A. SCHOENHUT.

Sounding Plates for Musical Instruments.

No. 144,148. Patented Oct. 28, 1873.

FIG. 1

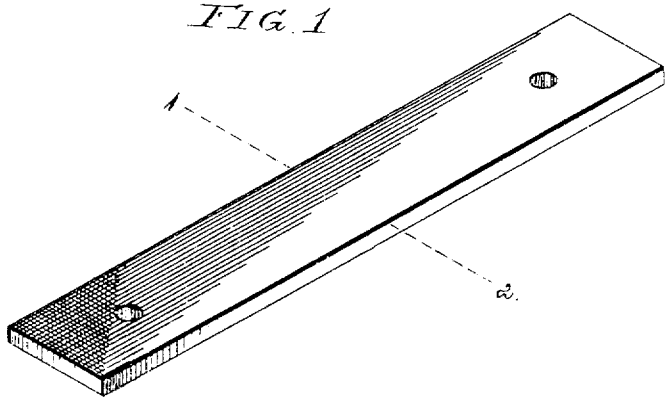

FIG. 2.

144,148.—Sounding-Plate for Musical Instruments.—ALBERT SCHOENHUT, Philadelphia, Pa. Application filed October 2, 1873.

The pieces or plates are cut from rolled bar-iron of the proper length, and then rapidly revolved, first with gravel and then with sawdust, to remove the scale but not the outer skin of the plates.

Claim.—A sounding-strip consisting of wrought-iron treated in the manner described.

Witnesses,

John K Ruperteus

J. Sherbourne Singer

Albert Schoenhut
By his Attys.
Howson and Sons.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT SCHOENHUT, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SOUNDING-PLATES FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,148**, dated October 28, 1873; application filed October 2, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT SCHOENHUT, of the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Sounding-Strip for Musical Instruments, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to that class of musical instruments in which the notes are produced by striking strips of metal supported by bands, as, for instance, in toy pianos; the object of my invention being the preparation of strips of wrought-iron in such a manner that the sound they emit on being struck will be clear and distinct.

The strips are of the form shown in perspective, Figure 1, and in Fig. 2, which is a cross-section on the line 1 2, Fig. 1.

After repeated experiments with different metals, I have found that strips cut from ordinary rolled bars of wrought-iron are, when properly prepared, especially applicable to instruments of this class. When cut from the crude bar, the strips, on being struck, give out a dull sound, owing to the presence of more or less scale, which always exists on newly-rolled iron bars in the condition of minute layers, portions only of which are incorporated with the solid metal. This laminated condition of the surface of the strip must necessarily impair the sound. On the other hand, the skin of the metal should be preserved—that is, so much of the outer skin as remains after removing the scale; this skin being an essential part of and thoroughly incorporated with the metal of the strip, the integrity of which would be impaired on the removal of the skin by grinding or otherwise.

In order to produce the desired sounding-strips, I take a rolled bar of wrought-iron of the desired width and thickness, and cut it into the proper lengths demanded by the character of the note which they have to emit when struck. I then place a number of these strips and a mass of gravel in a cylinder, and revolve the latter until the scaly surface is removed and the clear skin of the metal exposed, after which, as a finishing process, I place the strips, with a mass of sawdust, in a vessel, and revolve the latter.

After the strips have been subjected to this treatment, and have been applied to the instrument in the usual manner, they will, on being struck, give out clear, and distinct, and pleasing sounds.

I claim as my invention—

A sounding-strip consisting of wrought-iron treated in the manner described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT SCHOENHUT.

Witnesses:

WM. A. STEEL,

HARRY SMITH.