Nov. 8, 1927. 1,648,713

C. ANDERSH

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

Filed May 12, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

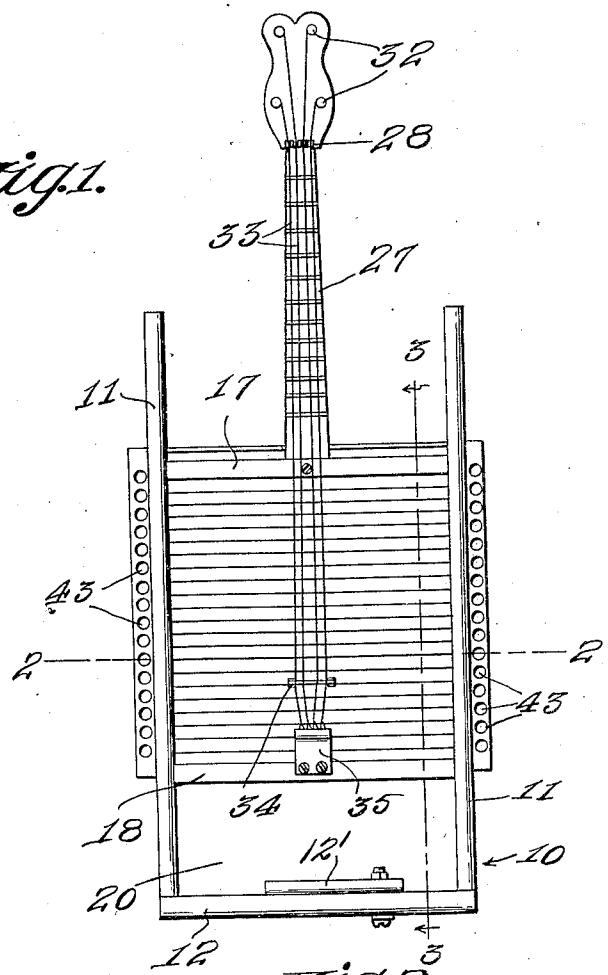
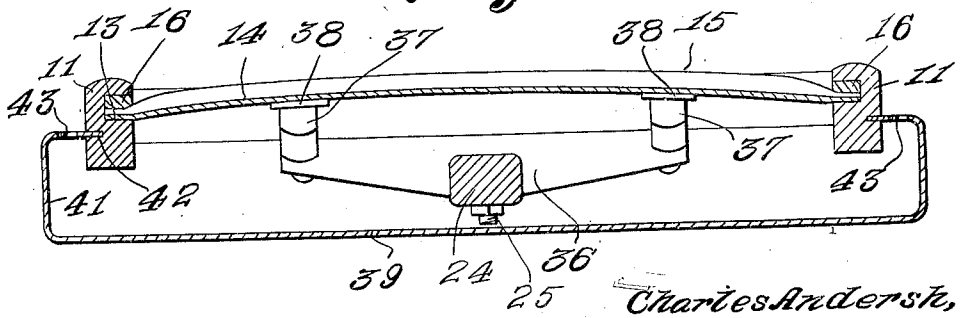


Fig. 2.



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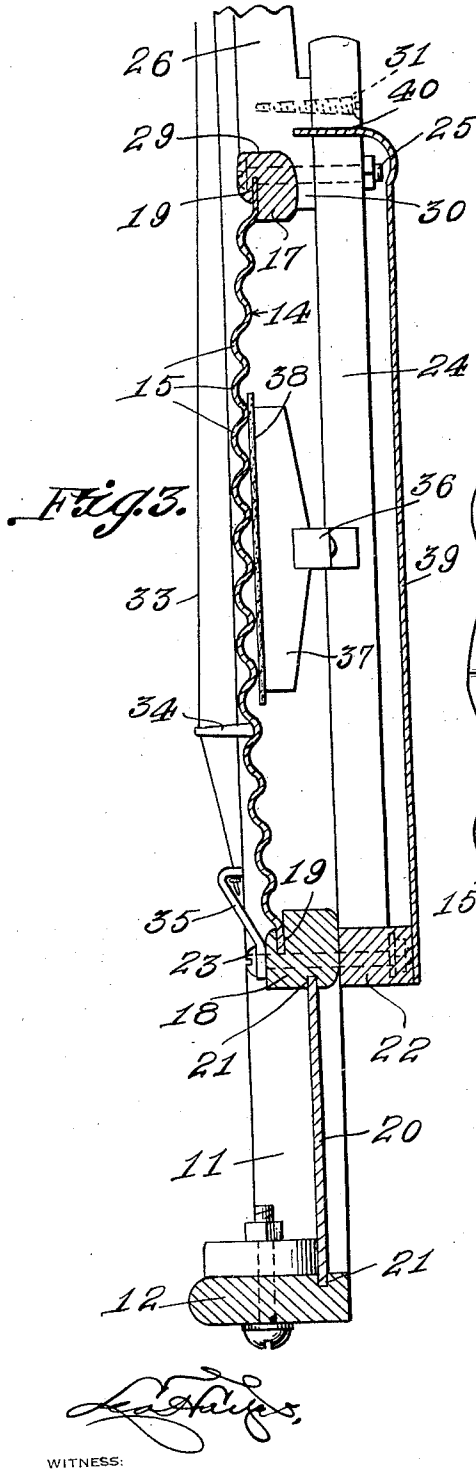


