

(No Model.)

F. SCHIMMEL & S. F. NELSON.
FALL BOARD FOR PIANOS.

No. 495,122.

Patented Apr. 11, 1893.

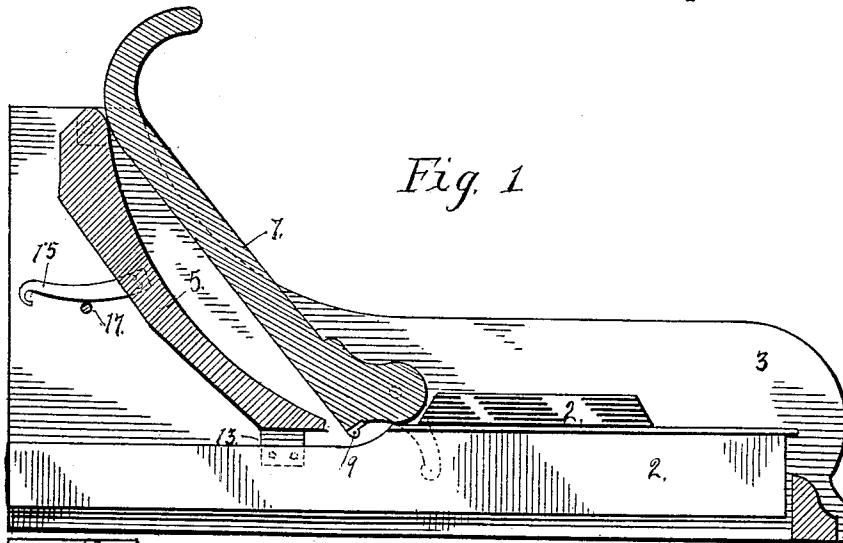


Fig. 1

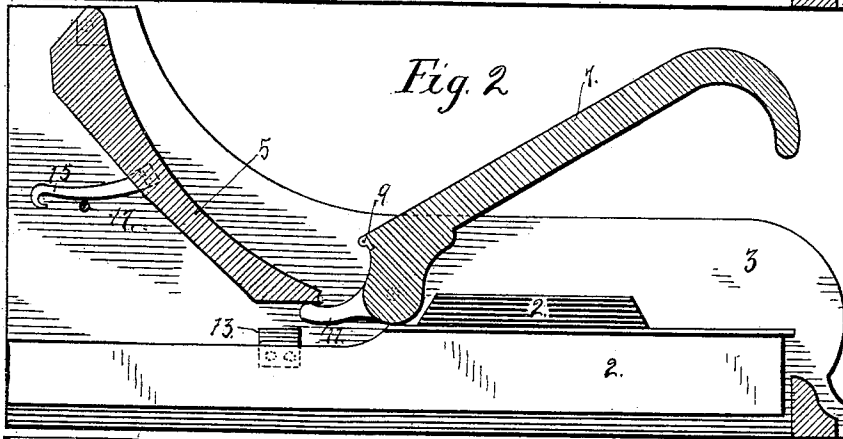


Fig. 2

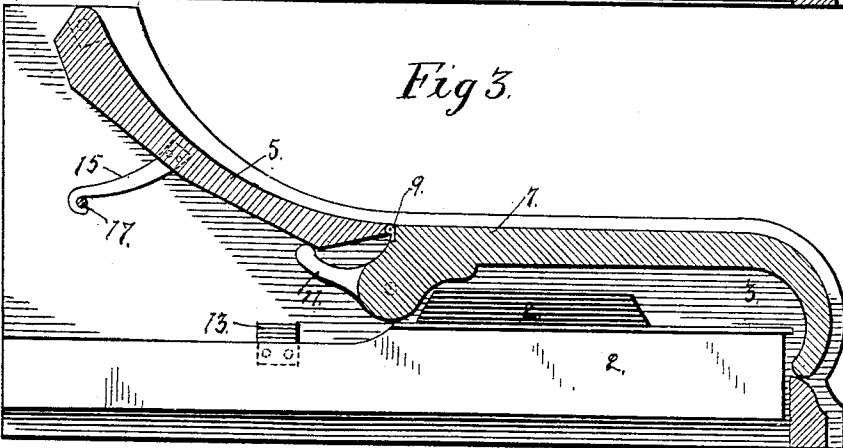


Fig. 3

Witnesses

L. C. Purple.
O. J. Hawley.

Inventors

Fridolin Schimmel.
Searick F. Nelson.
By Paul Mervin Atty's.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIDOLIN SCHIMMEL AND SEARICK F. NELSON, OF MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA.

