March 16, 1926. 1,577,091

S. E. AHLSTEDT

COMBINED PIANO BENCH AND SHEET MUSIC RACK

Filed Oct. 30, 1924

Fig. 1.

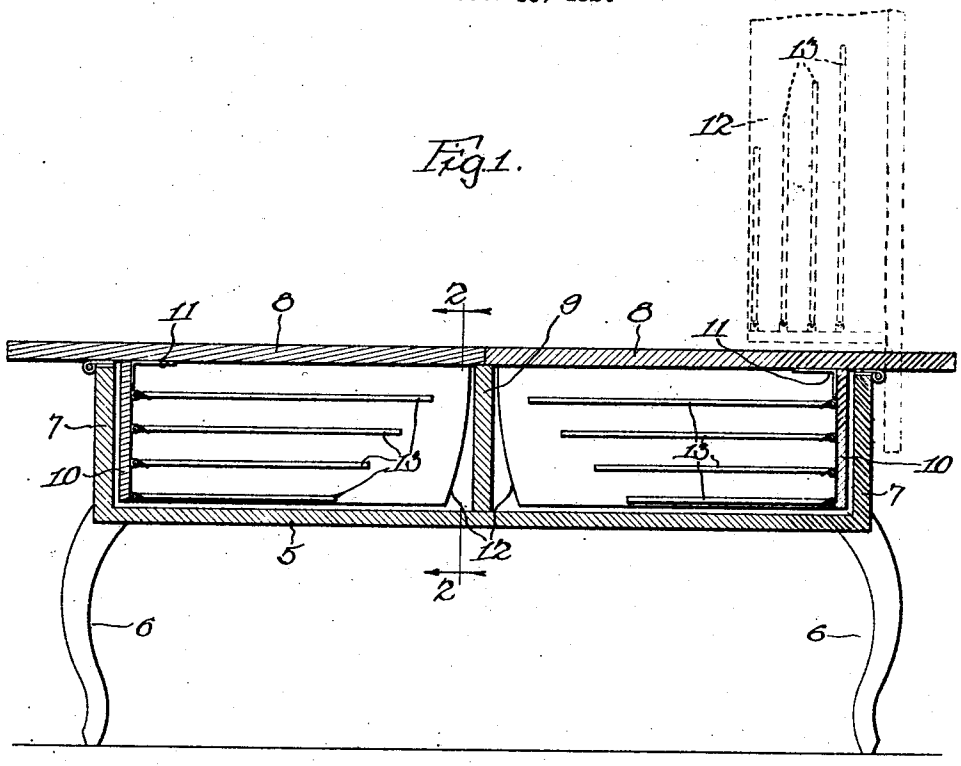


Fig. 2.

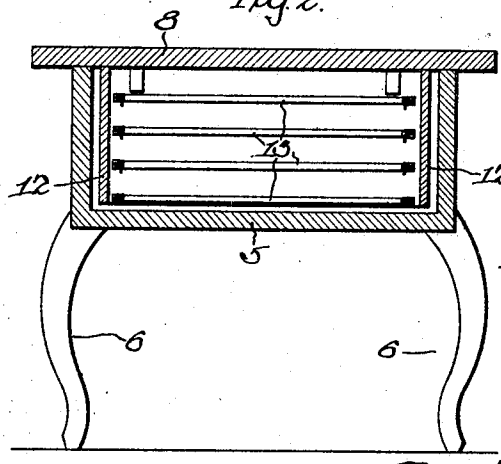


Fig. 3.

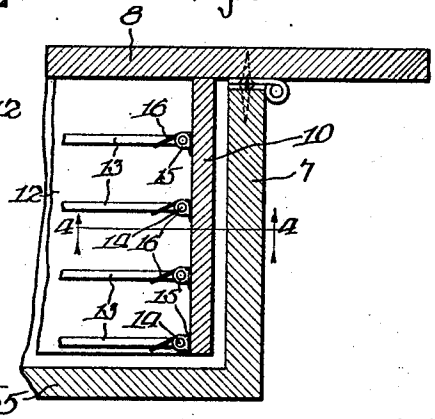
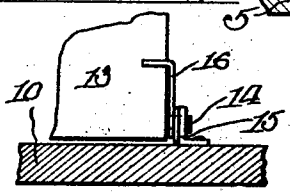


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SVEN E. AHLSTEDT, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED PIANO BENCH AND SHEET-MUSIC RACK.

Application filed October 30, 1924. Serial No. 746,757.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SVEN E. AHLSTEDT, a subject of the King of Sweden, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Combined Piano Bench and Sheet-Music Rack, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates, generally, to furniture, but has particular relation to piano benches and sheet music holders or racks embodied therein, and it consists in certain peculiarities of the construction, novel arrangement and combination of the various parts thereof as will be hereinafter more fully set forth and specifically claimed.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a combined piano bench and means for holding sheets or leaves of music in such a way that they will be protected from dust, when stored, and yet so that they may be readily reached and the selection of any one of the sheets conveniently made when desired for use.