Fig. 3.

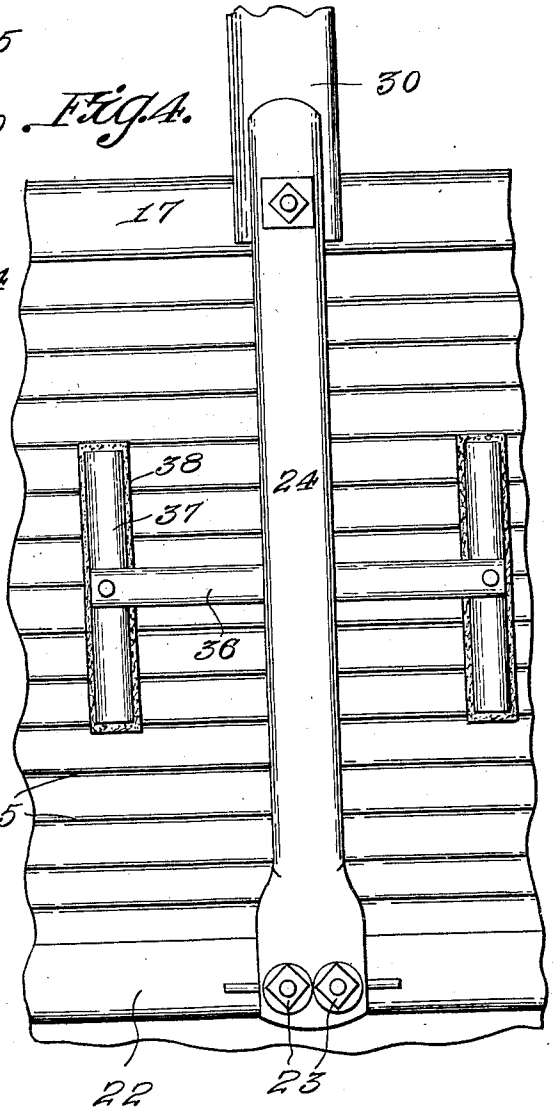


Fig. 4.

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WITNESS:

Patented Nov. 8, 1927. 1,648,713

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES ANDERSH, OF WAGNER, SOUTH DAKOTA.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

Application filed May 12, 1926. Serial No. 108,690.

This invention relates to musical instruments, particularly to those of the string type and has for its object the provision of a novel instrument capable of being strung and played in a manner similar to the playing of a tenor banjo.

An important and more specific object is the provision of an instrument which is provided with a peculiarly constructed head and sounding board arrangement whereby the tonal qualities will be superior to what can be obtained with the ordinary type of banjo or equivalent instrument.

A still further object is to provide an instrument in which the head is provided with a corrugated sounding board which may, in actual practice, be an ordinary washboard to which certain attachments are applied for the purpose of converting it into a musical instrument, there being, however, no limitation in this respect as it is contemplated that the head may be specially constructed for the purpose without utilizing such an implement.

Still another object is to provide a device of this character in which the head has a series of openings at both sides thereof permitting the sound to escape into the air, the provision of the multiplicity of openings providing ample egress for whatever sound waves are generated so that the volume will be what may be called the maximum possible.

An additional object is to provide an instrument of this character which will be simple and inexpensive in manufacture, strong and durable, as easy to play as one of an ordinary type and which will be a general improvement in the art.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of elements to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is an elevation or plan view of the complete device.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view of the rear or underside.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, it will be seen that regardless of whether the head of the instrument be formed from a conventional washboard or the like, it comprises a rectangular preferably wooden frame indicated by the numeral 10 and including spaced parallel longitudinally extending side bars 11 connected by a cross bar 12, the confronting edges of the side bars of the frame being grooved as indicated at 13 to receive the side edges of the sounding board 14 which is preferably of metal and which is formed with corrugations 15 extending transversely thereof. It will be obvious that by extending the side bars 11 beyond the ends of the sounding board 14 as clearly shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, and connecting one of the ends of said side bars 11 with the cross bar 12, the construction will simulate a washboard of the usual construction. Pivotally secured to the cross bar 12 is an arm rest 12′ which as shown is arranged in its normal position but may be disposed at right angles to the bar 12 when it is desired to use the same. Any suitable means such as the retaining strip 16 may be provided fitting within the grooves 13 and engaging the edges of the sounding board whereby to hold the same securely in position. The above described frame 10 further includes a cross member 17 which is located inwardly with respect to the ends of the side members 11, this cross member 17 being similar to an intermediate cross member 18 which is spaced from the first mentioned cross member 12. Both of the cross members of the frame 17 and 18 are grooved at their confronting edges, as shown at 19 for the reception of the other two edges of the corrugated sounding board 14.

