To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LOUIS WASHER and CHARLES E. DOBSON, JR., citizens of the United States, residing at New York, county of New York, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banjos, fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of banjos, and has for its object to improve the music of these instruments by preventing the harsh metallic tones which are inherent in these instruments as ordinarily constructed. This is effected by providing the instrument with what may be termed a "double hoop"—that is to say, a supplemental hoop or rim which unites with the main hoop or rim at the back of the instrument, and, flaring inward, terminates at about a half an inch (more or less) from the head.

As a full understanding of the invention can only be given by an illustration and a somewhat detailed description of an instrument embodying the same, all further preliminary description will be omitted and a full description given, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of a banjo constructed according to the present invention. Fig. 2 is a back view of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged section taken on the line 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the hoop, taken at right angles to Fig. 3.

Referring to said figures, it is to be understood that as to its general construction and organization the banjo illustrated therein is the same as the ordinary instruments of that class.

The hoop B is preferably made of metal—such as brass, German silver, or nickel—though it may be made of wood, and is of the usual dimensions. Extending from the back edge of the hoop B and flaring inward is a second or supplemental hoop or rim, b, which terminates about a half an inch (more or less) from the head C. The hoop b is made of the same material as the hoop B, and when metal is employed it is preferably made integral with the hoop B, it being turned inward by the spinning process. The flare or angle of the hoop b is such as to leave a considerable space between the two hoops, as shown, and it is found that the effect of the air partially confined in this space between the two hoops is such as to greatly modify and improve the tone of the instrument by causing a kind of echo which deprives the tone of much of its harsh and metallic quality.

In order to strengthen the connection between the neck or finger-piece and the hoop, the neck is provided with a metallic tubular extension, D, which passes through and is secured in suitable openings formed in the hoops B b, as best shown in Fig. 3.

What we claim is—

In a banjo, the combination, with the hoop B and head C, of the supplemental hoop b, uniting with the back edge of the hoop B and flaring inward and terminating in close proximity to but not in contact with the head, the space between the hoop B and the supplemental hoop being open and unobstructed, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS WASHER.
CHAS. E. DOBSON, JR.

Witnesses:
T. H. PALMER,
G. M. BORST.