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FRETTED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

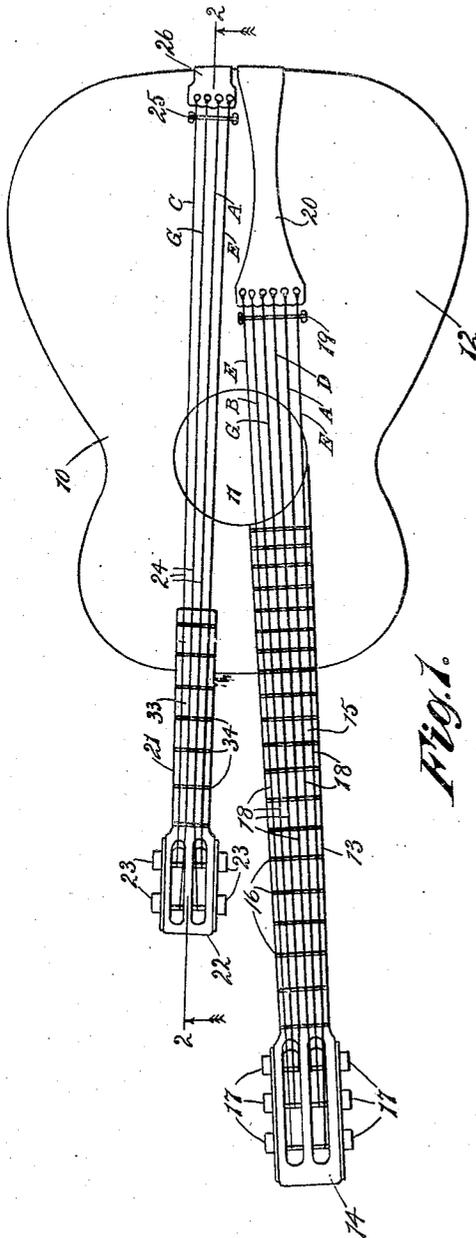


Fig. 1.

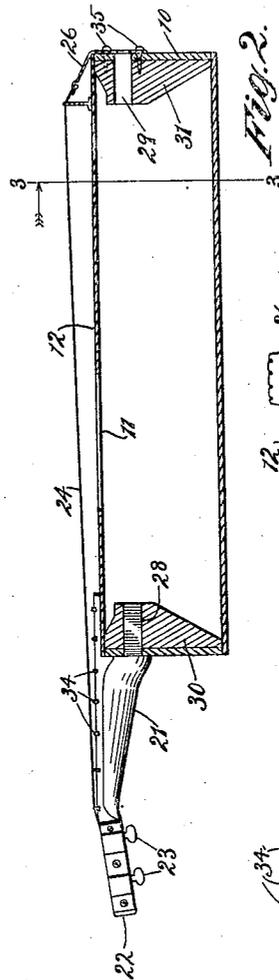


Fig. 2.

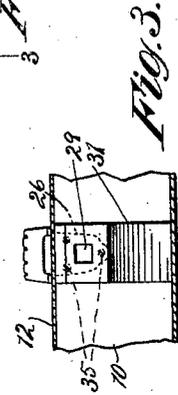


Fig. 3.

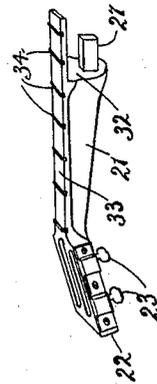


Fig. 4.

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FRETTED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

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This invention relates to musical instruments, and more particularly to stringed instruments of the lute type.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a new and improved stringed instrument in which provision is made whereby the operator may employ either of two different conventional methods or combine the two in picking or playing the instrument.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an auxiliary neck together with novel means for attaching the same to either end of the instrument to meet the requirements of the player or performer.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of new improved means for utilizing additional strings and so arranging the parts that they will not interfere with the movements of the performer during the playing of the instrument.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the instrument showing the auxiliary neck in one position on the body;

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, with parts broken away;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the auxiliary neck;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the instrument showing the auxiliary neck in another position on the body; and

Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

It is understood that my invention may be embodied in various kinds of stringed instruments, especially those of the lute type, such as the mandolin, guitar and the like, but for convenience of description and simplicity of illustration only one embodiment of the invention is disclosed.

The invention is shown in connection with a guitar in which the reference character 10 designates the body of the instrument which may be provided with the usual sounding hole 11 in the face or sounding board 12 thereof. As is usual in such constructions, one end of the body, which for convenience will be termed the upper end, is of less width than the other and has rigid-

ly attached thereto a neck 13 including a head 14. The neck is provided with a finger board 15 having the usual frets 16 thereon.

The head 14 is provided with tuning pegs 17 to which the upper ends of the principal set of strings 18 are attached, the lower ends of said strings passing over the bridge 19 and being attached to the tail piece 20 secured to the lower end of the body 10, as is usual in such constructions.

There are two ways of arranging the strings on this type of instrument which results in two methods of playing the same. In what is termed the old method the bass strings, that is, the strings E, A and D, are arranged on what may be termed the right side of the finger board and are played by the thumb of the operator while the strings G, B and E, which for convenience will be termed the accompaniment strings, are arranged on the left side of the finger board and are played by the fingers of the operator. In what is termed the new method the bass strings are on the left side and are played by the fingers while the accompaniment strings are on the right side and are played by the thumb of the operator.

The lute type of stringed instrument has not heretofore been as popular as certain other types of musical instruments because of the lack of volume to the tone. Suitable means are provided for utilizing a set of auxiliary or additional strings without increasing the width of the finger board. These addition strings are adapted to be arranged at the left side of the finger board and sufficiently close to the other strings that may be played by the fingers of the operator without inconvenience. They are bass strings and are adapted to be played open and hence add materially to the volume of sound. When the auxiliary strings are employed the remaining strings may be, and preferably are, played by a metallic pick on the thumb which also adds materially to the loudness and carrying property of the tone.