A plate 20 is located between the cross members 12 and 18, both of which are grooved at 21 for the reception of the edges thereof.

Secured upon the underside of the cross member 18 is a bar or strip 22 to which is secured, as by bolts 23 or the like, one end of an elongated bar 24 which extends to a point beyond the cross member 17 and which is secured thereto as by a bolt 25. The numeral 26 designates the neck of the instrument which is of course provided with the usual finger board 27 and nuts 28. The end of this neck adjacent the head is recessed as indicated at 29 to fit conformingly against the cross member 17 and to provide an extension 30 which fits between the cross member 17 and the bar 24, the above

described bolt 25 passing through this extension. As an additional holding means for the neck, use may be made of a securing element such as a wooden screw indicated at 31, this screw passing through the projecting end of the bar 24 and into the neck adjacent the recess portion thereof. At its free end, the neck of course carries the usual tuning pegs 32 with which are connected the strings 33 which pass over the nut 28, along the finger board, over the usual bridge 34 and which are connected with the tailpiece 35 which is suitably secured to the cross member 18.

Mortised onto or otherwise secured to the intermediate portion of the bar 24 and located between it and the sounding board 14 is a transverse arm 36 which is provided at its ends with spaced parallel foot pieces formed as strips 37 spaced with felt or the like 38 bearing against the underside of the sounding board for the purpose of bowing the same slightly as indicated in Figure 2 and maintaining it under sufficient tension to prevent it from vibrating at its natural frequency and producing inharmonious sounds as a consequence. The feature of applying tension to the sounding board is believed to be rather important especially as the sounding board itself is of metal construction.

The head further includes a resonator formed as a casing-like member 39 of metal and of greater width than the frame 10 and of substantially the same length as the overall dimensions betwen the cross members 17 and 18. This resonator 39 is provided at one edge with a wall portion or flange 40 which is notched for the accommodation of the projecting upper end of the bar 24 and the adjacent portion of the neck. At its opposite end or edge this resonator is suitably secured to the transverse bar or strip 22 as clearly indicated in Figure 3. The side edges, indicated at 41 are formed with inwardly directed flanges 42 received within suitable grooves in the outer edges of the side members 11 of the frame, and these flanges 42 are each formed with a plurality of holes 43 to permit the exit of sound.

Assuming that the instrument has been constructed and assembled as above described, it is clear that the intention is that it be strung and tuned so as to be played similarly to the playing of a tenor banjo. In actual practice I have discovered that the instrument is very efficient and that the tonal qualities are pleasing and true, the sound produced having, moreover, an unusually large volume which is of course of material advantage. It is really believed that the construction will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art without further explanation.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that I reserve the right to make such changes in the form, construction and arrangement of parts as will not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:—

1. In an instrument of the character described, a rectangular frame, a corrugated metal sounding board secured thereto, a bar extending longitudinally of and secured to the underside of the frame, a neck secured to the frame and the bar, a resonator secured to the frame, and abutment means carried by said longitudinal bar and engaging the underside of the corrugated sounding board for maintaining it bowed.

2. In an instrument of the character described, a rectangular frame, a corrugated metal sounding board secured thereto, a bar extending longitudinally of and secured to the underside of the frame, a neck secured to the frame and the bar, a resonator secured to the frame, and means carried by said longitudinal bar and engaging the underside of the corrugated sounding board for maintaining it under tension in a slightly bowed manner, said means comprising a transversely arranged bar carried by the longitudinal bar, and foot pieces carried by the end portions of said transverse bar.

3. In an instrument of the character described, a rectangular frame grooved around its inner side, a corrugated metal sounding board having its edges engaged within said groove, a longitudinal bar secured to the frame at the underside thereof, a rectangular metallic resonator secured to the frame, outwardly of said longitudinal bar, tension maintaining means on said longitudinal bar engaging against the underside of the corrugated sounding board for maintaining the same bowed, and a neck having a portion recessed in a manner to fit conformingly with the longitudinal bar.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES ANDERSH.