No. 838,649. PATENTED DEC. 18, 1906.

J. H. ROCKWELL.

VIOLONCELLO SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 7, 1906.

Fig. 1

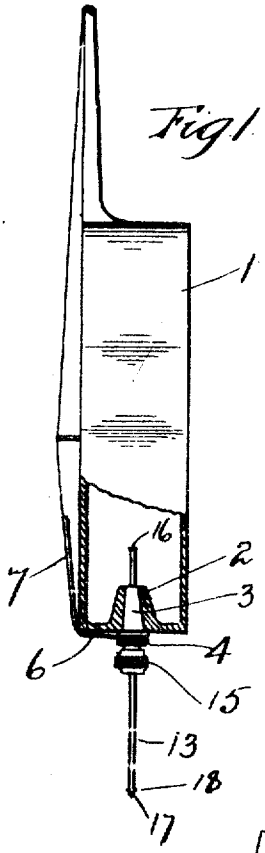


Fig. 3

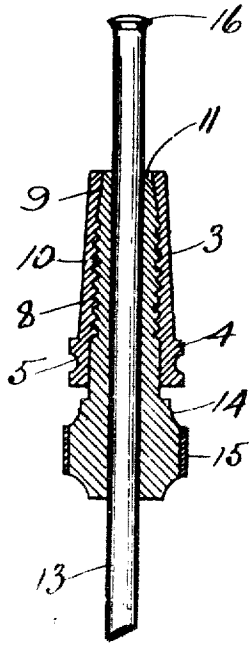


Fig. 2

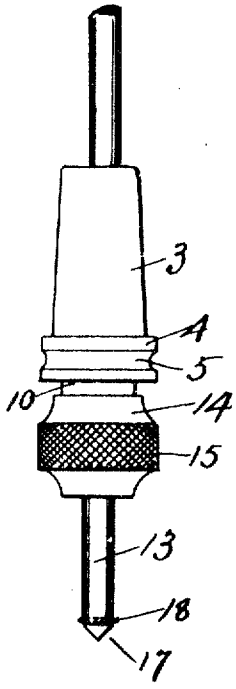
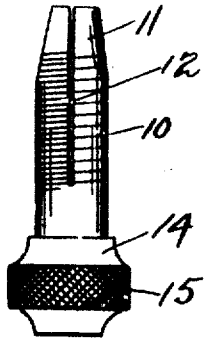


Fig. 4



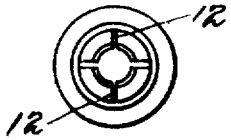


Fig. 5.

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. ROCKWELL, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

VIOLONCELLO-SUPPORT.

No. 838,649. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 18, 1906.

Application filed March 7, 1906. Serial No. 304,716.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. ROCKWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Violoncello-Supports, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to means for adjustably retaining the end pin in a violoncello, and has for its purpose to provide a simple and effective means whereby this pin may be held and in such a manner as to prevent vibration or rattle of said pin when the cello is being played upon.

Another feature of the invention is that the pin may be entirely removed from the instrument for sharpening or other purposes without being obliged to unstring the instrument. The pin is also arranged so that it may be readily pushed into the instrument out of the way when not in use.

In the ordinary device for holding the end pin the gripping or binding point is outside or below the body of the cello, leaving that portion of the pin which projects up inside of the body loose and free to vibrate, and when the instrument is being played upon the natural vibration of the same tends to shake and rattle this pin, to the great annoyance of the player. By my improved construction I have entirely obviated this difficulty, as I firmly grip and support the pin up inside of the cello at the point where its tendency to vibrate and rattle is the greatest, thus holding it firmly and rendering it impossible for it to shake or make a noise.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a cello, partly broken away, to show my adjustable end pin located therein and also illustrating the manner of holding the tailpiece from the pin-socket. Fig. 2 is an enlarged elevation of the device removed from the cello, showing the sharpened end of the pin in position therein. Fig. 3 is a central sectional elevation of the device, illustrating the clamping member in position in the socket and also showing a portion of the end pin, illustrating the enlarged upper end. Fig. 4 is a detail elevation of the clamping member. Fig. 5 is an end view of the clamping member, showing the slots therein which enable the body to be set together to engage and hold the pin.