Any suitable means may be employed for supporting these strings. A projection, which in the device shown is in the form of an auxiliary neck 21 including a head 22 is employed for this purpose. The auxiliary neck may be arranged on either side of the

main neck but is preferably arranged on what for convenience of description will be termed the left side of the instrument. The head is provided with the usual tuning pegs 23 to which the set of auxiliary strings 24 are attached for tightening the same in the usual manner. The lower ends of the strings 24 extend over a bridge 25 and are attached to the tail piece 26 carried by the body 10. In order that the vibrating portions of the strings of both sets may be of the same length and at the same time have the auxiliary neck as short as possible so as not to interfere with the playing of the instrument, the tail piece 26 is made very short. Any suitable number of strings 24 may be employed, but four are usually sufficient for most players. The strings usually employed are the bass strings E, A, G and C. The bass D string of the main set being adjacent to the accompaniment strings may usually be played by the thumb of the operator even while employing the so-called new method and may, therefore, if desired, be omitted from the auxiliary set. The auxiliary strings are arranged in proximity to the other strings whereby the operator may, by utilizing the same, employ the new method in his playing if he so desires, or he may employ the old method by using only the strings carried by the main neck, or he may combine both methods by using both sets of strings.

In order that both sets of strings may extend over the sounding hole and be sufficiently close to each other to permit the hand of the operator to extend over all of the strings for playing the same, and at the same time the auxiliary and main necks be sufficiently spaced apart as not to interfere with the fingering of the strings on the main neck, the auxiliary neck may be arranged at an angle thereto with the portions of the strings that are adapted to be picked adjacent to each other as clearly shown in Fig. 1. The main neck 13 may also, if desired, though not necessarily so, be arranged at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the body of the instrument whereby all the strings may properly extend over the sounding hole 11.

It is sometimes desirable that the auxiliary neck extend from the body in a direction opposite from the main neck, and for this purpose suitable means are provided for detachably connecting the auxiliary neck 21 to the body 10. Any suitable means may be employed for this purpose so long as the means used does not interfere with the vibration of the face or sounding board 12 of the body 10. As shown, the auxiliary neck is provided with a reduced angular extension 27 which is adapted to engage a corresponding aperture 28 or 29 in a block 30 or 31 secured to the ends of the body within the same, the block 30 being secured to the upper end and the block 31 to the lower end of

said body. The blocks are extended inwardly for the purpose of affording a long and firm attachment for the reduced portion 27 and their inner ends are reduced so as not to contact with the upper or lower wall of the body and interfere with the vibrations of the same. The tension of the strings holds the reduced portion in the corresponding opening in the block with the shoulder 32 firmly against the end of the body 10. The finger board 33 extends beyond the shoulder 32 and is adapted to extend over the face of the instrument. It is provided with frets 34 for tuning and for the purpose of employing the capo tasto when such is desired.

The tail piece 26 is provided with an attaching extension that is adapted to extend over the opening 28 or 29 in the block 30 or 31 for concealing the same. It is secured in position by means of the screws 35 which extend through the end of the body of the instrument and engage the block 30 or 31 in the end thereof.

When it is desired to change the auxiliary neck from the position shown in Fig. 1 to that shown in Fig. 5 the tuning pegs 23 are loosened, the screws 35 removed and the neck withdrawn after which the extension is placed in the opening 29 at the lower end of the body 10 and the tail piece secured to the block 30 over the opening 28. The strings are preferably removed and arranged in the same order as in Fig. 1. This arrangement permits of materially increasing the number of strings on the auxiliary neck without interfering with the movements of the left hand of the operator in fingering the strings on the finger board of the permanent neck.

It is thought from the foregoing taken in connection with the accompanying drawings that the construction and operation of my device will be apparent to those skilled in the art, and that various changes in size, shape, proportion and details of construction may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A musical instrument of the lute type comprising a body portion, a neck secured to one end thereof, a set of strings secured to said neck and extending over said body portion, an auxiliary neck secured to the opposite end of said body, a set of strings secured to said auxiliary neck and extending over said body portion adjacent to said first-named set of strings whereby the strings of both sets may be played simultaneously by one hand of the operator, said necks extending in opposite directions.

2. An auxiliary neck for a stringed musical instrument, comprising a neck, a head integral therewith, a projection extending longitudinally of said neck from the end

thereof opposite said head and a finger-board extending along said neck and beyond the same in spaced relation to said extension.

3. In a stringed musical instrument, a body, a main neck secured to said body, a block having an angular opening therein secured in each end of said body, an auxiliary neck having an extension for engaging in either of said openings, and a tail piece adapted to be secured to either end of said body and adapted to extend over the corresponding opening for concealing the same.

4. A stringed musical instrument comprising a body portion, a neck secured thereto, a set of strings comprising bass and accompaniment strings only, means for securing said strings to said neck and body portion, a projection secured to said body portion at the opposite end from said neck, an auxiliary set of strings comprising bass strings only secured to said projection and body portion and supported in proximity to principal set of strings whereby the strings

of both sets may be struck simultaneously with the fingers of one hand, said accompaniment strings being located between said last and first-named bass strings.

5. In a stringed musical instrument of the class described, a body portion, a main neck secured to said body portion, a principal set of strings secured to said main neck and body portion, said strings extending across said body portion and comprising bass and accompaniment strings only, an auxiliary set of strings, and means for supporting said auxiliary set of strings across said body portion in proximity to said principal set of strings whereby both sets of strings may be played simultaneously by one hand of the operator, all of said auxiliary set of strings being bass strings, said accompaniment strings being located between said bass strings on the main neck and said auxiliary set of strings.

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