W. G. BETZ.

HAMMER REST RAIL FOR PIANOS.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 26, 1913.

1,143,936.

Patented June 22, 1915.

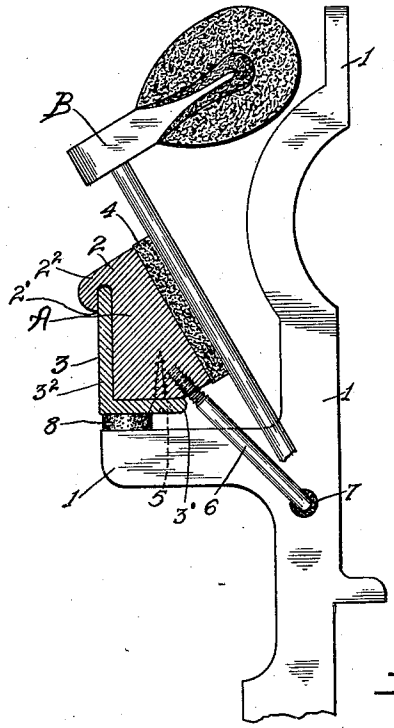


Fig. 1.

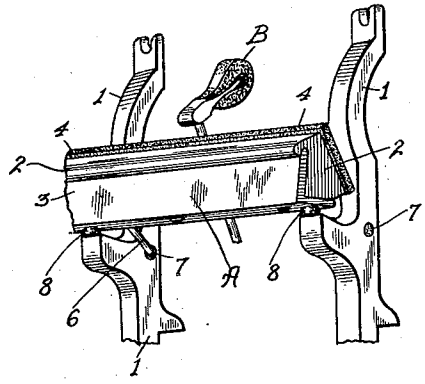


Fig. 2.

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM G. BETZ, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

HAMMER REST-RAIL FOR PIANOS.

1,143,936. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 22, 1915.

Application filed July 26, 1913. Serial No. 781,339.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. BETZ, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hammer Rest-Rails for Pianos, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has to do with hammer rest-rails for pianos and is directed more particularly to reinforced hammer-rails, that is rest-rails constructed of wood and metal, an object of my invention being to provide a reinforced hammer-rail which is simple of construction, cheap to manufacture and one which although including wood or like material in its structure will not warp.

In the ordinary hammer rest-rail which is provided for pianos, it is desirable to have one which is light in weight so that it may be easily moved by the operation of the foot pedal and therefore wooden rails are usually employed but due to the lightness of the structure necessary they very often warp out of shape and thus the hammers on the pianos will not set in alinement. To overcome this defect I have provided a hammer rest-rail which comprises a wooden body reinforced by a metallic angularly shaped bar associated with the wooden portion of the rail in such a manner that the wooden portion may be readily attached to the reinforcing angle plate without permitting the wooden part to warp and draw away from its reinforcement.

For a better understanding of my invention, reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a transverse section through the preferred embodiment of my invention shown in connection with a hammer and action bracket such as are ordinarily employed; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the preferred method of hinging the rail to the action brackets, this view also showing a longitudinal view of a part of the hammer-rail.

Referring now more particularly to the preferred construction which I employ, I have shown a hammer rest-rail A comprising preferably an elongated angularly shaped metallic reinforcing member 3 to which is attached a hammer rest 2 preferably of wood and having a slot 2^1 and over-hanging portion 2^2. The rest 2 may be attached to the reinforcing angle plate 3 in any suitable manner but I preferably provide screws 5 which extend through the base 3^1 of the reinforcing angle while the overhanging portion 2^2 is of sufficient strength to prevent the rest 2 from warping and drawing away from the angle 3. By the use of the portion 2^2, the use of fastening screws in the vertical leg 3^2 of the angle plate is obviated and therefore the face of 3^2 may present a plain finished surface toward the front of the piano. A felt strip 4 is then suitably secured to the wood strip 2 in any suitable manner, but preferably by gluing so that the hammers B may rest directly upon a soft surface. For the purpose of illustration a standard form of action bracket 1 is shown having a shelf 1^1 which supports a felt piece 8 on which the rail A may rest.

The hammer rest-rail A may be hinged to the action brackets 1 in any suitable manner but I preferably provide hinged members 6 which are preferably threaded into the wooden rest 2 and bent at a right angle to enter a felt bushing 7 carried by the bracket 1. This type of hinging is simple and also permits of adjustment by means of the screw threaded end which enters the block 2.

Although I have shown no connection from the hammer rest-rail A to a foot pedal, such connection may be provided in any suitable manner so as to permit an adjusting movement of the hammer rest-rail A in a well-known manner for the purpose of adjusting the hammers B for different lengths of travel, when actuated by the keys.

Although I have illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention I am aware that many changes in shape and structure will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art and therefore I do not desire to be limited to the exact structure as shown and described but aim to cover all that which comes within the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent, is:

A hammer rest-rail for pianos comprising an L-shaped angle-iron, a wooden rail fitted

within the angle formed by the legs of the angle-iron, means for attaching the rail to the horizontal leg of the angle, and a slotted overhanging portion for the rail embracing the upper end of the vertical leg for securely holding the upper portion of the rail and the vertical leg together.

Signed by me at Chicago, county of Cook and State of Illinois, in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM G. BETZ.

Witnesses:
G. E. MUELLER,
O. B. SCHRAM.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents. Washington, D. C."