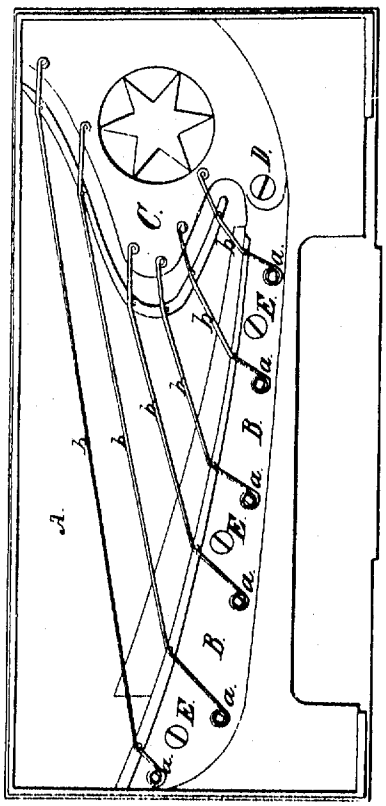
9494 X

H. Hartge,

Piano,

Patented Mar. 12, 1836.



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Henry Hodge Baltimore Md

X9494

Letters Patent

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said Henry Hodge himself of his Improvement in the Construction of Piano Fortes.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Be it known that I Henry Hodge of the City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of Piano Fortes and that the following is a full and exact description of the Construction of the said Improvement & invention by me, & the ordinary mode of constructing Piano Fortes the tuning pins & tuning block the tension of the strings is increased or diminished as may be required & put the instrument in tune are fitted into a solid block or piece of wood in the proper places & tightly that the friction & adhesion of the metal of tuning pin & the wooden tuning block as it is technically termed is sufficient to prevent the tuning pin from being moved by the tension of the string which is kept extended by it. The wood however being softer than the tuning pin and elastic in itself it often happens that the pins & instruments being turned down by the tension of the strings out of its perpendicular position after the piano has been tuned & by the tension of the string being diminished the instrument becomes as it is called out of tune. And to the more readily & the ease the performer the key or pitch to which the piano is tuned & effect in the solidity of the tuning block may render the undertaking or giving away of the tuning pins different in different parts of the same piano. The pins in the ordinary mode of construction may become unsteady in their proper position and the instrument accordingly become out of tune by the whole tuning block itself yielding to the tension of the strings. It is for the purpose of obviating these difficulties so far as it can be done by keeping the tuning pins and the tuning block in its proper position that my improvement is made. And I set forth and specify in the following manner. I perforate a suitable plate of the length of the tuning block and of sufficient width to receive

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secured fast to the tuning block the ends of the strings, which Circular holes exactly correspond with the holes for the tuning pins in the tuning block. The holes in the metallic plate are just large enough to permit the tuning pins turning around freely with the least play between the pin and the metallic plate. The tuning pins are prevented from turning round (by the tension of the string) in this case as in any other by the friction against the wood of the tuning block And by means of the metallic plate they are prevented from being drawn out of their perpendicular position and the tuning block is made firm enough to resist the accumulated tension of all the strings which rest on the metallic plate just described Constitutes the improvement which I have invented for the pianos which I have made with a view of testing the utility of my invention the thickness of the metallic plate as here about three eighths of an inch, which I have found to answer well though it may be made in different dimensions in this respect and still produce the same effect. It may also be made of brass iron or other metal. Have had one made. The metallic plate here described is secured fast to the tuning block and is connected by a screw or other sufficient fastening to the metallic plate which is above the sounding board and upon which the strings are hung or fastened as hereinafter, In the accompanying drawing but one construction of piano is shown My improvement is equally applicable to any other kind of piano and to any new invention in the above and for the use of which I ask an exclusive privilege is the metallic plate fastened to the tuning block with holes for the tuning pins to pass through furnishing additional security and permanency to which pins and giving increased friction to the tuning block, thereby aiding to keep the instrument in tune

Witness
Geo. H. B. Latrobe
F. Hallowell

Thos. Hodge
784 1807

(Drawings have been made)

Drawing