Referring to the drawings, at 1 is the body of the cello, and 2 the block in the end portion of the same, into which the socket 3 is fitted. This socket may be made of metal or other suitable material and has a body portion formed on a slight taper, so as to be driven into and held fast by friction within the block 2 in the end of the cello. The opposite end of this socket is enlarged at 4, around which enlarged portion is formed a groove 5, which groove is for the purpose of receiving the fastening wire or cord 6, by which the tailpiece 7 is retained in position against the tension of the strings. The interior of this socket is threaded for a portion of its length at 8, and the inner end of the same is made tapering at 9, so as to engage and close the slotted clamping member onto the pin when forced therein. This clamping member, as best illustrated in Fig. 4, has a body portion 10 threaded to correspond with a similar portion at 8 in the socket. The end of this member at 11 is also tapering to correspond with that portion 9 in the said socket. The body is provided with longitudinal slots throughout the greater portion of its length to give the same flexibility and allow it to be closed or clamped around the end pin 13 to hold the same rigidly in position. At the outer end of this body portion is an enlarged head 14, provided with a knurled ring 15, forming a convenient means by which to manipulate the said clamping member.

The end pin 13 is a long spindle-shaft adapted to move freely through the clamping member when the latter is not set up or tightened. The inner end of this pin has an enlarged head at 16, which head prevents the pin from falling out through the said clamping member. This head, however, is small enough to be passed freely through the socket 3, thereby allowing it to be taken out of the cello without removing the said socket from its position therein. The lower end of this pin is pointed or sharpened at 17 for the purpose of engaging the floor or the like upon which the cello may rest to better hold the same from slipping.

At 18 is a small stop-pin which is set transversely through the body of the end pin and is for the purpose of preventing the said end

pin from inadvertently falling or being pushed into the inside of the instrument.

In operating this device the socket is forced into the end of the cello, its tapering shank securely holding the same in position therein. The tailpiece may then be secured by the usual means to this socket and the strings of the instrument set up. The sharpened point of the end pin is passed through the clamping member and the little retaining-pin 18 inserted therein. This clamping member may then be screwed into the socket until its tapering portion comes in contact with the similar portion in the socket, whereby the slotted body portion of the former is closed or clamped together to firmly grip the pin and hold it rigidly and securely in any desired position. It will be noted the the point where this pin is gripped is up inside of the cello-body, where the greatest vibration of the instrument occurs when being played. This is an essential feature, as it securely holds said pin against shaking or rattling, which objection is found to be characteristic in all of the devices of this character now on the market. It is quite frequently desired to remove this end pin for the purpose of sharpening the point, which often becomes dulled by constant service, and heretofore it has always been necessary to completely unstring the instrument and take the whole device out to accomplish this purpose; but by my structure it is only necessary to unscrew the clamping member and the pin may be readily removed for repairs and replaced.

The device is extremely simple, practical, and efficient.

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

1. A device of the character described comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket set into the end of the instrument and means whereby said pin is gripped and held at the inner end of said socket within the body of the instrument.

2. A device of the character described comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket permanently held in the end of the instrument, means whereby said pin is gripped and held at the inner end of said socket within the body of the instrument, and means whereby said pin may be removed from the instrument without removing said socket.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket permanently held in the end of the instrument, and a slotted clamping member adapted to be closed around said pin to grip the same and retain it firmly in said socket.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket permanently held in the body of the instrument, a head on said socket to which the tailpiece of the instrument is secured, and a clamping member threaded into said socket and adapted to grip and retain said pin in any desired position.

5. A device of the character described, comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket permanently held in the body of the instrument, a head on said socket to which the tailpiece of the instrument is secured, a slotted clamping member threaded into said socket, and means in said socket whereby said clamping member will be closed together to bind said pin as said member is being screwed into said socket.

6. A device of the character described, comprising a violoncello, an end pin on which said cello rests, a socket permanently held in the body of the instrument, a head on said socket, to which the tailpiece of the instrument is secured, a clamping member threaded into said socket and adapted to grip and retain said pin in any desired position, means at either end of the pin to prevent the same from dropping out of the clamping member, and means whereby the pin may be removed from the instrument without removing the socket therefrom.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH H. ROCKWELL.

Witnesses:
HOWARD E. BARLOW,
E. I. OGDEN.