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J. C. HAGEY.

TRACKER BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 9, 1910.

1,067,479. Patented July 15, 1913.

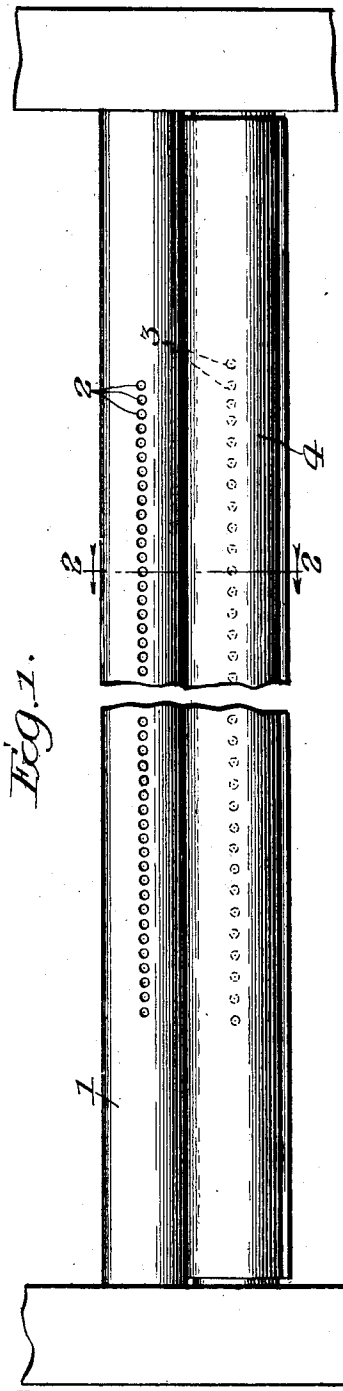


Fig. 1.

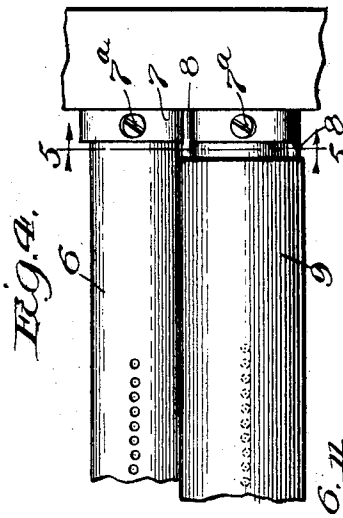


Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.

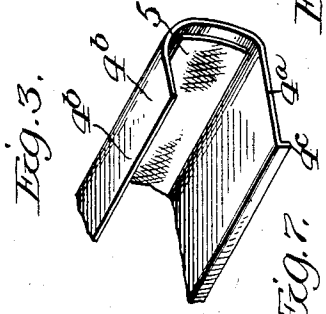


Fig. 3.

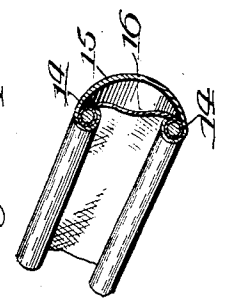


Fig. 7.

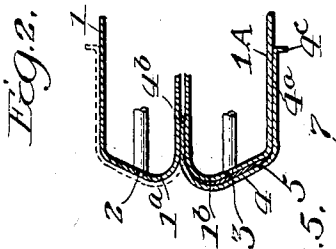


Fig. 2.

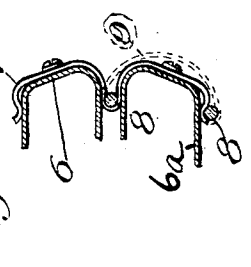


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES CLARKE HAGEY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE CABLE COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

TRACKER-BOARD.

1,067,479. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 15, 1913.

Application filed December 9, 1910. Serial No. 596,496.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. HAGEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Tracker-Boards, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to tracker boards for player pianos and like instruments, and especially to a construction or arrangement for permitting the use of different styles or kinds of music on the same instrument.

