

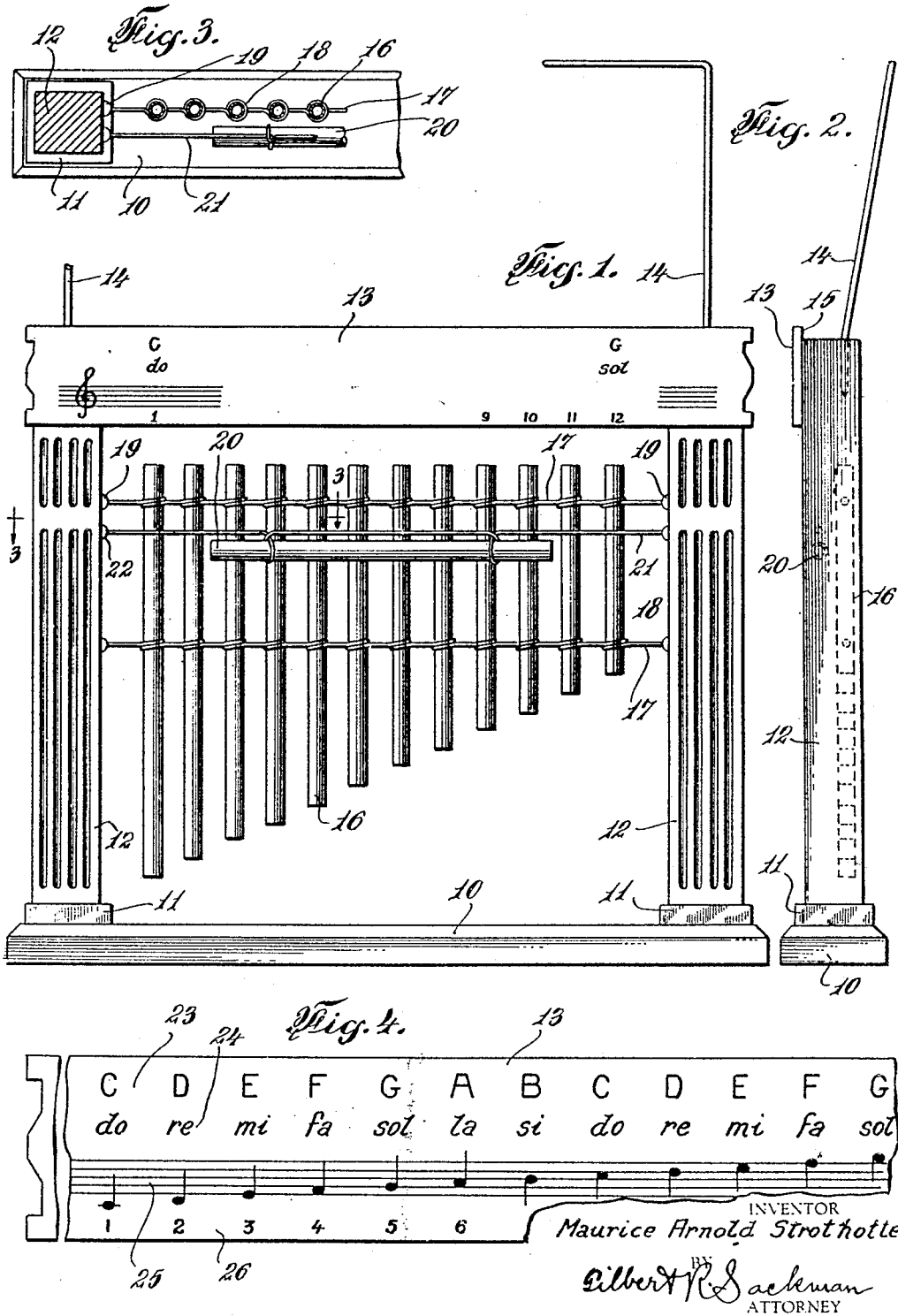
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M. A. STROTHOTTE

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TUBULAR CHIMES

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INVENTOR
Maurice Arnold Strothotte.
Gilbert R. Sackman
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MAURICE ARNOLD STROTHOTTE, OF NEW YORK N. Y.

TUBULAR CHIMES

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This invention relates to musical instruments and more particularly refers to improvements in the construction of tubular chimes.

5 The primary object of my invention is to provide a novel and improved arrangement of tubular chimes whereby excessive vibration is checked and the resultant overtones are reduced to a minimum.

