

939,178.

F. C. WHITE.
TRACKER BOARD.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 24, 1908

Patented Nov. 2, 1909.

Fig. 1.

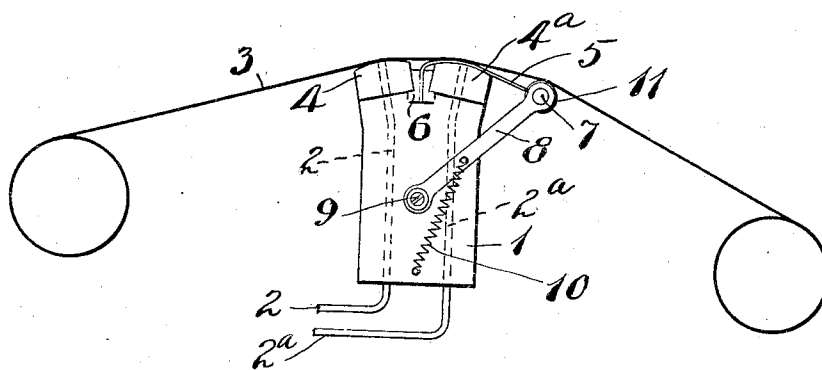


Fig. 2.

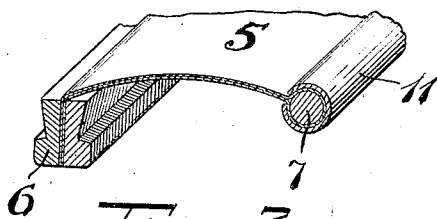
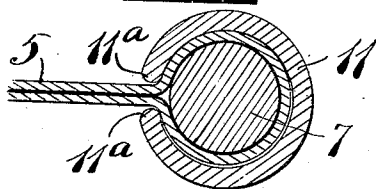


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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TRACKER-BOARD.

939,178.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK C. WHITE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Meriden, county of New Haven, Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tracker-Boards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to trackers for mechanical players for pianos, organs and the like.

My object aims at providing a tracker which can be successfully employed with either an eighty-eight note music sheet or roll, or with a sixty-five note sheet or roll, said tracker having two independent rows of perforations, one row being properly spaced for an eighty-eight note sheet, the other being properly spaced for a sixty-five note sheet. Coupled with this I employ an improved means for throwing either row of perforations out of action.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is illustrative of a tracker viewed from one end and constructed to embody my invention, there being also shown a sheet of music traversing said tracker. Fig. 2 is a relatively enlarged perspective view, broken away and partly in section, of certain details. Fig. 3 is a still further enlarged detail view in section.

1 is the body of the tracker having two independent rows of ducts therein, one duct of each row or set being indicated at 2—2^a. The row indicated at 2 may be assumed to be properly spaced for an eighty-eight note music sheet while the row indicated at 2^a may be assumed to be properly spaced for a sixty-five note sheet. 3 represents a perforated music roll or sheet arranged to traverse the tracker. The tracker is provided with two bearing faces 4—4^a, adapted respectively for the ducts 2—2^a, the upper open ends of the latter being exposed in the usual manner to be covered and uncovered by the perforated note sheet 3, in the usual manner.

It is obvious that with two independent rows or sets of perforations or ducts, suitable means must be provided to cut out one or the other row according to the particular style of note sheet selected for use. To that end, I provide a flexible apron 5 anchored at one edge to an abutment 6 located between the tracker bearings 4—4^a. The other

edge of the apron 5 is secured to a rod 7 carried by a suitable swinging bracket support. This support may comprise two brackets, one of which is shown at 8, the same being pivoted at 9. A corresponding bracket (not shown) is provided at the opposite end of the tracker 1.