FALL-BOARD FOR PIANOS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 495,122, dated April 11, 1893.

Application filed March 14, 1892. Serial No. 424,761. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRIDOLIN SCHIMMEL and SEARICK F. NELSON, both of Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain Improvements in Fall-Boards for Pianos and Organs, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in fall-boards for pianos and organs, and its object is to greatly simplify the construction and cheapen the cost of manufacture of fall-boards of the class which are made up of two principal parts, the rear one of which is adapted to fall or be pressed back by the raising of the other to permit the forward section to be thrown farther back than ordinarily, thus leaving an unusually large space before the key-board and allowing a clear space for the music drop.

To this end we do away with all hinges between the frame of the piano and the parts of the fall-board, simply pivoting the same at their ends to the frame and as hereinafter shown make the device selfoperating and self-locking without the aid of springs or spring-parts.

The invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which:—

Figure 1 is a transverse section of a fall-board constructed in accordance with our invention, showing the fall-board open. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the fall-board partially open. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the fall-board closed.

As shown in the drawings, the keys 2 and the piano casing 3 are of the ordinary construction with the exception that all intermediate supports or lugs projecting upward between the rear parts of the keys are dispensed with, all such parts being unnecessary to our construction of the fall-board.

The fall-board is formed in the two sections 5 and 7 the section 5 being pivotally supported at points near its upper edge by pins projecting therefrom into the casing, as shown by dotted lines in the drawings. These simple pivot pins take the place of the costly hinge which would otherwise have to be employed along the full length of the upper edge of the

part 5. The other or front section 7 of the fall-board is pivoted near its rear edge to the frame by similar pins projecting from its ends (see dotted lines in drawings) and is arranged to be thrown down over the keys or to be swung back so that its forward part rests against the under edge of the part 5 and at a much greater incline than usual. As shown the top part of the part 7 is flat and extends back in a plane surface to a point above the pivot (shown in dotted lines) where the blind hinge 9 is attached. The front edge of the part 5 has a groove adapted to fit the rear part of the blind hinge snugly and the part 5 is of such width that when raised in the position shown in Fig. 3 its edge just comes against the blind hinge so that it seems to form a permanent part of the piano frame to which the forward part of the fall-board is attached. The part 5 is positively and rigidly supported when closed by the strong fingers or lugs 11, one of which is placed at each end of the forward part of the fall-board and attached permanently thereto. When the forward part is raised these fingers are withdrawn from beneath the part 5 and sliding across the flat lower edge thereof permit the part 5 to fall of its own weight upon the stops or blocks 13 arranged on the sides of the frame and which prevent the parts 5 from being pushed farther back so as to expose the interior of the piano to damage. To prevent the raising of the part 5 after closing we provide one or more of the hooks 15 extending from the back thereof and adapted to engage the pins 17 in the frame. Thus it will be seen that the part 5 is safely locked in either position without regard to the part 7 except as the fingers 11 thereof support the same, which fingers it should be noted form the only sliding connection between the two parts and as they operate on the lower unfinished side of course do no damage. The fact that a fine surface joint is made between the two parts without movement of either part over the same to scrape it forms an important advantage of our invention.

A further advantage is that a smooth unbrotken surface of top is made between the extreme forward and rear edges of the fall-board. Having thus fully described our invention,

we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, with the piano casing,
of a fall-board composed of independently piv-
5 oted parts 5 and 7 pivoted at their rear edges,
the rear part 5 adapted to drop by its own
gravity when unsupported by the forward
part, the forward edge of the rear part and
the rear edge of the forward part of the fall-
10 board adapted to close together to form an
unbroken surface between the tops thereof,
a blind hinge arranged in the joint, rigid
arms 11 extending from the rear of the for-
ward section and beneath the lower and for-
15 ward edge of the rear section and forming the
only and positive support for said lower edge
when closed, and stops 13 for limiting the fall
of the rear part when released by the raising
of the forward part, substantially as described.
20 2. In a fall-board the combination, with the

piano frame, of the rear section 5 pivoted near
its upper edge to said frame and adapted when
un-supported to drop upon the stops 13 pro-
vided on said frame, the forward section piv-
25 oted on said frame and provided with the lugs
11 arranged to engage the under-side of the
section 5 when resting on said stops and as
the forward part is closed or lowered to raise
the lower edge of the rear section and posi-
tively support the edge thereof in contact with
30 the rear edge of the forward section, substan-
tially as described.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set
our hands this 7th day of March, 1892.

FRIDOLIN SCHIMMEL.
SEARICK F. NELSON.

In presence of—
A. C. PAUL,
F. S. LYON.