

April 24, 1928.

1,667,267

E. S. PITCHER

COMBINATION PIANO JACK AND TRUCK

Filed April 12, 1926

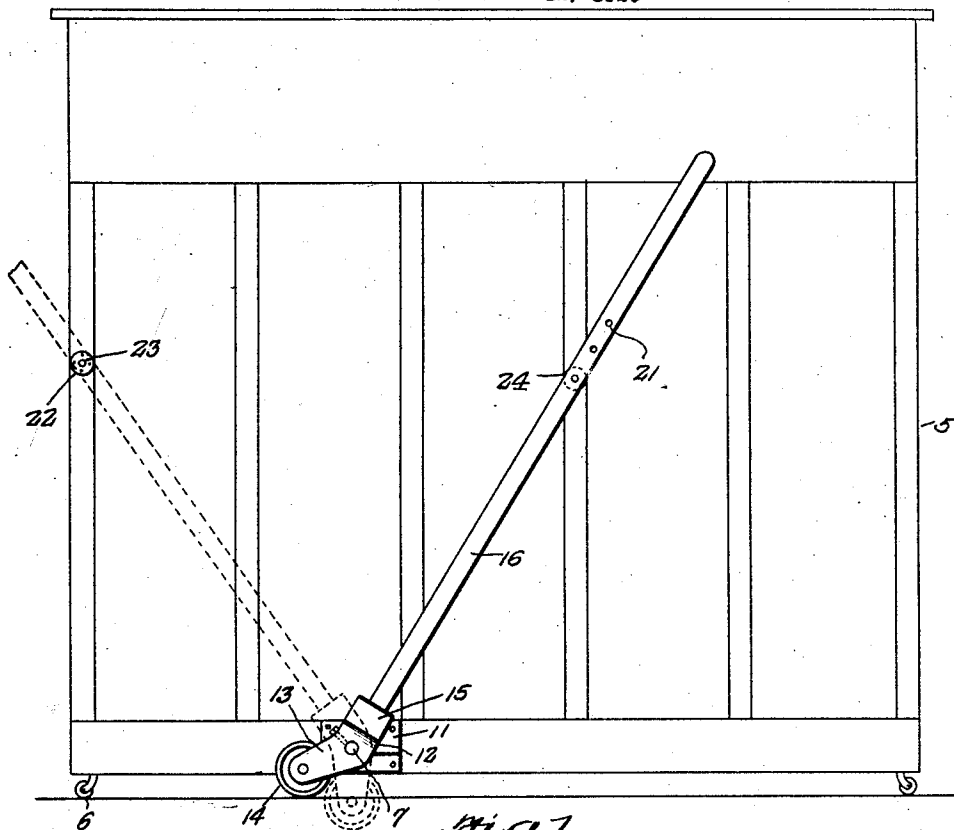
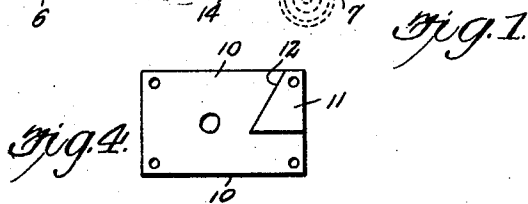
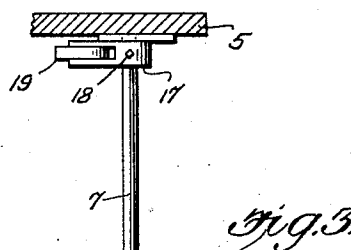
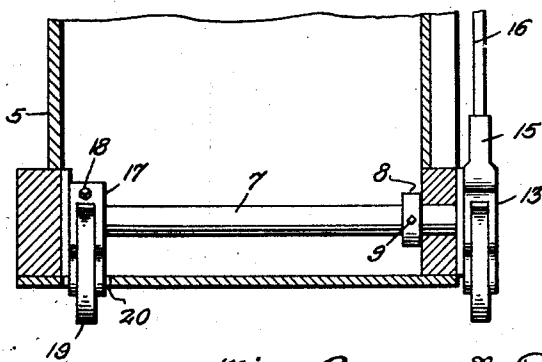


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 2.

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COMBINATION PIANO JACK AND TRUCK.

Application filed April 12, 1926. Serial No. 101,522.

The present invention consists of a combination piano jack and truck the object of which is to equip a piano with means to simultaneously elevate the piano and urge transportation means below the latter whereby the piano can be moved from place to place in a facile manner and with a minimum manual effort.

Another object of the invention is to provide means of the above mentioned character which is preferably affixed to the piano but in a manner which will in no way detract from the appearance of the latter or unduly encumber the same and is especially adapted for use on pianos used in schools or like places where it is frequently necessary to transfer the pianos from one room to another and where the moving must be done by children or female teachers.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent from the present preferred form as described in the following specification, wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a rear elevational view of a piano illustrating the application of the present invention thereon;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary and cross sectional view taken vertically through the piano case at the point where the truck is mounted therein.

