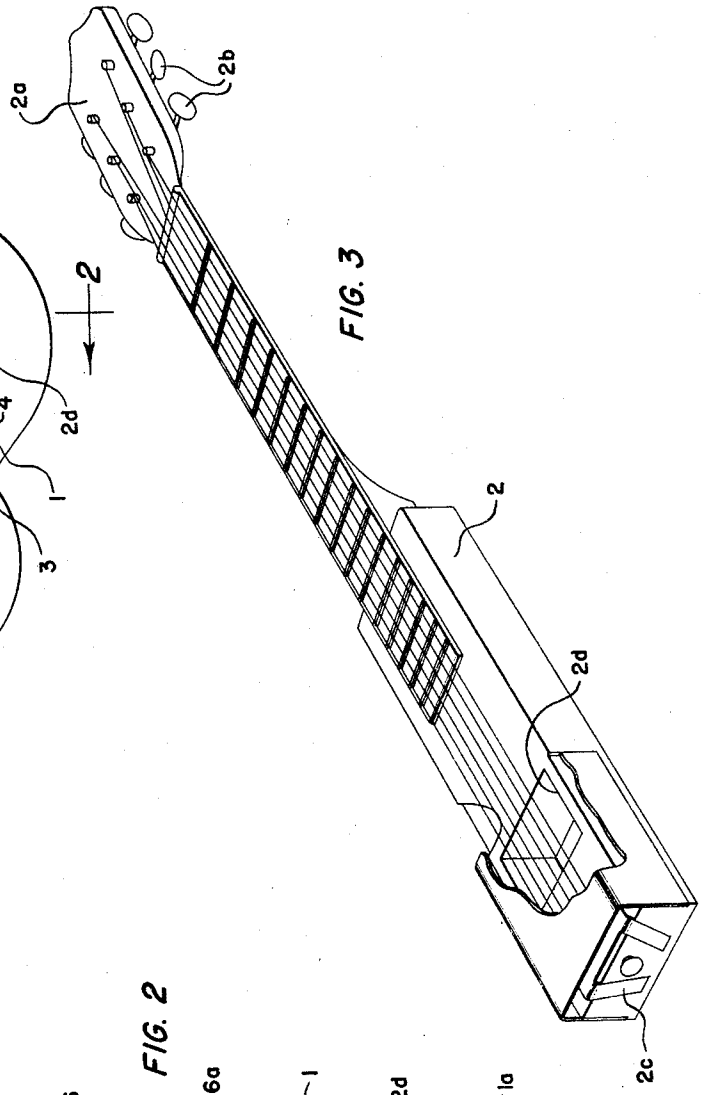


FIG. 3

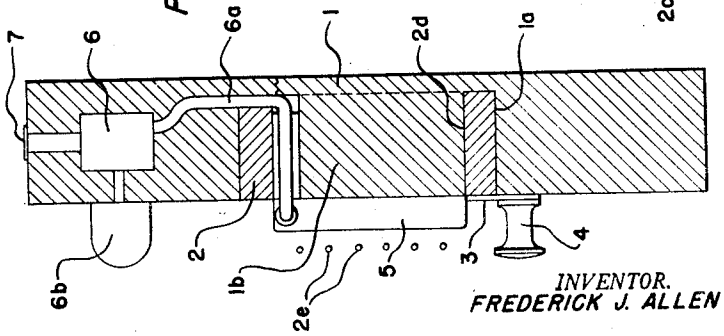


FIG. 2

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CONVERTIBLE ELECTRICAL STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

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5 Claims. (Cl. 84—1.14)

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My invention relates to a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, and the objects of my invention are:

First, to provide a musical instrument of this class which may be readily converted from one type to another, employing the same electrical pickup and amplifier, whereby considerable cost of a plurality of distinct instruments may be eliminated;

Second, to provide a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument which is adaptable to guitars or the like, whereby a Hawaiian guitar may be readily converted to a steel guitar, while employing a common electrical pickup and amplifier;

Third, to provide a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument of this class which may be converted from one distinct instrument to another without changing the tuning of the distinct instruments;

Fourth, to provide a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument of this class having a body and a plurality of individual detachable neck and tail piece members, which are arranged as different musical instruments;

Fifth, to provide a musical instrument of this class in which a very small amount of time is consumed in changing the combination neck and tail piece from one instrument to the other, so that the body of the instrument in connection with which the combination neck and tail pieces are exchanged may be maintained in position for playing, and the electrical pickup in connection with the body may be retained in electrical connection with a conventional amplifier, providing for the quick change of one instrument to the other between the rendition of different musical compositions;

Sixth, to provide a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument of this class in which the combination neck and tail piece, arranged in removable connected relationship to the body of the instrument, is provided with a pickup receiving opening therein, which permits the pickup connected to the body to be disposed in close proximity to the strings on the combination neck and tail piece for clear pickup and reception; and

Seventh, to provide a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument of this class which is very simple and economical of construction, efficient in operation, and which will not readily deteriorate or get out of order.

With these and other objects in view, as will appear hereinafter, my invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination

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and arrangement of parts and portions, as will be hereinafter described in detail and particularly set forth in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the characters of reference thereon, forming a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1 is a top or plan view of the assembly of my convertible electrical stringed musical instrument; Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken from the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the combination neck and tail piece of my convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, arranged to be played as a Spanish guitar.

Similar characters of reference refer to similar parts and portions throughout the several views of the drawing.

The body 1, combination neck and tail piece 2, clamp plate 3, clamp screw 4, electrical pickup 5, volume control 6 and the plug 7 constitute the principal parts and portions of my convertible electrical stringed musical instrument.