Another object of the invention is, to furnish a piano bench and sheet music holder or rack of the above mentioned general character, which shall be simple and inexpensive in construction, attractive in appearance, strong and durable, with its parts so made, arranged and co-operating with one another, that the sheets of music held by the holders or racks therefor may be readily reached for selection and use, by raising a leaf or portion of the bench, to about a vertical position, in which operation, as well as in the act of lowering said leaf or portion for storing the sheets within a dust-proof container, also forming a part of the bench, they will be prevented accidental displacement, by reason of the spring-actuated supporting plates or members of the rack or holder, and also by reason of guard members carried by the leaves of the bench.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become obvious from the following description and explanation, which will be more readily understood when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which an embodiment of the invention is illustrated, it being understood that changes and modifications may be resorted to without a departure from the spirit of the invention so long as they come within the scope of the appended claim forming a part hereof.

In the drawing,—

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of a piano bench and sheet music rack embodying the invention illustrating by dotted lines the position in which one of the leaves or seat sections of the bench may be placed when it is desired to place sheets of music between the supporting plates or members of its rack or to remove them therefrom.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmental vertical sectional view of one end of the container of the bench and a part of one of the leaves or seat sections thereof showing a sheet music rack carried by said leaf or seat section and in its normal position, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmental bottom plan view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3 showing the manner of hinging or pivoting the sheet-supporting members of the device.

The reference numeral 5 designates as a whole the container for the sheet music and their racks or holders, which is by preference of an elongated rectangular box-like form with its upper portion open. This container or bench body is supported at its corners by means of legs 6 of any desired design. Hinged to the upper edge of each of the end pieces 7 of the container or body 5 is a leaf or seat section 8 each of which is of sufficient dimensions to cover one-half of the top of the container 5 and are so arranged that their meeting edges will rest on the upper edge of a transversely and vertically disposed partition 9 positioned midway between the ends of the container as is clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The leaves or seat sections 8 will also rest closely on the upper side and end edges of the container 5 when in their closed positions and will thus render said container dust-proof. By preference, the leaves or seat sections 8 when in their closed positions as shown in Fig. 1 extend at their edges a slight distance beyond the perimeter of the container 5 thus affording means by which they can be grasped when it is desired to raise and turn them on their hinges.

Each of the leaves or seat sections 8 is

provided near its hinged portion but within the container 5, with a transversely disposed and depending plate or partition 10, each of which may be secured to the lower surface of its section 8 by means of angle brackets 11 or otherwise. Near each of its side edges each of the leaves or seat sections 8 is provided on its lower surface with depending guards or plates 12 which extend at their free ends to points near the partition 9 and at their lower edges to points near the floor of the container as is clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The guards of each leaf 8 are located in parallelism with one another as shown in Fig. 2 and are employed for the purpose of preventing lateral displacement of the sheets of music.

Pivotally mounted in horizontal positions and in spaced relation to each other on the inner surface of each of the depending plates 10 are a plurality of sheet supporting members 13 which are by preference of such width as to extend from points near one of the guard plates 12 to points near the other of said guard plates as is clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The pivots 14 for these sheet supporting members 13 are mounted in brackets 15 carried by each of the plates 10 on its surface adjacent the guard plates 12 and are located at the side edges of the supporting members 13 as will be readily understood by reference to Figs. 2 to 4 inclusive of the drawing.

Each of the pivots 14 has coiled thereabout a spring 16, see Fig. 4, one end of each of which rests against the plate 10 on which its bracket is mounted, and the other end against a surface of the member 13 so as to hold the latter upon spring tension, said tension being exerted on each supporting member 13 towards the seat section 8 on which it is mounted. By this arrangement it is manifest that the music sheet supporting members 13 will be normally held in substantial parallelism with one another and with the seat section 8 by which they are carried, thus retaining the sheets of music interposed between said supporting members yet permitting, when desired, deflection or tilting of the supporting members as well as the sheets of music resting thereon or there-between downwardly towards the partition 9 after the leaf or seat section 8 has been raised to about the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1 of the drawing, to enable selection of any sheet to be made. Thus it will be understood that the space between any pair of the members 13, or that between the leaf 8 and the adjacent member 13, can be enlarged to permit of free access to and the handling and inspection of the music sheets for selective purposes. After such selection has been made and pressure has been removed from the supporting member or members, it is apparent that they will be restored to their normal parallel positions. As the guard plates 12 are located at the sides of the supporting members 13, it is obvious that the sheets of music will be prevented lateral displacement and that when the seat sections 8 are lowered to their normal positions as shown in Fig. 1, additional protection against dust will be provided.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A device of the kind described, consisting of a bench embodying supporting legs, an elongated box-like container supported thereby, a leaf section hinged to the upper portion of each end of said container and adapted normally to lie on the top thereof and to close the same, a transversely disposed member depending from each of said leaves near its hinged end, a plurality of spaced sheet-supporting spring-actuated members pivotally secured to each of said depending members and normally extended therefrom at right angles thereto, and guard members mounted one on each side of each of said leaves of said sheet-supporting members and depending from said leaves, said guards and said depending members being arranged with respect to said leaves so as to be located within the container when the leaves are in their normal positions.

SVEN E. AHLSTEDT.