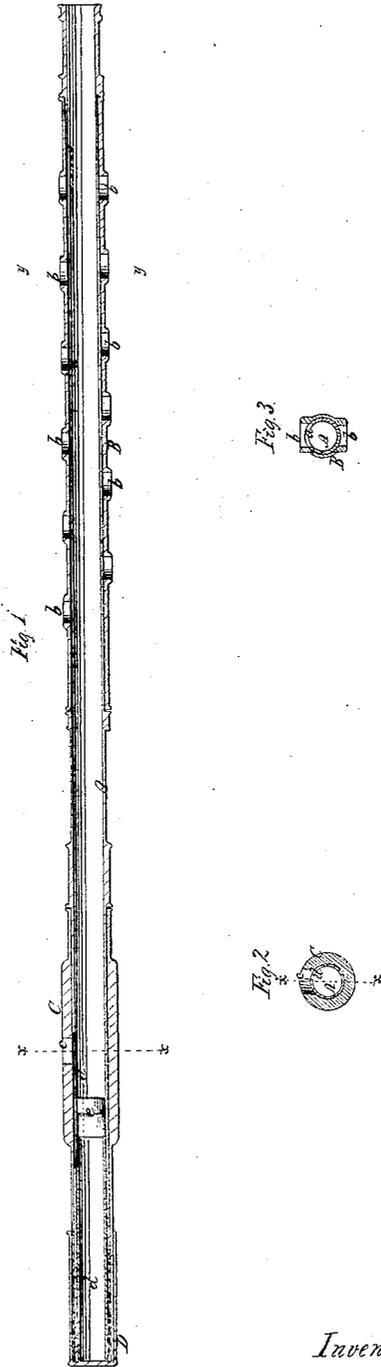


*A. H. Stratton,
Fife and Flute,*

No. 17,582,

Patented May 2, 1865.



*Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

A. H. STRATTON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIFES AND FLUTES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,582, dated May 2, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A. H. STRATTON, of No. 31 Maiden Lane, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fifes and Flutes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal central section of a fife constructed according to this invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the same, taken in the plane indicated by the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar section taken in the plane indicated by the line *y y*, Fig. 1. Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of this invention is to produce a fife or flute which is so constructed that it serves to play in two or more keys. This object is effected by the application of a revolving finger-piece with two or more sets of finger-holes, in combination with a long slot extending through the main barrel in such a manner that by turning the finger-piece different sets of finger-holes can be brought into action, and the fife or flute is lengthened or shortened for different keys. The length of the barrel is still further adjusted by the use of an adjustable mouth-piece, which is made to slide up or down on the main barrel, said barrel being provided with an oblong hole, so that by sliding the mouth-piece up or down the communication between its mouth hole and the interior of the barrel is not interrupted. The plug which stops up the end of the barrel close over the mouth-hole is connected to the sliding mouth-piece so that by adjusting said mouth-piece the plug is also adjusted.

A represents a fife, the main barrel of which is constructed with a long slot, *a*, through which the finger-holes *b* communicate with the interior of said barrel. The finger holes are applied to a separate barrel or finger-piece, B, which is fitted on the main barrel so that it can be turned in either direction. It is provided with two or more sets of finger-holes, corresponding to different keys, and by turn-

ing it on the barrel A either set of finger-holes can be brought into action.

The mouth-piece C is made to slide up or down on the main barrel A, so that the fife can be lengthened or shortened to correspond to different keys, and the main barrel is provided with an oblong hole, L, so that in sliding the mouth-piece the communication between the mouth hole *c* and the interior of the barrel is not interrupted. Said mouth-piece extends beyond the end of the main barrel, and it is provided with a cap, D, from the inner surface of which a tube, *d*, extends, which carries in its inner end the plug or cork *e*, that serves to stop up the upper end of the main barrel. It is obvious that this plug must be made to fit tight into the interior of the main barrel, and, furthermore, its position must be changed according to the varying position of the mouth-piece. By connecting the same with the mouth piece, as above described, it is rendered self-adjusting, and if the mouth-piece is moved up or down the plug will always be found in the proper position.

This invention is equally applicable to fifes or flutes, and a fife or flute can thus be constructed which serves to play in two or more different keys, according to the number of sets of finger-holes on the finger-piece.

The fife represented in the drawings has two sets of finger-holes, and it can be adjusted for three different keys—viz., B-flat, B, and C.

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

1. The revolving finger-piece B, with two or more sets of finger-holes, in combination with the main barrel A of a flute or fife, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The longitudinally-adjustable mouth-piece C, in combination with the main barrel A of a flute or fife, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The self-adjusting plug *e*, applied to the sliding mouth-piece C in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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