10 is a spring, or equivalent device, connected at one end to the bracket 8 and at the other end to the end of the tracker-board 1 below the pivot 9. It will be seen, on referring to Fig. 1, that the pull of said spring is in a direction as to hold the bracket in the position there indicated, in which the apron 5 will be drawn tightly over the bearing 4^a so as to close the open upper ends of the ducts 2^a, cutting them off entirely to the admission of air. It follows that, under these conditions, the note sheet 3 (assumed to be on the eighty-eight note sheet) will operate the instrument only through the ducts 2. If it is desired to employ a sixty-five note sheet, the operator has merely to swing the rod 7 to the left (as viewed in Fig. 1) so that it will stand in an opposite position, thus carrying over the apron 5 so as to open the ducts 2^a and cover ducts 2. The flexibility of the apron 5 permits this shifting of the rod 7 to be easily accomplished whenever desired. The flexibility of the apron also prevents all danger of injury to the bearing faces of the tracker, a matter of vital consequence in an instrument of this character. Beyond this, the employment of a flexible apron has another advantage, namely, it permits all parts thereof to quickly conform to the bearing faces 4—4^a so as to effectively seal the ducts therein.

In the preferred construction, the flexible apron 5 is formed of a doubled sheet of fabric impervious to air, the edges thereof being held by the anchorage 6, the doubled portion loosely surrounding the rod 7 and being held thereon by means of a split tube 11 which so embraces the rod 7 and fabric as to hold the doubled portion of the latter smoothly in place and yet not so as to prevent the rod 7 from rotating therein, as it is shifted from one position to the other. The edges of the split tube 11 are preferably rounded at 11^a to avoid injury to the fabric of the apron 5 (see Fig. 3). The spring 10 operates equally to hold the bracket 8 in the position shown in Fig. 1, or in a reversed position, said spring swinging from one side

to the other of the center 9 as rod 7 is shifted. The smooth upper surface of the split tube 11 constitutes preferably a bearing over which the note sheet freely travels (see Fig. 1) said bearing being so located as to hold said sheet somewhat above the immediately adjacent portion of the apron 5 whereby said sheet will touch said apron only along a comparatively narrow line, thus reducing surface friction to a minimum.

What I claim is:

1. In a tracker-board, a body 1 having therein two independent rows of ducts, a shiftable flexible apron and means to shift the same to cut off either one of said rows.

2. In a tracker-board, a body 1 having therein two independent rows of ducts, a shiftable flexible apron arranged to cut off either one of said rows, one part of said apron being anchored to said body at a point between said rows.

3. In a tracker-board, a body 1 having therein two independent rows of ducts, a flexible apron arranged to cut off either one of said rows, one part of said apron being anchored to said body at a point between said rows, and a movable bracket support connected to another part of said apron, whereby said apron may be shifted to either of its two operative positions.

4. In a tracker-board, a body 1 having therein two independent rows of ducts, a flexible apron arranged to cut off either one of said rows, one part of said apron being anchored to said body at a point between said rows, and a shiftable bracket connected to another part thereof, whereby said apron may be moved to either of its two operative

positions, with means for holding said bracket in each of its operative positions. 40

5. In a tracker-board, a body 1 having therein two independent rows of ducts, a flexible apron arranged to cut off one or the other of said sets, said apron being anchored to said body at a point between said rows, and means to move said apron to either of its two operative positions, with means for holding the latter in either one of its operative positions, said means operating also to apply tension to said apron. 45 50

6. In a tracker a body 1 having two independent air admission ducts, a closure for said ducts, said closure comprising an apron anchored at one edge to said body between said ducts and means whereby the rest of the apron may be swung to and fro to cover one or the other of said ducts. 55

7. In a tracker a body 1 having two independent series of air admission ducts, an apron operating as a closure for one or the other of said series, means for holding one edge of said apron between said series, and means for shifting the rest of said apron into, and holding the same in, operative position at either side of said holding means and in position to close one or the other of said series of ducts. 60 65

8. A double tracker having two independent sets of ducts, a flexible closure therefor, means for shifting said closure into position to close either of said sets at will, said means including a note sheet support. 70

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Witnesses:

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