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the present invention in top plan with the handle removed therefrom; and

Fig. 4 is an elevational view of the attachment plate adapted for mounting on the back of the piano.

In order to illustrate the application of the present invention I have, in Fig. 1, illustrated a piano in rear elevation, as indicated at 5. The piano may be of standard upright construction and is held in a position above the floor or other supporting base by castors 6 in a manner well known in the art.

The present invention consists especially of a rock shaft 7 which extends transversely through the piano adjacent the bottom of the latter and has its terminals journaled in the baseboards of the piano, as advantageously illustrated in Fig. 2. In order to prevent longitudinal displacement of the shaft a collar 8 is mounted thereon which is susceptible of adjustment but is normally held in a fixed position by a set screw 9. One end of the shaft 7 extends appreciably beyond the rear of the piano and has a plate 10 mounted thereon the latter being fixedly

secured to the rear of the piano in an obvious manner. The outer face of the plate is provided with an abutment 11 which, in the present instance, is equipped with an inclined or oblique face 12 for a purpose hereinafter set forth. The end of the shaft 7 which extends beyond the rear of the piano is also equipped with a bifurcated frame 13, a roller 14 being journaled between the furcations of the frame. The frame issues into a socket 15 which latter detachably receives one end of an operating handle 16 through the medium of which the shaft 7 is rocked in order to either elevate the roller 14 into a position above the supporting base upon which the piano is mounted or else to urge the roller into impingement against the supporting base for the purpose of elevating the piano. It will be noted that the shaft 7 extends through the piano at a point appreciably spaced from the center line of the latter to permit one end of the piano, constituting the advancing end, to be elevated and thereby clear sills or other objects over which it may be desired to move the piano. The inner end of the shaft 7 has a bifurcated frame 17 mounted thereon which is detachably engaged to the shaft by a set screw 18. A roller 19 is journaled between the furcations of the frame 16 and is movable concurrently with the shaft for the purpose of elevating the roller into the plane of the piano or for urging the roller downwardly through an opening 20 formed in the bottom of the piano when it is desired to engage said roller with the floor or other supporting base upon which the piano is mounted.

It will be noted that the handle 16 is provided near its upper end with a series of openings 21 any one of which may be used for securing the handle from movement on the piano. In the present instance I have provided the piano with a base 22 having a stud 23 extending therefrom, this base and stud being mounted on one end of the piano. On an intermediate portion of the piano I provide a second base and stud, generally designated 24. When one of the openings 21 is engaged with the stud 24 the truck is held in an elevated position thereby permitting the piano to be supported in a normal manner on the castors 6. When the handle is moved on its axis so as to engage one of the openings 21 with the stud 23, as indicated by the dotted lines, the truck is moved downwardly and the rollers 14 and 19 urged

into engagement with the floor or other supporting base thereby elevating the piano and permitting it to be transported on said rollers in an apparent manner. When the piano is thus elevated it is apparent that it may be transported with facility even by a child and in view of the particular location of the device the piano may be moved over obstacles without difficulty and may be guided at the option of the mover. The abutment 11 is located in the path of movement of the socket and of the frame 13 so that movement of the handle, for the purpose of elevating the truck, is limited in view of the fact that the socket end of the frame will contact with the oblique face 12 of the said abutment. This prevents the truck from moving upwardly in the piano to a point where it may come in contact with some of the operating parts of the latter.

It is to be understood that I have illustrated herein only a preferred form of the invention in order to show the principle of the invention and the theory of its operation. It is, of course, to be understood that numerous changes may be made therein within the scope of the claims hereto appended.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a combined piano truck and jack, the combination with a piano, of a rock shaft extending transversely through the

piano adjacent the bottom of the latter, and roller-carrying members fixed on said shaft and movable concurrently with the shaft for elevating the rollers into the plane of the piano or for lowering the rollers below the bottom of the piano, one of said members having a socket for the insertion therein of an operating handle.

2. In combination with a piano, a rock shaft journaled transversely of the bottom of the piano and in proximity to one end thereof, laterally projecting roller-carrying members fixed on said shaft, an operating handle for rocking the shaft to alternately elevate and lower the said roller-carrying members, abutment means on the piano located in the path of movement of one of the said roller-carrying members for restricting the upward movement of the latter to a predetermined limit, and locking means engageable with the said operating handle when the said roller-carrying members are in lowered or jacking position.

3. In combination with a piano, a shaft journaled in the base of the piano, a roller frame fixed on the shaft at one end of the latter, and a roller frame fixedly mounted on the other end of the shaft, said frame issuing into a handle receiving socket for rotating the shaft, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my seal.

ELBRIDGE S. PITCHER. [L. S.]