10 Another object of this invention is to provide, in connection with an instrument of the class specified, means whereby the playing of the same may be readily mastered.

15 In instruments of the type to which this invention refers, comprising a plurality of tubular members each capable of producing a different tone or note when struck with a hammer, it is customary to suspend each tubular member or chime from the upper end, 20 letting the same dangle freely from its point of suspension. Due to this construction the chimes are apt to vibrate to an excessive degree, and are also apt at times to strike one against another, interfering with the quality 25 of the musical rendition.

My present invention tends to correct these conditions and also to provide certain other improvements making it easier for the beginner to learn how to play this type of instrument. 30

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of an instrument embodying my invention;

35 Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan section of same through line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

40 Fig. 4 is a fragmentary front view in an enlarged scale of a crossbar or panel carrying certain musical designations relating to the underlying tubes or chimes.

Referring to the drawing, 10 is a base-board comprising a pedestal 11, in which supporting columns or posts 12 are mounted in 45 an upright position. Attached to the upper end of each of the said uprights 12, is a strip or bar of wood or other suitable material upon which are provided by printing or otherwise, certain musical designations which 50 will be described later in detail.

Convenient means for supporting sheet music are also preferably provided at the top of the instrument frame; for instance, a ledge may be provided consisting of a U-shaped bar or wire, attached onto the upper 55 ends of posts 12. Sheet music placed against said ledge may be prevented from sliding down by causing its lower edge to rest against the projecting edge 15 of the bar 13.

60 A plurality of tubular chimes 16 of different dimensions are placed at spaced intervals between the posts 12. Said chimes are maintained in position by means of two spaced strings or cords 17, which are tied securely about each tube as indicated at 18, said 65 tubular chimes 16 being notched slightly for the reception of said cords, 17. Strings or cords 17 preferably extend across the frame, their ends being securely attached to posts 12, as shown at 19, so that the chimes will be main- 70 tained in a vertical position.

75 In front of tubes 16 and at right angles thereto a tube 20 is horizontally suspended by means of a cord 21, said cord 21 being firmly attached at each end to the posts 12, as shown at 22. The purpose of tube 20 is to produce a chromatic interpolative semi-tone, distinct from that produced by any one of the tubes 16. That is, if the auxiliary tube 20 were tuned in F-sharp, it would be a semi-tone 80 distinct from the tubes 16 tuned in F or G; or, again, if the auxiliary chime 20 were tuned in B-flat, it would be a semi-tone distinct from the tubes 16 tuned in A or B.

85 On the scale board 13, the diatonic scale is represented in four distinct ways; namely, at 23 by the alphabetical designations A, B, C, etc.; at 24 by the Italian designations, do, re, mi, etc.; at 25 by the customary sheet-music, staff designations; and at 26 by numbers as 90 1, 2, 3, etc.

The purpose of this multiform musical scale representation is to facilitate the mastery of the instrument by a beginner, by presenting a ready means of transition from simple designations to more complex representa- 95 tions.

100 In the drawing twelve vertical tubes 16, are shown, but it is to be understood that this number may be decreased or increased.

it is to be understood that these tubes may be so mounted that the direction of their axes may be horizontal, or at any angle, rather than vertical. Also more than two suspension cords may be utilized.

Although only one auxiliary tube 20, is shown, it is obvious that as many tubes as may be found essential may be employed.

It will be observed that although the tubular chimes are held at two points along their length so as to permanently maintain them in a set position, the retaining means employed are of a flexible nature; therefore, although excessive vibration is checked, normal vibration is not interfered with to any material extent.

The drawing is to be regarded as merely illustrative and not in a limiting sense; I accordingly reserve the right to depart therefrom in response to the exigencies of artistic or commercial practice, while remaining, fairly, within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a musical instrument of the character described, the combination, with a plurality of parallel tubular chimes each capable of producing one of the tones of the diatonic major scale, of one or more parallel auxiliary tubular chimes of different tones in the musical scale, each a semi-tone distinct from that of either of the two adjacent chimes in the tone sequence of the afore-said diatonic major scale.

2. In a musical instrument of the character described, the combination, with a plurality of parallel tubular chimes each capable of producing one of the tones of the diatonic major scale, of one or more parallel auxiliary tubular chimes of different tones in the musical scale, each a semi-tone distinct from that of either of the two adjacent chimes in the tone sequence of the afore-said diatonic major scale; said auxiliary chimes being directed transversely of the afore-said plurality of tubular chimes.

MAURICE ARNOLD STROTHOTTE.