My invention contemplates the provision of two tracker boards, each one of which is to be used with a different type or kind of music sheet,—as for example one tracker having 65 ports or apertures, and the other with 88 apertures, for 65 and 88 note music respectively.

The invention further contemplates the provision of new and improved means by which either one of such trackers can be used at will, and the other temporarily put out of service.

In the arrangement herein shown for carrying out the invention, a cover or some other suitable device is provided and adapted to be applied to either one or the other of said tracker boards, so that either one or the other, as desired, may be covered and its ports or apertures closed. This, of course, puts the covered tracker board out of service for the time being, making the other one only available for service. Such cover or other device may be temporarily attached in various ways, some of which are shown and suggested herein. These arrangements are shown as illustrative of the invention, but are not intended to mark its limitations.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a front elevation of a tracker board construction or arrangement embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a cross section taken on line 2—2 in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a part of the bodily removable covering; Fig. 4 is a front elevation of a part of the modified form of arrangement; Fig. 5 is a cross section taken on line 5—5 in Fig. 4; Fig. 6 is a cross section of a second modification and Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the cover used in the arrangement shown in Fig. 6.

Referring first to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, I have shown tracker boards 1 and 1^A, having inclined tracking or bearing faces, 1^a and 1^b, respectively. These two trackers are arranged side by side, with their inclined faces sloping in opposite directions, so that the music sheet may travel over them. As shown the face 1^a has 88 apertures 2—2, and the other face 1^b, has 65 apertures, 3—3. The trackers are understood to be connected up so that either one or the other can be used to play the instrument.

I have shown a cover 4, in the form of a long metal sheath, capable of being applied to either tracker. This sheath is conveniently made out of sheet metal bent into a more or less U shaped cross section, as shown in Fig. 3, so that when applied to one or the other of said tracker boards, it will not only cover the tracking or bearing face of the same, but will also extend down the upper and lower edges thereof, or in other words, the side edges, as well shown in Fig. 2, the tracker boards being separated from one another sufficiently to allow the insertion of the sheath material between them. The edge 4^a of this sheath is longer than the other edge 4^b and extends down the outer side of the tracker board, to which it is applied, whereas the shorter edge 4^b extends down into the recess or space between the two trackers. The cover 4 being of sheet metal is somewhat resilient and is made so that the normal distance between its sides or edges, 4^a and 4^b, when removed from the tracker is slightly less than the thickness of the boards. Consequently when the cover is placed over either of the boards, it maintains itself securely in place. The edge 4^a is provided with an outwardly turned flange 4^c, which can be easily engaged or taken hold of for the purpose of applying or removing said cover or sheath. A strip 5, of leather or other suitable material, is preferably applied to the inner face of the sheath 4, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. When this sheath or covering 4 is applied to either of the tracker boards, it will, of course, cover the apertures of that board, putting it out of service to all intents and purposes for the time being, and the other or uncovered tracker is left free to coöperate with the

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traveling music sheet. When, however, it is desired to use the other tracker board, the cover or sheath 4, is removed from the tracker it is covering and placed upon the other one, thereby covering the latter and uncovering the former, and making the former available for service instead of the latter.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, I have shown the two tracker boards 6 and 6^a, with a wider space or groove between them than is shown between the tracker boards 1, and 1^A, previously referred to. I also show a spring clip 7, formed to fit over both tracker boards, and down between the same. This clip can be applied to the trackers and removed therefrom, screws 7^a—7^a being employed for that purpose. The clip shown is applied to one end of the tracker boards, in Fig. 4. Another clip of the same kind is understood to be applied to the other ends of said tracker boards in the same way. The middle and end parts of these clips 7, are formed so as to receive and releasably hold long rods 8—8, which rods are part of a bodily removable sheath or cover 9, made of leather or other suitable material attached to the rods 8—8. Thus the sheath or cover 9 can be applied to either one of the tracker boards by placing it over such tracker and causing the long side rods 8—8 to become engaged and releasably held in position by the clips 7. The sheath as applied to the lower tracker is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5 and in full lines in Fig. 4, it being obvious that the way the section on line 5—5 is taken does not show the sheath in full in Fig. 5. The sheath 9 will be lifted bodily from its position over or in front of one of the tracker boards and raised or lowered bodily to position in front of the other one. For example, to change its position from that shown in Fig. 5, the two rods 8—8 will be detached from engagement with the clips 7—7, and removed from their positions and raised and caused to engage the upper parts of said clips 7—7.