It will be here noted that the combination neck and tail piece 2, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing, is not provided with any frets, and is arranged to be played as a steel guitar, while the combination neck and tail piece 2 as shown in Fig. 3, is provided with conventional frets and is arranged to be played as a Spanish guitar.

The body 1 may be made of any suitable material, as desired, such as wood, plastic, or any other material having sufficient strength to properly support the combination neck and tail piece 2. This body 1 is provided with a longitudinal recess 1*a* therein, which is substantially U-shaped in cross section, and provided with an upwardly projected portion 1*b*, on which the electrical pickup 5 is supported. This electrical pickup 5 is electrically connected with the volume control 6 by means of the cable 6*a*, and the volume control 6 is provided with a knob 6*b*, projecting at the upper side of the body 1.

Electrically connected with the volume control 6 is a conventional female outlet plug 7, which may be connected to the conventional amplifier.

The combination neck and tail piece 2 is provided with a neck head portion 2*a*, having string-winding keys 2*b* thereon, while the opposite end of the combination neck and tail piece is provided with a tail piece 2*c*, to which the opposite ends of the strings are anchored. The combination neck and tail piece 2, forwardly of the tail piece 2*c*, is provided with an opening 2*d* therein, which is arranged to fit over the upwardly extending projection 1*b* in the channel-shaped recess 1*a*

of the body 1, all as shown best in Fig. 1 of the drawings. As shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the opening 2*d* surrounds the projection 1*b* of the body 1, while the pickup 5 is in close proximity to the strings 2*e* of the combination neck and tail piece 2, so that the pickup 5 efficiently receives the vibrations of the strings 2*e*.

The clamp plate 3 is pivoted on the clamp screw 4, which is screw-threaded in the body 1, and when in the position as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, extends over the upper surface of the combination neck and tail piece 2 for holding the same securely in the channel-shaped in cross-section recess 1*a* of the body 1.

The operation of my convertible electrical stringed musical instrument is substantially as follows:

When played as a steel guitar, employing the combination neck and tail piece 2 as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the pickup 5 and amplifier in connection therewith, which is not shown in the drawing and which is no part of my present invention, the musician may render the instrumental effect of a Hawaiian guitar. When the combination neck and tail piece, as shown in Fig. 1, is replaced by the combination neck and tail piece 2, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the musician may render the instrumental effects which may be accomplished by a Spanish guitar.

When it is desired to exchange the combination neck and tail pieces as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings, the clamp screw 4 is loosened in a counter-clockwise direction and the clamp plate 3 is pivoted thereon in a counter-clockwise direction, which removes the same from interfering relationship with the upper surface of the combination neck and tail piece 2, permitting the same to be removed from the channel-shaped in cross-section recess 1*a* in the body 1. The Spanish guitar neck and tail piece 2, as shown in Fig. 3, may then be positioned in the channel-shaped recess 1*a*, and the plate 3 may be pivoted thereover, so that tightening of the clamp screw 4 firmly fixes the combination neck and tail piece 2 in the body 1. Thus, the pickup 5 and connected equipment, which is the most expensive portion of electrical stringed instruments, may be used with a variety of combination neck and tail pieces 2, in order to provide the instrumental effects of various musical instruments.

Though I have shown and described a particular construction, combination and arrangement of parts and portions, I do not wish to be limited to this particular construction, combination and arrangement, but desire to include in the scope of my invention the construction, combination and arrangement substantially as set forth in the appended claims.

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

1. In a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, a combination unitary neck and tail piece having string-winding keys on one end, strings intermediate said keys and said tail piece, and a tail piece on the opposite end, said neck and tail piece provided with a recess therein directly below said strings thereon, and an electrical pickup positioned in said recess and readily removable from the lower side of said neck and tail piece.

2. In a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, a combination neck and tail piece having strings thereon, said combination neck and tail piece having an opening therein communicating with the said strings at the lower side thereof, and an electrical pickup removably connected with said combination neck and tail piece, and positioned in said opening adjacent said strings, a body for said combination neck and tail piece, supporting said electrical pickup and having a channel-shaped recess in which said combination neck and tail piece is removably positioned.

3. In a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, a combination neck and tail piece having strings thereon, said combination neck and tail piece having an opening therein communicating with the said strings at the lower side thereof, and an electrical pickup removably connected with said combination neck and tail piece, and positioned in said opening adjacent said strings, a body for said combination neck and tail piece, supporting said electrical pickup and having a channel-shaped recess in which said combination neck and tail piece is removably positioned, clamping means on said body for holding said combination neck and tail piece in connection therewith.

4. In a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, a combination neck and tail piece having strings thereon, said combination neck and tail piece having an opening therein communicating with the said strings at the lower side thereof, and an electrical pickup removably connected with said combination neck and tail piece and positioned in said opening adjacent said strings, a body for said combination neck and tail piece, supporting said electrical pickup and having a channel-shaped recess in which said combination neck and tail piece is removably positioned, clamping means on said body for holding said combination neck and tail piece in connection therewith, a volume control electrically connected with said electrical pickup and supported on said body.

5. In a convertible electrical stringed musical instrument, a body, an electrical pickup on said body and a combination neck and tail piece removably connected to said body, having strings thereon adjacent said electrical pickup, said body having a channel-shaped recess therein and a projection extending into said recess on which said electrical pickup is mounted, said combination neck and tail piece having an opening therein fitted over said projection and said electrical pickup, whereby said electrical pickup is in close proximity to the lower side of the strings on said combination neck and tail piece.

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