Referring to Figs. 6 and 7, I have shown two tracker boards, 10 and 10^a, with slight projections 11 and 12, at their edges. I also show a cover 13, made of two long rods 14—14, and a metal strip 15 carrying said rods 14—14 at its opposite edges. A leather strip 16 is extended between the rods 14—14. This sheath or cover 13 is applied to one or the other of said trackers by having its rods engage the projecting portions of the same, the cover or sheath being clasped or clamped over one or the other of said tracker boards, as desired. To change the position of the cover or sheath from one tracker board to the other, the same is bodily removed by disengaging the spring controlled edge parts and changed in position to the other tracker board.

It will be seen by the arrangement set forth herein the cover or other port closing device can be applied at will directly to either tracker board, or otherwise, and can be easily and quickly removed for application to the other, thus allowing easy and ready manipulation; and also that the use of mechanism in connection with the device is dispensed with, thereby greatly simplifying and cheapening the construction of the instrument in this particular.

It will be understood that changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a device of the class described in combination, a pair of tracker boards set side by side and separated by a small intervening space, said boards being of equal thickness and having inclined faces presenting a substantially convex surface, and a cover capable of being applied to either one of said boards, said cover being formed of stiff resilient material and having two parallel sides for engaging the sides of one or the other of said boards, and also having an inclined face connecting said parallel sides, the inclination of the face of said boards being substantially the same as the inclination of the cover and the thickness of said boards being slightly greater than the normal distance between the parallel sides of said cover.

2. In a device of the class described in combination, a pair of tracker boards set side by side and separated by a small intervening space, said boards being of equal thickness and having inclined faces presenting a substantially convex surface, and a cover capable of being applied to either one of said boards, said cover being formed of stiff resilient material and having two parallel sides for engaging the sides of one or the other of said boards, and also having an inclined face connecting said parallel sides, the inclination of the face of said boards being substantially the same as the inclination of the cover and the thickness of said boards being slightly greater than the normal distance between the parallel sides of said cover, one of said sides having a projecting flange to afford a convenient hand piece.

3. In a device of the class described in combination, a pair of tracker boards set side by side and separated by a small intervening space, said boards being of equal thickness and having oppositely inclined faces presenting a substantially convex surface, and a cover capable of being applied to either one of said boards, said cover being formed of stiff resilient material and having two parallel sides for engaging the sides of one or the other of said boards, and also having an inclined face connecting said

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parallel sides, the inclination of the face of said boards being substantially the same as the inclination of the cover and the thickness of said boards being slightly greater than the normal distance between the parallel sides of said cover, one of said sides being longer than the other and having a projecting flange to afford a convenient hand piece.

4. In a device of the class described in combination, a pair of tracker boards set side by side and separated by a small intervening space, said boards being of equal thickness and having oppositely inclined faces presenting a substantially convex surface, a cover capable of being applied to either one of said boards, said cover being formed of stiff resilient material and having two parallel sides for engaging the sides of one or the other of said boards, and also having an inclined face connecting said parallel sides, the inclination of the face of said boards being substantially the same as the inclination of the cover, and the thickness of said boards being slightly greater than the normal distance between the parallel sides of said cover, one of said sides being longer than the other and having a projecting flange to afford a convenient hand piece, and a backing strip attached to the inside of the inclined face of said cover.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this third day of December A. D., 1910.

JAMES CLARKE HAGEY.

Witnesses:
N. D. TOBIN,
WM. F. HEINRICHS.

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